

Old Fort Niagara hosts French Heritage Days

Old Fort Niagara celebrates the Niagara Region's French heritage with two days of special programming designed to highlight the early French occupation of the area. On Friday, Nov. 5, the historic site will welcome French language and social studies classes to learn about the lives of soldiers and civilians who lived at the fort during the second quarter of the 18th century. The Western New York Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French sponsors the program. It is part of a series of activities in honor of National French Week, which runs Nov. 3-9.

The program will continue from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 6, with a number of public living history programs. These include the fur trade, the life of a voyageur, how to design a fortress, blacksmithing, Native American diplomacy, 18th century women's fashions, food preparation, musket and artillery firings, surveying and tinsmithing.



The French were the first Europeans to explore the Niagara Region, with the first recorded visit by French explorers in 1669. Over the years, French merchants traded with Native Americans who lived in the region. During wartime, the French provided housing for allied Native families and hosted important negotiations at the fort.

The Great Lakes' oldest building, known today as the French Castle,

was constructed in 1726 and still stands today. During the French and Indian War, the French were forced to surrender Fort Niagara to the British after a 19-day siege.

French Heritage Days recalls 33 colorful years of French occupation Fort Niagara when soldiers, traders and even a few ladies passed through its sturdy gates. For more information, visit www.oldfortniagara.org or call 745-7611.

Youngstown Library Friends' fall book sale set

The Friends of the Youngstown Free Library will host its annual fall book sale from the evening of Thursday, Nov. 4, through the afternoon of Saturday, Nov. 6, at the Red Brick School Village Center gym, 240 Lockport St.

Current members or those wishing to join the Friends organization are invited to a "Members' Night" from 5-8 p.m. Thursday, where members can preview the offerings, plus enjoy light snacks and drinks. Those wishing to become members can join at the door or online at <https://youngstownfreelibrary.networkforgood.com/projects/121597-friends-membership-2021>.

Membership is \$10 for individuals and \$20 for families.

The book sale is open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, and from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Saturday features a "bag sale," where visitors can fill any bag they independently can carry when filled for \$5.

Items will include fiction, non-fiction, children and young adult titles, travel, cooking, gardening, self-help, spiritual, literature best-sellers and antique books. DVDs and CDs will also be for sale. Books are \$1.50 for hardcovers, \$1 for paperbacks, and collectible books will be priced as marked. All proceeds benefit the Youngstown Free Library.

Do you have books to donate? Drop your donations off at the Red Brick Gym from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Nov. 1, through Wednesday, Nov. 3. Or call the li-

brary to arrange for an evening drop-off on these three days. Note: Textbooks, encyclopedias, VHS tapes and any materials with mold issues cannot be accepted.

The book sale is organized by Friends and the event involves the support of dozens of volunteers who unpack, sort and organize ma-

terials for sale, as well as help with sales, information and advertising.

Youngstown Free Library pandemic protocols will be adhered to, including mandatory mask-wearing per the Village of Youngstown.

For more information, visit www.youngstownfreelibrary.org or call 745-3555.

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