

Lest We Forget REMEMBRANCE DAY

This Remembrance Day section is proudly dedicated to all who served their country in World War I and II and the Korean Conflict and is sponsored by the following businesses;

NOVEMBER 11

Mayor's Corner

By Kathy Gastle



No Canadian should let Remembrance Day, November 11, pass without acknowledging the debt we owe those who have paid the price for our freedom and those who still stand on guard in the ongoing endeavour to bring the world's disputes to peaceful resolution. They paid, and pay, with their lives, with their health, with hazardous duties in distant lands and with separation from their families. They cared enough to leave it all when duty called and we are the heirs to whom that gift was given.

Thus, as a community proud of our veterans and our peacekeepers, let us remember and honour them by attending this weekend's Remembrance Day Services in Acton, Georgetown and Glen Williams.

Thanks to the insight of Halton's veterans and their organizations – and to Regional Chair Joyce Savoline, who presented the idea to Halton Regional Council – Regional Road 25 was recently dedicated as the Veterans Highway in honour of those who gave their lives in the two World Wars.

Every Legion branch in Halton was represented at the ceremony held in Acton, where the Milton Youth Choir sang and where volunteers served lunch to the guests.

Last week Regional Council voted to support the Juno Beach Centre with a significant contribution to the project. The Centre will be a significant memorial to preserve the memory and tell the story of the Canadian troops who landed at Juno Beach on the Normandy coast

on D-Day, June 6, 1944. Courseulles-sur-Mer is the actual site and I was privileged to visit it last May during the "Keeping the Memory Alive Tour" which I made with many Halton residents. Incidentally, our very own Artcast Inc. of Georgetown, which has an international reputation for its fine work, has been selected to cast the bronze sculpture, which will be unveiled at the site in Normandy on June 6, 2003.

If you would like to contribute to the Juno Beach Centre you may do so by telephone 1-877-828-JUNO (5866) or by mail to Juno Beach Centre Association, 24-2407 Woodward Avenue, Burlington, ON L7R 4J2.

I am pleased to tell you that Halton Hills will be hosting a very special Candlelight Tribute ceremony on May 8, 2003, VE-Day. First introduced in 1998 by Veterans Affairs Canada, Pacific Region in partnership with the Veterans' Commemoration Committee of British Columbia, the ceremony is a way to inspire children as they develop into our leaders of the future.

Children, accompanied by veterans, will place candles in a symbolic passing of the torch of remembrance at the cenotaphs in Acton and Georgetown. Church bells will ring and there will be a silent walk as part of the ceremony. Refreshments will be served after the event.

Many thanks to the Acton and Georgetown Legion branches and some very dedicated volunteers. Without them our Candlelight Tribute Ceremony just wouldn't happen. If you would like more information on the event please call my office at 906-873-2601, Ext. 2342.

Acton soldiers wrote 'home' during WWII

During the height of World War II in 1944, Acton and area soldiers wrote to Free Press publisher Arlof Dills expressing their thanks for parcels from the War Services League. Excerpts from two of these letters, from Charlie Burgess and Jim McGeachie, are reproduced here:

From Italy, March 1944...

"One can hear the guns in the distance day and night. Sometimes they are very active and sometimes the opposite. In my opinion, it appears to be the beginning of the end for Germany now from the way things are going on all fronts. He had himself dug in real cosy in the hills etc. How the boys chased him out I don't know, but I will say they made a good job of it.

I received two parcels and three lots of 300 cigs from the Acton and vicinity War Services League, which were very much appreciated. Prior to this, I bought most of my cigs from the boys since I left Canada behind. To the Erin Red Cross, I also send many thanks for their lovely Christmas parcel and cigs... The food is very satisfactory so far. The menu is fresh meats, potatoes and various kinds of fresh vegetables. It is a change from the fish, bully beef and hard tack (better known as Argentine chicken in the army).

We are billeted in tents which are lit by lanterns. Some bivouac (or live) in their lorries. These have their wives or girl friends names painted on the rad or top of the cab. If you could see the way we live and carry on, I'm sure you would take heart failure. There is a bath parade at least once

a week and every man is on it. We change our clothes and the Mobile Bath and Laundry units keep us in fairly clean condition.

Honestly, I have no more news for you, so will quit my babbling and go to bed. To all, I send best regards with hopes of hearing from some of you soon, so cheerio for now.

*Yours sincerely,
Charles Burgess.*

of it. We had it pretty bad for about five days steady, getting very little sleep, little to eat and doing lots of walking.

I didn't say marching because we had to move very cautiously behind hills, up river beds, etc. to keep under cover. "Jerry" had a lot of guns trained on our objective and the minute we were spotted it brought a rain of shells around us. Once under shell fire and you really take precautions, they can be very demoralizing and make an awful lot of noise. I sure wouldn't want to be under the barrage that our artillery lays down. It really is tremendous and has to be seen and heard to be really appreciated.

The Italian people are quite friendly towards us. That is, after a few days, when they have a chance to figure us out, and when we prove ourselves friendly. They open their hearts and bring out the eggs and "Vino." The women also do our washing for us.

The army takes over the odd big town and opens up shows, canteens, etc. So far, I haven't seen a picture show since we left for Sicily.

I am still receiving my regular cigs from Acton and also got a parcel last week. Please convey

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Jim McGeachie

Also from the Italian campaign...

"Another few lines to let you know that all is going well over here. I hope you are all fine over there and enjoying good Canadian living. We are taking it easy again for a few days after a tough time

Mayor Kathy Gastle and Members of Council convey their deepest honour, respect and appreciation for the sacrifices made by our Canadian men and women, at home and overseas, who served their country in times of war.
Their service will never be forgotten.

TED CHUDLEIGH, M.P.P.



Halton



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Would like to ask all local Businesses & Residents to observe the 2 minute Wave of Silence at 11:00 am EST. on November 11