



Fort Erie Historical Museum

50 Years

1972-2022

The Fort Erie Historical Museum was started by the Bertie Historical Society in 1972.

Thousands of people have contributed to the collection, research files, events, exhibits, fundraising, and many community partnerships. To each of you, we say a grateful “Thank you!”

Each year the Museum is responsible for 40-60 projects, so for this celebratory page, we chose 1 or 2 projects to represent each year.

In 1987 the Museum became a Town of Fort Erie operation and the administrative “hub” for Ridgeway Battlefield Museum and the Fort Erie Railway Museum.

In 2006 the operation included the Mewinzha gallery and in 2009 the Mentholatum artifact facility. We included those milestones too for this celebratory page.

Let’s celebrate our shared heritage by wishing Happy Anniversary to the Fort Erie Historical Museum!

- 1972** - Bertie Historical Society opened a museum on the first floor of the Bertie Township Hall building (key volunteers - Ruth Ellsworth, Bev Jewson, Jean Tripp, Pat Mitchell, Helen Sherk, and Margaret Teal)
- 1973** - Education Week Open Houses featured
Town granted permission to expand the Museum to the second floor
Town appointed a Museum Board (first Chairman - Frank LeJeune)
- 1974** - *Bertie Town Hall* book published
Township Hall 100th anniversary exhibits and events produced
- 1975** - Teal cabin acquired (stood during the Battle of Ridgeway)
- 1976** - Teal cabin moved to Ridgeway Battlefield Park
- 1977** - *50th anniversary of the Peace Bridge* exhibit installed
Community Slide Collection project initiated
- 1978** - Fort Erie Historical Society disbanded (some of their artifacts moved from Mather’s Arch to the Historical Museum)
- 1979** - *Historical Journal* magazine published
Year of the Child and Canada Week events and exhibits produced
- 1980** - Newspaper clipping reference files initiated
- 1981** - Dr. Douglas display at the Hospital installed
- 1982** - Brig. Gen. E.A. Cruikshank plaque installed
Fort Erie’s 125th anniversary research project completed
- 1983** - Microfilm copies acquired of minutes from Bertie Township, Crystal Beach, and Fort Erie Councils (1850-1969) from the Ontario Archives
- 1984** - Bicentennial of Ontario events and exhibits produced
- 1985** - Woolever Photo Studio negative collection donated
- 1986** - 75th anniversary of the Bertie Historical Society celebrated
- 1987** - First full-time Curator hired (Jane Davies)
Board amalgamaed with Railway Museum (1st Chairman - Victor Miller)
- 1988** - Bingo fundraising began to support the Museum
- 1989** - Crystal Beach Park tape produced
New galleries opened with new HVAC, security, and lighting
- 1990** - *Tales of the Old Town* book published
Memories of Crystal Beach Amusement Park exhibit featured
- 1991** - Battle of Ridgeway re-enactment produced (13,000 people attended)
Year of the Fenian book published
Battle of Ridgeway driving tour launched
- 1992** - *Snapshots* magazine published
Bertie Hall plaque installed
Museum’s 20th and 6218 steam engine’s 50th anniversaries celebrated