

Re-enactments may be ideal for our adult children (27, 10, 12)

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News item! British defeat Americans on Queenston battlefield – yet again! You might say that the fix was in. Las Vegas bookmakers would not touch our Canadian loonies. With no hockey in sight this season thanks to the NHL lockout, approximately 15,000 hockey fans arrived in NOTL to watch a replay of the critical battle at Queenston Heights portrayed last Saturday on its 200th anniversary.

A lady standing beside me said, “Wow! The canons are SO LOUD!” After the muskets had fired, there was a mist of smoke that drifted over the re-enactors. Ah yes, the fog of war. And at the end, the Americans ran away! With no Ottawa Senators or Toronto Maple Leafs in sight, this will have to do. In fact, CBC is so desperate these days that sportscaster Ron MacLean, the Abbott to Don Cherry’s Costello, is pitching famous OLD hockey games. Yes, hockey players are also employed as re-enactors. But really, do we have to watch Paul Henderson score that famous goal against the Russians again? I know it was important, but enough is enough.



Nearly 1,000 re-enactors strutted about in NOTL in period costume, firing cannons and muskets, which drew polite applause from the audience. It was an hour-long re-enactment accompanied with commemorations, dedications and tours along the Niagara River Parkway.

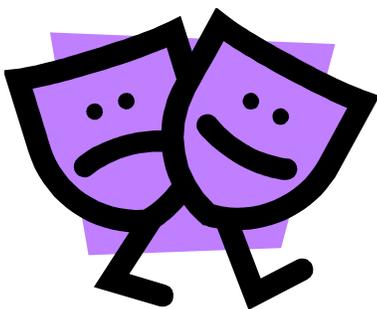
In the morning, re-enactors marched up to the Heights from Niagara on the Lake’s Fort George as the British troops did in 1812. You might recall that in typical fashion, General Sir Isaac Brock was first up on his horse and led the group in his splendid plumaged hat and bright redcoat, a perfect target for American marksmen who hit him twice, once at the wrist which barely slowed Brock down, and then the mortal wound in the chest.

Nevertheless, the Brits carried the day and despite an overcast, cool day, a good time was had by all – especially the British!

This re-enactment concept might be a good move for other interests. For example, seniors are particularly fond of re-enactments. They delight in telling the same story over and over again.

However, the next time that we invite our adult children over for a meal, we might re-enact all of the trials and tribulations that they caused us during their formative years. We could remind them of that time we were paged in the movie theatre because the baby-sitter couldn’t cope with the fuss. We could remind them with careful calculations, just how many miles we logged as taxi service when transporting them to innumerable practices and games. We could remind them of those expensive Christmas and birthday gifts that we purchased while trying to pay down a mortgage. And let’s not forget the cost of thousands of meals. Then, like crafty bus drivers on tour buses, we might set up a large glass bowl at the door with a “Donations” sign attached for when they return home. Sadly, for some modern day seniors, there is no re-enactment necessary. Their adult children continue to remain at home! “No jobs,” they say. “Pay the rent,” I might reply.

I think re-enactments are popular today because they are similar to live theatre. We all know how a play is going to finish because we can read reviews ahead of time. Nevertheless, Miriam and I continue to watch the same Shakespearian plays at Stratford year after year. I know that Macbeth and his wife will perish in the end, but I watch it over and over. We know that the British will win the War of 1812, but it certainly is fun to watch American re-enactors run away.



Perhaps, that is the best attribute of re-enactments. There is no dispute how things will eventually turn out. At a time when the stock market can either go boom or bust on a whim and people in Europe can determine that value of my RSP’s, some certainty is much appreciated. I think

church services run on this same model. Despite a variety in hymns sung and verses quoted, the service itself is essentially identical each week.