

Local History Trivia

from the
Fort Erie Historical Museum's Archives
Heritage Week 2024



Questions:

1. The photo for this post shows the ship Bruce Hudson being launched in Fort Erie in 1935. Who built this ship and where along the Niagara River was this ship launched?
2. Josiah Henson was a slave who escaped to freedom through the Underground Railroad, crossing to safety in Fort Erie. His life was the inspiration for what anti-slavery novel?
3. The International Railway Bridge was built in 1873. Prior to that, how did trains get across the Niagara River.
4. What prompted the building of the Point Abino Lighthouse in 1917?
5. What school now occupies the former Biltmore Club, a noted gambling establishment?
6. An amusement park existed in Fort Erie that had a zoo, dance hall, athletic field, and advertised the world's largest outdoor swimming pool. What was its name?
7. The roof of the Peace Bridge Arena collapsed in 1936. What caused that collapse?

Answers:

1. Horton Steel Company – Their shipyard division built ships at the foot of Princess Street, near the Peace Bridge.
2. Uncle Tom's Cabin – This book was published in 1852 by Harriet Beecher Stowe.
3. The steam ferry International – Trains were ferried across the Niagara River to a dock located near the foot of Beatrice Street.
4. The sinking of the U.S. Lighthouse Service's Light Vessel 82 in a storm in 1913 – After this storm, it was deemed prudent to build a permanent structure to warn ships of the rocky shoreline around Point Abino.
5. Niagara Christian Collegiate (NCC) – This school complex is located on the Niagara Parkway and opened in 1938.
6. Erie Beach Amusement Park – This popular resort operated in the early 1900s on property on and near what is now Waverly Park. It closed in 1930.
7. Snow – On March 17, 1936 over 25 inches of heavy, wet snow fell in less than 8 hours. The town was snowbound for 2 days, several buildings collapsed, and there was one snow-related fatality.