

The London Free Press

IN TOMORROW'S PAPER

On the Today section front, read James Reaney's interview profile of singer-songwriter Rufus Wainwright, performing at the JLC Aug. 29.



Saturday, 25 August, 2007

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TODAY ENTERTAINMENT

Western expert in doc

Sat, August 25, 2007

A UWO engineer will be in a new film on hurricane Katrina.

By **KATHY RUMLESKI**, FREE PRESS REPORTER



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Slobodan Simonovic recently warned London about the threat of a Thames River flood that could be worse than 1937, when thousands of locals were left homeless and a rescue worker killed.

ebay.ca

Now Western's Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction director lends his expertise to a documentary about hurricane Katrina.

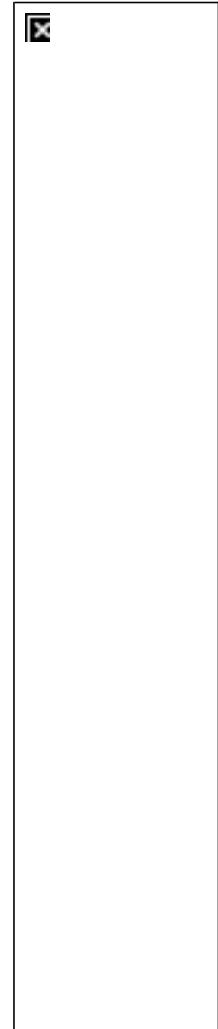
Two years to the day after Katrina touched down in Louisiana, High River Blues will air Wednesday as part of Turning Points of History on History Television.

Simonovic, an engineering expert in water resources, spent more than two hours at the London dike doing interviews last year for the documentary, which draws parallels between Katrina and the Great Mississippi Flood of 1927.

More than 1,000 people lost their lives in that disaster.

He talked to producers about the engineering aspects of flooding and emergency management.

Simonovic said there are some interesting parallels between the two extreme weather events.



Blogs
Videos

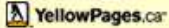
Simonovic, a member of the international joint commission that looked at 1997's Red River flood, said these catastrophes affect economics, politics, the environment and social movement.

CONTEST: Text and Win

Renewal occurs after these events, said Simonovic, who was critical of the U.S. response to Katrina.

CONTEST: Win Rush Tickets

"I don't see a renewal coming out of (Katrina). There is so little being done. FEMA and homeland security are really not doing anything to be better prepared or react more effectively."

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He's hoping London will be prepared for flooding after his study of the Thames, presented this spring, showed floods will be more frequent.

"They took it quite seriously," he said. "I'm trying to provide, as much as possible, my professional expertise."

SHOPPING SMART

Another Canadian in the documentary is Brian Inglis of the Vancouver Search and Rescue Unit.

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Inglis will never forget the day he arrived in a New Orleans suburb a few days after Katrina pounded the city and left thousands of people stranded amid toxic floodwaters.

Officials at St. Bernard Parish were overjoyed to see Inglis and his team show up, so much so that they reverentially started calling them Mounties, although they had no link to the RCMP.

"But the difficult part was these guys, grown men, tough men . . . they were crying because someone had finally shown up.

"It took your breath away how bad things were. They were in serious, serious trouble there, and no one was coming to help them."

Today Headlines

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- Raising the Ruf
- Bollywood actor to be jailed
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- Hasselhoff wins libel damages
- Must-see
- Kanye says he's not political
- Queen guitarist finishes his doctorate in -- get this -- astrophysics
- CD Review: Forever Cool is not so cool
- Dino joins newer acts on duets disc
- Perfect Summer CDs
- International appeal
- Western expert in doc**
- Iced coffee refreshing last jolt of summer
- Plum full of flavour, visual appeal
- Sweet red wines are BBQ friendly
- Snelgrove career no 'Error'
- Love story lacks suspense, but still captivating
- Top 10 Books
- Bad Monkeys a short read that's difficult to put down

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 Ovarian cancer not easy to detect
 Salvation Army faces tough battle

ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

'5th Grader' seeks Canuck kids

Global is hoping to announce its host for Are You Smarter Than a Canadian 5th Grader? next week, and the five-episode run will be taped in Toronto in early October.

[FULL STORY](#) [More at JAM](#)

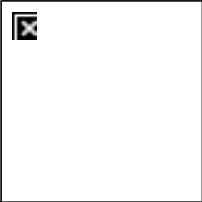
- 'Star Trek: TNG' star still No. 1
- Rufus Wainwright flaunts his music
- Fox cancels 'Anchorwoman'
- This week's reality TV wrap up

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