

HAL: Rare painting of Frontenac seen publicly for first time



Dr. Michael Hess, a prominent Lockport dentist, recently drove to Lewiston and shared a painting he owns with a group of enthusiastic volunteers who were astounded with the quality, accuracy and rarity of the artwork. It is the only known illustration of the French vessel Frontenac landing in Lewiston on Dec. 6, 1678, with Father Louis Hennepin aboard.

The original watercolor, created by Buffalo historian/artist Raymond Massey, was obtained by Hess in 1980 and has remained at his Lockport residence ever since. The Frontenac, which was built in Kingston, Ontario, around 1676, was the first sailing vessel on the Great Lakes. Its fate or whereabouts are unknown. When the ship arrived in Lewiston, it was one of the most important historical events in North American history, because it was the beginning of Great Lakes commerce and the exploration of the Ohio Valley and Mississippi River. The Senecas controlled the region at the time while the French considered this area part as of New France.

The Frontenac was at the vanguard of LaSalle's mission to construct a larger ship in Niagara Falls, named LeGrifon, which was launched to find the mythical northwest passage to China.

The 350th anniversary of the Frontenac's trip to Lewiston will be in 2028, and discussions are underway to determine the feasibility of building a replica of the Frontenac for tourist and visitor trips between Lewiston to Youngstown.

Dr. and Mrs. Anne Hess have lent the Lewiston Museum the painting for now. It will be on display when the museum opens for the season at 1 p.m. June 4.

Hess is shown, right, with Ken Slaughaupt.

Youngstown Lions donate to Down Syndrome Association

Youngstown Lions Club President Terry Cummings is shown presenting a check to Lion Debbie Fleck, vice president of The Family & Friends Down Syndrome Association of Niagara. This followed a presentation on the public charity.

The Family & Friends Down Syndrome Association of Niagara is an affiliate organization of the National Down Syndrome Society. It advocates for the value, acceptance and inclusion of people born with Down syndrome, with a mission to help benefit people with DS – and their families – through advocacy efforts and raising positive awareness. The association is the only affiliate organization of the National Down Syndrome Society operating in Niagara County.

A press release noted, "They are committed to being part of a collaborative and communitywide effort to enhance the quality-of-life outcomes of people with Down syndrome. It is their primary objective that each person be afforded opportunity that will help maximize their potential, realize their life aspirations, and lead a life of purpose and meaning."

For information on the Family & Friends Down Syndrome Association of Niagara's "Down River Run" 2022, visit www.dsaniagara.org.



NYS & Bermuda Lions Convention in Falls

Destination Niagara USA and the Niagara Falls Convention Center will welcome attendees for the 98th annual Multiple District 20 Lions of New York State and Bermuda Convention, May 20-22.

The annual convention draws approximately 1,200 members and their families from across New York and Bermuda for educational sessions, officer-training classes, networking and fellowship. This year's convention will be the first time it will be held in-person following a two-year pandemic hiatus.

The Lions clubs of New York state and Bermuda, subsidiaries of

the Lions International Organization, assist their local communities in the area of sight, hearing, youth and other charitable work.

Convention attendees will stay at two hotels in the immediate downtown Niagara Falls area, and utilize the versatile meeting and event space at the Niagara Falls Convention Center for seminars, activities and meals. The estimated economic impact for this event is approximately \$1.6 million.

Destination Niagara USA President and CEO John Percy said, "We are thrilled to host the Lions convention in Niagara Falls USA.

Not only are we eager to showcase the growth of our destination since their event 14 years ago, but it's also a welcome return of convention business, being our first city-wide of the new year."

MD20 Lions of New York and Bermuda Secretary-Treasurer Tim Jachlewski said, "On behalf of Lions of New York State and Bermuda, we are excited to return to Niagara Falls, and host our annual convention in-person, again! We are looking forward to reconnecting with friends and members, attending the workshops, and exploring the area, too!"

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