

February 2023

Dear Students,



With the three-year anniversary of the World Health Organization (WHO) declaring the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic (March 11th, 2020) it is not hard to see that these years will be studied by future generations for a long time to come – you will be helping your kids and grandkids with their 2020s units! The social, political and cultural changes triggered by Covid19 will be far-reaching (much of which we won't understand until years from now). Systems that have long-shaped our society have been shaken – not necessarily a bad thing! Conversations are being had about our society – about inequities, systemic racism and privilege - that are shaping what our future will look like.

Personally, when I had the privilege to witness the [Solidarity March organized by WDHS student Camilie Abreu in June 2020](#) – the first of its kind in our community's history – I was filled with a lot of hope.

Regardless of the courses that I will be teaching (this semester they are Canadian History and Treaty Studies) there are some local and world events that we will be focusing on.

- On May 6th King Charles III will be crown in front of the world during the first coronation in 70 years. Not only is Charles III King of the United Kingdom, but he is also King of Canada. As sovereign, King Charles plays an important role within our democracy, including within dozens of relationships with Indigenous Peoples across this land.

The Coronation of King Charles III will be a global event watched by millions (possibly billions) – we will be experiencing it together as a class.

- The Russian invasion of Ukraine shows no signs of ending - What could this mean for the world? Canada? What is the goal of Russian President Vladimir Putin?
- In November 2022, *ChatGPT* (Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer), a chatbot, was launched by *OpenAI*. What are the implications of this extraordinary evolution in AI? How has technology dramatically changed the world?

- Waterdown has been inhabited by Indigenous People for millennia, including the Neutral Nation who were the first to make contact with the French in the 17th and 18th centuries. Currently, we are located within the Treaty Territory of the [Mississaugas of the Credit](#). As well, this land is used and inhabited by the [Haudenosaunee Confederacy](#). What responsibilities do we have as Treaty partners? – and this very much includes responsibilities to the land. [Waterdown's Souharissen Natural Area](#) reminds us of some of these responsibilities, but also challenges us to learn more.
- Learning about our local history is a great way to understand the history of Canada and the wider world – our community has been shaped by events and concepts like the Reformation, Colonialism, Industrial Revolution, Private Property Ownership, etc. During this semester we will be using *The Platinum Jubilee Edition of The Extraordinary History of Flamborough* to analyse the links between Flamborough/Waterdown and the outside world.

I am very excited that we are going to be experiencing this all together.

It has been said that studying history is like playing a huge game of telephone - sifting through various stories, exaggerations and factual evidence. This course will present you with all kinds of information that affects you as a Canadian.

In looking at Canada and the World we will make use of many different resources: artefacts, video, primary sources, secondary sources, archives, novels, etc. This course has been designed with many elements that you will see during your time in post-secondary education. I want you to enjoy history, and will do my best to present a positive experience. Please feel free to bring to my attention any questions or concerns you might have during the course.



Some resources to keep in mind:

This class has its own website that can be accessed at: www.tidridge.com

This website is as important as your textbook – check here for assignment checklists, class news, links to sites of interest, and other important information.



This class will also make use of “The Hub” – please make sure you have your account up-to-date. All outstanding assignments and notes will be posted here for you.

Wishing you success,



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