

Local author's first book receives rave reviews

Quaboag towns are the historical setting for 'The Devil's Elbow'

By Cristy Bertini
Reporter

-WEST BROOKFIELD-

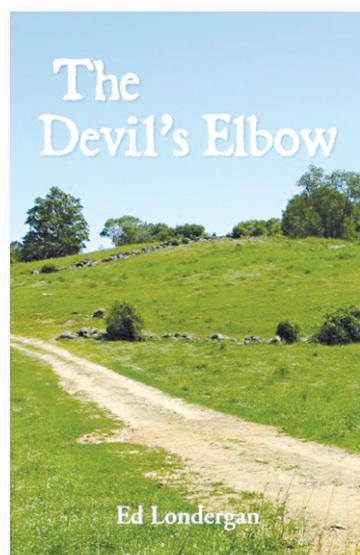
Ed Lonergan's first book "The Devil's Elbow" (Lakshmi Books) was only released a little over a month ago and has already received 5-star reviews on the Amazon and Barnes and Noble websites, and as of Aug. 11, Amazon had only one book left in stock.



Set in colonial Massachusetts, "The Devil's Elbow" is a work of historical fiction that follows Jack Parker from his orphan childhood days as an apprentice to a greedy and brutal Boston merchant to the isolated pioneer settlement of Brookfield, where he ends up in the fight of his life to protect the people and place he loves. The knowledge Jack's father gave him - that the measure of a man is how he deals with the worst life can throw at him - the support of the powerful man who becomes his friend, and the deep, unshakeable love for the childhood girlfriend who becomes his wife, fuel Jack's determination and will to survive. Jack uses all he has learned on his eight-year journey when he's met with his greatest test as he and 98 others are trapped in a four-room tavern for three hot, humid August days, fighting for survival against 400 once-friendly Indians who are determined to wipe them out and reclaim their land and way of life.

"It's really about a boy's passage into manhood," Lonergan explained. "He is a boy from Ipswich who is orphaned and I really developed him so he could go through a set of adventures. It culminates in the settlement here in West Brookfield on Foster Hill. The story is based on real characters, many of whom were settlers here on Foster Hill. No other historical fiction book has ever been written about this part of King Philip's War."

Lonergan, who lived in West Brookfield for seven years and is planning to return, said he has always been fascinated by American history. "When we lived here,



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a different culture and time back then, they really aren't much different from us. They experienced a lot of the same things that we do."

He said the story came to life for him three and a half years ago. "I'd done some writing in college – stories and poems and had a couple published. And then I did a couple industry articles when I was in the insurance business. But a couple of years ago, I just started writing and it just poured out of me. It got to the point where I just couldn't stop."

"This is one of the most beautiful and historic areas in New England. I want people to see the history and appreciate it."

Lonergan is already working on a sequel to "The Devil's Elbow" and he is also writing on a political thriller. He has a number of book signings coming up. He will be at the Salem Cross Inn Drover's Roast on Sunday, Sept. 9, he will do a reading and signing at the Merriam-Gilbert Library in West Brookfield on Thursday, Oct. 11 at 6:30 p.m., and he returns to the Salem Cross Inn for a signing on Saturday, Nov. 10 from 2 – 5 p.m.

I started learning about the ambush and the siege and I started going around researching and seeing where all of this took place. It just fascinated me," he said. "To stand where 400 Indians attacked 99 settlers in a four-room house for three days in August, it was so amazing and I wanted it to come alive for my readers. I want them to be able to see it, smell it and feel it. I also wanted to show that even though it was

a different culture and time back then, they really aren't much different from us. They experienced a lot of the same things that we do."

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Sturbridge Police Department launches intensive crackdown on impaired driving

Remember: Drive sober or get pulled over

STURBRIDGE – The Sturbridge Police Department today announced it will join 128 other law enforcement agencies statewide in support of an intensive crackdown on impaired driving on August 15 to September 3 as part of the national Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over mobilization funded by a federal grant administered through the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's Highway Safety Division (EOPSS-HSD).

Impaired driving is one of America's most often committed and deadliest crimes. In 2010, many people died in impaired driving related crashes in the Commonwealth. Moreover, there were additional 2,750 impaired driving related personal injury and property damage crashes and there were 14,635 impaired driving arrests.

On average, there is one alcohol impaired driving related fatality every 51 minutes across America. The number of drivers operating under the influence increases during holiday weekends, especially during summer holidays.

The Sturbridge Police Department announces that its officers will be aggressively looking for all impaired drivers during the crackdown and will arrest anyone they find driving while impaired – regardless of age, vehicle type or time of day.

"Our message is simple and unwavering: if we find you driving impaired, we will arrest you, no exceptions," said Chief Thomas J. Ford III. "Even if you beat the odds and manage to walk away from an impaired-driving crash alive, the trauma and financial costs of a crash or arrest for driving while impaired can still destroy your life."

According to the Registry of Motor Vehicles violators often face jail time, loss of their driver licenses, or being sentenced to use ignition interlocks. Their insurance rates to up. Other financial hits include attorney fees, court costs, lost time at work, and the potential loss of job or job prospects. All told, a first offense can easily cost well over \$5,000. Driving impaired is simply not worth all the consequences. Remember, Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over.

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