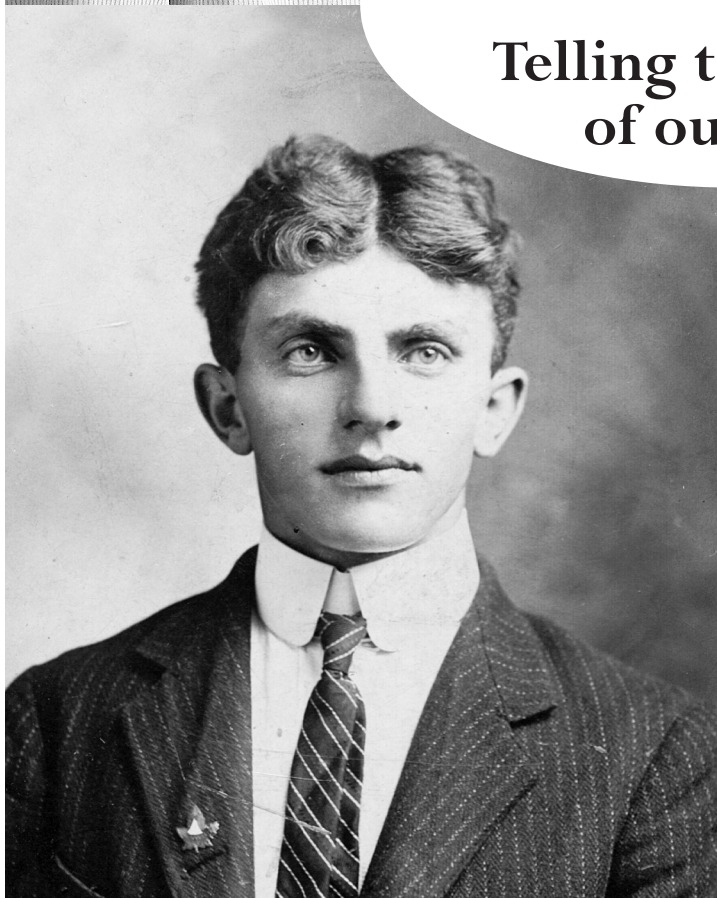




Museums

Telling the stories
of our lives



Fort Erie Museum Services • Newsletter • 2014



Battlefield Exhibit Open 24/7

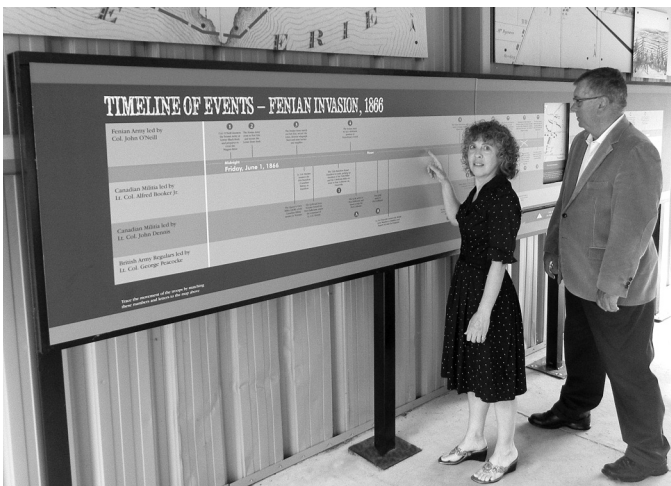
Spread the word... in three years Canada will celebrate its 150th anniversary. An event which hastened the Confederation movement happened right here in 1866 — the Battle of Ridgeway. To celebrate and honour this nation-building battle, Fort Erie Museum Services has installed an exhibit on the battlefield located on Hwy.#3, just east of Ridge Road. Most

of this battlefield is undisturbed, giving visitors a visceral sense of the brave actions and sacrifice of the local militia and Queen's Own Rifles who found themselves fighting here against veterans of the Civil War.

Admission is free and the park is open seven days a week. Many people are aware and proud of the role Ridgeway and Fort Erie played in the formation of Canada and this exhibit gives them a place to share that story with family, friends and guests. The exhibit answers: "Who were the Fenians and why did they invade here?"; "What was it like for local residents living on the front lines?"; "Where was the action?"; "What was the connection to farmers and farming?"; and "What were the consequences?"

This project was funded in part through the generosity of grants and donations from: Farm Credit Canada, the Bertie Historical Society, the Capern family, Fort Erie Bingo, and memorial tributes for Victor Miller.

The Museum worked with Page Graphics to design this interactive experience on this historic battleground; pictured above is owner Gary Page at one of the introductory panels. As you stroll through the



entrance to the park, exhibits can be seen in the cabin windows and on the pavillion walls. Pictured at left looking at the timeline and battle maps are Rick Brady, Director of Community and Development Services and Jane Davies, Museum Administrator/ Curator.

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: Christian Baker; student, Ruth Coulthurst; volunteer, and from the archives Grace Johnston and Chester Johnston.

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:

100 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.

The Maple Leaf Forever

Alexander Muir wrote *The Maple Leaf Forever* after he fought in the Battle of Ridgeway. Muir was born in Scotland and moved to Scarborough in 1833. He taught in several schools throughout the city and was principal at Leslieville from 1860-1870. He enlisted to serve with the Queen's Own Rifles shortly after it was formed in 1860, and was sent to Ridgeway in 1866 to fight against the invading Fenian Army. He wrote the song a year later and it served as the unofficial national anthem until 1939. It is also the regimental march of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.



The QOR is a Reserve Regiment of the Canadian Armed Forces, making it the longest-standing modern military unit in Canada's history. This unit and soldiers have a distinguished and storied history which is celebrated at the QOR Museum, located at Casa Loma in Toronto. Members of the QOR and Association continue to commemorate the Battle of Ridgeway through participation in exhibit openings (2013 Battlefield Park photo at left) and through their annual Decoration Day ceremony at the Memorial Cairn each June. For further information on the QOR go to <www.qor.com>



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, 100 Queen St., Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., free
- *Fort Erie Railway Museum*, 400 Central Ave., daily May 17 - Sept. 1, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., donation
- *Fort Erie Historical Museum*, 402 Ridge Road, daily June 7 - 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 visitors Adriana Jacobi and Charlene Heckman at *Mewinzha*.





Olympian Runs at Crystal Beach

A year before Jesse Owens' stunning four gold medal performance at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, he raced at the Crystal Beach Park stadium (located on the east side of Ridgeway Road at Erie Road). It's been written that Owens "wasn't afraid of Adolf Hitler or Jim Crow, but he feared his rival Eulace Peacock." He lost to Peacock in that 1935 race (photo at left shows the stadium,

but not this race). The Museum is assisting writers who are producing a movie called "Race", a French/German/Canadian co-production. The story of Owens and Peacock is compelling and unfolds in this *Sports Illustrated* article at <http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/longform/peacock/>

Many Ways to Make a Difference

People often ask how they can support the Museum — here are some ideas:

- Bring friends and guests to visit the Museum sites and gift shops.
- Donate local history artifacts or let the Museum scan your old photographs.
- Donate to the Museum's Capital or Memorial Fund. The former supports large projects and the latter is invested and the interest used to support operations.
- Donate to one of the Museum's special projects: repairing the 6218 steam engine or installing a memorial to the Ridgeway Nine — the nine soldiers who lost their lives at the Battle of Ridgeway.



Saved From the Dustbin

In 1824 a wooden Episcopal Church was built along the Niagara River just south of Gilmore Rd. This was replaced by a stone building in 1881 — St. Paul's Anglican. Therefore, this picture of the original church dates between 1824-1881.

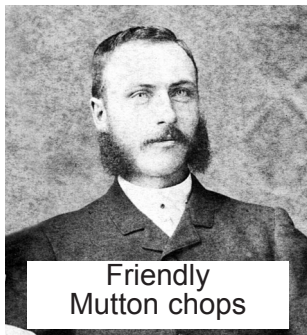
It was donated by Mrs. Shirley, a descendant of one of the parishioners. Her g. g. g. g. grandfather was William Stanton who had 22 children. William's daughter Charlotte married Col. John Warren. Janet Shirley is their g. g. g. granddaughter.

Mr. Mikel was helping Mrs. Shirley 'downsize' and found this picture. He sent it to the Museum with this note: "I'm very glad it's found a good home. It came quite close to getting put in the dust bin!" We have seen this image in old newspapers but now, thanks to Mr. Mikel, the original is safe.

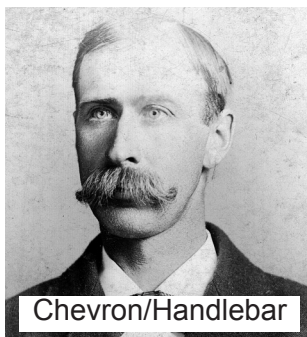
Fort Erie Museums • Historical • Railway • Battlefield • Mewinzha

November

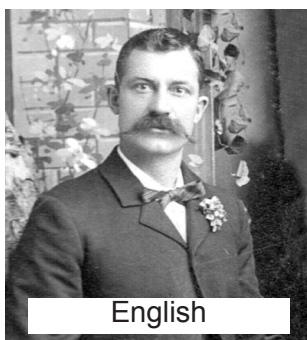
This November why not sport a classic historical mustache? Here are some examples from the Museum's archives:



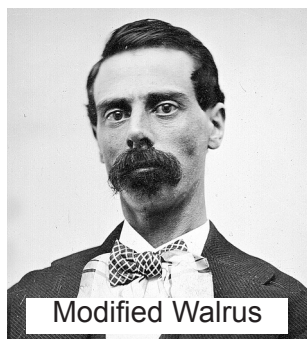
Friendly
Mutton chops



Chevron/Handlebar



English



Modified Walrus

Culture... the 4th Pillar of a Sustainable Community

There are four pillars for a sustainable community and cultural vitality is one of them — along with economic development, social equity and environmental responsibility. “Research confirms that quality of place has become a key competitive advantage for cities in attracting and retaining people — people who in turn attract investment and new business. Key factors in determining quality of place are: uniqueness and authenticity — a product of a distinctive local history, built heritage and natural landscapes. Municipalities are turning increasingly to culture and heritage as part of economic renewal brought on by the decline of traditional industries. This is part of a larger global shift from an economy based on the production of goods and services to a knowledge-based economy focused on creativity and innovation” (from a Municipal Cultural Planning Conference).

This is good news for Fort Erie, since there is an abundance of unique local history on which to capitalize, develop and promote.

Giants in Fort Erie

At the turn of the last century, vaudeville and circus acts performed at Erie Beach and Crystal Beach Amusement Parks. Many performers from these side shows (or freak shows as they were called) stayed in local hotels, including the van Droyesen Sisters (shown at right). This card was handed out when they stayed at the Royal Hotel in Fort Erie, which was located on the Niagara Boulevard just north of Jarvis Street. They were billed as ‘Giants’ but in fact were neither sisters nor van Droyesen’s. Hilda (at right), was born Dora Helms and she married a man whose stage name was William van Droyesen. After his death in 1925 she teamed up with Kaatje van Dyk who took the stage name Elsa van Droyesen. Hilda was 6’ 7” tall and Elsa 7’ 1”.





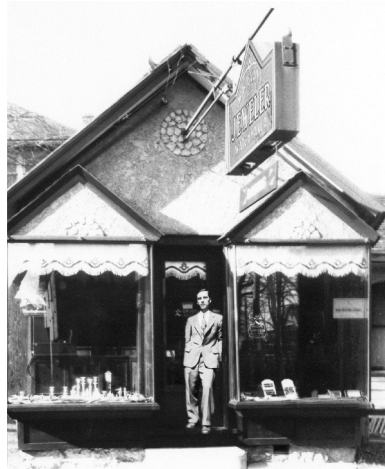
From the Archives

Myrna Gare recently donated photographs and archival material connected to the Sterling Shop (below) which was located on Ridge Road. This photo shows her father, Wesley Borden Evans, standing in front of the store which operated from 1929-1963. He was a jeweller and also sold clocks, china, silver etc. Myrna was a

professional twirler. The photo above is a 1967 publicity shot for her performance at the Inferno Hotel in Buffalo. Also performing that night were George Jessel and Tony Bennett.

A prophetic name, the Inferno Hotel was destroyed by fire in 1968. The Sterling Shop building still stands and is now the home to an aquarium supply store called 'Swimming Along'.

Mr. Evans' competition was Beeshy's china shop. In the 1900s there was sufficient business to support two such stores as this pre-dated internet shopping and mega-malls.



150th Anniversary

The 150th anniversary of the Battle of Ridgeway is fast approaching. The Queen's Own Rifles Association is organizing a celebration worthy of this nation-building battle. A battalion of soldiers will be arriving in Ridgeway in June 2016 — watch for upcoming details.

Ridgeway Nine Memorial

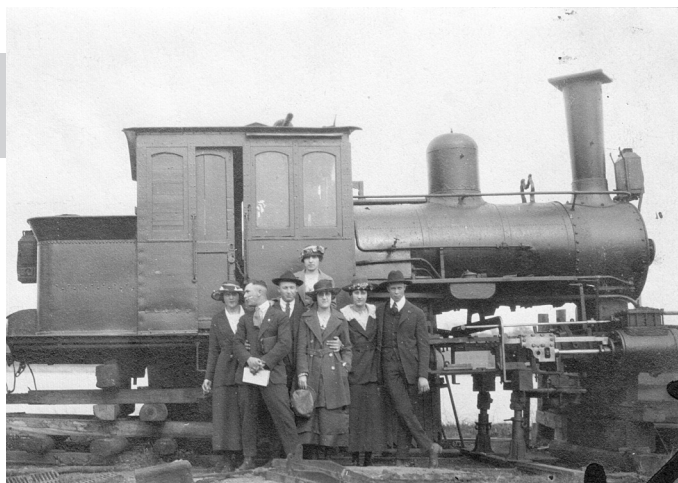
Fort Erie Museum Services is committed to installing a memorial for the nine soldiers of the Queen's Own Rifles who lost their lives during the Battle of Ridgeway. Contact the Museum at 894-5322 if you would like to support this tribute to these brave men.

What's playing on your iPod?... WWI edition

Songs are often used to acknowledge shared experiences. This is especially true for the emotional music from WWI. While the technology used to share songs has changed over the centuries, their ability to stir the spirit has not. Here are some titles that you might remember from a 1918 book in the archives titled *Songs The Soldiers And Sailors Sing*: My Bonnie Lies Over The Ocean; Give My Regards To Broadway; Keep Your Head Down Allemand; Little Brown Jug; Over There; Rocked In The Cradle Of The Deep; When Johnny Comes Marching Home; When You And I Were Young, Maggie; Yankee Doodle Dandy.

Book of Remembrance

The Battle of Ridgeway was a catalyst in Canada's formation, yet the nine soldiers who lost their lives in this battle were removed from Canada's *Book of Remembrance*. Contact your MP to have their names reinstated. Their sacrifice deserves to be remembered.



Support Needed for CN 6218

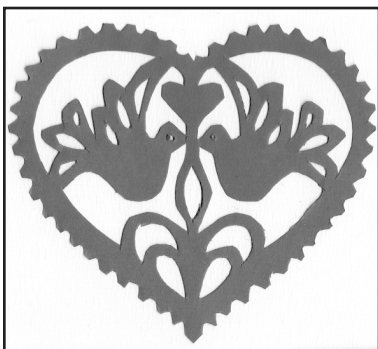
The Friends of 6218 are fundraising to repair engine CN 6218 and are canvassing for fundraising volunteers and financial support. There is also an opportunity to help by providing historical background to some of the Railway Museum artifacts. For details, contact Friends chair Mary McLelland-Papp at (894-8451) or through their website at <www.friends6218.ca>. This picture,

taken in Fort Erie was recently donated to the Museum by Shirley Shearing.

Tribute to WWII Flying Officer Allan Troup

Volunteers provide context to the Museum's collection. Thanks to volunteer Harry Barnhart, a Christmas card signed "Al", became evidence of one of Fort Erie's servicemen who fought and died in WWII. Harry recently donated a scrapbook of local items, including this card. Harry told us the card was sent to his father in 1941 by Flying Officer Allan Troup (they were cousins.) Allan was shot down over Germany on Dec. 12 of that same year. During his service he was recognized for sinking many German merchant ships. In his letters he writes: "I'll describe 'flak' and what it's like aimed at you when I get home... The other boys live longer, while we have a terrific turn over in crews... It's by far the worst job in the war and you just pray nothing will hit you as you fly through about 3 miles of solid barrage... So far we've been lucky... If I last until spring, I'm going to ask for something easy, such as night bombing." Fort Erie's Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron 337 is named after him. Flying Officer Troup's signature and history are now on file in the archives — thanks Harry.

The Ice Caves Live On



Many thanks to Joyce Capern and Larry Mathewson for supporting the Museum's gift shop program. Larry is allowing the Museum to sell his Ice

Caves DVD. If you missed seeing this natural phenomena, his DVD is the next best thing. Joyce is producing various handicrafts (like the 'scissors cutting' card at left called Scherenschnitte), redwork, ribbon embroidery and samplers. Stop by the Historical Museum and check them out!



No Shortage of Search Engines

The Museum assists many researchers and we routinely stress the importance of using primary sources. Navigate the internet by choosing the right search engine for your research needs.

If you're looking for primary sources:

<http://memory.loc.gov>

<http://www.sil.si.edu>

If you're looking for historical information:

<http://www.fordham.edu>

<http://www.historyworld.net>

If you're looking for sites chosen by experts:

<http://infomine.ucr.edu>

<http://libguides.com>

<http://www.infotopia.info>

If you're looking for books, maps or art:

<https://www.worldcat.org>

<http://maps.nationalgeographic.com>

<http://www.artcyclopedia.com>

A primary source is a first-hand account of an event (i.e. letters or maps). Second-hand accounts (i.e. books) are secondary sources and they often contain opinions on past events. The Museum's website contains local history resources as well as links to our archives, reference and collections databases. Check them out at <www.museum.forterie.ca>

Wish You Were Here!

If you vacationed at Crystal Beach 100 years ago you may have stayed at the Hermitage Hotel. Owned by the Cheney family, these pictures are from their c. 1908 guest album. The Hermitage was located on the hill at the end of Ridgeway Road overlooking what is now the Palmwood Hotel and the Cpl. Albert Storm playground. John Rebstock (developer of Crystal Beach Park) remembered the Hermitage as Crystal Beach's first hotel. It was followed by many hotels in Crystal Beach that served the tourism market as people flocked to the amusement park and beach amenities. Pictured above is the Hermitage with wrap-around balconies.



At left, hotel guests enjoy the cool waters of Lake Erie dressed "appropriately" in wool bathing suits and stockings.

At right, a bus service that ran from the hotel to the Ridgeway train station.



100th Anniversary of WWI

1914 marked the beginning of WWI — a global war that lasted four years and resulted in over 37 million casualties. The Historical Museum's archives has WWI research binders that contain documents, photographs and names of citizens that left Fort Erie to fight in this war. Stop by the Museum to peruse these binders, to research your relatives, or to ensure that the servicemen and women you know are included.

While the fighting did not reach Fort Erie, there was a guard stationed at the International Train Bridge from 1914-17. A company of 60 men from the 44th regiment guarded the bridge and border. Pictured above is Sgt. Jack Pattison with the B-1 train station in the background (now located at the Fort Erie Railway Museum). Below, Sgt.

Pepper inspects the troops in front of the barracks which were also located near the train bridge.



WWI Prisoners of War Held at Bridgeburg

Early on in WWI, 22 Austrian Guard reservists crossed into Canada at Windsor and boarded a train for Buffalo. They were headed to New York City to board a steamer to Holland. They were armed with razors, earth picks and a few days of provisions. Arriving at Bridgeburg (now Fort Erie) on Aug. 23, 1914, they were spotted and single-handedly arrested by Immigration Inspector J.R. McNeel. Before being transferred to Kingston, they spent two weeks in Bridgeburg being guarded by six soldiers of the 44th Regiment. Accounts of their stay were recorded in the Ridgeway Herald:

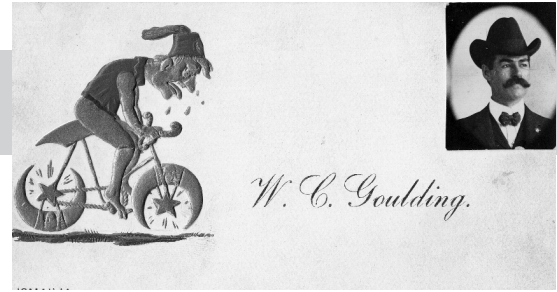
"Every man has a mattress and is furnished with three meals a day. The only work they have to do is keep their prison clean. They spend much of their time playing cards and singing to a harmonica."

"With orders to shoot the first man that attempted to get away, the prisoners were marched to the town hall. A large crowd gathered to see the procession up Courtwright St.... it had the same nature as a Victoria Day celebration, except that there was no band and the fixed bayonets of the red-coats were very business-like in appearance."

"A religious service for the entirely Roman Catholic group was held by Rev. Mitchener, pastor of Knox Church, at the town hall with the aid of a camp organ. They sang songs in their own language and were so affected that they broke down and tears streamed down their faces."

Facebook, Twitter and Tweets

The definition of a tweet is "a short burst of inconsequential information." Facebook was created in 2004 and Twitter in 2006, but the fascination with knowing what other people are doing is not new at all. What's new is the speed in which the information is delivered and who is doing the posting. Historic newsletters talked about other people, today's postings are mainly about ourselves.



Calling cards were given out when visiting and they were collected as you would Facebook friends. *The Rookers Weekly* was a handwritten newsletter filled with personal updates much like Twitter or Facebook postings. A 1918 edition reported: "Earl Sherk was out fishing on Tuesday"; "Mildred and Elsie were in town for the quilting party"; "M.V. spent Sun. in St. Kitts"; "Jean went to prayer meeting last week with her blouse on wrong side out". The *Thunder Bay Flashes* newsletter, June 1964 edition states: "The Muscatos just returned from Puerto Rico"; "Thunder Bay Golf course officially opened last Sat."; "Bill C. reportedly up, about, and feeling ever so much better. Take it easy Uncle Bill!"

Do You Remember? ... Yes You Do!

Many thanks to the *Times* for continuing to partner with the Museum in publishing the *Do You Remember?* series. We are grateful to all the people who respond each week by identifying the unknown people in the photographs. There are thousands of stories comprising Fort Erie's heritage and like pieces of a puzzle, the Museum collects, identifies and arranges these pieces into images that the community can share and celebrate. By calling the Museum to identify the who, what, where, when and why of these photographs, you are giving the Museum more accurate information with which to work. It's the community working together to preserve its own heritage. Well done!



Happy 10th Anniversary

The Fleet Cataloguing Committee and Deputy Administrator/Curator Jude Scott both started working at the Museum in 2004. The volunteers provide historical background to the Fleet artifact collection. Clockwise from bottom are: George Sherk, Don LeFurgey, Dan Fletcher, Peter Griffiths, Joan MacDonald, Jack Cunningham, and Jude Scott. When asked what she was most

proud of over the past 10 years, Jude noted helping establish the Museum's records database, editing the history book *Many Voices II*, and curating the 28,000 artifacts at the Mentholatum building.

A Great Big THANKS to our Volunteers!

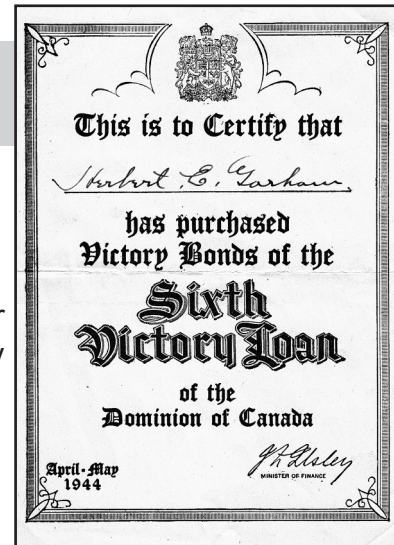
The Museum's work program is supported by 40 volunteers in the following areas: cataloguing, conservation, records management, database input, research and heritage photography. Staff provide training and volunteer management and the volunteers' work enhances the services that the Museum delivers. There are currently volunteer positions available on the Land Records Transcription Committee which meets at the Historical Museum every Monday from 1:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Many thanks to the following volunteers for their generous donation of time and expertise: Karen Angle, Jinette Augustine, Sheila Barnhardt, Harry Barnhart, Norma Benner, Janet Boyce, Charlie Capern, Joyce Capern, Ruth Coulthurst, Tonia Cunningham, Josephine Davies, Sharon Dell, Dorothy Dorge, John Gagnon, Chelsea Gordon, Harold Hampel, Sharon Healey, Bev Jewson, Joseph Lischka, Valerie McCormack, Joan McNeil, Pat Mitchell, Keith Overend, Ruby Smith, Jean Tripp, and Mary Ellen Winger. Fleet and Museum Committees' names appear in separate articles.



70th Anniversary of D-Day

How do we thank a generation who sacrificed so much, so that our lives would be better? For a start, we should remember and appreciate their efforts. This year is the 70th anniversary of D-Day — the tragic, yet successful, WWII surge that led to a victory for the allies. Many brave Fort Erie men and women served in that war and their service is forever remembered



within the Museum's archives. Stop by the Historical Museum and ask to see the WWI and WWII reference binders. They contain the names and papers of citizens who left Fort Erie to serve in a war.

Life on the home front was a significant part of the war effort. Fort Erie citizens, of all ages, rationed and salvaged resources so that these could be shipped overseas. This included the rationing of gasoline, butter, sugar, meat, and coffee; and the salvaging of rubber, fat, bones and milkweed. Money was also needed to pay for the war and Fort Erie joined the Canada-wide effort by selling and buying Victory Bonds. The photo at right shows the Victory Loan rally held at Mather's Arch c. 1942.





Outreach Exhibits

This year the Museum took its show on the road with several outreach events. In May, pottery from the archaeology collection was featured in a talk given by Gregory Braun at the Peace Bridge Administrative Building. In July, a display and interactive activities on the Battle of Ridgeway were installed on the front lawn of the Historical Museum for visitors to Ridgeway's Summer Festival. Also, a display was produced for Crystal Beach Park Memories Day which featured 'Signs from the Park'. The Town Hall atrium hosts the '1812 Divided Loyalties' exhibit and seasonally changing display case. The current theme and guessing game is about shoes. A military exhibit is planned for the fall.

Horticultural Society

Many thanks to our new community partners, the Fort Erie Horticultural Society for their work on the flower beds at the Fort Erie Railway Museum. Despite spring's late start, your planting advice and volunteer efforts are bloomin' wonderful!

Heritage Arts Legacy

The Museum is pleased to support Heritage Arts Legacy with their project of plaquing the graves of the War of 1812 veterans. Legacy members are using the Museum's database to research the names and locations of these grave sites. A worthwhile project indeed.

Ridgeway Blooms

Many thanks to the Ridgeway BIA for their downtown beautification project. The Historical Museum participated by purchasing a flower barrel to help enhance the look of Ridge Road. Stop by to check out the businesses and see the downtown core in bloom!



Battlefield Cabin Repairs

Due to a generous donation from the Bertie Historical Society, the Battlefield cabin on Hwy. #3 is being repaired. This cabin stood on the front lines during the 1866 Battle of Ridgeway and was moved to the Memorial Park in 1976. The exterior is being returned to its original appearance (but using modern materials) in response to needed repairs and the upcoming

150th anniversary of this battle in 2016. Pictured above are the BHS executive: Bill Everett, Flo Everett, Harold Hampel, Sharon Dell, and Jean Tripp. In the back row is Andrea Wilson, Curator of Marketing, Programming and Exhibitions who is overseeing this maintenance project.



UN Declares 2014 International Year of Family Farming

This year highlights the potential family farms have to eradicate hunger and preserve natural resources. Family farming is

linked to world food security; contributes to a balanced diet; safeguards the world's agro-biodiversity; and can boost local economies. If every household in Ontario spent \$10 a week on local food, there would be an additional \$2.4 billion in the local economy at the end of the year. Keeping this money circulating grows those dollars to \$3.6 billion and creates 10,000 new jobs!



Go to <http://www.ontariotable.com> for further details, and remember to support local roadside produce stands. Farmers markets are located at: Ridgeway Village Square, Saturdays at 7:30 a.m.; Fort Erie Racetrack, Sundays at noon; and Port Colborne Market Square, Fridays at 7:00 a.m. Photo at top left is of Carl Englehart plowing with his team; at right is Wilson Teal loading hay.



Lottery... an "Artful" Deception

The Kentucky Lottery Co. conducted business throughout North America and in 1902 ran lotteries out of 33 Princess St. in Fort Erie. They operated under the auspices of the Canadian Royal Art Union. Photographs in their promotional book

showed many sculptures on the front lawn of this grand home. As a side note, oral histories claim these sculptures came from the Pan-American Exposition, which was held in Buffalo in 1901. The Lottery Co. promised to award 3,434 prizes totalling \$53,092 in a twice-monthly public draw. People were asked to mail in their money and lottery numbers would be assigned. Tickets were 25¢ - \$1. The lottery came to an abrupt halt as noted in this headline from the *Buffalo Courier*, Feb. 1902: "KENTUCKY LOTTERY AT FORT ERIE IS RAIDED — Manager Taken Into Custody For Fraudulent Use of the Mails And Taken to Niagara For Trial."

The building also has a storied history. It was the Earp house in the 1870s; used by the Mechanic's Institute for a public library in the early 1900s; owned by the Rose family in 1912 (Annie Rose was a sister to J.L. Kraft); operated as the Erie Lane Hotel or Tavern from the 1940s-70s; Grammy's Tavern in the 1980s; and Long Shotz Hotel and rooming house since 1992. It burned in November 2013.





SOS!

Lew Anderson was the Point Abino Lighthouse keeper for almost 40 years until it was decommissioned in 1995. He is pictured

here in his office within the lighthouse. He donated his files to the Museum's archives and they included a 1963 letter from Richard MacLean to the Federal Dept. of Transport which stated: "This is to inform you of a service that was shown two of my friends and myself by Louis Anderson. In the evening of June 21... we three were sailing a small boat adjacent to Point Abino... this craft upset, spilling us in the water. The light [from the lighthouse] stopped in our direction for a short space of time. This was the first indication that anyone saw us go in the water. I would like to thank your young man Anderson for playing an important part in saving the lives of my two friends and myself." Lew Anderson passed away this June and he left a legacy of helping many boaters as resident lighthouse keeper.

For information about lighthouse tours call 871-1600 ex. 2431. Pedestrian and bicycle access is available June 21 - Labour Day, Mon.- Fri. from 3-6 p.m. and Sat.- Sun. from 10-6 p.m. Remember to stop at the entrance gate to fill out an access permission form.

A Chance To Be Involved

Every term, Council appoints 8 citizens to serve on the Museum and Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee. This group also meets as the Museum Services Standing Committee and the Municipal Heritage Standing Committee. Current members include: David Renshaw, Charles Capern, Keith Overend, Charlene Nigh, Mary McLelland-Papp, Margaret Feaver, David Ellsworth, Stacey Horton-Steele, and Councillor John Hill. Some of the committee's projects for this term include: advising on neighbourhood plans; advising on Museum policy and work programs; writing the *Did You Know?* newspaper series; supporting the 1812 Bicentennial Committee; and preparing a built heritage inventory. If you are interested in serving on next term's committee contact the Clerk's Dept. at 871-1600 after the October 27 municipal election.

Seduction

An interesting entry appeared in the 1908 Police Magistrate Register. On Aug. 20th Edward T. was charged by Jessie H. with "Seduction under promise of marriage." The case was heard by Justice Rathvon and the following sentence pronounced "Edward and Jessie were married on Aug. 20th."

One of our volunteers noted: "It was a life sentence for both of them!"

Can you imagine the events that led up to this trial, the trial itself or their lives afterwards? This could be the premise for a novel or movie. If you are a writer, the Museum's archives are laden with story ideas.

A glimpse into their lives is possible using the Museum's database. Edward died when he was 56 years old and Jessie was listed as his wife; therefore, they stayed married for 36 years. Two years after their marriage they had a son who tragically only lived for 24 years. Jessie lived to be 86.

Students Support Museum Services

The information in this newsletter is just a tiny leaf in the forest that is the Museum's collection. Genealogists, researchers, and those who reminisce on social media rely on the Museum as the public repository of Fort Erie's heritage. The Museum used to manage this information with a paper-based system. Now, a computer database is making information retrieval more efficient. Helping with this transition are the Museum's summer students: Christian Baker, Robbie Brant, Martin Lee and Daniel Pampano (pictured from left, Robbie and Martin). In addition to admissions, gift shop sales, and site and grounds maintenance, they are busy with cataloguing, conservation, exhibit maintenance, event support, marketing, and research. The database projects include: entering records from the Railway, maps and audio/video collection.



Do These Topics Peak Your Interest?

The Museum is pleased to partner with the Bertie Historical Society on one of their monthly public programs. On Sept. 17 Andrea Wilson will present "Art Work of the Fenian Raid"; on Oct. 15 Charles Capern will present "Finally It's Over — the War of 1812"; and on Nov. 19 Pat Street will talk about the "History of the Fort Erie Legion". Programs are open to the public and begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Crystal Ridge Library (except for the Sept. 17 program which will be held at the Historical Museum).

Long-standing society member, Earl Plato, recently released his newest publication, *The Wintemute Warriors* at a book launch held at the Historical Museum. This book and many other local history titles are available in the gift shop.

A Woman Should Have a Bank Book

It is a woman's right that she should have the handling of the money for household and dress expenses. The careful housewife plans for the various things she needs and saves for them. She realizes that loose cash kept in her purse soon goes—it tempts her to spend.

We've come a long way from this old bank advertisement. Today, six of Fort Erie's ten banks are managed by women.

Grape Catsup Recipe

5 lbs. grapes [about 10 cups]
1 pint vinegar [2 cups]
2 lbs. brown sugar [4 cups]
1 tablespoon each cinnamon, cloves,
allspice and pepper
Boil grapes and put through sieve.
Return grape mixture to pot,
add remaining ingredients.
Simmer 1 hour. Serve.

From an undated cookbook

Cross-Border Living



As a border town, Fort Erie's history includes the story of summer residents.

In the late-1800s, Buffalonians, eager to escape the heat of the city, built homes along the Canadian lakeshore. Generations of families have called Fort Erie their summer home ever since.



Re U.S. CUSTOMS 7-DAY PERMIT.

By a ruling of the Treasury Department at Washington, D.C., the Collectors of Customs at Buffalo, Niagara Falls and Lewiston are authorized to permit Canadian owners to bring their automobiles to the United States for a temporary stay of not exceeding seven days, where such owners exhibit membership cards certifying they are members in good standing of Ontario Motor League. It is still necessary, however, for members to obtain the New York Motor Vehicle License, application for which may be made through the League office.

As part of the Museum's mandate to collect and interpret the history of Fort Erie, we began a project called "Life on the Lakeshore". Summer residents who would like their family's history included in the archives can contact the Museum. Virginia and Charles Harrington did just that. These photographs are from Harrington house at Bay Beach. Pictured below is Charles' grandfather, also named Charles.

Being a border town also made it convenient for trips to the United States. In 1916 Major Laur of Bridgeburg, now Fort Erie, applied for an Ontario Motor League card. This allowed him to bring his car into the United States for seven days. In order to drive his car though, he also had to obtain a New York Motor Vehicle License.

