

Year was 'fantastic' for Fair Queen as reign ends



The Lincoln County Fair Queen Committee is preparing for the Miss Lincoln County Fair Pageant. members of the fair queen committee are (from left): Glenna (Reimer) Cairnie, a former fair queen, Charlotte Hoffman, chairperson for the committee, and Lisa Mackie, Lincoln's current fair queen.



LINCOLN COUNTY FAIR'S BAKE QUEEN

Bev Shoemith of Beamsville is given her first-prize award — a \$50 gift certificate — by Hillview IGA president Del Givens. Mrs. Shoemith won the prize for her 54 entries in the canning and baking division of the fair.

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Painting of lower Ball's Falls marks a trio of anniversaries

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by PETER DOWNS

Brian Romagnoli's art career began with a first-prize award at the Lincoln County Fair for a fire prevention poster he drew when he was five years old.

Today, Mr. Romagnoli is still actively involved in art. He was recently commissioned to create a painting in order to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, the 25th anniversary of Ball's Falls Historical Park and the 20th anniversary of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation.

He chose to paint a picture of the lower falls at Ball's Falls Historical Park. The original painting has been made into an anniversary poster.

Mr. Romagnoli said he had long been looking for an opportunity to paint Ball's Falls, but for various reasons hadn't found the time. When he was approached by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) to produce the anniversary poster "everything just seemed to fit into place," he said. "It was an ideal situation."

"A painting of Ball's Falls doesn't exist, to my knowledge, out there on the market," said Mr. Romagnoli. "It's kind of a new thing."

Mr. Romagnoli explained that he chose to use the lower falls of the historical park as a subject for his painting because "the beauty is really undisturbed. It's a natural cataract. A well-kept secret."

With the aid of photographs of the falls he had taken about five years ago and several sketches he made while on location, Mr. Romagnoli was able to capture the lower falls in his water color painting. Growing up near the falls didn't hurt his representation, either.

A member of the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) and vice-chairman of the Jordan Historical Museum Board, Mr. Romagnoli is "interested in the preservation of natural, historical and agricultural environments."

Although he has training in graphic design, medical and film illustration and advertising, from schools in Ontario and Europe, he has devoted most of his time to painting and drawing in recent years.

He is able to explore the history of Canada and, more specifically, of Ontario through his work and travels to many museums and historical sites in Ontario to do so. The results of this exploration can be seen in

the many limited edition prints available through his art publishing company, Vintage Prints.

One of Mr. Romagnoli's largest historical works, in terms of size, is, without a doubt, the mural he was commissioned to paint for the Welland Festival of Arts.

This huge example of his talents can be found on the wall of the Conlin Engineering Building, 176 King Street, Welland. The work was sponsored by John Deere Welland Works and is one of the few murals painted for the festival that has lights illuminating it at night.

Although he could not attend the Lincoln County Fair this year because he was at an art show in Ottawa, Mr. Romagnoli was at the Niagara Regional Fair last week promoting the commemorative posters.

Money made from the sale of the \$5 poster will be used by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation for conservation and environmental projects.

Mr. Romagnoli will be in attendance at the 15th Annual Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival on October 6, 7, 8, and 9 in the Niagara Regional Conservation Authority booth, signing copies of his poster.



Brian Romagnoli