

Teacher hits trifecta with release of latest book

by Kayla Baum

SPECIAL TO THE REVIEW

Nathan Tidridge, a local resident and Waterdown District High School (WDHS) history teacher, celebrated the release of his third book, continuing with the theme of Canadian history and the Royal family, on Monday.

The book, *Prince Edward, Duke of Kent: Father of the Canadian Crown*, tells the life story of Prince Edward Augustus, Queen Victoria's father, in relation to Canada.

Tidridge said the idea for the book came to him from Arthur Bousfield, a Toronto historian. "He told me about the Duke of Kent when I was still writing my first book," he said.

After doing some research, Tidridge became fascinated with Prince Edward, leading him to continue researching until he had gathered enough information to pen the book.

During the two-year process of conducting research and writing, Tidridge obtained information from the Royal Archives at Windsor Castle and the Brock and McMaster University libraries. He even traveled out of the province, where he was "holed up for two or three days in the Nova Scotia Archives." The New Brunswick Archives sent information directly to him through the Hamilton Public Library.

"I like the process of researching," said Tidridge, adding, "The more I explore, the more I enjoy it."

The book is dedicated to Carl Draksler, also a history teacher at Waterdown High,



Nathan Tidridge, a history teacher at Waterdown District High School, stands by a poster of the original artwork done by Toronto artist Charles Pachter for Tidridge's latest book, *Prince Edward, Duke of Kent: Father of the Canadian Crown*, which was released on April 15 in bookstores worldwide.

and Tidridge's former history teacher. "I'm very fortunate to have had him as a teacher, and now as a colleague at my old high school," remarks Tidridge.

Recognition

Tidridge has been the recipient of a number of awards, most notably the Diamond Jubilee Medal that was presented to him by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, in the presence of Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cornwall and the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

"It's nice to have an affirmation," said Tidridge. "It's nice to be recognized by people you hold in high regard."

Since the success of his second book, *Canada's Constitutional Monarchy*, now in its second printing, Tidridge noted that the biggest challenge he has is time – or lack thereof.

"You want to make sure the information you're putting out is accurate, and that takes time," he said. With his balancing act of teaching and writing, Tidridge said he takes it one day at a time. "It just works somehow."

Pickwick Books in Waterdown will be hosting a book signing with Nathan Tidridge on Sunday, June 9.

For more information about Tidridge's books, or to find out about his other speaking engagements, visit his web site at www.canadiancrown.com.