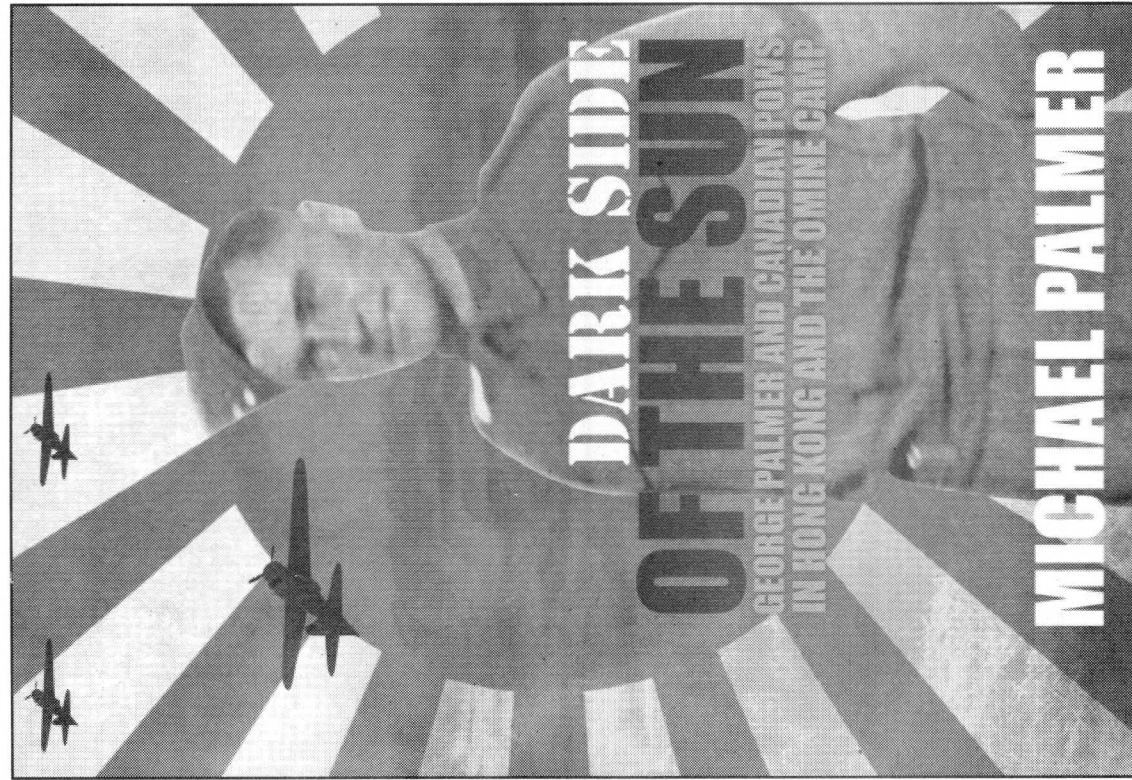


History book making academic splash



by Heather MacAdam
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A book on the extreme survival of a Second World War prisoner of war written by an Antigonish native has been incorporated in the curriculum of a course at the University of Calgary.

Michael Palmer, son of Lou and Mary Palmer of Antigonish, published his first book *The Dark Side of the Sun*, which tells the story about his grandfather George Palmer's time in a Japanese prison of war camp.

Palmer, who now lives in Calgary, said the book received a lot of press earlier this year.

He was contacted this summer by Heather Wilson, a PhD student who became an instructor at the University of Calgary.

Wilson was preparing for an English course, set to begin in September 2010, called *The World As We Know It*.

"It was a brand new course and she was trying to gather some information to set up her course material," Palmer said.

Palmer said there had been a feature on his book in the *Calgary Herald* earlier in the spring, which Wilson had seen.

"She read the article, and at the same time she was piecing together this English course for the fall semester."

The course outline says *The World As We Know It* "will engage critically with texts that delve into the history of human culture and examine historical moments that have shaped the world as we know it, culturally, economically, and in science and medicine."

Palmer said the course involves character studies of people who have endured extreme survival.

"That's why my story kind of jumped at her," he said. "My story, bottom line, is about hope and about extreme survival with my grandfather surviving four years



George Palmer and his wife pictured on their wedding day. (Contributed photo)