

Scarborough grade 7/8 educator Ennio Paola provides the music for “Della Quercia” for educators to use free of charge. Below are background and lesson ideas provided by Ennio. The full orchestral score is available as a separate order.

## **CONFLUENCE AND DELLA QUERCIA: Reading and Remembrance**

*A Literacy Project for Ontario Schools in Honour of Year of the Veteran 2005*

*Confluence*: noun meaning: 1. A flowing together of streams; also, the place where they meet. 2. The body or stream of water so formed 3. A flocking together; crowd; concourse

*Quercia*: (noun from Latin: Quercus) English meaning: Oak 1. An acorn-bearing tree valued for its hardness, strength and durability. 2. The wood of the Oak.

### **CONFLUENCE**

The small Calabrian hillside town of Conflenti, (Cz), Italy takes its name from the Latin meaning confluence, meeting place of streams. Its rugged terrain stands in the shadow of the region's tallest peak, Mount Reventino.

Conflenti is typical of the numerous hillside towns dotting the Italian peninsula. Its first settlers arrived from Greece in search of peace and tranquility after on-going wars tore apart their homeland.

Throughout history the surrounding mountains provided both protection and captivity--protection from potential enemies and captivity by successful invaders of the largely agricultural society. Throughout it all, local streams always provided for the people's rural, spiritual and cultural ways of life.

### **DELLA QUERCIA**

February 7, 1783 a catastrophic earthquake shook all of Calabria.

On that dramatic night the quake, accompanied by disastrous floods and slides, sent the populace of Conflenti into the streets and to their central Church. Every family was affected with town properties destroyed. Safe only was the Church with its solitary oak tree located near its front entrance.

Thereafter, the faith and hopes of the townspeople were forever intertwined with the oak tree and their Church. The townspeople's faith was to be tested again in 1908 when another disastrous quake nearly destroyed Southern Italy's two major cities, the ports of Reggio, Calabria and Messina, Sicily.

Annually on Feb. 7th, a Day of Penance and Thanks is observed in Conflenti in Remembrance of the first 1783 quake, floods and slides.

### **FURTHER READING RECOMMENDATIONS LEADING TO REMEMBERING THE VETERANS OF THE ITALIAN CAMPAIGN OF WWII**

1. [www.corrieretandem.com/viewstory.php?storyid=5575](http://www.corrieretandem.com/viewstory.php?storyid=5575) “The People Who Never Give Up”, a background for CONFLUENCE, the settling of Sicily and brief history of Southern Italy's Calabria Region  
... Their history begins with the great Greek colonization of southern Italy. Some 800 years before the Common Era, and almost simultaneously, the Greeks founded Rhegion (Reggio) in Calabria and right across Messina in Sicily ... story leads on from front page.

2. DELLA QUERCIA: (Of the Oak) ... Strength in Community and the Battles of a Common Cause ... View archival footage of the historic battle in Ortona, Italy during WWII with Related Stories as Canada marks anniversary of Italian campaign through Sicily, Southern Italy and on to Ortona ....  
[www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/1099951142555\\_95360342/?hub=CanadaAM](http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/1099951142555_95360342/?hub=CanadaAM)