

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## PRISONER OF WAR EXHIBIT TO OPEN AT ESPLANADE HERITAGE GALLERY FEB 21

*Public Reception Sunday at 2 p.m.*

**MEDICINE HAT, AB** – The Esplanade Museum will open a travelling exhibition on Sunday that compares the prison experience of Canadian and German Prisoners of War during the Second World War. To celebrate the Medicine Hat opening of *For you the war is over: Second World War POW Experiences* a free public reception will be held Sunday, Feb. 21 at 2 p.m in the Gallery Foyer.

It is a little known fact that over 34,000 German prisoners of war were sent to Canada during the Second World War. As part of the war effort, Alberta housed and manned four of the largest internment camps located in Kananaskis, Medicine Hat, Wainwright and Lethbridge. In Lethbridge alone, Camp 133 was designed to hold 12,500 prisoners, nearly doubling the population of the city. Many Albertans who served overseas were made prisoners in Germany, including those captured at Dieppe in 1941 and members of the Royal Canadian Air Force shot down over enemy territory.

“This exhibit shows the contrast and the similarities between what happened to German prisoners in Alberta and what happened to Canadians who were imprisoned after being shot down over enemy territory, or were captured at Dieppe,” says Tim McShane, Curatorial Assistant at the Esplanade Museum.

*For you the war is over: Second World War POW Experiences* will bring WWII camp experiences to life with stories, photographs and artefacts from across the country. What was it like to be a prisoner of war in Alberta and in Germany during the Second World War? What was it like for the Canadian guards, and the Canadian families who worked with the prisoners? How and why were conditions different in the two countries? The exhibit features artwork from several important artists, including Maxwell Bates, Frederick Heney, Eric Aldwinckle, Robert Buckham and more. Art and artefacts are drawn primarily from the Canadian War Museum, Glenbow Museum and the Galt Museum & Archives among lenders from a wide variety of institutions and private lenders.

*For you the war is over* was developed through a partnership of five museums including the *Galt Museum & Archives* of Lethbridge, *The Military Museums* (formerly Museum of the Regiments), *Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) Museum & Archives*, *King's Own Calgary Regiment (RCAC) Museum & Archives*, and *Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Regimental Museum & Archives* of Calgary.

*For you the war is over: Second World War POW Experiences* will be on display at the Esplanade Heritage Gallery from Feb. 21 to June 14, 2010. The Esplanade is the third museum to host the exhibit since its debut in 2008 at the Galt Museum and Archives.

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For further information, interviews or visuals, please contact:

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