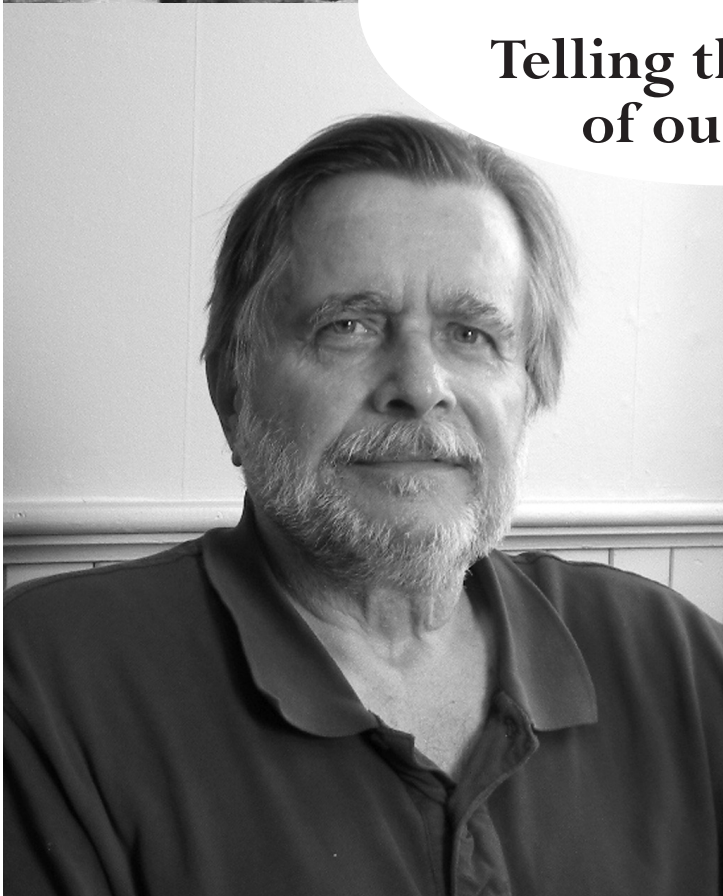




Museums

Telling the stories
of our lives



Fort Erie Museum Services Newsletter • 2013

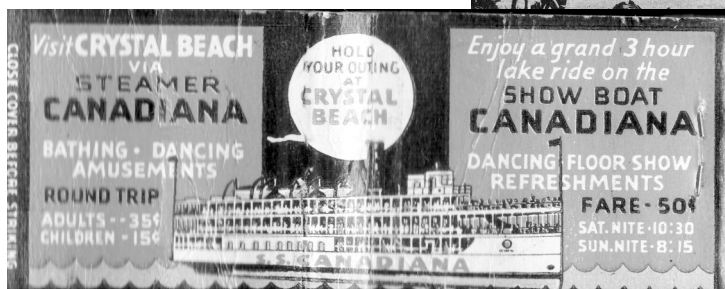


You Can't Beat the Beach

Summer resident Tom Waters recently donated many Crystal Beach images and souvenirs to the Museum so that others could share in these memories. At left is a cigarette silk advertising Crystal Beach. These were found in cigarette packaging in the early 1900s. Images included animals, entertainers, and scenery. Cigarette packs had previously contained cards of sports

figures etc. and the move to silk images was an attempt to appeal to the female market. Women collected these silks and used them to make quilts and other household items.

The matchbook below advertises trips on the Canadiana. We wish to posthumously



recognize Tom's generosity, as he has since passed away.

The collection from another former resident, Courtland "Bud" Claus, is also featured throughout this newsletter (his father Frank appears on the cover). Below is John Rebstock (founder of Crystal Beach Park) and Helene O'Neill (Courtland's mother) on the beach in 1919.

Courtland was appreciative of the Museum's history book *Many Voices*



and in his autobiography he notes that "In the twilight years of my life comes the reflective realization that the 'many voices' of my generation, now becoming a whisper, will soon be silent." Courtland's writing, memories and "Voice" have found a place, in perpetuity, in the Museum archives.

Newsletter

The Fort Erie Museums Newsletter is distributed to every household in greater Fort Erie.

Written and designed by Jane Davies, Administrator.

Cover Photos

Clockwise from top left:

Frank Claus; student

Cheryl Copson; Bertie

Historical Society founder

Margaret Teal; and

volunteer Joe Lischka.

Contact Us

Fort Erie Museum Services

Box 339, Ridgeway, L0S 1N0

p• 905-894-5322

e• museum@forterie.on.ca

Visit Us

Historical Museum:

402 Ridge Rd.

Railway Museum:

Central Ave. at Gilmore

Mewinzha Gallery:

10 Queen St.

Ridgeway Battlefield Park

3388 Garrison Rd.

Mission Statement

- Fort Erie's Museums care for a base of knowledge that belongs to the future.
- Fort Erie's Museums help create a strong and proud community by celebrating our shared heritage.
- Fort Erie's Museums help satisfy the intellectual needs of the community.

Attention Teachers!

Andrea Wilson, the Museum's Curator of Programming, Marketing and Exhibitions is shown with items from the *Classroom Outreach Kits*. These curriculum-based kits include several lesson plans, reproduction artifacts, activities and historical resources on the following topics:

- *Early Settlements & the War of 1812* Grade 1: The Local Community; Grade 2: Traditions / Celebrations; Grade 3: Early Settler Communities
- *Native Studies and Archaeology* Grade 4: Rocks and Minerals; Grade 5: Early Civilizations; Grade 6: First Nation People; Grade 7: History – New France
- *Fenian Raids and Confederation* Grade 8: History - Confederation



An *Archaeology Adventures Tour* is also available at the Mewinzha gallery. This multi-media presentation takes students back thousands of years, offering a glimpse into the lives of the First Peoples. Students will participate in a hands-on activity with artifacts followed by a gallery tour.

Programming is also available for Cubs, Scouts, Brownies and Guides. These include badge-related activities on the following topics: Guides and Scouts (Heritage Badge); Brownies (Aboriginal People in Canada Badge); and Cubs (Aboriginal Awareness Badge).

Check out the Museum's web site for details on these and other programs <www.museum.forterie.ca>

Museum Hours

While this newsletter allows you to learn a bit about local history in the comfort of your own home... you may wish to experience it first-hand by visiting the following sites:

- *Mewinzha: A Journey Back in Time* (Archaeology collection and Native art), Peace Bridge Administration Building, 10 Queen St., Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., free
- *Fort Erie Railway Museum*, 400 Central Ave., daily May 21 - Sept. 1, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., donation
- *Fort Erie Historical Museum*, 402 Ridge Road, daily June - Sept. 1; Sunday - Friday for the balance of the year, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., donation
- *The Fenian Raids*, outdoor exhibit at the Ridgeway Battlefield Memorial Park, 3388 Hwy.#3, free



Also, check out the Museum's exhibits in the Town Hall atrium; the genealogy records in the Historical Museum's archives; the *Bridge that Peace Built* exhibit at the Peace Bridge Administration building; and the web site <www.museum.forterie.ca>. Need help? Call the office at 905-894-5322. Above photo shows data entry volunteers Tonia Cunningham and Mary Ellen Winger.

New in the gift shop

The Historical Museum's gift shop offers many unique items including Scherenschnitte (at right). The art of paper cutting dates back to the 1700s with silhouettes being the most popular examples. Other new items include historical magnets, 1812-related books, notecards, souvenirs, local history books, postcards, reproduction toys, Crystal Beach Park books, T-shirts, and *Many Voices II - A Collective History of Greater Fort Erie*.



Fort Erie Railway Museum Now Open!

After months of construction work on the new Central Fire Station, the Fort Erie Railway Museum is once again open. Site plans included improved landscaping and security cameras filming the site 24 hours a day. So the next time you're travelling Central Ave., check out the improvements at this new municipal multi-use site. The gift shop has also been revamped and boasts a host of train-related items. A related story about the 6218 steam engine repair project appears later in this newsletter. The Railway Museum is open daily from 9-5 until Labour Day. For further details call 905-871-1412.



Stevensville Storms and Opera

Fort Erie Museum Services collects and interprets the history of greater Fort Erie. Here we feature a bit of Stevensville's story. The picture at left was taken on Bowen Road after a snow storm in 1937. The men are from the Welland County Good Roads

Committee and were touring the area to inspect the roads. Stevensville was part of Bertie Township at the time and we wonder if they passed inspection, given the one-way road access?

This ticket is for a Grand Ball at the Stevensville Opera House! Please contact us if you know about the opera house, Erie Camp 108 W.O.W., or the Grand Ball. We wonder if this was a Chautauqua-like event.

GRAND BALL

Under the Auspices of

Erie Camp 108 W. O. W.

STEVENSVILLE OPERA HOUSE

Friday Eve, Jan. 17th, 1913

Tickets 50cts. Per Couple.

Ladies Free

FREE LUNCH SERVED

Fort Erie Museums • Historical • Railway • Battlefield • Mewinzha

Exhibits at Town Hall

Stop by the Town Hall atrium and see the 1812 exhibit "Divided Loyalties". Throughout the year the permanent display case will feature these topics:

- 1812 Archival Material
- Central Fire Station
 - Hat's Off
 - and
- Celebrations!

Driving Tour Map

A self-guided tour of significant sites from the War of 1812 has been developed by Dave Renshaw on behalf of the Town's War of 1812 Bicentennial Committee. This map is available at www.forterie1812.ca Click on Resources to take the tour.

Original Manuscript

Are you interested in the War of 1812? The archives features the David Owen Collection, including an original manuscript written by Owen entitled *The Fortifications at Chippawa*. Many thanks to David for sharing his research and collection with the public.

University of Toronto Intern

The Museum is pleased to welcome Cheryl Copson for the summer (picture on newsletter cover). Cheryl, a Master of Museum Studies student at U. of T., is completing a 12 week internship placement. She chose Fort Erie because of the wide variety of experiences and sites offered here and the opportunity to job shadow three long-standing professionals. Cheryl's projects include cataloguing artifacts, making protective book jackets and rolled textile supports and supervising a volunteer committee. If you follow women's rowing you can also find Cheryl practicing on the Welland Canal, as she trains with the Provincial Rowing Association.

1812 Offerings

Charlie Capern and grandson Colin Howe greeted visitors at the Museum's 1812 database launch last spring. Charlie and fellow volunteer Joe Lischka spent two years reading and annotating the 1812 archives. They entered this information into a database which people can now search and be directed to the appropriate material. The database is available on the Museum's website at www.museum.forterie.ca



The Historical Museum is also featuring two exhibits on 1812:

- *Regency Fashion -- What Fort Erie Wore in 1812* allows visitors to try on reproduction costumes to gain some first-hand knowledge of living in that era. These costumes were expertly sewn and generously donated by volunteer Joyce Capern.

- *Friend, Foe, FIRE! Living in a War Zone during 1812* examines, in a street-like setting, what life was like for local residents who were living on the front lines during the battle. The display includes the perspectives of women, merchants, pacifists and families.

Both exhibits are open daily during the summer at 402 Ridge Rd.



From the Archives ...

The Museum's archives is like a big puzzle box — full of thousands of documents, photographs and information which, when put together, tell the story of Fort Erie. This advertisement for Pattison's Furniture in International Bridge (which became Bridgeburg) is from the Glenna Laur collection.

The picture is of John Henry Jackson (at left) arrested for robbing and shooting William Lindsay. Lindsay's relative, Bill Aiken, brought us this picture of Jackson in 1915 outside the Welland County Courthouse. Lindsay was spared harm from the bullet because it hit a folded up newspaper he had in his pocket. Our records show that Jackson, who claimed he had a good alibi, escaped days before the trial, prompting a county-wide manhunt. The Aikens continue to research this saga.



Customs duty 1916
25¢ war tax on all collections.

Toys	@	35%
China		50%
Eggs		free
Poultry		1¢ lb.
" dressed		2¢ lb.
Meats, fresh		free
Honey		10¢ gal
Berries		1/2¢ qt.
Fish		free
" Canned		20%
Alps		45%
Tobacco		50¢ lb.
Bicycles		25%
Blankets		25%
Cigarettes		25¢ - 50¢ lb.
Butter		2 1/2¢ lb.
Butterine		3 1/2¢ lb.

The page at left is from a U.S. Customs Inspector's notebook. Frank Susat recorded ferry crossing times and shipments made between the Buffalo, Erie Beach and Crystal Beach docks. This 1916 entry shows the 25¢ war tax applied to all goods. The duty charged included china 50%, ale 45%, cigarettes 25%, and toys 35%. Eggs, fish and other fresh meats were duty free. On July 3rd one sack of peanuts, one sack of corn and a can of molasses (ingredients for caramel corn!) arrived at Erie Beach along with six barrels of dishes - to be returned July 5th.

Happy 100th Anniversary

Coca-Cola in Ridgeway

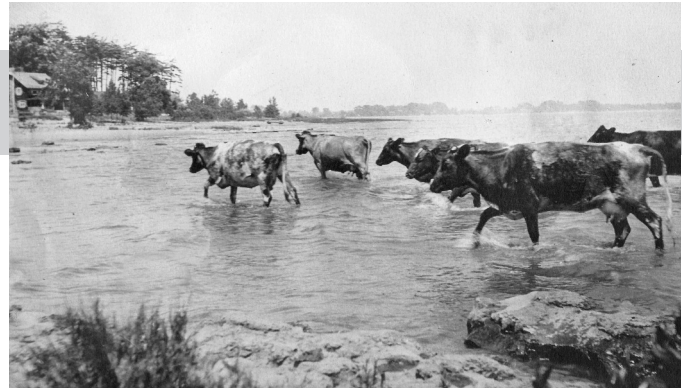
John Kieffer started the Coca-Cola Bottling Works in Ridgeway in 1913. Located on Rebstock Rd. between Ridge and Prospect Point, soda from this plant was delivered by horse and wagon to local hotels and stores. When the company was sold, it was renamed Northern Springs and the plant moved to Garrison Road. Rosehill Auction now stands on that property.

Horton CBI

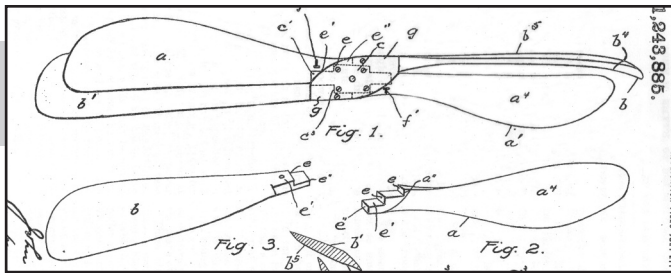
In 1913 the Chicago Bridge and Iron Co. expanded their business into Canada by moving to Fort Erie. The name was changed to Horton Steel Works in 1921 in honour of founder Horace Horton, and then changed to Horton CBI in 1972. The company was well known for designing and fabricating steel structures throughout North America. The local plant on Central Ave. closed in 1996, but Horton CBI continues to operate in Niagara Falls and Calgary. Horton was famous for building Canada's first elevated storage tank; first welded oil storage tank; and first all welded ship.

Who let the cows out?

Photographs are often triggers to stories. Make sure your family's stories aren't lost by recording them in journals, blogs or on video. The picture at right is of Daniel Claus' cows sauntering through Lake Erie at the end of Prospect Point Road in 1914. At this time farms were still prevalent near the lakeshore and the lake provided much needed water for livestock.



If you like writing fiction, old photographs can provide inspiration. Choose one of the pictures in this newsletter and use your imagination to create a story to go with it. What happened just before the picture was taken, what happened next, what were the people thinking, etc.? This can be a great summer vacation activity in response to the "Mom, I'm bored" syndrome!



Patent 1,243,885

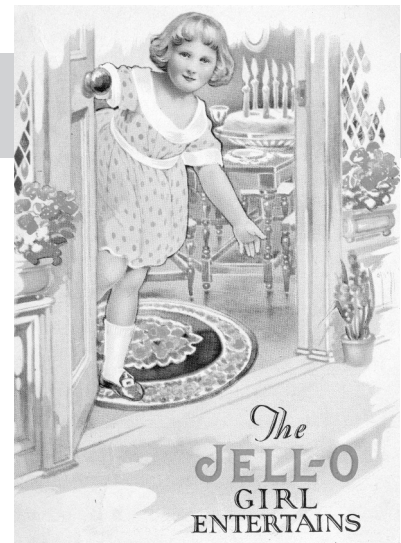
John H. Smyth of the village of Bridgeburg was granted a U.S. Patent on Oct. 23, 1917 for his invention shown at left. It took over a year for

this patent to be granted. Do you know what he invented? The answer is found later in this publication.

The JELL-O Girl Entertains

The JELL-O Company, which was located on the Niagara Blvd. in Bridgeburg, often marketed to girls in hopes of developing loyal customers at a young age. The *JELL-O Girl* was featured in booklets targeted to children, such as the one at right. It included the following:

"My Dear Playmates: I love to play grown up. Don't you? One day my mother said I ought to learn to do some grown-up things, so she taught me to make JELL-O. I'd like every little girl to know how. That's why I wrote this book. Your loving friend, The JELL-O Girl



JELL-O Horseradish Relish: Dissolve a package of Lemon JELL-O in scant pint boiling water and 2 T. vinegar. Add 1/2 green pepper chopped, 1 pimento chopped and 1/2 c. grated horseradish. Pour into hollowed out green peppers. When set, cut in slices. Serve with meat or fish."



Quarter Century Club

Museum Administrator Jane Davies completed her 25th year working at the Museum in 2012. She was the first Museum employee as the Town's Museums had been run by volunteers before her arrival. At a recognition party she was asked to recall her proudest accomplishment and answered with her top three -- the history book *Many Voices*, the artifact storage facility, and the exhibits at the Peace Bridge Administration building. She was quick to add how many projects have yet to be finished, so retirement isn't on the horizon quite yet! Congratulations from Museum staff and volunteers.

Time Marches On...

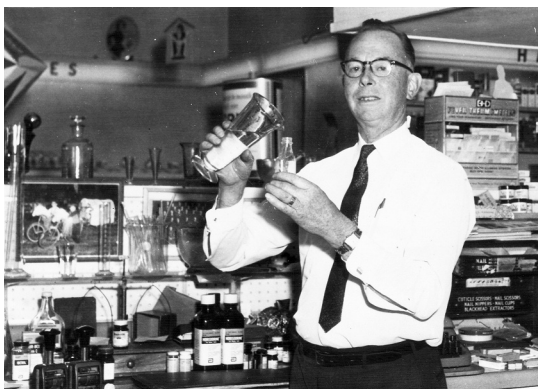
This property at 283 Ridge Road has had many uses over the years including: Hardison's General Store, Brown's Bakery, Hilborn's Drug Store, Lighthouse's Dry Cleaning and a temporary home for the Fort Erie Historical Museum. Plans are now being considered for a new use for this property in conjunction with Ridgeway's Civic Square.



Anne (Hilborn) Winger recently donated many related photographs as her grandfather, Fred Brown, had owned the bakery and her father, Clarence Hilborn, the drug store (shown above). Below left is the Coronation Day Parade on Ridge Rd., May 12, 1937. Centre picture is of Clarence inside the pharmacy (which operated from the late 1930s to 1960s). At right is the Hilborn family, (Clarence, Jessie and children Jim and Anne) taken in 1943 before Clarence left for WWII. These pictures capture a range of emotions — from joyous children in a parade; to a proud business owner; to a worried war-time wife.



Many thanks to Anne and Ron Winger for making the trip from Port Rowan to bring these pictures back home to Ridgeway.



Finally Finished!

Jerry Dell and Norma Benner are shown looking at the computerized version of the Museum's newspaper collection. Jerry generously offered to photograph every page of over 100 years of newspapers from the Museum's archives and process these images onto DVDs. Jerry's records show that almost 1,000 hours were spent on this project, resulting in 82,326 digital images. Page-turning assistance was provided by Norma and Charlie Capern. Museum researchers can now look through these newspapers on a computer. The next step is to 'OCR' these files which will allow them to be searched by key words. The Museum is very grateful to Jerry, Charlie and Norma for their commitment in seeing this very time-consuming project through to the end. As a result, these fragile newspaper resources will no longer be handled, yet the information they contain remains accessible. Job well done!



Fort Erie ... a "Heritage Tree" with very deep roots

It was recommended in *Fort Erie's Heritage Millenium Plan* that the vast amount of history in this town could not be contained within the walls of a Museum ... how true! In response, Museum Services has focused attention on outreach programming and encouraging the community to get involved with celebrating the town's heritage. The community partnerships developed in 2007 during the town's 150th anniversary were a good example of this concept. This spring Council adopted a process for installing heritage signage on municipal properties. Included in this report is a *Heritage Framework*. Adopted by the Museum Committee, it breaks Fort Erie's heritage down into 24 topics and within each topic highlights the key events, people and places that could be commemorated. The intention is to create heritage driving or walking tours throughout the community on various topics. With strategic planning and by involving the community at large, a cohesive tourism product could be developed. Contact the Museum if you're interested in heritage signs.

This fall an Ontario Jobs Creation Project will provide the town with support to inventory current heritage signage. One such sign, located in Ridgeway Battlefield Park, honours Edmund Zavitz, Ontario's Chief Forester. Born in Ridgeway, Zavitz developed a scientifically-based plan in 1904 and convinced governments and farmers to reforest 30% of the lands in southern Ontario. Prior to this the forests had been stripped by lumbermen and farmers. The results were devastating. Floods were common, wildlife disappeared, forest fires a daily occurrence and farmland turned to blowing sand. His biography, *Two Billion Trees and Counting*, is available at the Museum. Due to the Zavitz plan, flooding in towns all but stopped, forest fires were dramatically reduced and the numbers of native fish and fowl increased. Farming was once again prosperous. As Mark Cullen noted in a *Toronto Star* article, "The next time you thank a tree for providing a much finer place to live, work and play, be sure to provide a nod to Edmund Zavitz, the father of reforestation in Ontario."

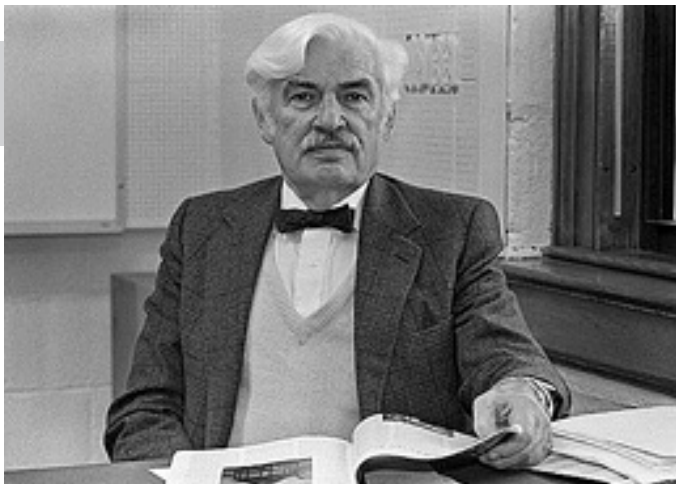
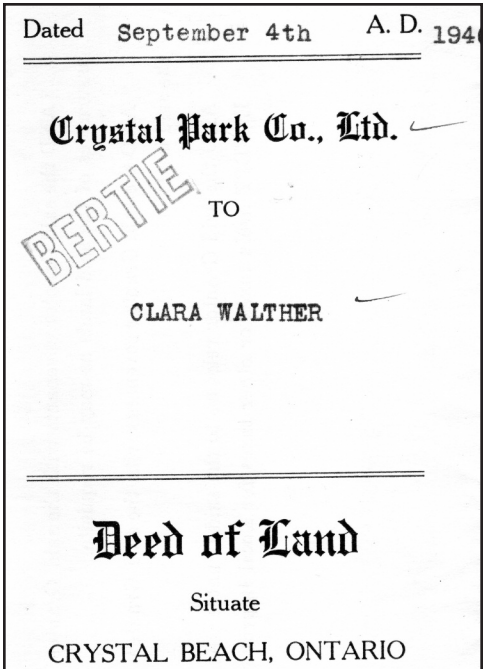


about 61,000 land deeds from the archives. Once this information is entered into a computer, the public will be able to search a name to find out where their family lived, who they purchased or sold property to, the selling price, etc. The deeds cover Bertie Township, Fort Erie and Crystal Beach and range from the mid-1800s to the 1950s.

Shown clockwise around the table from the foreground are: John Gagnon, Karen Angle, Joyce Capern, Robin Evans, Keith McKinnon, Ruby Smith, and Harry Barnhart. Harold Hampel, Dorothy Dorge and Marlene Magee were absent when this photo was taken.

2,000 done 59,000 to go

The Museum's volunteer archivists have taken on an enormous project that will help people who are doing genealogy or property research. The volunteers are indexing



MRI - Magnetic Resonance Imaging

Robert Pound, co-founder of the technology resulting in MRI, was born in Ridgeway. Among his most important contributions to science were: the first empirical confirmation of the general theory of relativity (one of Albert Einstein's key theories) and the co-discovery of nuclear magnetic resonance (the basis of MRI). Robert was born in 1919 and lived in Ridgeway until he was four. He went to school here during

the fall months until he was 16, as his family had a winter home in Buffalo. His ancestors, the Pounds, were UELs and his third cousin, Janet Boyce, is a Museum volunteer.

During WWII he worked at MIT developing microwave radar equipment for submarines. He taught at Harvard until 1989 and was a University of Oxford scholar. A 40-page transcript of an interview with Dr. Pound is in the Museum's archives. It is fascinating to read how he validated Einstein's theory that gravity can distort space and time. If you're interested in science, stop by the Museum and ask to see the Robert Pound file, or check out his achievements on-line.

From a Grandiose Idea to Honey Boo Boo

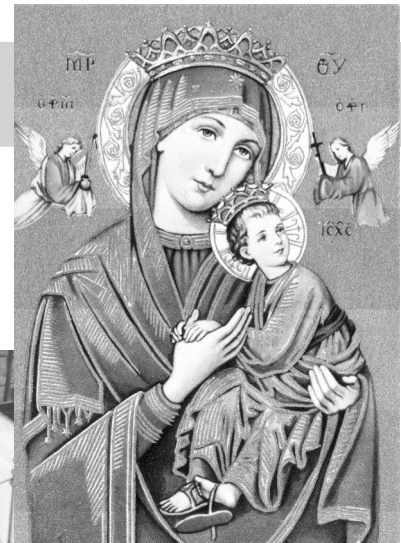
If you were reading the local newspaper on March 23, 1934 you might have been surprised to learn that the "World's largest television" was being built at Horton Steel in Fort Erie. The article follows:

"Sees Television in Every Home ...

Speaking before Fort Erie Lions last night, [Mr.] Sanabria of Chicago is buiding here at Horton Steel a veritable Frankenstein, looking much like an enormous sea serpent, which will be completed for the re-opening of the Chicago World's Fair in about two month's time. He predicted in the not far-off future use of television in making hook-ups with the larger theatres in the country as a common-place matter. The average person thinks television by wire is some sort of fake, but actually it has not been fully developed because of extreme difficulty in transmitting high and low frequency over wire. It is the ultimate aim, he says, to make television as common in the home as radio. He looks to the time when the average television user will be able to see the world's foremost actors, musicians and entertainers with ease. The transmitter of the huge machine being built here weighs five thousand pounds and it has a thirty foot screen."

A Snapshot in time ... 1953

A cataloguing record is produced for every artifact donated to the Museum. Volunteers who help with this process include: Bev Jewson, Pat Mitchell, Josephine Davies, and Sharon Healey. These records are entered into a database and the computer can quickly find artifacts relating to specific names, topics, businesses, dates, etc. This database also identifies gaps in the collection. We wondered what was happening 60 years ago and found the following: Carl Waters



was at Crystal Beach Park riding the cars in Kiddie Land; the United

United Church Men of Ridgeway

ROAST BEEF DINNER

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18th, 1953

Dinner 5.30 - 7.45

Ticket \$1.50

Church Men of Ridgeway were hosting a roast beef dinner, charging \$1.50 a plate; and Rev. Joseph Killoran from the Crystal Beach Roman Catholic Church was ordained in India. Above is a card marking his Silver Anniversary. If you have a historical question, the answer may be in the Museum's cataloguing database.

p. 905-894-5322

e. museum@forterie.on.ca



Wartime Housing for Fleet

During WWII Fleet Aircraft Ltd.'s work force was at an all-time high. People from all across the country moved to Fort Erie for these jobs and lived in government-built homes in the vicinity of Concession, Bertie, Aberdeen and Gilmore. By the mid-1950s these homes were offered to the general public, but incentives for Fleet employees remained. A 5 room bungalow was

\$7,650 with a \$765 downpayment for Fleet workers and a \$1,530 down payment for everyone else. Mortgage payments, including taxes, averaged \$60/month. This 1943 photo taken at 55 Mary Street shows left to right, Ethel McCune, Betty Lorimer (home owner), and Alice Greer.

Artifacts & Archives

Caring for Fort Erie's heritage requires patience and accuracy. The result — information is transferred to the next generation. Volunteers who assist with this include: Jean Tripp, Val McCormack, Joyce Capern, Robin Evans, Norma Benner, Cassy Quinn and John Gagnon.

Fleet Collection

Fleet retirees work at the Museum cataloguing the company's archives.

Volunteers include:

George Sherk, Roger Prince, Don LeFurgey Dan Fletcher and Ken Benner. This group has sadly lost two stalwart and devoted members -- Tom Mullarky and Marge Havill.

Research Assistance

The Museum assists the public with research and the most frequently asked questions involve built heritage and genealogy.

Volunteers who help answer these questions include: Sharon Dell, Janet Boyce, Darla Love, Ruth Coulthurst, Norma Benner and Joan McNeil.



Are you interested in trains?

If so, you may want to join the *Friends of 6218* who are fund raising to repair the steam engine at the Railway Museum. The 6218 was built in 1942 and was donated to the Town in 1973.

The *Friends* are looking for financial support and

fund-raising volunteers. As a Federal registered charity, they can issue income tax receipts. Contact the Friends chairman Mary McLelland-Papp at 894-8451 for further details or check out their website at <www.friendsof6218.ca>. The picture above was taken in 1949 and shows Engineer Roy Matthews on his last run before retiring after 46 years on the job.

Summer Signals Student's Return

The Museum welcomes four students who are assisting the operation this summer. Their duties include admissions and gift shop service, site maintenance, artifact conservation, cataloguing, built heritage planning and database entry. With their combined experience and enthusiasm, we're looking forward to a successful summer.



At right Jude Scott, who is Curator of Collections, is shown with students Christian and Anya Baker. Christian is majoring in Astrophysics at McMaster and his computer skills will be put to use on many projects including classifying photographs and assisting with the financial records. Anya is majoring in English Literature at McGill and is adept at standardizing the information within the database and researching and editing information requests. The remaining two students are Shiloh Bell, a graduate of Willowbank School of Restoration Arts and Robbie Brant who is completing grade 12 at Ridgeway High. Shiloh will be working with Andrea Wilson assessing the heritage buildings at the Museums and developing a multi-year maintenance plan. Robbie's focus is on site maintenance and database entry. He intends to continue his studies by taking Police Foundations.




Frozen Pies and Food Lockers

Before every home had a freezer, people rented frozen food lockers from local businesses such as Fretz and Sons (trucks shown at left). Residents of Ridgeway kept their frozen meat at Disher's, located at the corner of Hibbard and

Prospect Point Road. At this site, Merrils Disher also ran a feed mill, a chick hatchery and sold "Blue Coal". Harold Hampel remembers delivering flyers for their opening in the early 1940s. His wife Lorraine remembers the frozen lockers as a large very cold room with different sized openings in the walls for the food. People rented whatever size "locker" they needed and there were no doors on these cubicles — the honour system prevented theft. Her father, Ira Nigh, managed the chicken hatchery. In the Museum's collection is a waxed and printed paper container (like an ice-cream tub) which was used to store frozen food in these lockers -- prior to the invention of Tupperware!

The letterhead at right is from the Stevensville Eviscerating Station, which offered frozen meats and claimed to be the "First Makers of Frozen Pies in Canada."

	EVISPERATING STATION NIAGARA BLVD. - NEAR CHIPPAWA Phone: 103 Stevensville
	<hr/> <p>TRY OUR FAMOUS FOX HAVEN FROZEN CHICKEN, TURKEY, BEEF PIES FIRST MAKERS OF FROZEN PIES IN CANADA — AND STILL FIRST IN QUALITY</p>



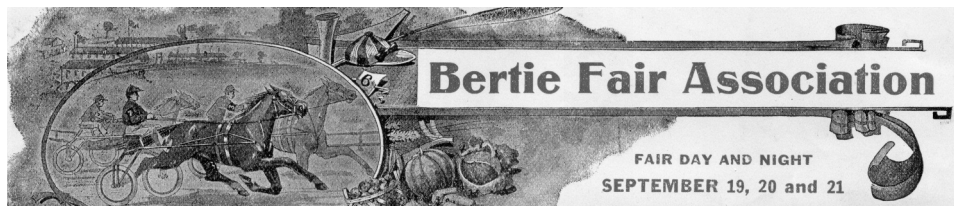
Fun at the Fair

Many thanks to Glenna Laur for adding photographs and stories of Bertie Fair to the Museum's archives. Major James Laur was very active with Bertie Fair and his



records note that the fair was organized in 1853. It was held at the corner of Garrison and Ridge Roads until 1874 when it moved to the new

Town Hall (now the Historical Museum). In 1902 it moved to the Fort Erie Racetrack, running until the Association disbanded in 1942. Approximately 2,500 attended this event each year at the racetrack. The top photo shows George House at the fair. He was a Councillor, Deputy Reeve and Warden.



Local Hero Removes Bomb

In 1965 Lieutenant David Renshaw took a terrifying six mile, 20 minute ride with a live bomb cradled in his arms. As reported in the newspaper, Renshaw was serving with the Royal Canadian Engineers in British Columbia where the WWII relic was found beneath a garage floor. Renshaw commented "I could see the safety pin was still in, but it was so rusted the pin could have been powdered inside and the bomb exploded anytime during the trip." It was successfully detonated at a gravel pit.

Patent 1,243,885

The answer to the patent question posed earlier in the newsletter is... Aircraft Double Propeller Blades. An excerpt from the patent follows:

"I, John H. Smyth, of the village of Bridgeburg, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Propellers for Aircraft... The object of this invention is to obtain an increase of driving power at the usual rotational speed, and this object is attained by providing the propeller with a set of double blades arranged at such angles of incidence as to produce a greater leverage, and consequently more power at the same rotational speed, or the same power at a lower rotational speed, than in the case of a propeller having a set of single blades. The essential feature of the invention is not so much the shape of the blades, but it is the principle of arranging the blades in pairs, with the components of each pair at different angles."

Check out the new Battlefield signs...

Coming this fall, Museum Services will unveil an outdoor display at the Ridgeway Battlefield Memorial Park. Signs with pictures, maps and text, will be installed to tell the story of the 1866 Fenian Raids.

Visitors will learn about the motivation, battles and

consequences of these raids from the perspective of local residents, the Fenians and the country at large. This significant battle claimed the lives of 9 Canadian volunteer militia. These raids were also a catalyst for the Confederation movement, and as a result, Canada became a country one year later. The solemn battleground stands with much of the same topography as existed when the fighting occurred nearly 150 years ago. This display is made possible through the generous support of Farm Credit Canada and the Bertie Historical Society. The park is located on Hwy.#3 just east of Ridge Road. An unveiling program is scheduled for Wed. Oct. 16th at 6:30 p.m.



Museum and Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee — Volunteer Opportunities

Interested in local history or built heritage? The MCHAC might be for you. This committee advises on the Town's museum and heritage issues. Current members include: David Renshaw, Charles Capern, Keith Overend, Charlene Nigh, Mary McLelland-Papp, Margaret Feaver, and Councillor Hill. They meet on the third Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Contact the Clerk for details, 871-1600.

If you are interested in helping but not going to meetings, there are two opportunities to work on special projects without being a member of the formal committee. Call the Museum for details.

- (1) Built Heritage - complete heritage building inventories and research properties for heritage designations. Required skills include a good knowledge of old building styles and construction techniques and the ability to research the history of buildings and their former occupants.
- (2) Newspaper Articles - research and write articles to be submitted to the newspaper as part of this committee's monthly series featured in the Fort Erie Post called "Did You Know?"

In Memorium

In recognition of a lifetime of community service, in public office and as an educator, mentor and volunteer, we acknowledge the many contributions of Paul Fell, including serving on the Museum Board. At right with Gary Fornasiero and Chris Coulis.



"Do You Remember"

Many thanks to the Times for featuring the Museum's "Do You Remember" column. The response has been tremendous, and thanks to present and former residents, hundreds of people and photos have been identified.

The Claus Connection

Unbeknownst to each other, a man from Texas and a man from Florida each allowed the Museum to copy their family photos this past winter. It turns out they are third cousins and both grew up in Ridgeway. Bruce Wright is Philip Claus' grandson and Courtland Claus is Frank Claus' son. Frank and Philip were brothers. In 1861 Courtland's great-grandfather, Jacob, purchased substantial farmland and the stone house on Yacht Harbour Road. The home was built by Mathias Haun in 1803 and was used by the militia in the War of 1812. It remained in



the Claus family until 1967. Courtland donated the 1803 crown grant to the Museum. Jacob

Claus was originally a bootmaker in Ridgeway, coming to town in 1855 with \$3. A 1914 article notes that he "became one of the wealthiest land owners in Bertie Township."

Thanks to Courtland, these are a few of the many Claus stories now available in the archives.

The photo at top is of Bruce's mother, Violet Claus, c.1918. At left is Courtland's photo of raising Lightship 82, c.1914, with Kitty Burke and Courtland's parents Helene O'Neill and Frank Claus. This ship sank off Point Abino and as a result, the Lighthouse was then built. The men below are unidentified, but you can see the undeveloped shoreline of Yacht Harbour Road including the stone house.

