

FORT ERIE

...because!

THE LIFESTYLE ADVANTAGE

Watersports, golf
or hit the trails

BUSINESSES

THAT THRIVE
IN FORT ERIE

Plus:

**FORT ERIE'S
BEST KEPT
SECRETS**

a tale of TWO CITIES

When the Peace Bridge opened in 1927, Fort Erie and Buffalo became inextricably tied together. Over 90 years later, despite the ever-present pull of the Toronto megalopolis, Fort Erie still maintains close economic, cultural and social ties to Western New York. It's no exaggeration to say that at its heart, Fort Erie is Canada's most bi-national town.

Residents on both sides routinely cross the bridge to shop, eat, work, play and visit. Living in Fort Erie opens up a vast new world of experiences and conveniences, unique among communities of comparable size.

Fort Erie in a nutshell: Niagara charm. Canadian character. Bi-national outlook.

WELCOME TO FORT ERIE

I'm American, but Fort Erie is in my blood.

I lived and worked in Buffalo and its suburbs pretty much my whole life, but some of my fondest memories were made in Fort Erie. My grandparents built a home on the shore near Waverly Beach in the 1940s, and I spent many summers here as a kid, on the beach, in the water and around town. With 15 cousins, there was never any shortage of comradery!

I eventually met a wonderful Fort Erie gal, and married her. Wendy and I bought a place three doors down, where we raised our two children during many summers. Crossing the Peace Bridge to visit our Fort Erie retreat was always a breath of fresh air.

Back then, the Waverly area consisted mainly of American seasonal residents, but in more recent years we've welcomed a lot more Canadian neighbours. Wonderful people, our new friends.

This small change in demographics in our little part of the world, I think, shows that the secret is getting out! Fort Erie, as a community, has so much to offer, and is growing steadily. All of the everyday conveniences are right here, just minutes away, pretty much wherever you live in town.

I've watched Fort Erie grow over the years. It has managed to maintain much of its charm as a border town, but has evolved into a vibrant small city, with many interesting amenities and things to do.

Yes, the secret is out, and I'm genuinely happy to help share it. Thank you to my friends at the Economic Development and Tourism Corporation for this opportunity to share my passion about Fort Erie. I invite you to read through this fabulous magazine they put together, and learn more about the community, lifestyle and many interesting local businesses. Even though Fort Erie has been a part of my whole life, I've sure learned a lot.

So why do I love Fort Erie? Well... because! After these 58 pages, I think you will too!

*John Duerr
Williamsville, NY*

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16

GARRISON ROAD

HIGHWAY 3



“Let there be peace”

The symbolic terminus of Highway 3 is Mather Arch, set within the impeccably manicured Mather Park. Built in 1939, the majestic monument was later commemorated in honour of industrialist Alonzo C. Mather in recognition of his efforts to promote friendship between Canada and the United States.



CONVENIENCE & COMFORT FOR modern living

The successor of the colonial Talbot Trail, Ontario's Highway 3 essentially starts at the Peace Bridge at Buffalo/Fort Erie and ends at the Ambassador Bridge at Windsor/Detroit. Along the way, Highway 3 changes name and jurisdiction in various segments, such as the span through Fort Erie. Named for the original military road in the area, Garrison Road is the commercial hub of town today, with major retail, grocery, dining and service amenities.

The Garrison Road district is all about convenience. Whether you need to fill the fridge, fill a prescription, or fill the gas tank, it's all here and easy to get to. Many of Canada's best known retail and restaurant brands have locations in Fort Erie, and most can be found along a 4-km stretch.

The growth of so many services along Garrison Road in the past decade reflects a rising population, not just in Fort Erie, but in the southern end of the peninsula. South Niagara is one of the fastest growing areas of the region – a reason why the provincial

government is building a brand new 1.2-million sq.ft. hospital in the south end of Niagara Falls. This facility, to be the largest by far in Niagara, will be located only five minutes from the Fort Erie townline, and accessible within 15 minutes no matter where you are in town.

With the extension of full-time GO Train service to Niagara Falls, the push south is only expected to continue in Niagara. Most new homebuyers in the area are coming from the GTA, as families seek better value in real estate, a more relaxed way of life, and to be closer to nature – but without sacrificing the everyday conveniences they are used to. Fort Erie is primed for further growth.



BRIDGEBURG *Station*



The Savoury Bean is popular for its coffee, breads and specialty desserts, but in the summer you might even come across Loganberry slush – a tribute to the original Loganberry drink once famous among Crystal Beach Amusement Park visitors.

Best kept SECRETS
the locals know.



F8 Salon

Atrium Spa



Jung's Niagara Taekwondo



The Old Bank Bistro

Well before the Peace Bridge, there was Bridgeburg Station, which emerged where the International Railway Bridge spans the Niagara River. Fort Erie's downtown was the centre of commercial activity for many decades, and even today it remains a vibrant centre for commerce and professional services, with over 100 businesses.

As the downtown has evolved, so have its businesses. Look no further than F8 Salon and Atrium Spa, neighbouring businesses that take "full service" to the extreme: they offer a fully licensed waiting area, where patrons can enjoy wine, craft beer

or cocktails to enhance their pampering experience!

The Savoury Bean is a local favourite for premium coffee, latte, cappuccino, espresso and more. The popular coffee shop serves light lunches and an impressive variety of delectable treats, from sweet breads to pastries to cakes.

A notable trend in recent years has seen young entrepreneurs repurpose old heritage buildings for innovative uses. The Bell Tower Community Arts & Entertainment Complex, located in a century-old former church, features concerts, karaoke, comedy

and other events. Quasi's Café and Lounge is the heart of the 15,000 sq.ft. complex.

Another innovative "reno" is courtesy of Regional Limousine, who took over a former fire hall to manage its fleet of limousines, while making part of the facility available for community rentals.

Other new businesses to Bridgeburg Station are helping to promote active and healthy lifestyles, and are bringing a new vibe to Jarvis Street. These include Jung's Niagara Taekwondo and On The Mat, offering yoga, pilates and fitness classes.

RIDGEWAY

Best Kept
SECRETS
the locals know

Downtown Ridgeway
hosts a Farmers Market every Saturday morning and compelling seasonal events throughout the year.

The Kitchen at 335



Lasting Impressions



Live music at The Sanctuary Centre for the Arts

Ridgeway is a close-knit, tranquil community just to the west of Fort Erie's original town boundary. Its historic downtown along Ridge Road is a magnet for locals and tourists alike, with quaint boutiques like J. E. Harper & Co. Travel Supply, Three Ferrises and Lasting Impressions Gifts. The main street also features galleries, shops, spas, eateries and other services.

It's a historic setting with a modern feel. The Sanctuary Centre for the Arts is a community-based hub for artists, located in an old church which today houses the Brimstone Brewing Co. craft brewery and Crave Local Fresh, a farm-to-table restaurant. Brimstone's flagship brew Sinister Minister is available all year round as well as limited releases, collaborations and seasonal favourites.

The Sanctuary also features performing arts shows, art classes and eclectic events such as an Art Battle® live painting competition, where artists compete to create their best work possible in a mere 20-minutes. Spectators are not only free to move around the venue and observe the artists' progress, they also take part in voting for the winning works of art.

The nearby Ridge Film House offers a unique movie-going experience, complete with an in-house bar, luxury seating and carefully curated films. The cinema boasts the best in independent, foreign, classic and second-run films. Whether you're a casual film-goer or a dedicated movie buff, it's a fantastic opportunity to discover hidden gems, or rediscover the classics once again!



JE Harper & Co

CRYSTAL *Beach*

Best Kept
SECRETS
the locals know

The Buffalo Canoe Club

hosts a number of sailing World, North American and National Championships for classes as diverse as Lightning, Flying Dutchman and Shark. From the shores of Crystal Beach, you can often watch elite athletes as they ply the waters of Lake Erie.

Antler Apparel by Planks Canada in Crystal Beach



Buffalo Canoe Club



Derby Road, Crystal Beach

Historically known as a tourism mecca made famous in the late 1800's by its boardwalks, bathhouses, majestic hotels, and a seemingly endless throng of ferry passengers, Crystal Beach enjoyed a reputation as a destination like no other.

Although its landmark amusement park closed in 1989, Crystal Beach's population of 3,800 still swells during the summer months thanks to thousands of day-trippers and summer cottage residents migrating to the area's sandy beaches and cool, clear water.

The business strip along Erie Road has a distinct Great Lakes beach community atmosphere, catering to locals and visitors alike with wonderful dining options, specialty shops and lakefront nightlife. Nearby amenities include a spa as well as studios for yoga and crossfit.

Planks is a hidden gem for artisan gifts, jewelry, decorations and apparel. The store's fashion designer even offers sewing classes with refreshments in the banquet room of the nearby South Coast Cookhouse.

The Crystal Beach Waterfront Supper Market runs every Thursday evening throughout the summer, featuring close to 20 food trucks and vendors. Live entertainment and the gentle lakeside breeze combine to create a great venue for enjoying tasty food and beverages at Waterfront Park.

The Lake Erie Tournament Series typically runs a leg or two of its bass tournament each year out of Crystal Beach, taking advantage of great fishing in the area.

STEVENSVILLE



Stevensville Garden Gallery

Did you **KNOW?**



CHEESE PLEASE!
THE FOUNDER OF KRAFT FOODS, JAMES L. KRAFT, WAS BORN IN STEVENSVILLE IN 1874.



Nomad Drum Cases

Tradition meets industry. Nestled in the northwestern part of the municipality, Stevensville has a strong agricultural community along with a significant industrial zone. The scenic Black Creek, which meanders through Stevensville as it flows into the Niagara River, is often used for kayaking, canoeing and paddle boarding.

A number of quaint restaurants and unique stores are in the vicinity of the community's main intersection at Stevensville Road and Main Street.

MB Country Living, originally a farm and feed supply store, recently expanded into a wide range of outdoorsy products. Anyone who loves outdoor activities, whether it's gardening, landscaping or backyard entertaining, is sure to be impressed by the truly unique items MB has to offer.

Nomad Drum Cases manufactures drum cases for drummers around the world, while operating a storefront with a selection of musical instruments and vinyl records. Nomad even showcases the moulds it used to make drum cases in 1978 for John Bonham of Led Zeppelin fame.



Minor Bros Country Living

Nigh's Sweet Shop.
Homemade chocolate since 1958!!!

Best kept **SECRETS**
the locals know



Nigh's Sweet Shop



Mae's Place

THE LOVE OF LEARNING

Fort Erie families have close access to wide-ranging options when it comes to education, from JK to PhD.

In town, the community is served by eight elementary schools: four public and four Catholic. Public grade schools feed into the Greater Fort Erie Secondary School, the newest high school in the Niagara region. The separate schools feed into Lakeshore Catholic High School in nearby Port Colborne.

Private school options include the Niagara Christian Collegiate, at an idyllic location overlooking the Niagara River. It offers faith-based education for middle school (Grades 6-8) as well as secondary curriculum.

Ridley College, a landmark in St. Catharines since 1889, is another prestigious private school in the area. It has a large international student body and operates the largest boarding program in Ontario, representing over half of its enrollment.

Post-secondary opportunities in the Niagara region include Brock University in St. Catharines, which has a student population of over 18,000 studying in seven faculties. Brock boasts academic excellence and cutting-edge R&D in world-class facilities.

Niagara College operates two campuses in the region, in Welland and Niagara-on-the-Lake. It serves over 9,000 full-time students in a variety of diploma, degree and certificate programs, as well as 15,000 part-time students in credit, vocational and general interest programs. Its Hospitality Management offering is very well respected

in the local tourism industry, and the college is quite innovative in developing unique programs such as Artisan Distillery and Craft Brewing.

Brock University and Niagara College are both within a 30 minute drive from Fort Erie. Both also have extensive residence options for students seeking an "away from home" experience.

Great Things Happening at Greater Fort Erie Secondary School

September 2017 witnessed the opening of the newest high school in the Niagara region, Greater Fort Erie Secondary School (GFESS). GFESS was created through the merger of two older high schools in Ridgeway and Fort Erie respectively, and is centrally located on Garrison Road across from Town Hall, the Leisureplex arena and Fort Erie's YMCA.

There's been nothing but rave reviews from the 850-strong student body and faculty alike. Highlights include:

- An artificial turf field surrounded by an eight-lane track
- State-of-the-art projection technology in each classroom
- Three computer labs with chromebooks and laptops
- A 500-seat centre for the arts made available to community user groups
- Technology Program facilities including Manufacturing, Construction, Electrical, Design, Culinary & Cosmetology.



NEW COURSES AND PROGRAMS NOT PREVIOUSLY OFFERED:

- HEALTH CARE PROGRAM
- TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM
- FOOTBALL FOCUS COURSE
- BUSINESS PROGRAM
- DANCE
- WORLD RELIGION
- ESL PROGRAM
- POLITICS
- COMPUTER SCIENCE PROGRAM
- COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY
- HOCKEY CANADA SKILLS ACADEMY

Learning OVER THE RIVER

Due to its proximity to Fort Erie, Buffalo is another practical option for some students. Prominent private schools include Nichols School and Canisius High School. University at Buffalo is a Research I school, ranked #1 among public universities in New York State, while Canisius, Medaille and D'Youville Colleges are popular destinations for many Canadians enrolling in teaching programs.

WATER, WATER *everywhere*



Best kept
SECRETS
the locals know

One of the best ways to cool down on a hot summer day is at Windmill Point Park. Enjoy swimming (or snorkelling) in the deep clear water within the quarry, fed by cool natural spring water.

5 WATERFRONT PARKS ALONG LAKE ERIE

THE RIVERWALK ALONG THE NIAGARA RIVER

11 PUBLIC LAKE ACCESS POINTS

8 BOAT LAUNCHES

A cartographer might offer a stricter technical definition, but Fort Erie is essentially a peninsula on a peninsula. With Lake Erie to the south and the Niagara River winding along the town's east side and much of its north, Fort Erie has claim to the longest shoreline in all of Niagara. 42 kilometres in fact – marathon distance!

As a result there is no shortage of water activities and entertainment in town. Fort Erie's waterfront ranges from sandy beaches, to rocky shorelines, to carefully developed parkland and recreation trails.

Crystal Beach, once famous for its big-band era amusement park, continues to draw visitors thanks to its sandy beaches and clear waters. The community features a collection of antique and specialty shops, fine and casual dining, lakefront nightlife and more. Residential and neighbourhood redevelopment plans surrounding Bay Beach aim to make the area an even more attractive destination for seekers of sun and fun.

The Niagara Parkway and its parallel recreational trail offer exceptional river views for motorists, cyclists, rollerbladers, runners and walkers. Connecting fort to fort (Old Fort Erie to Niagara-on-the-Lake's Fort

George), the route is dotted with numerous picnic areas, a marina and some of the most spectacular scenery of the mighty Niagara.

Throughout the summer months, regular tours of the historic Point Abino lighthouse are available. It's a unique opportunity to get close to one of the most beautiful beacons on the Great Lakes!

Anglers – amateur or professional alike – can delight in the abundance and variety of fish that thrive in Lake Erie, the shallowest of the Great Lakes. Perch in particular spawn near shore in the spring, travel further out during summer and then back towards shore in the fall. The Niagara River itself is well known for its trophy fish including walleye, bass and trout.



Vaticano Restaurant's Caprese salad.

Unassuming from the front, **Southsides Patio Bar & Grill** on Niagara Boulevard, just north of the Peace Bridge, offers an outstanding landscaped patio in the back. Connected to the Riverwalk, it's a fantastic place to relax at sunset or to become mesmerized by the powerful river current of the Niagara.

Best kept
SECRETS
the locals know

Fun FOR foodies

Fort Erie has the same "problem" as many larger cities when it comes to dining – too many options!

Chinese, Japanese, Italian, Greek, Mexican, pizza & wings, AAA steaks or just good ol' fashion home-cooked cuisine, Fort Erie has a wide variety of restaurants. Many have been local favourites for decades, while others are relatively new and quickly establishing a reputation for great food and hospitality.

Local entrepreneurs have shown exceptional vision in transforming character buildings into restaurants with style and ambiance. There's the Old Bank Bistro, delighting diners in the old downtown Bank of Montreal building. Its courtyard and function room is actually part of the first newspaper building in town, dating back to 1904. Crave Local Fresh offers farm-fresh fare Wednesday through Sunday in downtown Ridgeway in a renovated old church, in affiliation with Brimstone Brewery.

Eating out goes hand in hand with enjoyable company. Many in town faithfully come out to the Legion's Friday fish fries or the Lions Club monthly dinners, for great comfort food and community.

And just over the border, there's a whole new world of dining opportunities, from 5-star dining at the Buffalo Chophouse to the famous Anchor Bar, home of the original chicken wing.

Country Homestyle

- The Breakfast Beacon
- Bridgeburg Family Restaurant
- Bridgewater Country Club
- The Cookhouse Diner
- Freeland's Restaurant
- Garrisons Grill
- Green Acres Family Restaurant
- Lane's Family Restaurant
- The Lighthouse
- M & J's Restaurant
- Mae's Place
- Stewart's Fried Chicken
- Tammy's Breck N' Ridge
- Turfside Restaurant & Lounge



Cafe

- Crystal Ball Café
- Down Home Café
- Our Corner Café
- Quasi's Café & Lounge
- The Crystal Chandelier
- The Savoury Bean
- You Deserve It Café & Creamery



Mediterranean

- Artemis
- Crystal Beach Gateway
- Old Bank Bistro



Farm to Table

- 335 on the Ridge
- Crave Local Fresh
- Lama Restaurant
- The Kitchen at 335



Mexican

- Aguacate
- Casa Hugo



Asian Cuisine

- Happy Jack's
- Lee's Express
- Ming Teh
- Pho Xuan Tang
- Yukiguni



Roadhouse

- Big Texas
- Chucks Roadhouse
- The Commercial Roadhouse
- He's Not Here
- Palmwood Waterfront Restaurant & Patio Bar
- Sneakers Beach Bar & Grill
- Southcoast Cookhouse
- Southsides Bar & Grill
- Take 2 Restaurant & Bar
- The Plaiçe
- The Scuttlebutt Tap & Eatery
- Trailside Bar & Grill



Italian

- Aneta Pizzeria
- Bella Pizza
- Central Pizzeria
- DaVinci's Pizza & Wings
- Lino's Pizza Parlour
- Mabel's Gourmet Pizza
- Papa's Pizza
- Shaggy's Pizza & Eats
- The Barrel Italian Kitchen
- Vaticano Restaurant
- Zia's Pizzeria

THE PLACE FOR CHINESE CUISINE

FOR CHINESE CUISINE

Fort Erie was home to some true pioneers in Canadian Chinese cuisine. As early as the 1920's, immigrants from China opened small eateries in town, mainly serving meat and potatoes fare. By the 1960's and 70's, these entrepreneurs and their descendants started to thrive by offering innovative Chinese cuisine with subtle tweaks for Canadian tastes.

The secret to their success was a huge following of regulars from Buffalo and well beyond, which represented over three-quarters of their diners. Americans visiting the Fort Erie Race Track or their summer cottages would flock to the Niagara Boulevard for delicious Chinese on their way home. And many customers made a special trip across the Peace Bridge just for dinner itself. Even Hollywood celebrities – Goldie Hawn, Robert Duvall, Robert Redford – were known to dine here.

Chinese cuisine in Fort Erie is still vibrant – of the original big five on Niagara Boulevard, Ming Teh and Happy Jack's remain quite popular.



a tradition of **RACING**

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR OPENED: 1897
FIRST PRINCE OF WALES STAKES: 1959
SEATING CAPACITY: 6,000
STABLE CAPACITY: 1,000
TRACK DISTANCE: 1 MILE

Northern Dancer won his first race here in 1963, then went on to win the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness Stakes the following year. His 'granddaughter', Dance Smartly, won the Prince of Wales Stakes here in 1991, capturing the Canadian Triple Crown later that season, the first filly to ever do so.

It's all part of the illustrious history of the Fort Erie Race Track, which opened in 1897 at a time when the first Oldsmobile clocked 10mph – and would have been lapped three times by Fort Erie's fastest horses.

Throughout the years, the track has benefited from a loyal following of horsepeople – owners, trainers, jockeys, and many others. Over 100 employees work directly for the race track, plus there's a

large spinoff effect in the local economy involving farmers for feed and straw, veterinarians, farriers and more.

With free parking and entry, a day at the track is a great experience for families as well as for seasoned horse handicappers. Over the years Fort Erie has done an exceptional job in delivering entertainment, opening up a vast new audience beyond traditional wagerers. On many race days, the track hosts live music, food trucks, craft beer, arts and crafts vendors and more.

“One of the most picturesque race tracks in the world.”



TURFSIDE DINING ROOM

Enjoy a delicious meal with a spectacular view! Located on the third floor of the Clubhouse, the Turfside Dining Room overlooks the finish line and offers pari-mutuel wagering so diners don't even have to step out of the restaurant. Turfside is open one hour before the post time of the first race.

nature &

Wildlife



Best kept
SECRETS
the locals know

Raising young children?

Season passes at Safari Niagara are very affordable and provide countless hours of fun and amusement throughout the summer months. Parents seem to enjoy the splash pad as much as the kids!

LIONS AND TIGERS AND BEARS... AND MORE!



For nearly 20 years, Safari Niagara has been a must-see family destination in Fort Erie.

The 150-acre Safari Niagara is home to more than 1,000 animals both native and exotic. Lions, zebras, rhinos, emus, hippos, macaws, pythons, giraffes and dozens of other species make Safari Niagara one of the most diverse yet accessible zoos in Ontario. The park is very interactive with free educational animal shows and tours, animal feedings, and a petting zoo.

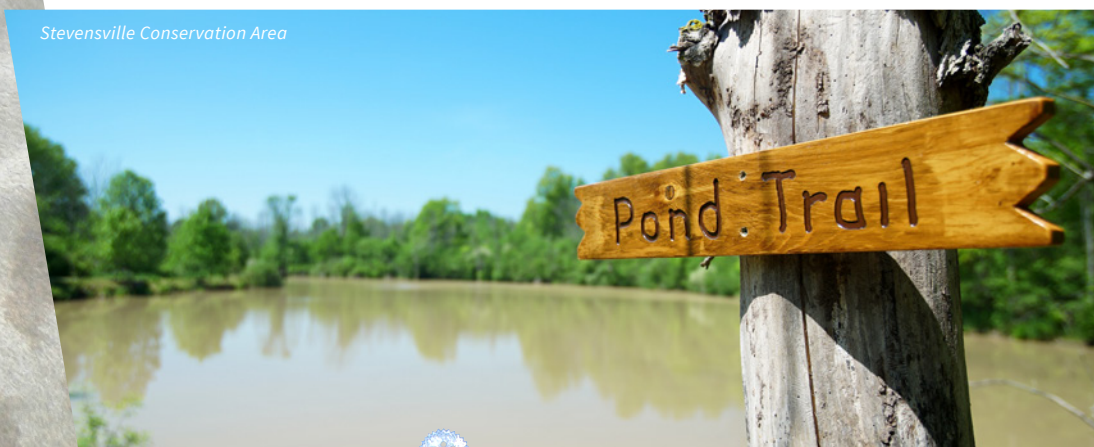
Over the years, Safari Niagara has been enthusiastic about introducing new features and activities to entertain children and the young-at-heart alike. The park offers "Bounce-A-Rooz" (massive inflatable bouncing pillows), catch and release fishing, paddle

boats, a pedal bike go-kart track, a high ropes course, a splash pad, a carousel, and much more.

It's quite the evolution from the Tykolis family's original small animal petting farm, running out of their garden centre. The Stevensville Garden Gallery is itself a popular destination in town, drawing loyal customers from throughout the Niagara region.

Safari Niagara is nestled close to two large conservation areas featuring trails (both marked and unimproved), as well as fishing, hiking, bird watching and nature appreciation.

Stevensville Conservation Area



ROD DOWLING: MAN OF STEEL

As you stroll through the grounds of Safari Niagara, you will see various steel sculptures of all shapes, sizes and colours. They were all created by one prolific artist, Rod Dowling. This collection – Canada's largest involving steel sculptures – is on exhibit indefinitely at Safari Niagara.

hike

BIKE, RUN OR ROLL

There's always a good reason to head outdoors in Fort Erie. The community boasts many oases of green to escape from everyday life, get active or simply enjoy the wonders of nature. So explore the great outdoors and take your pick of waterfront wonders, conservation areas, nature hikes or recreational trails.

Best Kept
SECRETS
the locals know

It's a race

that starts in one country and ends in another. The annual Niagara Falls International Marathon starts in Buffalo, crosses the Peace Bridge, follows the Niagara River Recreational Trail and finishes by Niagara Falls. It's a great volunteer experience for cheering on competitors, meeting new people or achieving school volunteer hours.

Four seasons of fun! Fort Erie's trails and conservation areas are ideal for snowshoeing and cross country ski.

CONNECTED!

The Friendship Trail & Niagara River Recreational Trail are segments of two major trail systems:

TRANS-CANADA TRAIL

24,000 KILOMETRES
"Coast to Coast to Coast"

GREATER NIAGARA CIRCLE ROUTE

140 KILOMETRES
Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, Niagara River, Welland Canal

Friendship Trail

This 24 km trail runs parallel to the north shore of Lake Erie. Beginning at the Welland Canal in Port Colborne, this relaxing and picturesque trail meanders through lush farmland, downtown Ridgeway, scenic nature, and quiet residential areas. The trail ends at historic Old Fort Erie where it connects to the Niagara River Recreation Trail.

Shagbark Nature Park

Ridgeway's Shagbark Nature Park features 64 acres of woodland and meadows with 4 km of nature trails for exceptional bird and butterfly watching. Interpretive signs serve as guides, educating visitors on the park's rich flora and fauna diversity.

The Niagara River Recreational Trail

This trail starts at Old Fort Erie and follows the scenic Niagara River for 56 km, ending at Fort George in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Along the way, there is no shortage of sights to see and places to stop. Historic forts, War of 1812 battlefields, hydro-electric dams, fruit stands, wineries and lots of places to grab a bite to eat. Not to mention the Falls themselves. Truly world-class.

Stevensville Conservation Area

121-acres of designated conservation area by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, including over 3 km of marked trails surrounded by pristine wetlands along the banks of Black Creek. Hiking, fishing and picnicking are some of the popular activities here, and the adjacent United Empire Loyalist Memorial Conservation Area offers 54 additional acres of paradise in nature.



FORE the love of THE GAME

NIAGARA IS TRULY A GOLFER'S HAVEN

With around 40 golf courses in the Niagara Region – not to mention dozens more in Western New York – you can live in Fort Erie and golf a different course every weekend for probably three entire seasons.

But like most golfers, you're probably bound to have favourites. Conveniently, some the courses in Fort Erie itself are among the best around.

*Best kept
SECRETS
the locals know*

You don't have to be a golfer to enjoy Saturday Night Prime Rib or Sunday Brunch Buffet specials at Bridgewater Country Club

Bridgewater Country Club

Sam Sneed won the Ontario Open here in 1933, when the course was called Erie Golf Downs and Country Club. Originally laid out by renowned golf course architect Stanley Thompson in 1927, Bridgewater offers 18 holes set within natural terrain, meandering streams and stately trees.

18
HOLES

length
BLACK: 6,664 YD BLUE: 6,373 YD
WHITE: 5,926 YD RED: 5,360 YD
GOLD: 4,462 YD
course rating:
LADIES – 74.8 MEN – 68.6

International Country Club

A popular destination for avid golfers on both sides of the border, ICC offers something for everybody with a sprawling 27 holes and enjoyable league play for both women and men.

27
HOLES

length (white tees):
three 18-hole options:
6,437 YD, 6,391 YD
OR 6,494 YD
course rating:
70.9, 71.3, 71.4

Cherry Hill Country Club

An exclusive private club in Ridgeway capped at 400 members with a strong junior golf program and a reciprocal program with premier courses in Ontario and the U.S. The course was designed by Walter J. Travis in 1922, and Arnold Palmer, Gary Player, Sam Sneed, Ray Floyd, Ben Crenshaw and Lee Trevino all played here over the years. Cherry Hill hosted the 1972 Canadian Open.

18
HOLES

length (white tees):
6,473 YARDS
course rating:
71.2

Fort Erie Golf Club

A par 57 executive course recently redesigned after selling land for the construction of the new Greater Fort Erie Secondary School. Perfect for a quick round of golf anytime of the day, yet with opportunity to use all the clubs in your bag.

18
HOLES

length (blue tees):
3,469 YARDS
course rating:
64



THE SIEGE OF *Fort Erie*

During the War of 1812, Fort Erie was a key strategic base. The U.S. attacked in 1812, captured it in 1813 only to quickly abandon it, then re-captured it once again on July 3, 1814. From here the U.S. Army moved north, leading to major battles in Chippawa and at Lundy's Lane, withdrawing afterwards back to the defences of Fort Erie.

Lieutenant General Gordon Drummond pursued and besieged the Americans, launching an unsuccessful attack on August 15. Victory was looking plausible after the British captured the northeast bastion of the fort, when suddenly the powder magazine beneath their feet ignited in a massive explosion, killing hundreds of men.

That attack failed but the siege continued for another month, with minor sorties and skirmishes. The Siege of Fort Erie, one of the bloodiest battlefields in Canadian history, ended on September 21, 1814.

Best Kept
SECRETS
the locals know

The Siege of Fort Erie
is re-enacted every year in August. Hundreds of re-enactors descend on Fort Erie from all over Ontario and the U.S., performing demonstrations and an impressive re-enactment of August 15, 1814, complete with simulated bastion explosion.

But to really get an appreciation of soldier life, take the time to walk through the period campsite where the re-enactors live it up, like it's 1812!

WRAPPED IN HISTORY



Battle of Ridgeway 1866

Well, you'd be right if you said that the first one was during the War of 1812. When the U.S. Army retreated from its stronghold at the old fort in November 1814, it was indeed the last time hostile American forces would set foot in Canada. It's been over 200 years of peace since then, thus the aptly named Peace Bridge that spans the Niagara River.

Less well known, however, is the Battle of Ridgeway more than half a century after the events of 1814. On June 2, 1866, Irish-American veterans from the U.S. Civil War intended to capture the British Province of Canada and use it to barter with Britain for Ireland's freedom.

Canadian soldiers were deployed to Ridgeway and to the Fort Erie dock to fight the Fenian Army, with more than 1,500 soldiers engaged in battle.

While the Fenians may have won these battles, they lost the campaign – retreating back to Buffalo where they were subsequently arrested by the U.S. government and charged with violation of the U.S. Neutrality Act. Canadian politicians and citizens realized that they could not rely on Britain to defend this land, and that confederation of the provinces would result in better national security. Canada became a country one year later, in 1867.



Siege of Fort Erie Re-enactment

HERITAGE MOMENTS



THE FIRST INHABITANTS

The area was inhabited by the indigenous peoples of the Neutral Nation, which generally kept out of hostilities between neighbouring Huron and Iroquois tribes. They were forced out of Niagara around 1651 by Iroquois invaders.

A TOWN EMERGES

United Empire Loyalists and soldiers who fought with Butler's Rangers in the American Revolution settle in the area.



FOLLOWING THE NORTH STAR

Bertie Hall, a majestic white-columned homestead is built on the Niagara Boulevard. The house became a key stopping point along the Underground Railroad for escaped slaves throughout the antebellum period.

TRAINS CROSS NIAGARA

The International Railway Bridge opens between Bridgeburg and Buffalo, spanning the Niagara River. An engineering marvel at the time, it still carries around 15 trains a day today.

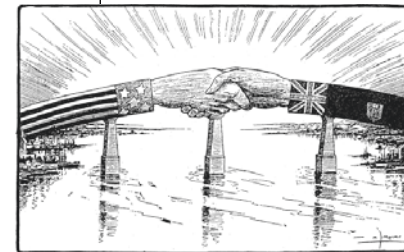


THE NIAGARA MOVEMENT

29 black rights activists (most notably W.E.B. Du Bois) meet at the Erie Beach Hotel to launch the Niagara Movement, which would soon evolve into the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

BRIDGING THE BORDER

The Peace Bridge opens, with royal and political dignitaries among those in attendance to admire the impressive engineering feat.



TRIPLE CROWN

The Fort Erie Race Track hosts its first Prince of Wales Stakes, the second jewel of the Canadian Triple Crown. Don't miss the biggest racing event of the season held in July every year.

YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND IN ME

The first annual Friendship Festival is held at venues in Fort Erie and Buffalo, a joint celebration of Canada Day and U.S. Independence Day. Fantastic fireworks, superb food, crafts vendors and great concerts!



c.1600 | 1764 | c.1784 | 1814 | 1833 | 1866 | 1873 | 1897 | 1905 | 1910 | 1927 | 1948 | 1959 | 1972 | 1987 | 2002

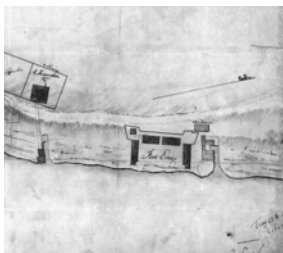
A FORT AT THE MOUTH OF THE NIAGARA RIVER

The British build the first Fort Erie, a wooden fortification to help secure territory ceded by France after the Seven Years' War (French and Indian War).



THE SIEGE

U.S. forces hunker down in Fort Erie, the scene of a month-long siege by the British in one of the bloodiest battles of the War of 1812.



ERIN GO BRAGH

The Fenian war cry, "Ireland until the end." Canadian volunteer militia face 700-800 Irish-American raiders on the ridge north of Ridgeway.



AND THEY'RE OFF!

The first thoroughbred horse race takes place at what soon becomes the Fort Erie Race Track.

FUN, FUN, FUN

The heyday of Erie Beach Park, about a mile west of Old Fort Erie. The park featured a hotel, casino, midway, roller coaster and the world's largest outdoor swimming pool. Thousands of visitors arrived each day by ferry and rail.



MORE FUN, FUN, FUN

Crystal Beach Amusement Park unveils its newest roller coaster, the Comet, which stretched out impressively along the Lake Erie waterfront. For over a century, Crystal Beach delighted visitors and thrill seekers – 20,000 on average per day in the 1940s & 1950s. The Comet is still in operation, having moved to upstate New York after the park closed in 1989.

IN FULL SWING

Cherry Hill Country Clubs hosts the Canadian Open, a down-to-the-wire contest won by American Gay Brewer by a mere single stroke margin.



WHAT A ZOO!

The Tykolis family opens ZOOZ in Stevensville, a full-fledged zoo destination. Known today as Safari Niagara, the facility is home to hundreds of exotic animals from habitats around the world.

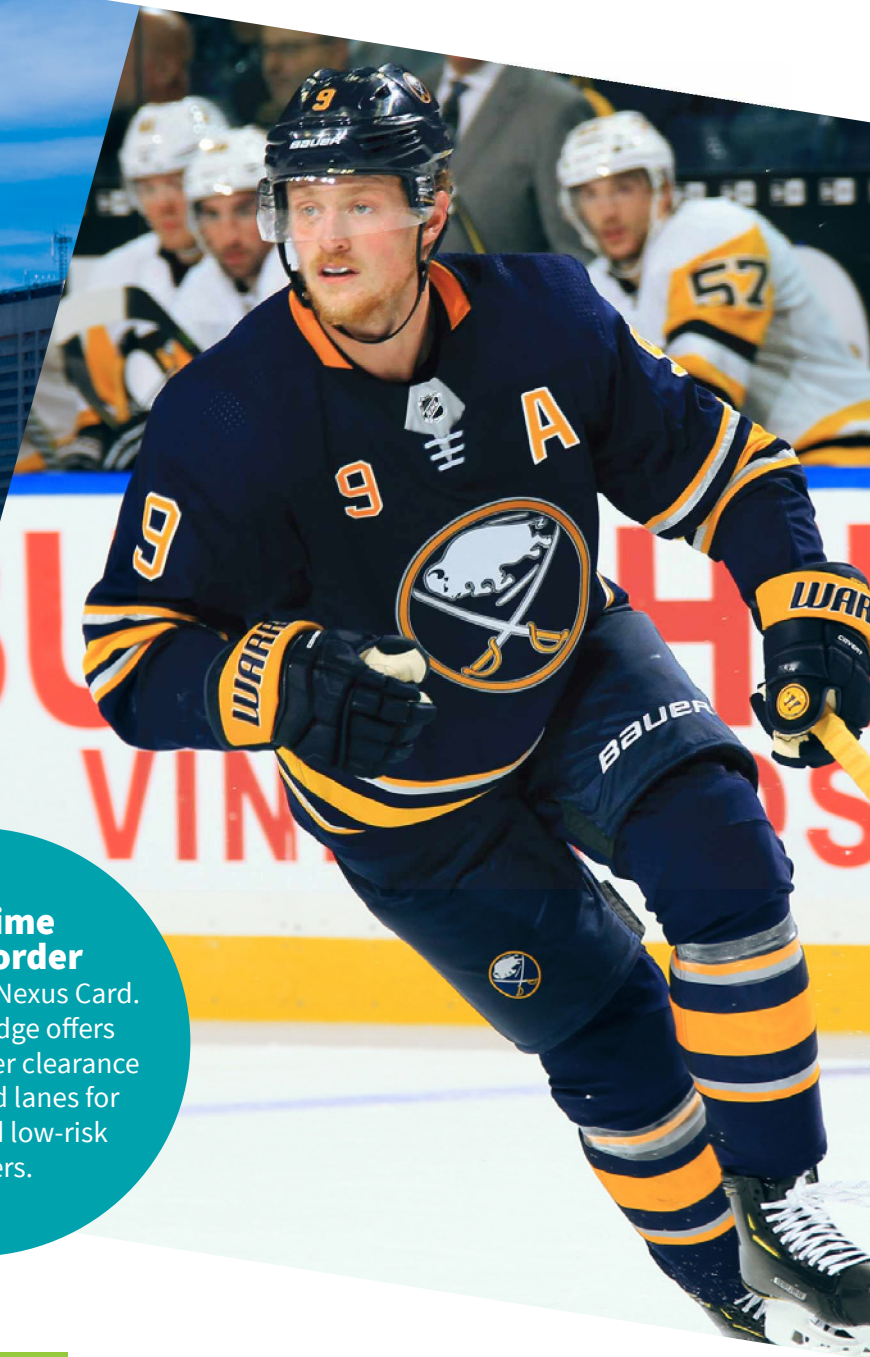
BUFFALO

an All American City

“THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS”

It's a statement which Fort Erie residents would almost universally agree on. There's a lot to be said about living in a smaller town: safe streets, no congestion, a strong sense of community.

Yet in as little as a five minute drive across the Peace Bridge, you're suddenly in Buffalo, one of America's great cities. No other small town in Canada can realize such an opportunity. And Fort Erians know how to make the best of it!



Best kept
SECRETS
the locals know

Save time at the border

by getting your Nexus Card. The Peace Bridge offers expedited border clearance with dedicated lanes for pre-approved low-risk travellers.

BIG LEAGUE sports

Since there are no NFL teams in Canada, many football fans in Southern Ontario consider the Buffalo Bills as their “home” team. In fact, estimates suggest that close to 20% of Bills’ season ticket holders are Canadian.

The NHL’s Buffalo Sabres enjoy a sizeable Canadian fan base too, but regardless of your affiliation, there are few better places to take in a hockey game. Every team visits the Sabres at least once a year, so there’s an opportunity to catch all of the league’s stars. The arena is easy to get to, parking is plentiful and there are many places to enjoy some authentic Buffalo wings before the game. Fans from Fort Erie can actually be home shortly after 10pm, in time to catch the highlight reel on TV!

Playing at the downtown Coca-Cola Field are the Buffalo Bisons, the Triple-A affiliate of the Toronto Blue Jays. It’s a great opportunity to watch upcoming Jays talent while soaking up the atmosphere of a retro-classic ballpark.

ARTS & culture

The Queen City is home to over 20 professional theatre companies, with Shea’s Performing Arts Center as the jewel of Buffalo’s Theatre District. Shea’s features a wide variety of performances in three venues, including its enormously popular Broadway Series. Recent featured musicals include *Hamilton*, *Dear Evan Hansen* and *Phantom of the Opera*.

Kleinhans Music Hall, home to the acclaimed Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and host to world-class performers, welcomes 200,000 music lovers annually.

The Albright-Knox Art Gallery is the sixth oldest public art institution in the U.S., with an extensive collection that includes works by iconic artists such as Monet, Gauguin, van Gogh, Picasso, Pollock, Rothko and Warhol.

SHOPPING & retail

Buffalo is a great destination for shoppers. The Walden Galleria’s 1,600,000 sq.ft. of retail space is equivalent in size to Toronto’s Yorkdale Shopping Centre, and just short of the Eaton Centre. Other shopping venues include the Boulevard Mall, the Fashion Outlet Mall and the funky, eclectic boutiques of Elmwood Village.

Looking for deals? The factory outlets of Niagara Falls, NY, are just on the outskirts of Buffalo. Or head south on the I-90 and there’s more fantastic shopping in Erie and Grove City, PA.



IF NIAGARA'S 40+ GOLF COURSES WASN'T ENOUGH... **59** courses in WESTERN NEW YORK

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

A Q&A WITH FORT ERIE'S TOP HOMEBUILDERS



South Coast Village, Marz Homes

Fort Erie has shared in the residential home sales boom that has characterized the Golden Horseshoe real estate market over the past decade, although with a much more moderate upsurge in prices. Homebuyers coming from out of town enjoy exceptional value compared to options closer to the GTA.

We invited four well-established local homebuilders to discuss the new home market in Fort Erie, and share their thoughts on how customers describe the overall buying experience.

OUR PANEL

**SILVERGATE
HOMES**

SILVERGATE HOMES

Community:
Harbourtown Village

Location:
Old Erie Beach area

**ASHTON
HOMES**

ASHTON HOMES

Community:
Peace Bridge Village

Location:
2 minutes from
Peace Bridge

bh
Blythwood
HOMES
OUR PASSION IS BEAUTIFUL HOMES

BLYTHWOOD HOMES

Community:
The Oaks at Six Mile Creek

Location:
Thunder Bay area,
Ridgeway

**MARZ
HOMES**

MARZ HOMES

Community:
South Coast Village

Location:
5 minute walk to
Crystal Beach Waterfront

“We saw a great opportunity to bring something new to the Fort Erie community.”



The Oaks at Six Mile Creek, Blythwood Homes

Fort Erie ...Because (FEB): You're all accomplished builders with community portfolios across the Niagara Region and beyond. When and why did you begin developing in Fort Erie?

Silvergata Homes (SH): We saw great opportunity to bring something new and fresh to the Fort Erie community. The area has a ton to offer with its access to the waterfront, trails and community activities. We launched Amuse by the Lake near the old Erie Beach in the summer of 2017 and we sold out the community, in just one year.

Ashton Homes (AH): Ashton Homes came here a couple years ago to develop Spears Estates and our owner, Aldo Vercillo, quickly realized that Fort Erie welcomed him with open arms. We sold out in record time. He

spent some time familiarizing himself with the local culture and fell in love with the area and its people.

Blythwood Homes (BH): Our first development was Ridgeway by the Lake and we broke ground in the spring of 2005. We saw the Ridgeway area having similar lifestyle appeal as Niagara-on-the-Lake, and developed the site as a self-contained adult oriented community.

Marz Homes (MH): We started building in Crystal Beach in 2008 and are currently on our third phase of South Coast Village. The land was originally the old parking lot for the Crystal Beach amusement park. Our mission is to build strong communities, so when we were given the opportunity to restore this brownfield property and turn it

into a place that families could call home, we jumped at the chance. Plus, have you seen that beach?!

FEB: Who are your buyers and where are they coming from? Has this changed in recent years?

MH: We attract sun worshippers of all ages. We have a lot of people who have purchased in the community that are relocating from the Greater Golden Horseshoe and West GTA, but there are a few who were born and raised in the area as well. The one thing they have in common is that they all love the coastal feel, and the laid-back lifestyle that comes with living in a community like this.



Peace Bridge Village, Ashton Homes

Peace Bridge Village, Ashton Homes

BH: The majority of our purchasers are affluent adults that originate from the western reaches of the GTA.

SH: Our buyers are a mix of locals and out-of-towners. They have always wanted the opportunity to purchase a new home on the water, and that's what we offered. Since we offer such a unique product type, we have a strong demand for luxury bungalows in unique communities.

AH: We find in recent years that the majority of new home buyers are from out of town. A good percentage are from the Toronto area, but there are some buyers from Canada's west and east coasts, and even some from Europe. We have also built homes in our last subdivision for Canadians who actually work in the U.S.

FEB: What feedback are you hearing from these out-of-town buyers about moving to Fort Erie?

AH: I have been selling real estate in Fort Erie and surrounding areas for 32 years. Buyers are always pleased and genuinely surprised with the community's versatility: Fort Erie's historic value and beauty, the many walking and biking trails, boating, sports, children's sports programs, beaches, entertainment, safe neighborhoods, safe and upstanding schools and its good hearted people.

SH: Absolutely, people are pleasantly surprised! Once they come to our model home they are instantly impressed with the charm of Fort Erie and the lovely surroundings of the waterfront community, nature, activities and wild life. They see the value in investing in property in this community.

MH: There is a lot of excitement about this community, with its real vibrant coastal vibe. Some out-of-town buyers even recall fond memories of coming to Crystal Beach as kids, and of the good times they used to have here. Hopefully we can help them create some new ones and embrace the beach again.

BH: Most believe it's the best thing that's ever happened to them. They are able to sell a very expensive house in the GTA, purchase a higher quality home in Ridgeway and still put some savings away for posterity. It's a close and friendly atmosphere in this community with most residents counting their neighbours among their friends.

FEB: What features of your communities are truly unique to this area, features that buyers might not be able to realize in perhaps larger markets?

BH: Since we cater exclusively to active adults and empty-nesters, we are close to everything that matters to them: steps away from Lake Erie, close to downtown Ridgeway, biking or walking on the Friendship Trail, minutes from the Peace Bridge and the hassle-free Buffalo International Airport.

MH: The sense of community is also something that is truly special here. Homeowners who have already moved in are so friendly and welcoming and have truly made this their home. Even if you aren't from the area, you'll fit right in. Crystal Beach itself is a uniquely walkable, bike-friendly community with a large variety of amenities, most notably its famous beach. And when complete, the development will also offer a clubhouse, pool, tennis courts, and a neighbourhood commercial building all on site.

AH: Fort Erie is unique because of the beauty and activity the river and lake offers. It's a safe community where residents feel they can enjoy modern living day or night. And there's a genuine generosity in the community, where residents feel a true kinship.

SH: The proximity to water is a notable benefit to living in Fort Erie. We really wanted our buyers to enjoy the water views – literally. So we incorporated floor to ceiling windows across the rear of the homes, this way you feel like you are that much closer to the water. We also included 40' decks on the back of the homes to showcase the spectacular views these homes had to offer.

Customers who have already moved in are so friendly and welcoming and have truly made Fort Erie home.”



Harbourtown Village, Silvergate Homes

Harbourtown Village, Silvergate Homes

PHENOMENAL PHENOLICS

BUSINESS
PROFILES



sbhpp.com

A LITTLE KNOWN – BUT WIDELY USED – PLASTIC COMPOUND MADE BY FORT ERIE’S DUREZ

If you drive a Big-3 vehicle, or an ever-growing number of Asian car brands, odds are that there’s a little bit of Fort Erie inside it.

Durez Canada is a highly specialized plastics manufacturer, producing the phenolic resins and compounds that are used to mould a variety of end products.

One of the most common uses for phenolic plastics is in the automotive industry, specifically for brake caliper pistons. Unlike metal pistons, phenolic pistons are light, don’t conduct heat, and aren’t subject to corrosion, a problem which can cause brake pads to stick. One of Durez’s major customers is a Canadian owned auto parts supplier that is responsible for over 70% of all phenolic brake pistons in use around globe.

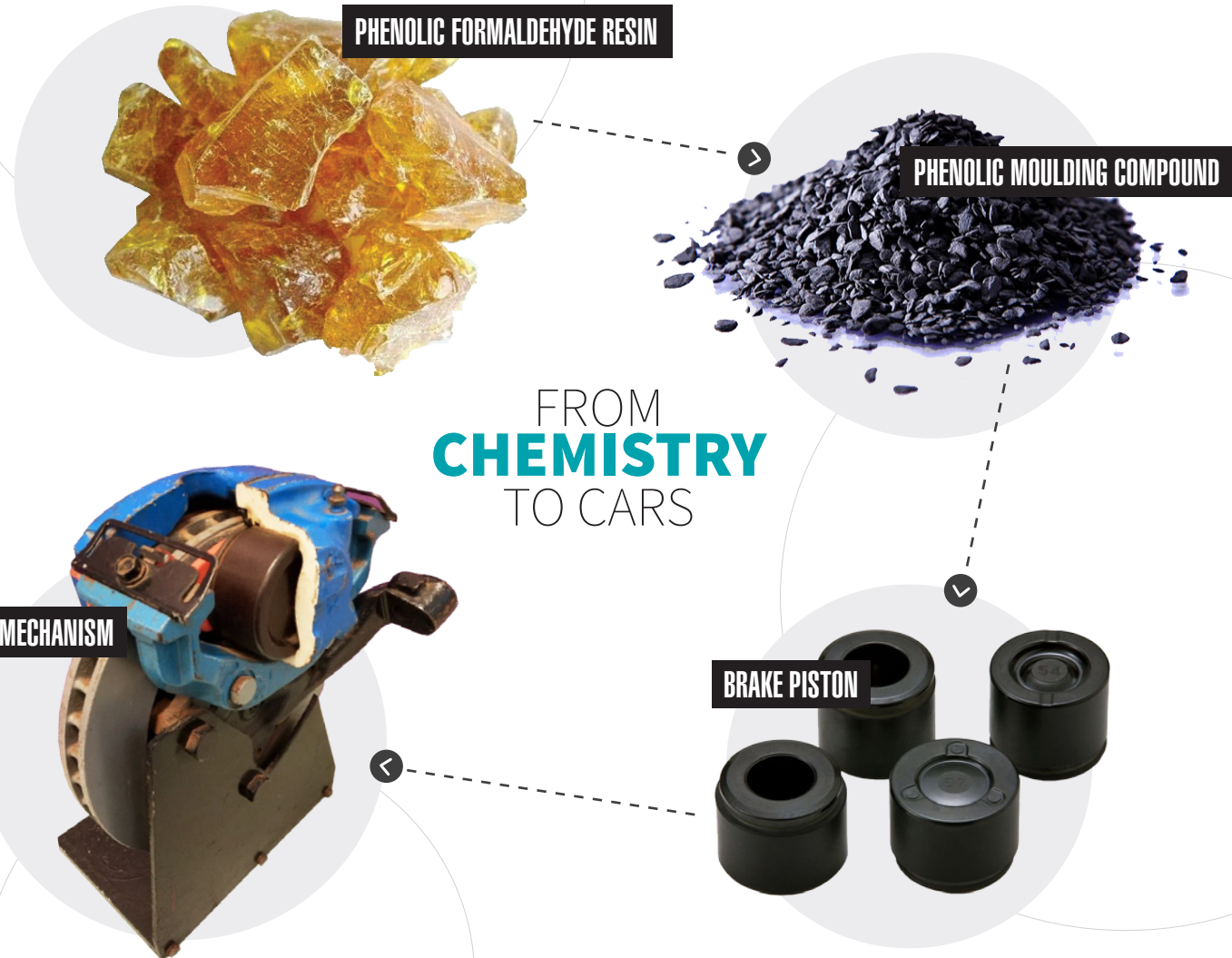
Phenolic plastics have a number of other uses, such as saucepan handles, electrical plugs and switches and electrical iron parts, not to mention a variety of industrial applications – aerospace, transportation, oil and gas, and more.

“Phenolic chemistry has been around for over 100 years, but because it’s a very intensive process, there just aren’t many large producers,” explains plant manager Robert Hunt. The Durez plant first opened in Fort Erie in 1970 and has always specialized in phenolics.

Today it is part of Japan’s Sumitomo Bakelite High Performance Plastics (SBHPP), a world leader in the industry with 20 production sites in 10 countries. The Fort Erie plant is the only one that produces both resins and moulding compounds in the same facility, and it relies on a highly-skilled workforce with strong chemical and engineering expertise. Around 80 people currently work in the plant.

Fort Erie’s proximity to the border – and the American industrial heartland of the Great Lake and Northeast seaboard states – facilitates SBHPP’s supply chain in North America, with sister plants in Niagara Falls (NY), Manchester (CT) and Kenton (OH).

Hunt adds that the Fort Erie location offers tremendous lifestyle benefits too. “There’s no hustle, no bustle, but everything you need is close by,” he says. “There’s a real sense of community here, and it starts at the top with leadership at the Town, who are very accessible and genuinely supportive of business.”



FROM
CHEMISTRY
TO CARS

Durez Canada, a division of Japan’s Sumitomo Bakelite High Performance Plastics (SBHPP)

There’s a real sense of community here, and it starts at the top with leadership at the town.”



BUSINESSES THAT EVOLVE SUCCEED

BUSINESS
PROFILES



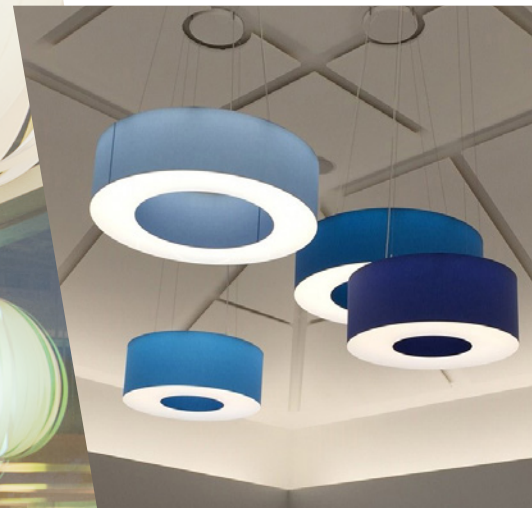
barbican.ca
abatement.com

They are two manufacturers that initially started out making products from a bygone time. One built die cast mailboxes, the other aluminum folding chairs. Today, these same companies are industry leaders in their respective fields, marketing highly innovative product lines that are quite different from their original operations.

And what else do they have in common? A global headquarter in Fort Erie, with ambitious expansion plans, also in Fort Erie. Let's take a closer look at **Barbican** and **Abatement Technologies**.



"Donut" drum lights - Indianapolis school



"Silhouette" pendants - Michigan cafeteria

Barbican truly understands the needs of the interior designer."

- Client testimonial



"Swerve" lighting fixtures - Florida advertising agency

Barbican: The Lighting Edge of Design

Barbican is one of North America's leading manufacturers of energy efficient commercial and industrial lighting solutions. Founded in 1990 in Toronto, Barbican began as a manufacturer/distributor of die cast residential mailboxes.

Eventually mailbox demand diminished, so the related tooling was sold and Barbican entered a new product realm - custom lighting. The company grew into a strong new niche, designing and manufacturing stylish, European-influenced lighting fixtures for the North American market.

With this growth came a new facility in Fort Erie. The location close to the border was key. With 80% of its sales in the U.S., Barbican is able to service its primary market seamlessly.

"When talking to clients on the phone, they often might not know where Fort Erie is," says Steven Geiger, vice president of sales. "I just mention that I can see the Buffalo skyline from my window, and they understand right away how close we are to the States."

From its Fort Erie base, Barbican can pre-clear product and warehouse it in Buffalo, ensuring quick order turnaround for all its American orders.

With 80 independent agents as well as showrooms in Chicago and New York, Barbican's reach is considerable, illuminating offices, banks, hotels, shopping malls, restaurants, schools, community centres and hospitals across North America. Additional showrooms will be opening in Los Angeles

and London, England in the near future.

Barbican's 80 employees, which include many highly-skilled personnel involved in R&D, engineering and product design, work out of a 65,000 sq.ft. facility on Central Avenue and a recently opened second 90,000 sq.ft. facility on Phipps Street.

"We're fully committed to operating in Fort Erie," says Geiger. "Our new plant allows us to expand into new product areas such as ceiling systems that incorporate our patented 3D fiberglass printing technology." This innovative system reinvents how spaces can be illuminated, diffusing LED lighting above the mesh material to create a consistent, shadow-free and glare-free lighting.



Abatement Technologies Fort Erie Headquarters

Did you **KNOW?**

HEPA FILTERS REMOVE 99.99% OF PARTICLES AS SMALL AS **0.3 MICRONS**

THICKNESS OF HUMAN HAIR: **75 MICRONS**

RED BLOOD CELL: **5 MICRONS**

C. DIFFICILE BACTERIA: **3-4 MICRONS**

EBOLA VIRUS: **0.9 MICRONS**

Abatement Technologies: Passionate About Clean Air

Abatement Technologies was founded in 1985 in Fort Erie, as a spinoff of Harber Manufacturing. Harber began operations in 1946 building aluminum furniture, and the company grew significantly over the decades with the popularity of its "HarberCraft" boats sold by several major retailers.

Abatement's own launch took advantage of a boom in asbestos remediation projects in the 1980s, leveraging Harber's expertise in fabricating water-tight boats into designing air-tight systems required to safely contain asbestos dust.

From there, Abatement Technologies developed and mastered technologies for clean air applications of all kinds. In fact, more than 10,000 environmental abatement, purification and construction projects have relied on products developed and built in the company's Fort Erie facility.

Over the past couple decades, evolving demand in the healthcare sector has strengthened Abatement's expertise considerably. Aging hospital infrastructure throughout North America (the average hospital in Canada is around 50 years old) has led to a renovation boom. Because of intensive infection control measures during such renovations, equipment such as air scrubbers, HEPA vacuums, dust barriers and negative air machines is in high demand – and all are readily supplied by Abatement Technologies.

The company's products are also often called into action to deal with major disasters, such as hurricane and floods, where quick response is critical for mitigating potential mold damage.

Abatement Technologies also manufactures mobile patient isolation units, ideal for quick response in epidemic management. Thousands have been deployed over the years, during some of the world's most serious incidents including the 2003 SARS crisis, the 2013-16 Ebola epidemic in West Africa and the recent MERS outbreak in the Middle East.

To meet growing demand, the company recently invested in new state-of-the-art laser cutting equipment and renovated its nearby Lewis Street warehouse to incorporate additional office and manufacturing space. Between the two facilities, Abatement now operates approximately 90,000 sq.ft. of space.

"It was an easy decision to invest further in Fort Erie," says marketing manager Justin Larsen. "The Town and its municipal leaders support the growth of its businesses and the location is ideal for easy access to the U.S. market."

Larsen points to the proximity of the Buffalo International Airport for running an international business. "We have a large warehouse in Atlanta and our reps and executives can easily call on customers

across the U.S., because flying from Buffalo alleviates customs lines at the airport. It's very convenient."

"Not to mention the easy access to major international shipping lanes, with such a large concentration of customs brokerages and logistics expertise all readily available."

The Town and its municipal leaders support the growth of its businesses."



Abatement Technologies' extensive product line: air scrubbers, purifiers, barrier systems, dehumidifiers and more

RICH'S: AUTHENTICITY MEETS INNOVATION

BUSINESS
PROFILES



richscanada.com

THE CHAIRMAN OF FOOD GIANT RICH PRODUCTS HAS ALWAYS HAD A SOFT SPOT FOR FORT ERIE.



Rich's introduced the first commercial line of frozen éclairs in 1954. They are still very popular today!

Listed by Forbes as the 116th largest private company in America, the Buffalo-based Rich Products first expanded internationally in Fort Erie way back in 1963. Bob Rich Jr. originally headed up this new subsidiary, and even today he maintains a summer home in town along the Lake Erie shore. His father founded the company in 1945.

Today, Rich's is a major supplier to the food service, in-store bakery, and retail marketplaces in over 100 countries. The company is the world leader in non-dairy toppings and icings and has a sizeable presence in other product categories such as cakes and desserts, shrimp and seafood, appetizers and snacks, BBQ, meatballs and pasta, and gluten-free and all-natural items.

The Fort Erie facility itself is an integral part of Rich's supply chain for pizza, bakery products, breads and rolls. Rich's is one of the town's largest employers with nearly 300 people, and is a big booster of the community and local charities.

According to plant manager Doug Pratt, the Fort Erie location is a perfect fit with Rich's corporate culture. "After 70 years and two generations of leadership, a family atmosphere is at the core of the business," says Pratt. "The way the company treats associates and customers alike, everything is rooted in good values and nurturing long-term relationships."

Fort Erie's proximity to Rich's world headquarters is a key advantage to sustaining this culture. Canadian customers are regularly welcomed for training and R&D activities at the acclaimed Innovation Center and Atrium, a new 84,000 sq.ft. space with state-of-the-art culinary facilities.

"Many clients will stay in the area while attending Innovation Center sessions," says Pratt. "Often they'll be quite captivated by local heritage and our many amenities, while taking advantage of a great opportunity to explore nearby Niagara Falls on their downtime."

Consistent with its family culture, Rich's takes great interest in the personal and career development of its associates. Instead

of the traditional career ladder, Rich associates often enjoy a "lattice" path: not just moving up, but cross-functionally as well to expose them to greater experiences. A comprehensive mentorship program – which often transcends borders – is another key factor that helps Rich's engage and develop the next generation of leaders.



Rich's authentic bread loaf



From salted caramel to macadamia nut to everyday chocolate chip, Rich's makes premium dough for the cookie monster in everyone

A family atmosphere is at the core of the business."

FORT ERIE + CMI: ROOM TO EXPAND

BUSINESS
PROFILES

CMI Heavy
Industries
Where Industry Finds Reliability....

cmihi.com



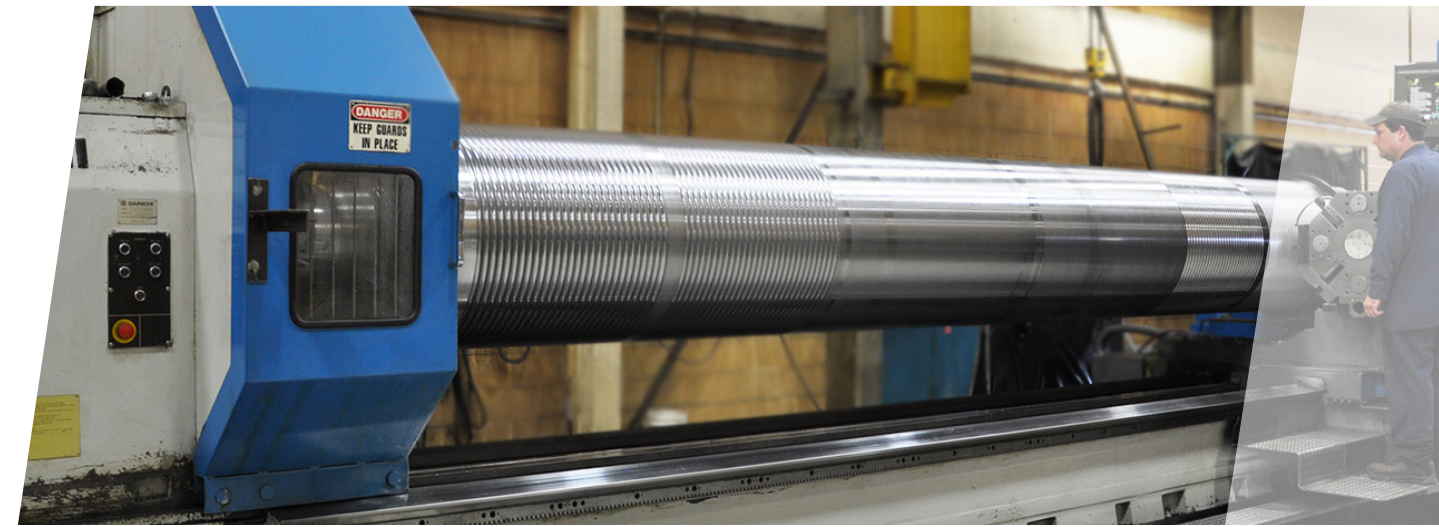
CMI's shop floor

CMI Heavy Industries started out in 1920 manufacturing vices, tools and small machine components. The business grew considerably thanks to its open die forging, metal turning and milling capabilities. Founded as the Clark Machine Company, the company was located in St. Catharines just west of the Welland Canal since 1961.

Over the century that CMI has been in operation, the products that it churned out kept getting bigger and bigger. When it seemed that there simply wasn't enough elbow room to keep growing, the company turned to Fort Erie.



Segment for mandril shaft used in the steel industry



Crane rope drum on CMI's giant lathe

"We were cramped where we were in St. Catharines," says controller Shawn Rapone. "We were landlocked at our location, with no room to expand. The opportunity came up to move into a former wind tower plant in Stevensville, and we jumped on it."

The move, completed in 2017, nearly quadrupled CMI's space, from 30,000 sq.ft. to 118,000 sq.ft. Thanks to the additional space, the company has been able to leverage its expertise into new, larger projects that it didn't have capacity for before.

Its workforce has grown accordingly, from 38 employees up to 64 in less than a year.

None of the projects at CMI are cookie cutter. It combines capabilities in machining, fabricating, assembly, sandblasting and painting to build – or strip and rebuild – parts, equipment and presses for heavy industrial applications in the steel, oil and gas, hydro, nuclear and mining sectors.

CMI's business is split about 50/50 between Canada and the U.S., and the Fort Erie location is convenient for logistics. The border is essentially "seamless" from Rapone's perspective.

A recent project even transcended the Atlantic Ocean. A major gold mining company in the Northwest Territories had commissioned a massive sifting machine from a supplier in Europe. When it became questionable whether the supplier could complete the equipment in time, CMI got involved in the project. The 65,000lb sifter

was shipped overseas from Europe to CMI for the finishing stage, where workers raced against the clock to complete the work before the ice roads to NWT started to melt.

As for the move to Fort Erie, it's been very well received by employees, according to Rapone. Close to three quarters of its machinists and millwrights were already from the southern tier of the Niagara region, which has always had a strong trades-oriented labour force.

CMI works with Niagara College and local high schools to identify and develop machine shop talent. "A skilled machinist can do quite well here and enjoy a great quality of life," says Rapone, noting in particular reasonable housing costs, the absence of traffic and the growing culinary scene, particularly Downtown Ridgeway.

The opportunity came up to move to Stevensville, and we jumped on it."

FLYING HIGH IN FORT ERIE

BUSINESS
PROFILES

AIRBUS



airbushelicopters.ca
fleet.ca

Fort Erie's aerospace cluster is a pride of Niagara's advanced manufacturing sector. Headlined by **Airbus Helicopters** and **Fleet Canada**, the sector supports hundreds of skilled jobs, and is an integral part in the supply chain that keeps many notable aircraft safely in the sky.



Airbus Helicopters' Canadian headquarters on Gilmore Road

Airbus Helicopters Canada

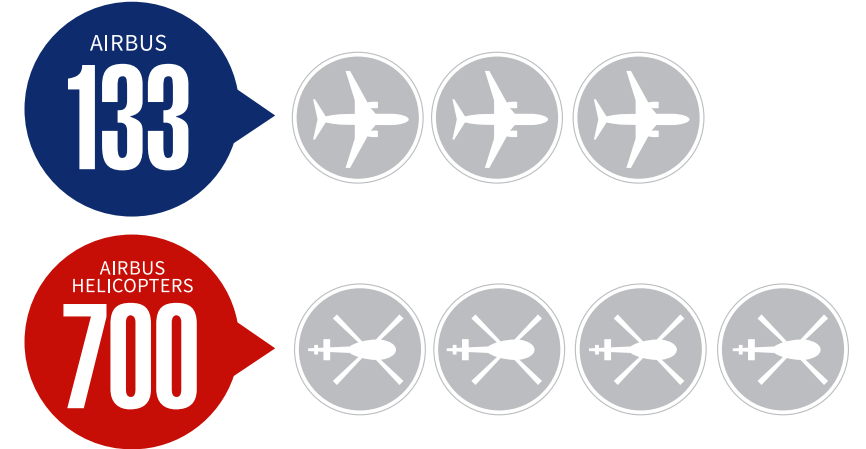
A red-and-white, maple leaf adorned H120 helicopter sits in front of Airbus Helicopters' plant on Gilmore Road. The facility serves as the Canadian headquarters of the world's leading helicopter manufacturer. Employing approximately 23,000 people worldwide, the company's fleet in service includes 12,000 helicopters in approximately 150 countries.

More than 260 people work at the Fort Erie facility, which has several prominent functions in Airbus Helicopter's global supply chain. There's the manufacturing of composite parts – engine cowlings, horizontal stabilizers, running boards and more – for assembly lines in the U.S., Europe and Asia alike. It's high precision work, involving advanced materials expertise, all within a lean manufacturing environment.

The Fort Erie plant also houses capabilities for the "completions" phase of the assembly process. That's where the nearly-complete aircraft is brought to the facility for final installation of equipment and finishes, according to the customized needs of each client. Many of these aircraft options (also known as STCs) are designed by engineers working at the Canadian facility.

As an Airbus Centre of Excellence, an in-house service centre provides comprehensive maintenance, repair and overhaul services for helicopters as far away as Australia and South Africa. The company's specialists repair and refurbish critical parts and assemblies to keep aircraft operating at peak performance.

Aircraft Flying in Canada



Aftermarket support rounds up the key services delivered in the 138,000 sq.ft. facility.

For chief operating officer Dwayne Charette, dedicated and skilled employees are the keys to success, and the company devotes considerable time and resources to support its workforce. "We are constantly investing in our people," he says. "The expertise we require in certain departments isn't always readily available from post-secondary programs, so when we have new hires, we make every effort to expand their skills with proper in-house training."

This approach strengthens Charette's ability to retain staff, as does the considerable

opportunity for advancement within Airbus' global network.

Even with such career mobility options, many senior workers are happy to be well established in Fort Erie. "Fort Erie offers a great quality of life, and there's a strong sense of community here," says Charette. Airbus is a prominent corporate citizen, participating in fundraisers for charities like the Heart and Stroke Foundation and Wellspring Niagara, the region's pre-eminent cancer support organization.

We are constantly investing in our people and make every effort to expand their skills."



Viking Air's Twin Otter Series 400

Fleet Canada

Across the street from Airbus Canada is the town's other major aerospace manufacturer, Fleet Canada. The plant has been a landmark in Fort Erie since 1930, in the early days of aeronautics. The plant had the distinction of having the highest production of any Canadian aircraft manufacturer during World War II, with over 160 aircraft per month.

Today's Fleet is a precision, quality-focused operation that has been in the hands of its employees since 2006, when a group of employees bought the business from the

owners at the time, Magellan Aerospace.

The new company was well positioned for success with a highly experienced core of employees, transitioning into a nimble organization following union decertification. The workforce has since grown significantly to around 165 workers.

Fleet's current operations are related to a number of different aircraft and manufacturers, but two in particular represent the bulk of the business. The company supplies the wingskins, rear

fuselage, tail plane and tail fin for Viking Air's popular Twin Otter Series 400. It also makes the front cockpit nose enclosure, pylons and platforms for the CH-47 Chinook helicopter, Boeing's tandem rotor heavy-lift helicopter.

Having adopted lean manufacturing principles and a modern enterprise resource planning (ERP) system in recent years, Fleet has laid the foundations for increased capacity and new contract opportunities in the future.



CH-47 Chinook helicopter

RETHINKING THE WALL

THERE'S A BETTER WAY TO BUILD, AND TWO FORT ERIE MANUFACTURERS ARE LEADING THE WAY.

BUSINESS PROFILES



greenstonepanels.ca
thermapan.com

Stick framing – that is, building homes with 2x4 or 2x6 wall studs, joists and trusses – is ubiquitous in North America. But as energy efficiency becomes increasingly important in today's society, the traditional way of doing things is not necessarily the best way.

Enter Fort Erie's **Thermapan Structural Insulated Panels** and **Greenstone Structural Solutions**. Both market panel-based building systems that vastly outperform stick framing. The engineering behind the two products is slightly different, but if there's one common thread, it's customer satisfaction. "We'd never build any other way again," is something both regularly hear from their respective customers.

The primary insulative feature in both systems is expanded polystyrene (EPS) foam. Thermapan uses a solid layer of EPS in their SIP panels, while Greenstone expands the EPS, chemically welding it to a steel studded frame using an injection mold press. As a "closed-cell" insulation, EPS offers higher per inch R-value than traditional fiberglass insulation. Moreover, because the insulation is continuous across the full wall surface, both systems avoid "thermal bridging" common in stick framing, whereby studs interrupt the insulation and create an easy conduit for heat loss.

As a result, energy savings of 50% to even 70% are achievable. Both systems also boast improved air tightness, a key measure of home energy efficiency – and an area where stricter standards have been introduced in recent Ontario Building Code updates, as well as by other jurisdictions.

Even structurally, both Thermapan and Greenstone panels are far superior to stick framing, proven in the lab and the field to withstand axial loads three or four times stronger.



A Greenstone panel (right) and a Thermapan panel (left). Similar but with different engineering, both provide superior insulation.



Thermapan

Thermapan's Structural Insulated Panel system consists of a layer of EPS insulation anywhere from 4.5" to 12.25" sandwiched between two sheets of oriented strand board (OSB). For below-grade applications, the OSB is replaced by Permanent Wood Foundation (PWF) sheathing which resists any decay.

Thermapan products have been installed in homes and low-rise commercial buildings for nearly 30 years, in thousands of building projects. Originally designed for exterior wall applications, the company has engineered assemblies for foundation walls, as well as roofs and floors. All are based on the same basic panel, and all are made at Thermapan's plant overlooking the QEW near Gilmore Road.

The company boasts an astounding project portfolio. Thermapan SIPs have been used

in the North Pole, in a base lodge for the Otto Sverdrup Centennial Expedition, whose team faced wind chills that would hit -60°C. Panels have also faced other weather extremes, such as at the Jacques Cousteau Diving Village in Guadeloupe, which has withstood three of the strongest hurricanes on record: Andrew, Hugo and Mitch.

"One of the great things about our system is just how flexible they are to build with," says Jeff Taraba, Thermapan's vice president.

Crew installs Thermapan Roof SIPs at the renovated Table Rock facility beside Niagara Falls. The company's panels can be configured for walls, roofs, floors and foundations.



"Panels are standardized and very easy to work with, mostly using standard carpentry tools. Crews can install large wall sections in a matter of hours, generating time and labour savings for builders."

"With so many advantages over stick framing, sky's the limit as far as market potential," says Taraba. "It's just a matter of changing the way architects and builders are used to thinking. Because the end-user benefits of our system are staggering."

With so many advantages over stick framing, sky's the limit as far as market potential."

Greenstone

Whereas traditional SIPs sheath the insulation with wood products, Greenstone's approach is to embed parallel steel frames on each side of the panel. The galvanized steel gives the panel superb load bearing properties, and makes it surprisingly light as well, an important benefit for installers.

Greenstone's in-house team of CAD experts imports customers' architectural plans and digitally models each and every panel required for the build, including customized panels for framing around windows, doors and other elements. Panel specifications are then sent to the manufacturing floor, where the steel channels are roll formed and inserted into moulds for pressing with the EPS insulation.

It's a highly efficient, quality-focused process. A single shift with just one press can pump out all the panels needed for a basic 1,700 sq.ft. house.

Greenstone began its operations in Fort Erie in September 2017 having relocated from Geraldton, Ontario. "It's been a very successful first year here in Stevensville, says Scott Marsh, one of Greenstone's principals.

"Our U.S.-bound shipments used to be a 14-hour trip to the New York State border, now they are only 8 minutes away. We've improved our access to markets in the U.S., notably in the southern states. We currently have projects being built in North and South Carolina."



Installation is easy with Greenstone walls. Panels are surprisingly light, yet they are considerably stronger than traditional framing techniques.

Custom homes represent a large part of Greenstone's business, but there is growing demand in the commercial and institutional side as well. Thanks to the system's strength, they can be used in buildings up to six storeys high.

Although the name "Greenstone" actually originates from the amalgamated municipality that now encompasses Geraldton, it's quite apt because of the

company's green credentials. "A traditional bungalow uses lumber from approximately 100 trees. Our panels use the steel from two recycled cars," Marsh points out.

TRUCK FIRMS DRIVE INNOVATION

BUSINESS PROFILES

TRUK-KING
LOGISTICS INC.



truk-king.com
zavcor.com

Fort Erie boasts a strong logistics sector, no surprise considering that the Peace Bridge is Canada's third busiest commercial border crossing. Nearly 1.2 million trucks crossed in 2017, representing 1 in every 10 trucks involved in the massive international trade between Canada and the U.S.

Supporting this trade is a large cluster of local customs brokerages, warehouses,

maintenance facilities and other logistics services. A number of major transport companies also call Fort Erie home, and from this base, they are able to succeed – and innovate.

Zavcor Trucking Ltd. and Truk-King Logistics Inc. are two such trucking firms that have gone through considerable efforts to re-invent what might otherwise be considered a traditional industry.

The best dreams happen on the road.”



Zavcor Training Academy director Sarah Dekker talks to local high school students about careers in the trucking industry.

Truk-King Logistics

For most of its nearly 25 year history, Truk-King has been headquartered in Fort Erie, first in Stevensville, and since 2013 at its facility on Pettit Road, just off the QEW. With a fleet of 32 trucks, the carrier focuses on dry freight transportation with a strong focus on transborder business between Canada and the U.S.

The challenges facing today's trucking industry are well documented in the news: primarily fuel costs and driver shortages. Truk-King president Richard Bacon tackled both head-on.

In January 2018, Truk-King became the first carrier in Ontario to run Class 8 heavy tractors that run on compressed natural gas (CNG) rather than diesel. These units are full-fledged highway trucks that can travel about 1,700 km (1,050 miles) using side or rear mounted CNG tanks.

“Natural gas generally runs 60% cheaper than diesel, and it is much less prone to price fluctuations at the pump,” says Bacon. “We’re already seeing a rapidly growing network of CNG facilities in the southern U.S., and it’s just a matter of time before it gains a major foothold in Canada.”

In addition to investing in 11 CNG-fueled Freightliner Cascadia tractors, Truk-King installed its own retail CNG fuelling station on its premises.

The CNG fleet also realizes significant environmental benefits, thanks to the lower carbon content compared to diesel. The near-zero emissions engines are among the cleanest trucks on the road, and also run 10 dB quieter.

As for the industry's other main challenge of recruiting drivers, Truk-King also thinks outside the box. While most freight companies compete for drivers by trying to offer higher rates per mile, Truk-King relies on a non-traditional hourly wage compensation structure to attract and retain drivers. “Many of our drivers have been with us for a long-time, as they’ve been able to enjoy a good living in Fort Erie without sacrificing quality time at home,” says Bacon.

Zavcor Trucking

Zavcor Trucking Limited also enjoys remarkably high driver retention thanks to generous compensation systems and the lifestyle benefits of a Fort Erie location. Tackling recruitment challenges head-on, the company recently adopted a very unique approach: train drivers, starting at the very first mile.

Most new AZ drivers in Ontario receive their training from one of about 110 private career colleges throughout the province. Very few offer the hands-on experience

of being affiliated with an actual trucking company. But that's precisely the idea behind Zavcor Training Academy.

With 200 hours of classroom and practical training over the course of six weeks, the Academy covers all the material required by the province's new rigorous Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT) rules, and then some. It also provides an opportunity to learn about the shop and border procedures. The partnership with Zavcor Trucking gives Academy students a leg up in starting their careers after graduation. “About 60% of our graduates end up driving for Zavcor,” says Academy director Sarah Dekker. “They enjoy the interaction with our veteran drivers, dispatch and office personnel, and learn that they can enjoy a rewarding career here.”

For newly licenced commercial vehicle drivers, the saying on the classroom whiteboard says it all: “The best dreams happen on the road.”

Zavcor Trucking was founded by Kirk Zavitz in 1990 in Wainfleet, Ontario. Specializing in transborder produce freight between Ontario and ports along the Northeast U.S., the company moved its operations to Fort Erie in 2007 to take advantage of closer proximity to the border. The firm operates 60 late model highway tractors, along with a full complement of refrigerated trailers and containers.



Note the absence of the traditional diesel fuel tanks below the cab. The compressed natural gas tank behind the cab power Truk-King's fleet of 11 CNG Freightliner Cascadia trucks.



Truk-King's on-site CNG fuelling station.

FTZ MADE EASY

NIAGARA BUSINESSES CAN ACHIEVE A COMPETITIVE EDGE



Niagara Foreign Trade Zone Headquarters

In 2016, the federal government designated the Niagara Region as a Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) Point. At the time it was the first such zone established in Ontario. Today, it is one of nine areas across Canada with official FTZ designation.

Fort Erie has been designated the storefront location for the Niagara FTZ. The Niagara

FTZ serves to promote Niagara as a hub for international trade, help businesses integrate into foreign markets and global value chains, support business expansion into new markets and provide streamlined information on the Government of Canada's tax and tariff export-related programs.

The Niagara FTZ is a single point of access to the following FTZ programs

Duties Relief Program

For businesses who import goods in Canada that are either stored, processed or used to create other goods before re-exporting them. *This program can save customs duties on those goods.*

Drawback Program

For businesses who import goods that are later re-exported or if businesses use them in the manufacture of other goods that are exported. *This program allows businesses to apply for a refund of customs duties on exported goods.*

Custom Bonded Warehouse Program

For businesses who store imported or domestic goods destined for export in a private or public customs bonded warehouse for up to 4 years. *This program can save customs and other import duties and taxes, including GST.*

Export Distribution Centre Program

For businesses who store or process imported goods and add limited value to them prior to re-export. *This program could save the GST/HST on imported goods and some domestic goods.*

Exporters of Processing Services Program

For non-resident businesses that import goods for processing, distribution or storage that are subsequently exported. *This program could save the GST/HST on those goods.*

FTZ BENEFITS *for* BUSINESS



NO HEAVY PAPER BURDEN



NO GEOGRAPHIC RESTRICTION
— ACCESSIBLE REGARDLESS OF LOCATION



IMPROVED CASH FLOW



REDUCED OPERATING EXPENSES



INCREASED INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS



About 1,600 trucks a day are processed by the Canada Border Service Agency at the Peace Bridge



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