

ENJOYING A LITERARY EXPLORATION DURING ONGOING PANDEMIC

LIBRARIES CONTINUE TO PROVIDE US WITH IMPORTANT SERVICE, WRITES TED ARNOTT



TED ARNOTT
Column

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to drag on, reading can provide us with an opportunity to escape while staying at home.

In Halton Hills, we continue to have access to outstanding local libraries, thanks to our council and staff. Our library staff have gone to great lengths to safely maintain their services to local residents, and are among the essential public servants who deserve our appreciation.

Here are a few books that I have found particularly compelling and important in the past few months:

"21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act"

This book by Bob Joseph is an accessible and concise presentation of the deliberate and callous efforts over the decades to assimilate Canadian Indigenous Peoples and, in the process, destroy their identity, culture, and communities. It is shocking in its scope; searing in its intensity.

If reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples in

this country is ever to be achieved, non-Indigenous Canadians need to learn more about the history of the racist policy objectives of successive national governments, and this is a good place to start.

"Resilience is Futile: The Life and Death and Life of Julie S. Lalonde"

The winner of the Ontario Legislature's 2020 Speaker's Book Award, this is a riveting, harrowing true story of a young woman's courage in overcoming a violent stalker, who happened to be her former intimate partner.

The prose is unflinching and at times raw, but the story of Julie S. Lalonde's journey from victim to advocate for ending sexual violence is thought provoking and ultimately unforgettable.

"Albatross"

In the 1980s, Terry Fallis worked for a Member of Provincial Parliament at Queen's Park. He has gone on to become one of Canada's best-loved writers, and has twice won the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour.

"Albatross" builds on his impressive body of work. This time, the subject is golf, and it is Fallis at his best. The book is funny and touching, with imaginative plot twists and a theme that appeals to a wide audience: what happens in your life when you follow your heart.

Happy reading.

Ted Arnett is the MPP for Wellington-Halton Hills. He can be reached at ted.arnott@pc.ola.org.

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SNAPSHOT



Maggie Bras photo

A hooded owl peers in a window of a home in Norval. Do you have a great local photo you'd like to share? Send it to sleblanc@metroland.com, along with a brief description.

ECONOMIC CHALLENGES COULD WELL INTENSIFY

TO BE A FEDERAL POLITICIAN NOW COULD BE THE BEST OF TIMES, OR THE WORST OF TIMES, WRITES PETER WATSON



PETER WATSON
Column

Our leaders have some turbulent waters to navigate in the aftermath of COVID-19.

The first order of business will be to restart our economy. That will re-

quire spending in the magnitude not seen in our history.

Then the attention will shift to managing our country's bulging debt, including creative ways to reduce it.

That's the challenge. We need to spend. And then we need to stop spending.

These two challenges will start to pit different segments of our population against each other.

The next level of dis-course will escalate. How do we bridge the gap between the haves and have-nots of our country?

All Canadians contribute to the fabric of our country. As a nation we are respectful and for the most part considerate of others.

But now we are down to money, and that's where great divide can occur.

Government workers will continue receiving their salary and pensions.

Some in business have enjoyed unprecedented opportunities and are thriving.

Others are financially devastated.

They include small business owners who have lost their business, their livelihood and potentially their house and other assets because those were pledged as securities for business loans.

Others have seen their employer go out of business, or a shift toward a new economy that has left them unemployed or unemployable.

The pandemic has been difficult. Our recovery might be more so.

Peter Watson, of Watson Investments MBA, CFP®, R.F.P., CIM®, FCSI offers a weekly financial planning column, Dollars & Sense. He can be contacted through www.watsoninvestments.com.

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