Boston’s North End
January 15, 1919

“The sight that greeted the first of the rescuers on the scene is almost indescribable in words. Molasses, waist deep, covered the street and swirled and bubbled about the wreckage. Here and there struggled a form – whether it was animal or human being impossible to tell. Only an upheaval, a thrashing about in the sticky mass, showed where any life was...Horses died like so many flies on sticky fly paper. The more they struggled, the deeper in the mess they were ensnared. Human beings – men and women – suffered likewise.”

—Boston Post

Dark Tide: The Great Boston Molasses Flood of 1919
By Stephen Puleo

IPSWICH READS
One book!
**About the Author...**

Mr. Stephen Puleo, author, historian, award-winning newspaper reporter and communications professional, has made more than 225 public appearances since *Dark Tide* was published in 2003. His other books include *The Boston Italians* and *Due to Enemy Action: The True World War II Story of the USS Eagle*. His latest book, *A City So Grand: The Rise of an American Metropolis, Boston 1850-1900*, will be released in April. Puleo holds a master’s degree in history from UMass-Boston, and teaches the subject at Suffolk University. He lives south of Boston with his wife, Kate. To learn more about the author visit [www.stephenpuleo.com](http://www.stephenpuleo.com)

*Dark Tide* was selected by the Boston Authors Club as a finalist for its prestigious Julia Ward Howe Award for literary merit. The Associated Press included *Dark Tide* in its “round-up” selection of books to read during the fall of 2003, a recommendation that appeared in more than 80 newspapers nationwide. Communities have voted to read *Dark Tide* as part of town-wide reading programs, and the book has been selected for reading and discussion by scores of book clubs.

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**LIBRARY EVENTS**

April 6th at 7:00 PM in the Collins Meeting Room: Noted author Anthony Sammarco will present an illustrated lecture titled: *Molasses: From the Slave Trade to the Great Flood*. This lecture is free and open to the public.

April 12th at 7:00 PM in the Collins Meeting Room: Author Stephen Puleo will lecture about his book, *Dark Tide: The Great Molasses Flood of 1919*. Copies of *Dark Tide*, which Mr. Puleo will autograph, will be available for purchase. This lecture is free and open to the public.

April 17th at 10:00 AM in the Collins Meeting Room: *Molasses Cookie Bake Off* with children’s activities. The ‘Best Cookie’ award will be given out, and children (and adults) will sample all entries (with milk, of course). Children’s Librarian Marilyn Pauley will read a special tale of a boy who floated away on a flood of molasses. Children will also be invited to participate in a craft project. This program is limited to children 5-8 years of age and their guardians. Please sign up for this event in the Children’s Room or by calling 978.356.6648.

April 24th at 10:00 AM at North Station in Boston: Author Stephen Puleo will conduct a *Tour of the North End*, site of the great molasses flood tragedy. Participants will meet at North Station to begin this 90-minute walking tour. Please sign up for this tour at the library.

*Note:* The 9:00 AM train from Ipswich arrives at North Station at 9:49 AM.

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**STATISTICS OF THE GREAT MOLASSES FLOOD**

- Height of the tank: 50 feet
- Quantity of spilled molasses: 2,320,000 gallons weighing 26,000,000 pounds
- Height of molasses wave: 15 feet
- Speed of molasses wave: 35 mph
- Air temperature on 1/15/1919: 46 degrees
- People killed: 21
- People injured: 150
- Property damage: Nearly $100,000,000 (in today’s dollars)
- Length of time for hearings: 5 ½ years
- Compensation paid to victims: $1,000,000