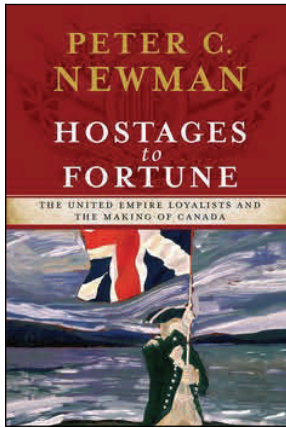


Book Review

Hostages to Fortune

by Peter C. Newman

Reviewed by Sam Lanfranco PhD

For some reviews the challenge is to not be a spoiler and give the plot away. That is never the case with the writing of Peter C. Newman where the telling of the story is central to a plot with a known ending. After a dozen and a half books, Newman has written "Hostages to Fortune", a book about the Empire Loyalists, their migration to Canada, and, most importantly, their imprint on Canada. Here is a

small "spoiler alert" for those living in the County: The County is a minor bit player in this story, turning up briefly about four-fifths of the way through the story. The bigger story is "How this be Canada", more as a condition than a nationality, and the role of the Loyalists in this becoming.

At the end of the book, in Newman's acknowledgements, he writes: "...what I've learned is that if it's absurd to feel you can change things, it is much more absurd not to try." I could not agree more. Resigned to optimism, I have always believed that "We can get there from here". "Here" is where we start, "There" will be revealed as we navigate along the babbling brooks of spring, and across the treacherous rivers of winter. At birth Loyalists had not a clue of the rivers they would cross in winter, where they would go, and who they would become or the Canada they would shape.

Newman draws on family stories, in particular the Jarvis family, to put flesh on the history of the Loyalist saga. One of the ironies of the American Revolution is that both the Patriots and the Loyalists shared Newman's imperative for action. Their notions of freedom and liberty found common ground in the wish for greater representation in their affairs of life. Those who became the Loyalists saw strength from change within the Monarchy and the Patriots saw the Monarchy as an obstacle to change. The resulting civil war, pitting neighbor against neighbor and splitting families, was as vicious and nasty as such conflicts always are. Native Americans were enlisted on both sides as opportunity presented itself. Victory by the Patriots was not followed by a "Truth and Reconciliation" process, and peace further fed retribution and Loyalist abuse. The departing Loyalists, bringing new ideas of liberty and freedom with them, thought less about "going home" to a Britain whose behavior had disappointed them, and thought more about survival and a new future. That future became Canada. (Continued on page 8)

The South Marysburgh Recreation Board

The Marysburgh Mummers

The Milford Fair Board

Meetings, Events, Announcements

Wii Bowling

Milford Town Hall

Thursdays from January 12th to April 27th

NEW TIME! 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

NEW! Music Circle

Milford Town Hall

Sundays - January 8th & February 5th

1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Organized by Ril Giles

Milford Winter Carnival

Friday night and Saturday, January 27 & 28, 2017

*To reserve the Milford Town Hall
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