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Battle of La belle Famille tour at Old Fort Niagara

Walk in footsteps of history and relive Battle of La Belle Famille



Battle of La belle Famille file photo by Wayne Peters

Old Fort Niagara Press Release

Old Fort Niagara and the Town of Porter Historical Society are joining forces to commemorate the Battle of La belle Famille with a free walking tour at 7 p.m. Monday, July 24.

The battle was fought on July 24, 1759, in the final days of the siege of Fort Niagara during the French and Indian War. About 800 French soldiers attempted to break through to relieve the siege of Fort Niagara, but were defeated by British troops who blocked the road from Niagara Falls to the fort. The battle took place where the Village of Youngstown stands today.

Historical interpreters, dressed as soldiers who took part in the epic battle, will describe how the

action unfolded early on the morning of July 24, 1759.

British soldiers, along with New York provincial troops and Native American allies, besieged French-held Fort Niagara from July 6-25, 1759. Early in the siege, the fort's commander, Capt. Pierre Pouchot, dispatched messengers to summon French and Native American reinforcements from Venango (modern-day Franklin, Pennsylvania). About 1,300 men responded to the call and beached their boats above Niagara Falls on the night of July 23.

On the morning of July 24, they marched north on the Portage Road (Route 18F) headed for Fort Niagara. The British commander, Sir William Johnson, warned of the

attack by Native allies, dispatched a small force to block the road just north of the junction of modern Lockport and Main streets. At 8 a.m., the French column ran directly into the British force, which numbered 464 soldiers. In the brief but decisive battle that followed, some 250 French soldiers were killed or wounded, and the survivors fled for their lives. The next day, Fort Niagara surrendered to the British.

The free walking tour will meet at 7 p.m. in Falkner Park, adjacent to the original battle site. Participants are asked to dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes. For more information, call the fort at 716-745-7611 or visit www.oldfortniagara.org.

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Niagara Falls native to appear on 'JEOPARDY!'



Liz Asklar Cotruello will appear on next Wednesday's episode of "JEOPARDY!" (Photo by Jeopardy Productions Inc.)

Submitted

Liz Asklar Cotruello will appear as a contestant on the Wednesday, July 19, episode of "JEOPARDY!" (7:30 p.m. on WIVB-TV Channel 4).

She was born and raised in Niagara Falls, and was the valedictorian of Niagara Falls High School's Class of 1982. While in high school, Liz appeared on the locally produced "It's Academic!" quiz show, which probably sparked her love of trivia.

Liz is the daughter of Eleanor Asklar and the late Eugene Asklar. She is a resident of Broomall, Pennsylvania, where she lives with her 20-year-old twins, Sean and Emily Cotruello, with whom she watches every episode of "JEOPARDY!" She is a fourth-grade teacher at Swarthmore-Rutledge School in the Wallingford-Swarthmore School District in Delaware County, Pennsylvania.

Liz brings "JEOPARDY!" into her classroom, using the game format to practice various facts, especially U.S. states and capitals.

"For years, I've been telling my students, 'You have to know the states and capitals, in case you're ever on 'JEOPARDY!'" she said. When Liz's students found out about her upcoming appearance on

the show, they cheered.

"I had talked about trying out for the show three times, so they are really excited for me," she said. "I hope they see that perseverance pays off, and that big dreams can come true."

After Liz's third audition for the show, she received the call in April that she had been selected to be a contestant. She has been a huge fan of the show for years, and always knew it would be a dream come true to be invited to compete.

"I learned to read at an early age, and was given a great love of learning by my parents and family," Liz said. "I can remember a lot of the facts I've been exposed to, and am lucky to have the ability to come up with answers quickly."

About the audition process, Liz said, "If you've ever watched the show and thought, 'Hey, I know a lot of these questions,' give it a try. The online test is offered frequently, and you never know. I tried it, I was invited, and it was one of the most exciting and fun experiences of my life!"

Liz plans on being in Niagara Falls on July 19 to watch the episode with her family and friends.



Barenaked Ladies bring 'Last Summer on Earth,' Del Amitri & Five For Fighting to Artpark

In what has become an annual tradition, the Barenaked Ladies (pictured) returned to Artpark in Lewiston for a sold-out concert on Tuesday. "The Last Summer on Earth Tour" featured some of the Canadian band's biggest hits – and even more hits from opening acts Del Amitri and Five For Fighting. (Photos by Joshua Maloni; see more photos from each band at www.wnypapers.com)

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