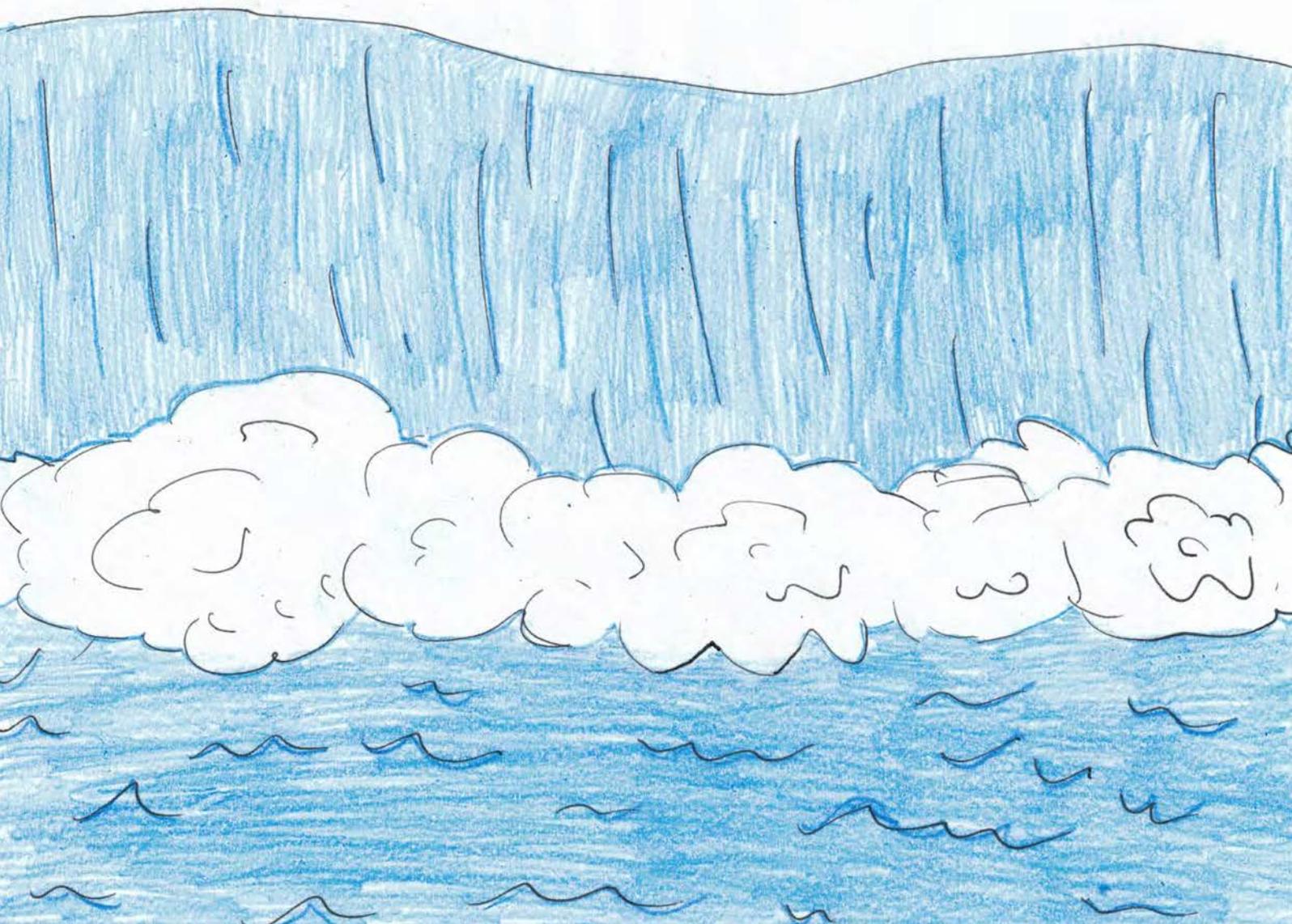


The Day the Great Falls Stopped Flowing

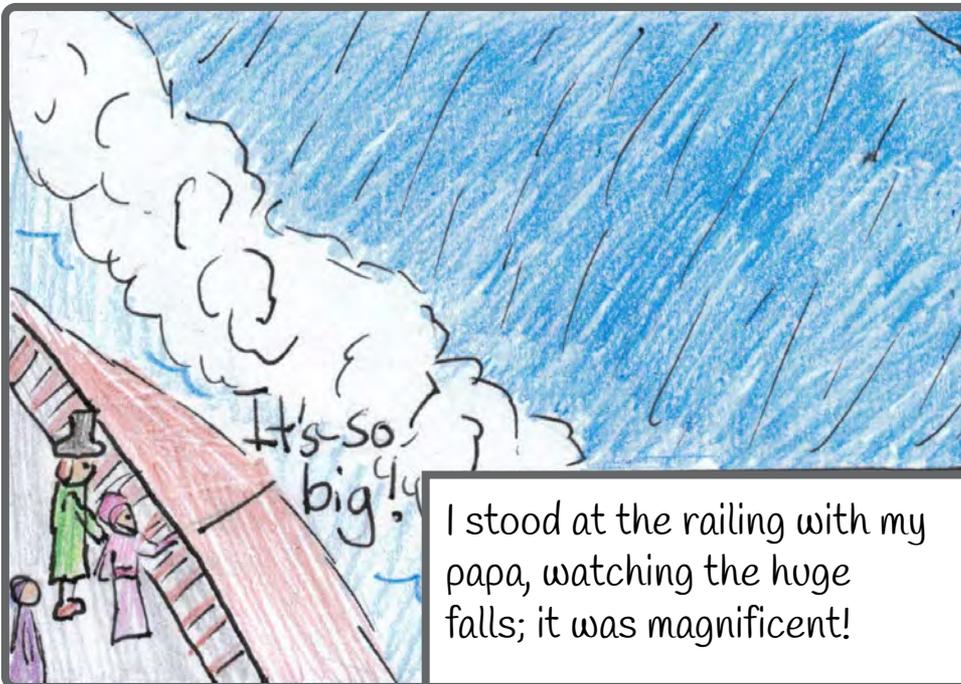
By Kaira Picard



I want to tell you a story, about one of the most exciting times of my life.



It was March 29, 1848; my family and I had gone up to see a Wonder of the World. I was excited to see Niagara Falls for the first time. I could hear the falls the moment we rode into the town.



I stood at the railing with my papa, watching the huge falls; it was magnificent!

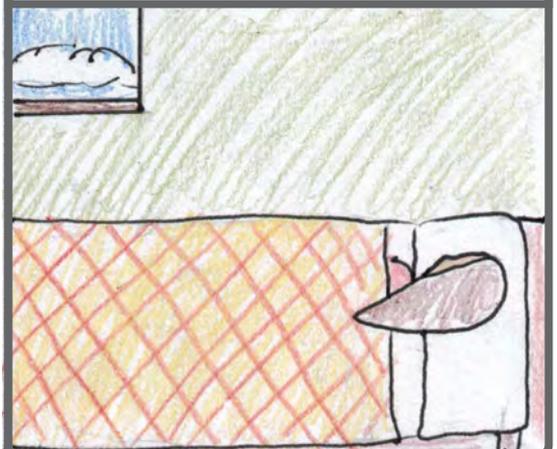


After we walked around town I was excited, I had never been this far from home. I got some ribbons and my mama got a new bonnet.



The Inn that we stayed at was grand; I had a great view of the falls.

I lay down trying to go to sleep, but the sound of falls kept me awake. I woke up several times.

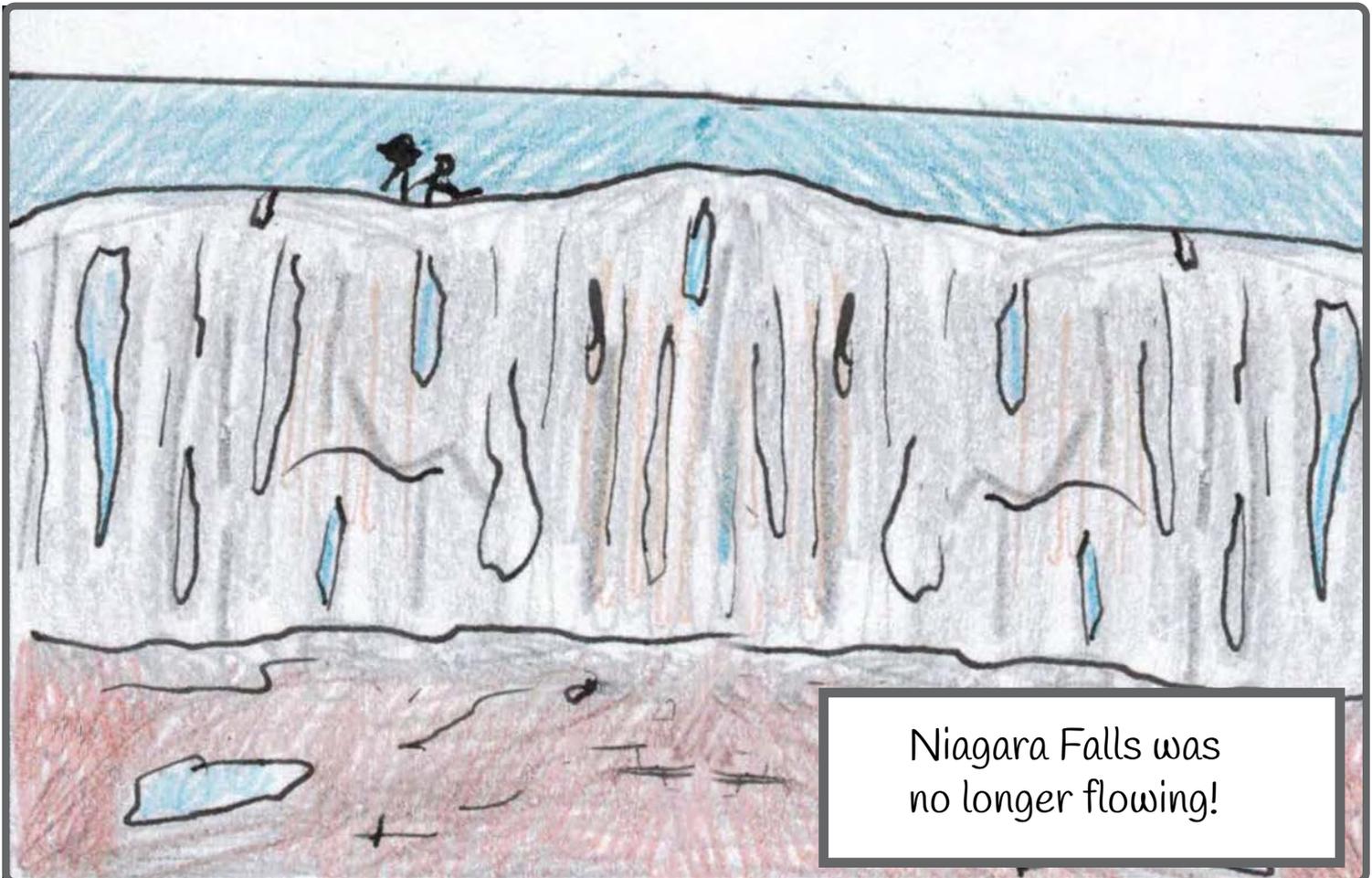


The next morning when I awoke, I could tell something was different. There was silence...



I went with my family; we wanted to see what could have drawn such a big crowd. We pushed through all those gathered, and then we saw what was wrong.

I couldn't hear Niagara Falls. I rushed to my window. A crowd had gathered in the streets.



Niagara Falls was no longer flowing!



We watched a few daredevils whom jumped down and walked below the falls. They retrieved muskets, swords, tomahawks, and a few other relics from the war in 1812.



Others explored the never seen before bottom.

Fish and turtles lay in small cracks and crevasses.

My brave papa slid all the way down the bank and retrieved a rusted sword from beneath the falls. Then he brought his new treasure up for us all to see.



My poor mama, scolded him saying,

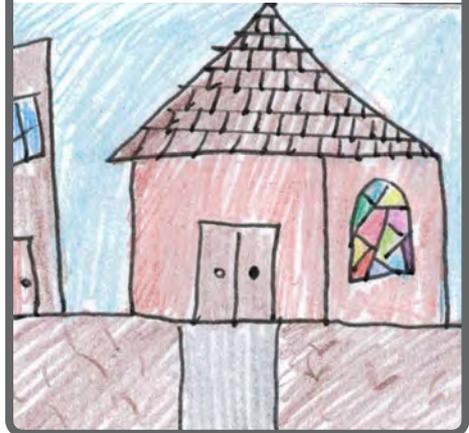
"Water could have come down and swept you away at any moment".





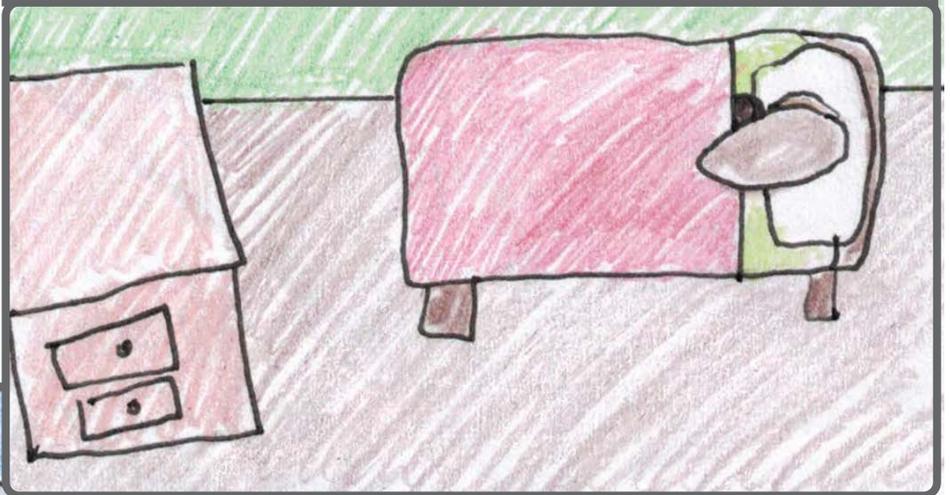
We soon received news that the water above Niagara Falls had frozen somehow. It seemed impossible.

Special masses were celebrated and attended.



Many people started to get anxious.

We decided to stay another day and see what would happen. I began to wonder if the falls would ever flow again.



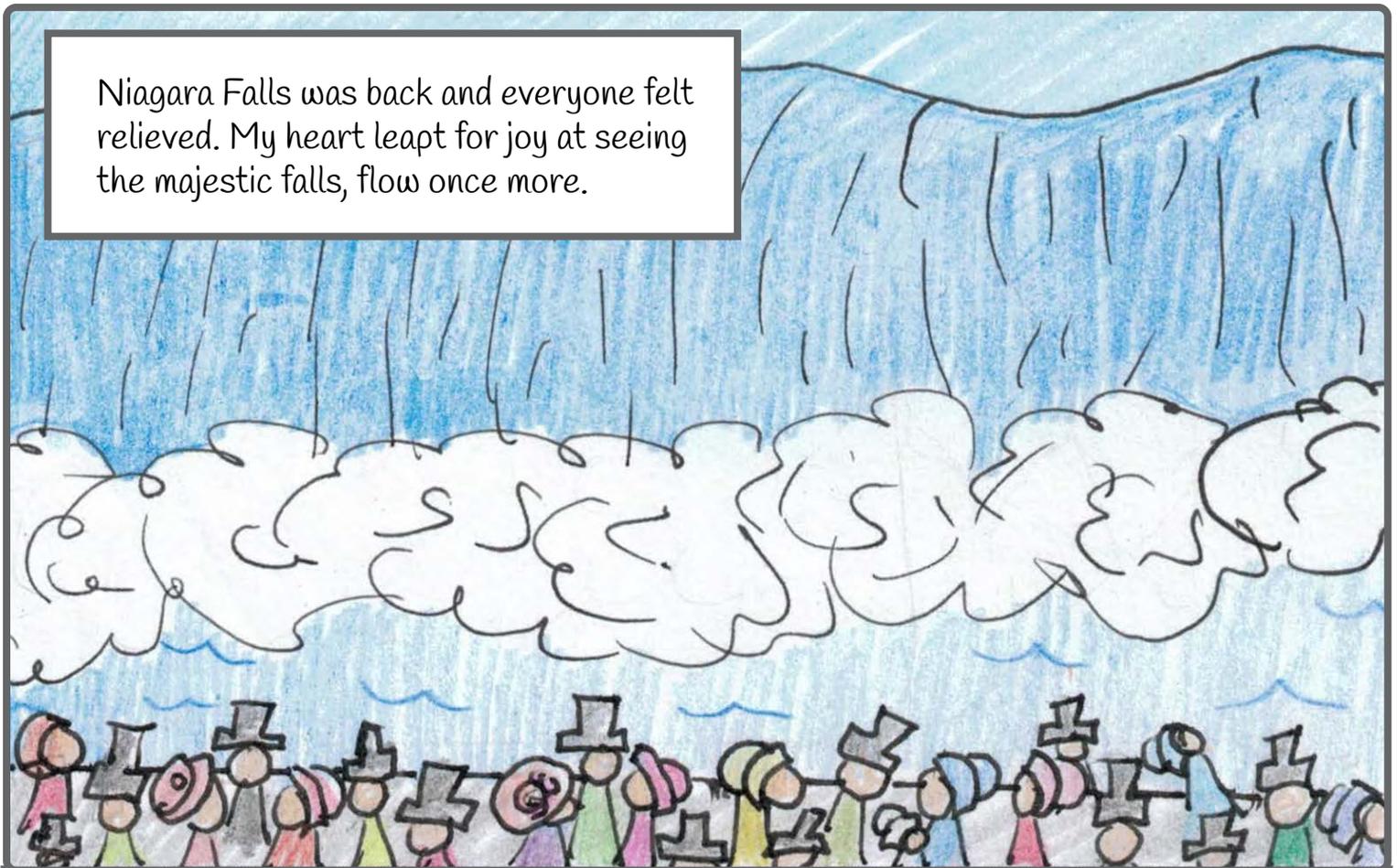
The tension just continued to grow; then on the night of March 31st a low growl started up stream, lots of people gathered to see what the sound was....



CRACK!

Then a loud crack was heard
and a wall of water surged
over the falls.
People cheered!

Niagara Falls was back and everyone felt relieved. My heart leapt for joy at seeing the majestic falls, flow once more.



On March 30th Niagara Falls 'ran dry' it remained this way for 30 hours. Some people thought it meant the end of the world, while others thought it meant something bad was about to happen. On at least five occasions, the American Falls have frozen over completely; but the Canadian Horseshoe Falls have only ever been stilled once on March 30- 31st in 1848.