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GALT MUSEUM OFFERS FILMS & FREE ADMISSION ON CANADA DAY

MUSEUM COMMUNITY DAY | 10:00 – 6:00

Happy Canada Day! Celebrate your freedom by learning what it is like not to have this right. On Canada Day, the Galt Museum & Archives offers free admission to the exhibit: ***For you the war is over. Second World War POW Experiences.*** Visitors can also take in one of the film screenings, and enjoy the great Oldman River Valley view as part of Canada Day celebrations.

10:30 | 1:30 **The Enemy Within** [NFB, 2003, 52 min]

During World War II, a war-ravaged Britain realized it could not billet all its captured German soldiers. Canada stepped forward. Among the captured German soldiers was Theo Melzer, father of filmmaker Eva Colmers, who spent 31/2 years in a POW camp in Lethbridge. While growing up in Regensburg, Germany, Colmers had often been puzzled by her father's fond memories of his POW life. When she made Canada her new home, she set out to rediscover this little-known chapter in Canadian-German history. Weaving poignant excerpts from her father's letters with wartime archival images and dramatic re-enactments, the film shares the powerful stories of these now elderly men, once the enemy within, whose lives were changed forever because of the unexpected respect and dignity they received at the hands of their Canadian captors.

12:00 | 3:00 **Hitler's Canadians** [Storyline Entertainment, 2007, 48 min]

In the spring of 1940 small towns across Canada awakened to the sound of Nazi jackboots. German soldiers, sailors and pilots marched down main streets to hastily constructed camps for some 40,000 German fighters imprisoned as POWs on Canadian soil. Some were in prison here so long they called themselves "Hitler's Canadians". The documentary features dramatic re-enactments of brilliant and hilarious escapes, the biggest prison rebellion in Canadian history and surprising interviews with former prisoners. Without exception, the former POWs were grateful for Canada's hospitality and treatment and realize that if it weren't for their time behind Canadian barbed wire, they might not have survived the war. Between 1947 and 1960, 265,000 Germans immigrated to Canada. 6,000 of them were former POWs. *Hitler's Canadians* recently won a Jury Award at the 2008 Yorkton Short Film & Video Festival and is available for purchase online through www.titlehousedistribution.com.

For details on the Galt Museum & Archives and additional programs and events visit www.galtmuseum.com, call 403.320-3954, stop by the information desk or email info@galtmuseum.com.

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