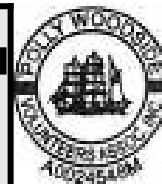




# WAVELET



**Number 169      “the ship comes first”      June 2020**  
**The Newsletter of the Barque *Polly Woodside* Volunteers Association Inc.**

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**The first job to do on our return**

### Chairman's Ripple Chat

With reluctance, as you know, it was decided to withdraw our volunteering from Polly the week before it became official, due at that stage to our feeling of self-preservation.

Unfortunately we were working on the ship's gangway landing's steps, and had completed the repairs, so we were ready to replace the steps when we retreated from Polly.

On return (hopefully very soon) we should be able to complete this in a day.

I am hoping I can organise to go down to the ship shortly and see how Polly is bearing up, after nearly four months of non-attendance.

I have been in contact with Sherredan Maher, Executive Manager, Assets and Conservation of the National Trust, who is our new boss-boss.

She has informed us that the new Polly Woodside Manager will be appointed after the pandemic restrictions are lifted.

Meanwhile the National Trust has prepared the site for closure by:-

Switching off the audio/video system and its lights.

Pulled the loose mooring ropes out of the water.

Opened the site for the FES contractor to inspect the fire services.

Opened the site for Security's visit to fix the beams on the ship, so that all the security is working again on the Polly Woodside site.

Opened the site for Adams Pest Control and the FES contractors.

Opened the site for Annette Sheil to discuss interpretation plans for the gallery and also met with the Showtime group regarding potential events in the future.

Opened the site for a contractor to give a quote for emergency lighting and FES.

The Maintenance Team visited the site on the 4<sup>th</sup> May to clean the gutters and also remove the moss from the concrete.

As Sherredan said, "these are not very exciting items, but it does mean we are visiting the site regularly and keeping up with the usual maintenance activity".

This has been the shortest newsletter for a very long time, but as you can see, there is nothing more we can do until we can get back on site. All I know is that there are volunteers champing at the bit to get back.

To give you an idea of what we have to do:-

Set up the steps for the gangway landing.

Manufacture and install the Mainmast mast-coat. Roger Wilson?

Repair the Deckhouse roof.

Complete the repair and manufacture of the rigging blocks for the T'gallant masts and their yards, ready for the new masts and yards when they are made.

Painting and sprucing up of the hull and the deck fittings.

Inspection and repair of the hull at the 'air-water line'.

*Keep well, and stay safe.*

*Looking forward to seeing you all soon.*

***And what do we want?***

***To see Polly Woodside again in the condition she was in prior to the 'industrial episode'.***

## **A Historic Boat, Stuck Above Niagara Falls Since 1918, Finally Breaks Free**

For 100 years, the Iron Scow was lodged in the same place in the "powerful upper rapids" above the Canadian Horseshoe Falls. On Halloween weekend last year, it shifted for the first time, but the vessel's joyride didn't last long; it is now lodged in a new location some 160 feet downriver.

In 1918, a barge-like vessel broke free from its tugboat and got lodged in the shallow rapids above Niagara Falls. The two men on board were rescued, but the boat remained stuck in the same spot for more than a century, until this Halloween, when gusty winds and strong rains pushed the wreck further downriver.

The iron scow, as the vessel is known, has been eaten away by rust over the years, which may explain why it finally shifted. "It could have been the way the wind came down the river," David Adames, CEO of Niagara Parks, which sits on the Canadian side of Niagara River, said "if it came down at a high enough gust, at that point in time, it might have hit the side of the rusted structure and it was enough to move it".

But the scow did not stay free for long. It has now come to a stop around 164 feet downstream, Niagara Parks said, and appears to have flipped on its side and spun around. "It could be stuck there for days," says Jim Hill, the parks' senior manager of Heritage, "or it could be stuck there for years."

The scow is a unique relic of what Niagara Parks deems "one of the most dramatic rescue efforts in the history of the Niagara River."

On August 6, 1918, the scow was taking part in a dredging operation around a mile away from Horseshoe Falls, as the Canadian section of the natural landmark is known. Suddenly, the boat separated from its tug and began heading towards the falls. Two quick-thinking men on board, Gustav Lofberg and James Harris, opened the scow's bottom dumping doors, which flooded its compartments and slowed it down. Eventually, the boat ground to a halt on a rocky area less than 2,000 feet from the edge of the falls.

But the ordeal was far from over. Lofberg and Harris were now stranded amid the "torturous rapids," as Niagara Parks puts it, and authorities from both the United States and Canada began implementing a plan to bring them to safety. The U.S. Coast Guard shot a lifeline from a nearby powerhouse to the scow, and a canvas sling was suspended from the ropes. By nightfall, authorities were inching the sling closer to the men—when it suddenly stopped, caught up in a tangle in the lines.

In the early hours of the morning, a brave WWI veteran named William "Red" Hill Sr. volunteered to travel over the rapids in the sling and untangle the ropes. It took him two tries—it was too dark to see properly during the first attempt, but he was ultimately successful. Later that morning, Lofberg and Harris were safely brought to shore.

Niagara Parks staff are now monitoring the scow, and officials may add cameras to a decommissioned power plant so they can keep a closer watch on it. "With the river current and more wind, it could move again and it could go to the Falls," Adames says—and if that happens, authorities will have to be notified so they can properly protect tourists. A tumble down the Falls is also likely to spell the end of the scow's decades-long stint in Niagara; either the boat will get stuck in rock formations below the water, or it will drift downriver, where it will have to be removed due to safety concerns.

But for now, Adames, says, "it's looking like the vessel will stay in its new location for the "foreseeable future," lodged once again amid Niagara's swirling waters.

## Casino Joke

Two bored casino dealers were waiting at the craps table. A very attractive blonde woman arrived and bet twenty-thousand dollars on a single roll of the dice.

She said,

"I hope you don't mind, but I feel much luckier when I'm completely nude."

With that she stripped from her neck down, rolled the dice and yelled,

"Mama needs new clothes!"

Then she hollered..."YES! YES! I WON! I WON!"

She jumped up and down and hugged each of the dealers.

She then picked up all the money and clothes and quickly departed.

The dealers just stared at each other dumbfounded.

Finally, one of them asked, "What did she roll?"

The other answered, "I don't know I thought YOU were watching!"

Moral: Not all blondes are dumb, but all men are men.

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A Polish lad married a Canadian girl after he had been in Canada a year or and, although his English was far from perfect, they got along very well, until one day he rushed into a lawyer's office and asked him if he could arrange a divorce for him - "very quick."

The lawyer said that the speed of getting a divorce would depend on the circumstances and asked him the following questions :

LAWYER: Have you any grounds?

POLE: Ja, Ja, an acre and half.

LAWYER: Does your wife beat you up?

POLE: No, I'm always up before her.

LAWYER: Is your wife a nagger?

POLE: No, she white.

LAWYER: Why do you want this divorce?

POLE: She going to kill me.

LAWYER: What makes you think that?

POLE: I got proof.

LAWYER: What kind of proof?

POLE: She bought a bottle at the drug store, and put on shelf in bathroom.

I can read - it said "Polish Remover."

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## Golfing With the Pope:

The Pope met with his Cardinals to discuss a proposal from Ariel Sharon, the Prime Minister of Israel.

"Your Holiness," said one of his Cardinals, Mr. Sharon wants to challenge you to a game of golf to show the friendship and ecumenical spirit shared by the Jewish and Catholic faiths."

The Pope thought this was a good idea, but he had never held a golf club in his hand. "Don't we have a Cardinal to represent me?" he asked.

"None that plays very well" a Cardinal replied. "But," he added, "there is a man named Jack Nicklaus, an American golfer who is a devout Catholic. We can offer to make him a Cardinal, then ask him to play with Mr. Sharon as your personal representative. In addition to showing our spirit of cooperation, we'll also win the match."

Everyone agreed it was a good idea. The call was made. Of course, Nicklaus was honored and agreed to play.

The day after the match, Nicklaus reported to the Vatican to inform the Pope of the result. "I have some good news and some bad news, your Holiness" said Nicklaus.

"Tell me the good news first, Cardinal Nicklaus" said the Pope. "Well, your Holiness, I don't like to brag, but even though I've played some pretty terrific rounds of golf in my life, this was the best I have ever played, by far. I must have been inspired from above. My drives were long and true, my irons were accurate and purposeful, and my putting was perfect. With all due respect, my play was truly miraculous."

"There's bad news?", the Pope asked.

"Yes," Nicklaus sighed. "I lost to Rabbi Tiger Woods by seven strokes".