

Mr. James Foley,  
Port Colborne High School,  
Elgin Street,  
Port Colborne, Ontario.

October 27/73

Dear Mr. Foley:

Thank you for the invitation to attend the Canada Day discussions at your school next March.

I have read the clippings with interest and a deep appreciation of what you are doing to acquaint Canadian students with Canadian writers.

Unfortunately I cannot come to Port Colborne. I am living a retired life, bent with arthritis and further handicapped by failing eyesight.

May I say that, as a young writer, I saw authors who had been considered good in their day still writing and making public appearances long after they should have stopped. So I determined to cease when I <sup>had</sup> written all the themes that interested me to the point of great effort, and excited me to the passion of good creation.

I published my final novel in 1966. My last book of any sort ("Footsteps On Old Floors" in 1968) was simply a collection of true Nova Scotia stories that needed no creative touch.

In short, I am content to let my reputation rest on what I wrote in the best years of my life.

With every good wish for your continued success,

Yours sincerely,