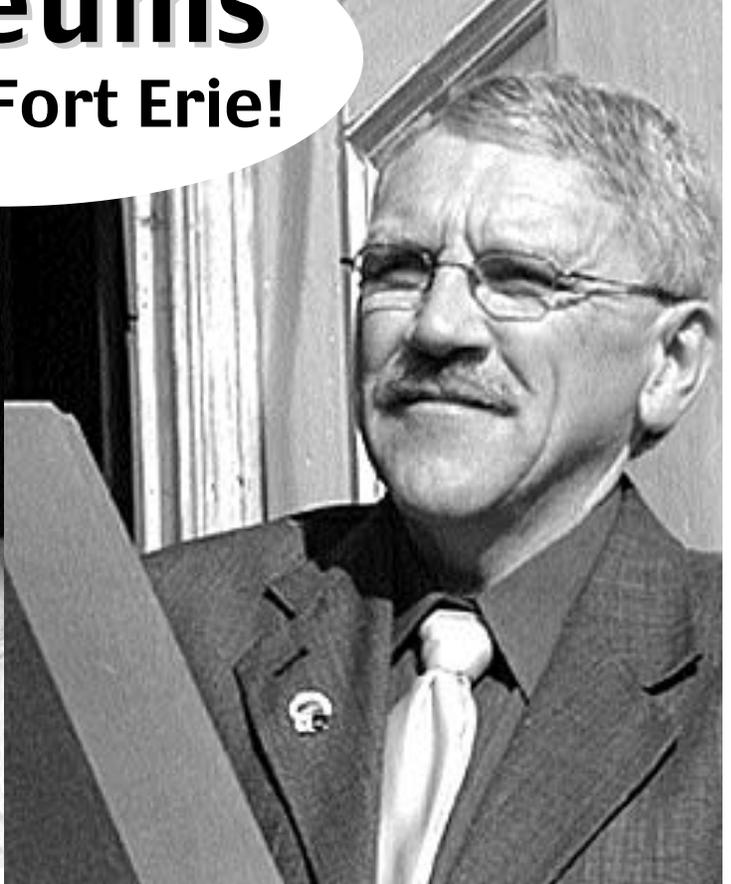




**Museums**  
**Explore Fort Erie!**





## New Exhibit

This summer we will be hosting a travelling exhibit entitled "Passages to Freedom: Secrets from the Underground Railroad." This display has toured Canada and features slave narratives, a life-sized slave cabin, and models of plantation and safe houses. The exhibit is divided into three parts: Slavery, Escape & Freedom. It can be seen from June 14 to Sept. 24 at the Railroad Museum.

We will be offering Underground Railroad school tours during the last 2 weeks in June and the first 3 weeks in Sept. Call 894-5322 for details.

## Memorial Fund

Recent donations have been made in memory of Allen Tripp, Madeline Faiazza and Vera Bateman.



To make a donation to the Memorial Fund, in celebration of the life of someone special, contact the Museum at 894-5322. That person's name will be recorded in a journal located in the Historical Museum's archives.

We will send an acknowledgement card to the family and your donation will be placed, in perpetuity, into this fund. Interest from this fund will go towards supporting Museum programming.

## Outreach at F.E.S.S.

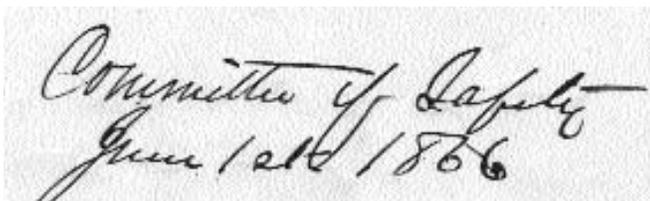
Look for the Museum's booth at the F.E.S.S. 75th Reunion. On Friday May 9th hundreds of F.E.S.S. alumni will visit the Tait St. school to reminisce over old times.

The Museum will share in those memories with a photo display of old school pictures. Most of these pictures are from the Times Review Collection, and most are unidentified. We are hoping that the alumni will help with this identification project.

The Museum will also have a computer and printer on hand, if anyone wishes to purchase copies of these old photographs. See you there!



## Many Voice II Defending the Border



Committee of Safety  
June 1st 1866

1866

Just prior to the Fenian invasion local citizens, hearing of massive troop build-up in Buffalo N.Y., formed a Committee of Safety, and assigned patrol duties in the villages and at the border.

Minutes from this meeting were recently donated by Lorine Schulze. Thanks to Ron and Barb Chapman, Carol House, and Helen Sherk for facilitating the return of these documents to Canada from Pennsylvania, and for transcribing them!

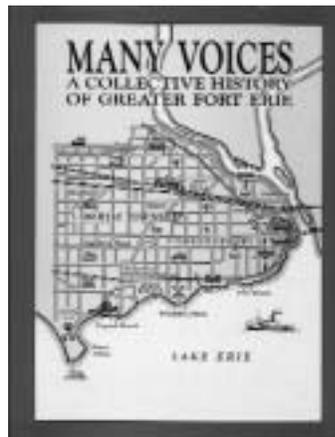
In the next printing of the best-seller *Many Voices - A History of Greater Fort Erie*, the text will be updated and 1/2 of the photographs changed. Research on the war chapter uncovered new information and pictures, as shown above.



1917

The International Bridge B-1 Station is shown here guarded by the 44th Regiment WCFF. From Feb. 1915 through May 1917 armed militia was stationed here, with barracks and a camp cook. They also guarded the Lake Erie shore from Point Abino to Crystal Beach.

Prior to the arrival of the militia, the bridge was guarded by Grand Trunk Railway detectives.

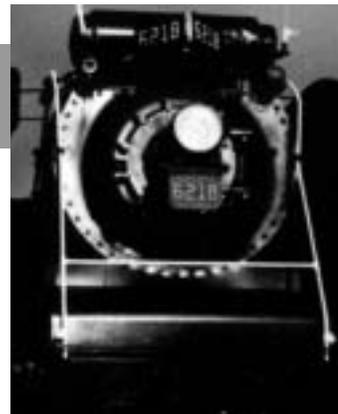


The next edition will be available by October 2003 at the Museum, Town Hall, Library and local bookstores. A perfect gift!



## Railroad Museum Opening Soon

Preparations are now underway at the Railroad Museum for the summer season. From May 12 until Sept. 7 this site will be open seven days a week, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



The Historical Museum is open year round, Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Beginning on June 7th until Sept. 7th this site will also be open seven day a week.

## From the Archives

Museum volunteer, Sharon Dell, works every Wednesday filing and retrieving information from the Museum's archives. She answers information requests and in her spare time is compiling a data-base of businesses from a century of local newspapers.



The archives so often uncover how our ancestors dealt with circumstances similar to those we face today. In 1919 the Smallpox virus was spreading quickly throughout Ontario and to control outbreaks, the border with Buffalo was closed.

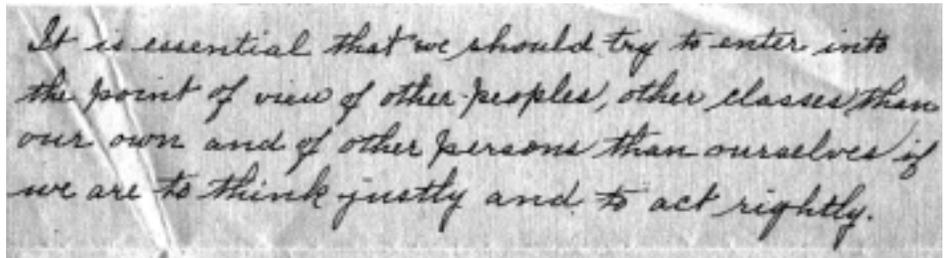
The following front-page story appeared in the Fort Erie Times, March 19, 1920:

### "Smallpox quarantine on American border is lifted

The smallpox quarantine against the province of Ontario, which has been in force on the U.S. border since Nov. 12, 1919, will be lifted at midnight tonight...The lifting of the quarantine will increase, undoubtedly, the travel from Buffalo to Fort Erie."



Another timely document is from the Margaret Disher papers. She was hired in 1891 as a teacher at S.S.#11 (Ridgeway Public) School, at a salary of \$350 per year. We don't know if Margaret composed this passage herself, or copied it from another source, but obviously she was concerned with compassion, empathy and bridging cultures.



It is essential that we should try to enter into the point of view of other peoples, other classes than our own and of other persons than ourselves if we are to think justly and to act rightly.

Miss Margaret Disher, c.1911

## Lawn Sale

Gardening items, chairs, kitchen items, lighting, knickknacks, etc.  
**Plus, fill a bag for \$1!**

**Sat. May 3**  
8 a.m.  
**283 Ridge Rd**

If you'd like to donate any "treasures" to our sale, we'll pick them up!  
Call us at 894-5322.



## School Programs

Our special curriculum-based school programs are running at the Historical Museum until June 25th. Cal Bursey, shown here as "Pioneer Cal", is a big hit with the younger grades as they enjoy looking at artifacts, playing with pioneer toys and trying handmade soap.

The middle grades have been learning about archaeology with hands-on artifact identification games and slide shows.

The older grades experience the Fenian Raids

through role-playing, stories and problem solving activities.

Due to funding limitations, these programs most likely won't be available this fall...so if you're interested, call and book your class a space, 894-5322. There is also a travelling version of these programs, if you would like Cal to visit your classroom.

### Many visitors and volunteers have been asking Museum staff "What's happening with..."

#### Adventures in Archaeology

Council has supported the project in principle and have asked the Native Community to discuss possible funding alternatives.

#### Museum Cafe @ 283 Ridge Road

We are currently using this site for much needed storage and fundraising rental income. Future plans will be announced this winter.

## Volunteer Profile

The Artifacts Committee has been faithfully meeting every Wednesday morning since 1987.

They don't usually wear hats...this shot was taken at their annual "semi-formal" birthday party! Pictured in the front row from left to right are: Jerry Fretz, Jeanette Beroud, Jean Tripp, Joan McNeil, and Josephine Davies; in the back row are Sharon Dell, Dorothy Dorge, Pat Mitchell, and Chairman Bev Jewson (missing from the photo is Norma Benner.)



This group catalogues all the incoming artifact donations, cleans or repairs the artifacts, and keeps track of the storage areas. They also assist with fundraising, special events and act as a focus group for new Museum ideas. Their input and assistance is invaluable — not to mention that they make Wednesday morning work a lot of fun!

In 2002 these ladies clocked in 900 hours of volunteer time. New members are always welcome.

**Open now Mon.- Fri. 9-5 • Open every day in June, July & Aug.**

## Farewell Joan

Assistant Curator, Joan Lyons-Felstead retired from the Museum in December 2002. Prior to Joan's 12 years with the Museum, she was a volunteer at the Railroad site. Her legacy to local history is the best-seller *Many Voices*, of which she was co-editor. Joan left her mark on many areas of the Museum including the oral history projects, community and visitor studies, genealogy research, development of filing systems, and student training manuals. Her attention to detail, superb writing skills, and concern for local history, will be sadly missed. We all wish Joan well in her future endeavours.



## Bob Chambers Photography

National photographer Bob Chambers surprised the Museum recently with his generous donation of photographs. His extensive collection documents the changing faces of the Point Abino Lighthouse, the Ridgeway Station, and the 6218 steam engine. Bob has worked across Canada as a photo-journalist. He was born in Sherkston and remembers taking pictures of the 6218 with his "first good camera". Bob keeps returning to Fort Erie to capture what he feels are "the best examples of an historic lighthouse and station in Canada." Look for Bob's work in the Museum's archives and also for sale in the gift shop as postcards, notecards and posters.



## ce!ebrate MUSEUMS

☞ May is Museums Month, a province-wide celebration of heritage, coinciding with International Museum Day May 18th. For details about museum activities throughout the province visit [www.museumsonario.com](http://www.museumsonario.com) or call 1-800-ONTARIO.

☞ The Royal Ontario Museum has an interactive archaeology game on their web-site. Suitable for tweens, teens and adults, you can access this site at [www.rom.on.ca](http://www.rom.on.ca) Click on Interactivities and then Archaeological Analysis: Pieces of the Past. Have fun!

☞ Coming Soon...Fort Erie Museums will be introducing our own website. Pages for the site that are currently under development include:

- Hours/Directions
- 2003 Projects
- Museum History
- School Programs
- Policies
- Publications
- Newsletters
- Exhibits
- Stewardship
- Partnerships
- Memorial Fund
- Archives
- Historic Building Inventory
- Community Memories
- Gift Shop
- Photo of the Week
- Volunteer Opportunities

What would you like to see us put on our website???

## Genealogy

Assessment Records now on computer database!

In response to suggestions from genealogists using these records, the Museum has entered them into a searchable computer format and printed out legible copies for general browsing. These records are lists who was living where, ages, and occupations of the residents of Bertie Township and Fort Erie between 1857 and 1885. These records were compiled for taxation purposes.

A sampling of the 1857 records are as follows:

Gorham, Charles	Concession 2 Lake Erie	Lot 25	Councilman
Hughs, John	Concession 5 Niagara River	Lot 3	Cooper
Learn, Peter	Concession 15 Niagara River	Lot 4	Farmer
Malieu, George	Wind Mill Point		Customs Inspector
Mathews, Jeddiah	Ridgeway	Lot 2	Inn Keeper
Sherk, Jonas	Concession 2 Lake Erie	Lot 34	Minister
Teal, Zachariah	Ridge St.	Lot 6,7	Gunsmith



Test your genealogy skills... Can you match the following old professions to their modern names?

- |               |                        |
|---------------|------------------------|
| 1. Amanuensis | A. Farm Labourer       |
| 2. Boniface   | B. Pig-keeper          |
| 3. Drummer    | C. Secretary           |
| 4. Hind       | D. Innkeeper           |
| 5. Porcher    | E. Travelling Salesman |

Answers: 1=C, 2=D, 3=E, 4=A, 5=B



## Point Abino Lighthouse

The Museum extends sincere congratulations to those involved in the Town's recent purchase of the historically significant Point Abino Lighthouse. The Museum is also honoured to have a seat on the Town's Point Abino Lighthouse Committee. We look forward to working on documenting and restoring this important heritage asset.



Open every day from May 12 - Sept. 7 • 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

