



SPORTS Islanders vs Huskies

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ARTS Nora Webster by Colm Toibin

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Long history, ongoing evolution as North Star turns 140

PARRY SOUND – This year, the Parry Sound North Star turns 140 years old.

And celebrating the anniversary of the community newspaper means celebrating the history of the Parry Sound area.

"The timing was perfect for something special," said North Star general manager Janice Heidman. "We wanted a new home for our 140 years of archives, the West Parry Sound District Museum was interested in preserving these historic papers. We talked, it snowballed, and now we unveil a fantastic exhibit of the North Star's, and therefore the community's, fascinating history."

On Sunday, the exhibit opens, with a myriad of carefully protected or reproduced North Star pages on display, along with iconic images and mementos from the paper's history, throughout three rooms at the museum.



The front of a special section in today's newspaper, starting on page 9, celebrating 140 years of the North Star.

That history includes familiar names – Bobby Orr's hockey success story, the Beauty family's substantial impact, royal visits, and vaunted soldiers like Francis Pegahmagabow.

It includes long-lasting business names, the Logan family's funeral home, Parry Sound TV, the Parry Sound and Area Chamber of Commerce.

And of course it includes pages of historic moments in time, from the construction of rail lines, to World War I and II, to the Depot Harbour fire, and more.

The exhibit at the West Parry Sound District Museum will remain open for six months, giving visitors plenty of opportunity to browse pages of local history from some samples of the more than 7,200 editions of the North Star produced.

"It's been really exciting going through the archives of the North

Star and by having a community newspaper covering such a long period of time it really tells the story about the community more than an other media," said Glen Hodgson, chair of the West Parry Sound District Museum. "It really shows why our community newspaper is key to the historical record of a community, and the archive that it has provided us is irreplaceable. That's why the museum is absolutely thrilled to be able to host this exhibit and preserve the history of the North Star."

To commemorate the occasion, the North Star has also published a special eight-page tribute to the past 140 years.

Inside this edition of the North Star, read excerpts from the past century and a half and see some advertising that reflects various periods in Parry Sound history.

See 'Various' page 3

Statue to honour great local First Nation warrior Francis Pegahmagabow to stand vigil over Georgian Bay shoreline

BY STEPHANNE JOHNSON

PARRY SOUND – "He was brave during war, and brave during peace." Those were the words of professional sculptor Tyler Fauvelle used to describe Wasauksing First Nation World War I hero Francis Pegahmagabow.

Many members of the Pegahmagabow family, dignitaries from Parry Sound and the Wasauksing First Nation community attended a press conference announcing the commission of a life-sized bronze sculpture of Pegahmagabow by Fauvelle.

Additionally, an educational video about Pegahmagabow and other aboriginal people's military service to Canada is part of the project.

Fauvelle, based out of Sudbury, said it was just last year that he read Joseph Boyden's novel, *Three Day Road*, that was inspired by Pegahmagabow's story. Immediately Fauvelle said he was taken with the story and the highly-decorated war hero.

"I was absolutely fascinated by the novel and when I found out it was inspired by a true story of Francis Pegahmagabow...I was very excited by it and instantly jumped to this project and couldn't shake it from my mind," Fauvelle said during Monday morning's press conference. "(He was a) World War One scout and sniper and the most decorated First Nation soldier in the great war. In fact, to this day, no aboriginal soldier has ever received more battle awards for bravery than him. He was one of Canada's greatest war heroes and I had never heard of him and neither

had any of my friends or family and I felt that was absolutely something that needed to change."

Although Parry Sound and the Wasauksing First Nation communities are justifiably proud of Pegahmagabow, Fauvelle said he wants the rest of the nation to know the story as well.

"In my research I learned in World War One there was no conscription for First Nations men, yet over 4,000 volunteered. Thirty-five per cent of all men eligible volunteered and took up the call," Fauvelle said. "This story needs wider recognition and that's why we're here today."

Along with Fauvelle, members of the commemoration committee include Roger Chum First People's Centre, Canadore College (North Bay)/president of the Ontario Native Education and Counselling Association (ONECA), Francis Pegahmagabow's great-grand son James Pegahmagabow, ONECA executive director Roxane Manitowabi, and CBC Radio host and author Shelagh Rogers.

The life-sized bronze sculpture will stand between seven and eight feet high, just off of the Rotary Algonquin Fitness Trail near the Stockey Centre, overlooking Georgian Bay, in full view of Parry Island, Pegahmagabow's home. It is hoped the sculpture will be complete in time for National Aboriginal Day on June 21, 2016.

"As a scout and a sniper, he often had to work alone. As I was reading about him, I learned that his people's spiritual traditions were important to him and that



Monday morning Sudbury sculptor Tyler Fauvelle unveiled the maquette of First World War hero Francis Pegahmagabow.

he believed they sustained him throughout the Great War," Fauvelle said. "I realized just how young these men were; just boys really. For most of them this was the first time being so far from home. I realized something else, when World War One was declared, confederation was only 50 years old and many Canadians still identified themselves with their European heritage; whether they were English, Irish, Scottish, French or any other nationality. A majority of Canadians had ancestors in Europe and whether or not they remained part

of their family's living memory. But First Nations fighters had no such ancestry, they were truly strangers in a strange land and when the first one fell, he became part of the land that his people had never known. That's why I chose to show the sculpture with Ojibwa symbols – the caribou symbol, the deer clan; the eagle symbol of prayer carrier (the messenger). The caribou is struggling through the water, representing his people's crossing the ocean to be with them through their spiritual tradition. It also represents the watery mud that soldiers in the Great War had to struggle through. Pegahmagabow stands on a rock, showing that he was grounded by his home and his culture. As for the prayers, we can only imagine the number of prayers that were lifted through the battlefield from all men."

Pegahmagabow was decorated three times for his marksmanship and scouting skills he showed in Belgium and France carrying out successful missions with a complete disregard of danger.

"When this hero came home, he kept fighting against barriers of racism. He activated for change and served his people for band council, councillor and chief," said Fauvelle. "He was brave during war, and brave during peace. Of all the monuments on this earth, I think the most important are the ones honoring First Nation people and of course veterans of war. They will stand through time, telling all of us we 'fought for civilization, remember that and remember us.'"

See 'Bronze' page 2



Parry Sound Legion member Bert Federico helps Arwen Hansman, 3, of Parry Sound, lay the steps of the Parry Sound Cenotaph with her dad Eric Hansman Tuesday to lay a wreath in memory of her great-uncle, Dave Todd, who fought in World War. On her chest were the medals awarded for her great-uncle.

See page 3 for more Remembrance Day photos

Remembrance Day marked in Parry Sound

BY SARAH BISSONETTE

PARRY SOUND – Arwen Hansman, 3, laid a wreath at the Parry Sound Cenotaph Tuesday morning, military medals pinned to the chest of her jacket.

Arwen, of Parry Sound, made the wreath herself Monday in honour of her late uncle Dave Todd, who served during World War II, said her dad Eric Hansman.

"She made it and brought it along because she knew we were coming to the Cenotaph," said Hansman.

Arwen's was just one of many wreaths laid for Remembrance Day in Parry Sound Tuesday.

This year marks the 100th year since the start of World War I and the first since Cpl. Nathan Cirillo was killed in Ottawa and Warant Officer Patrice Vincent was rundown in Quebec.

This year, the Algonquin Regiment was part of the ceremony, firing shots before and after the moment of silence.

Dignitaries of Parry Sound and McDougall attended, as did Parry

Sound-Muskoka MP Tony Clement along with students of William Beauty school, Shriners, Knights of Columbus, Parry Sound EMS, 295 MacPherson Aid Cadets Ministry of Natural Resources, Parry Sound OPP and members of the community. In addition, Rotary, Parry Sound Fire Department, IOOF, Parry Sound Legion and Parry Sound Auxiliary laid wreaths.

"It is so so so secret (the number) of World War II vets is smaller... in a sense their leg of the race is coming to the end," said Rev. Larry Freeman in his annual speech.

He added that the important thing is that we take the baton, extending on the idea of a relay race, and handing it to the next generation.

"Will be successfully pass on the baton to those who are behind us, or will we drop it?" he said, adding that actions speak louder than words.

The ceremony ended with the singing of *God Save the Queen* and residents being invited to thank those veterans in attendance personally.

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Great Lakes' water levels have bounced back

BY IAN ADAMS

GEORGIAN BAY - Water levels in the middle Great Lakes have bounced back dramatically, nearly two years after hitting historic lows.

But just because the water is higher doesn't mean the problem is solved, say those working to keep the issue of low water levels in the public eye.

Lake Huron

In Lake Huron, which includes Georgian Bay, the water level remains a half-metre (20 inches) above chart datum of 176 metres.

It's also about 80 cm above where it was two years ago, as the level of the lake was headed to set a new record low.

According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which tracks water levels on the lakes, Huron-Michigan's seasonal rise continued through October due to persistently wet conditions, and was the second consecutive month with above-average water levels after a 15-year stretch of continuously below-average conditions.

The middle lakes also benefited from near-record ice cover this past winter, which helped keep evaporation low.

It's predicted - especially if it's another

cold winter - that water levels in Michigan and Huron could stay 40-to-50 centimetres above chart datum over the next six months.

Drew Gronewold, a hydrologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, says the rise in water levels from a record low in January, 2013, to the current level, is the largest in recorded history.

"The challenge for us is to understand what variables are driving this change," he said from his office in Ann Arbor, Michigan. "There is a combination of factors."

Along with increased precipitation and less evaporation because of ice cover in the winter, the middle lakes have also seen increased flow from Lake Superior, which is 30 cm higher than last year, and above its long-term average.

Collingwood's Ulli Rath, who's made water levels his passion and was instrumental in forming a Collingwood chapter affiliated with Stop The Drop, is not convinced the tide has turned on water levels.

Rath, a geologist by trade, communicates on a regular basis with water level experts at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, NOAA, and the International Joint Commission.

"Most of the people I deal with tend to think that we're experiencing is an outlier," Rath said. "We've had 14 years of [low water conditions], and now we've had these extremes in a very condensed period. I don't believe this is the start of a long-term trend."

Gronewold said NOAA expects Michigan-Huron will follow its current trend for the next six months, but otherwise it can be difficult to predict what water levels will do in six months - especially in the big picture of changing water levels.

"Last June [of 2013], no one could have predicted the cold air mass that gripped the area [last winter], so it's hard to tell where things are going, and it's hard to say what's occurring is some kind of blip," he said. "Historically, the lakes can oscillate in extremes, and can go up or down ... variability is part of the system."

Georgian Bay Forever

Georgian Bay Forever executive director David Sweetnam cautions that a one-year blip in water levels shouldn't be taken as an indication the issue is solved.

"We're looking at weather impacts, and climate is different - it takes a lot longer to look at those impacts," he said. "In terms of [shoreline] ecology and the economy,

we're not out of the woods. We're still trying to understand the science. In five years, we could be back at record lows ... we can't keep starting and stopping the process."

Rath says the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is wrapping up a study that would outline the parameters of a proposal for a long-term solution to maintain water levels in the middle lakes by installing compensation structures in the St. Clair River.

He also wants the Canadian government to take more of an interest, in both the issue, and in the funding of a study.

"I still think [a study] is a very relevant process that needs to be done," he said. "I think we should continue to keep the pressure on the politicians. It's nice to see the lake levels up, but I just don't believe it's a responsible approach to say 'that's it'."

Lake Michigan-Huron Water Levels

Chart Datum: 176 metres
 October, 2014: 176.54 metres
 Long-term average for October: 176.37
 Historic high for October: 177.38 (1986)
 Historic low for October: 175.65 (1964)

It's the little things that count

BY REV. HARRY KLEINHUIS

Meditations

The quality of work is in the details. Or, it's the little things that count.

All of which may explain why George was bent over one morning, squinting and lining up his cloth to take another swipe at the glass of the restaurant door. His bottle of window-squirt stuff was at the ready. It was one of those sunny fall days when any little streak or smudge seemed to be amplified by the low-slanted sunlight.

It may also explain why George hovered near the door a little longer than he might have done otherwise. And why he opened the door, still smiling, for a family making its exit to the parking lot. He knew that little children seem to know very little

about the results of sticky fingers making contact with his door. His courtesy and goodwill meant that the pristine quality of the restaurant door would remain undisturbed and unbesmirched just a little bit longer.

The youngster said, "Thank you," and smiled back at George as he tugged his mom out into the sunlight through the open portal.

Glass doors or windows were not part of Biblical architecture or culture. But doing things better than expected was. It even created the lasting expression of "going the extra mile." (Matthew 5:41). It's an example from the Sermon on the Mount. It also includes that part about loving your enemy. Something for which boys with sticky fingers don't quite qualify.



Stephanie Johnson/North Star

Pictured above, from left, Wasauksing Chief Warren Tabobondung, sculptor Tyler Fauvelle, Francis Pegahmagabow's granddaughter and Wasauksing Coun. Theresa McInnes, and Parry Sound Mayor Jamie McGarvey.

Bronze statue estimated cost, \$195,000

continued from front

Wasauksing Chief Warren Tabobondung said Pegahmagabow will always be remembered as an inspiration to many in Native communities.

"He's also touched all of Canada and its allies. In our community, he will be remembered as a chief with other great chiefs - Chief Pontiac of the 1700s, Chief Tecumseh of the 1800s, and Chief Pegahmagabow of the 1900s," said Tabobondung. "All of these warriors have fought for Turtle Island and the British and we thank them for their great contribution to the Great War of Freedom."

Parry Sound Mayor Jamie said it is an honour that the sculpture will be displayed in Parry Sound.

"Francis was a hero to our country, a hero to our community, and a hero to Wasauksing First Nation," said McGarvey. "To have this sculpture here at the Stockey Center looking at Parry Island is truly an honour and we're very pleased to welcome it into our community so that it can be

here for everyone to see. I think the world needs to view more heroes as we face the challenges we do currently."

Theresa McInnes, Pegahmagabow's granddaughter and Wasauksing councillor thanked those who helped the project come together.

"On behalf of the Wasauksing First Nation I want to say meegwetch to Tyler and Roger (Chum) from Canadore College and James Pegahmagabow for making this sculpture of Francis a reality," said McInnes. "Thank you to Parry Sound council and Wasauksing First Nation for supporting this and approving this request. Francis' family will truly be honoured and truly thank you for this momentous day. I just want to say I am very proud to be a granddaughter of Francis and I thank you all for coming, meegwetch."

The estimated cost of the sculpture is \$195,000. Committee members hope to receive about \$110,000 from government grants and raise the rest through private contributions.

November is "Woman Abuse Awareness Month"

**Image Source: "Office of Women's Affairs"
(University of Illinois at Chicago)**

**For further information, please contact the
District of Parry Sound Domestic Violence
Coordinating Committee
- working together to end
partner abuse, sexual violence, child abuse,
and violence against seniors in our community.**

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