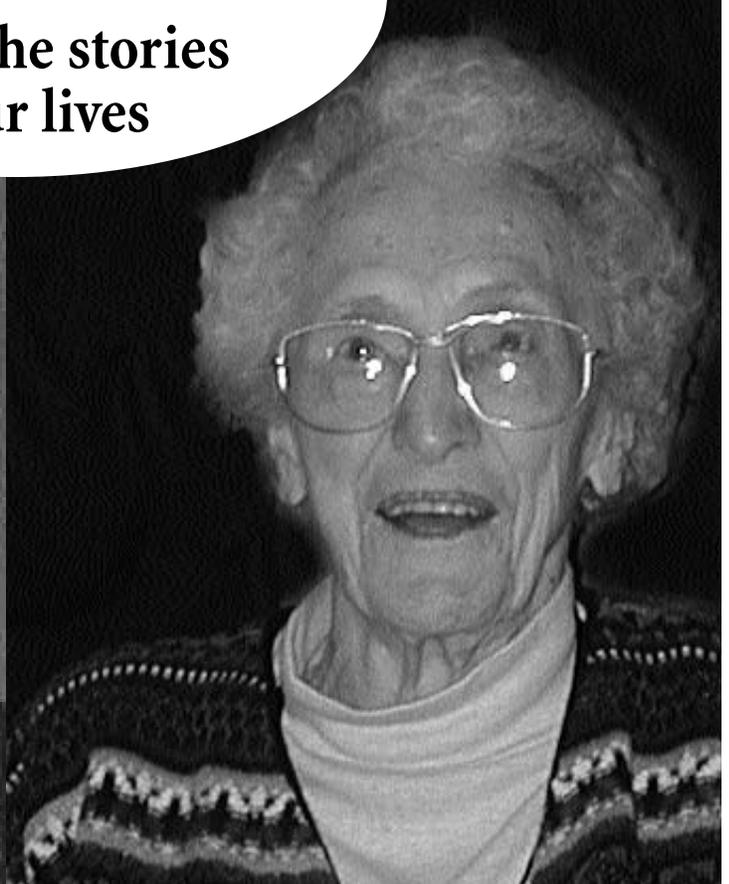




Museums

Telling the stories
of our lives



Newsletter • Spring 2004



Many Voices

Fort Erie's history book

About us

Services

School Programs

Memorial Fund

Historic Buildings

Archives

Stewardship

Partnerships

Newsletters

Publications

Gift Shop

Volunteer Opportunities

Staff

Fort Erie's museums now have world-wide exposure!

Designed by Mike Cloutier of Crystal Ridge Communications, our new web site offers access to exhibits, photos, directions, articles and archival material 24 hours-a-day, 365 days a year. Our web address is www.museum.forterie.ca or you can access us through the Town of Fort Erie's web page at www.forterie.on.ca

Check us out and send us an e-mail with your comments and suggestions. Our e-mail address is museum@forterie.on.ca

Front cover...clockwise from top left

Possibly Milton Beeshy...what do you think?

Matthew Jewson at plowing match

Ruth Ellsworth, museum volunteer

Diane Montreuil, exhibit designer

The Museum has many unidentified photographs. Stop by to look these over — you may find a relative or two!



A fabulous 100!

Members of the Museum's Artifacts Committee gathered to celebrate Ruth Ellsworth's 100th birthday.

Ruth was the first volunteer to catalogue the Historical Museum's collection. She worked tirelessly for nearly 30 years recording and caring for thousands of artifacts. She is also remembered by many as the Grade 2 teacher at Ridgeway Public School. Her grace and fabulous memory give all of us something to aspire to. Standing behind Ruth, from left are Sharon Dell, Dorothy Dorge, Pat Mitchell, Josephine Davies, Bev Jewson and Joan McNeil.

The Fort Erie Museums Newsletter is published three times a year. Your friends can receive copies of this newsletter by calling us at 894-5322 with their name and address. Written and designed by Jane Davies, Museum Curator.

May is
Museums Month
in Ontario...
celebrate your heritage!

An Imaginary Tea

You may think it rather funny
To be asked to give us money
For a couple of cups of tea
You've never had.

But the tea and sugar ration
Gives us cause for no elation,
And the shipping loss at sea
Is pretty bad.

Still, the money that you send us
Helps the boys who help defend us,
And the fact that we are free
Should make us glad.

Keep your chin up, you're not quitting:
Keep right on and do your knitting:
Make each sock a sock for Hitler —
Get fighting mad.

Do your work — no time for basking:
Just some silver's all we're asking
For a couple of cups of tea
You've never had.

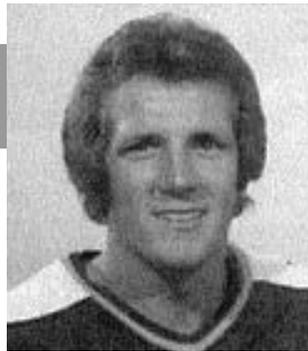
S.H.R.

I.O.D.E. donation

A Fort Erie chapter of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire was formed in 1914. Their mandate was to organize the community to help the war effort.

The group disbanded in 1989. Ruth Ellsworth, the last recording secretary, donated their minute books to the Historical Museum. A century ago, this service club recorded their minutes on the backs of calendar pages in order to save paper and did so with elegant penmanship. Two timeless lessons about pride in your work and thriftiness.

During WWII, fundraising was made especially challenging with imposed food rations. The chapter sent out these patriotic invitations to an "Imaginary Tea" that would take place at their salvage shop on Jarvis St., Nov. 1943.



Hockey

The Historical Museum provided posters for the tables at the Greater Fort Erie Minor Hockey Association Banquet. The over 900 attendees were reminded of past Fort Erie residents who have gone on to play in the N.H.L., like Tom Reid (above), Mike Lalor, Pierre Pilot, Randy Burrige and Stan Drulia. Give us a call if you have pictures of these men playing hockey in Fort Erie!

Some interesting web sites...

Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites
www.cyndislist.ca

National Archives of Canada
www.archives.ca

Canada Genealogical Web Project
www.rootsweb.com/canwgw

Lorne Kendrick donation

Lorne Kendrick, a telegraph operator in the Ridgeway Station and later Clerk of Bertie Township donated his collection of railroad artifacts, photographs, records and models he designed and made of the stations in greater Fort Erie. Shown here is the Stevensville station model and a photograph of Earl Guy who delivered parcels from the station in Ridgeway.





On the move

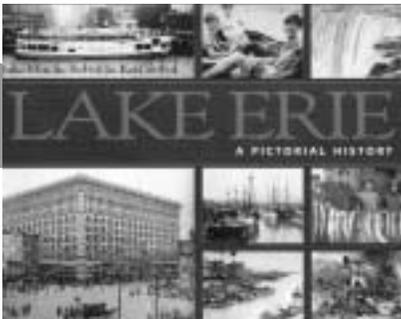
The Historical Museum has moved back to 402 Ridge Road, (above). This



past winter, the museum's offices, archives, and gift shop were located at 283 Ridge Road (right).

This was in response to sporadic but reoccurring benzene fumes in the building at 402 Ridge. The source of the benzene is being investigated by the Public Works Department.

As a solution, the Museum Board installed a BTEX monitor at 402 Ridge. Performing like a smoke detector, this machine will sound an alarm when benzene is detected. It operates 24-hours a day in order to ensure a safe environment for staff and visitors.



New in the Gift Shop

Two exciting new books are available in the gift shop. *Lake Erie A Pictorial History*, written by Julie and Ken

Sobol details the happenings around the shores of Lake Erie. *Waverly Beach Chronicles* is a collection of memories and pictures celebrating 100 years of life at the beach. Editor Debby Cohen (far right) and Kathie Goldman worked for several years collecting these stories, beginning with the minutes of the first summer resident's meeting, July 24, 1900.



THE RIDGEWAY HERALD

RIDGEWAY, ONTARIO, FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 1911

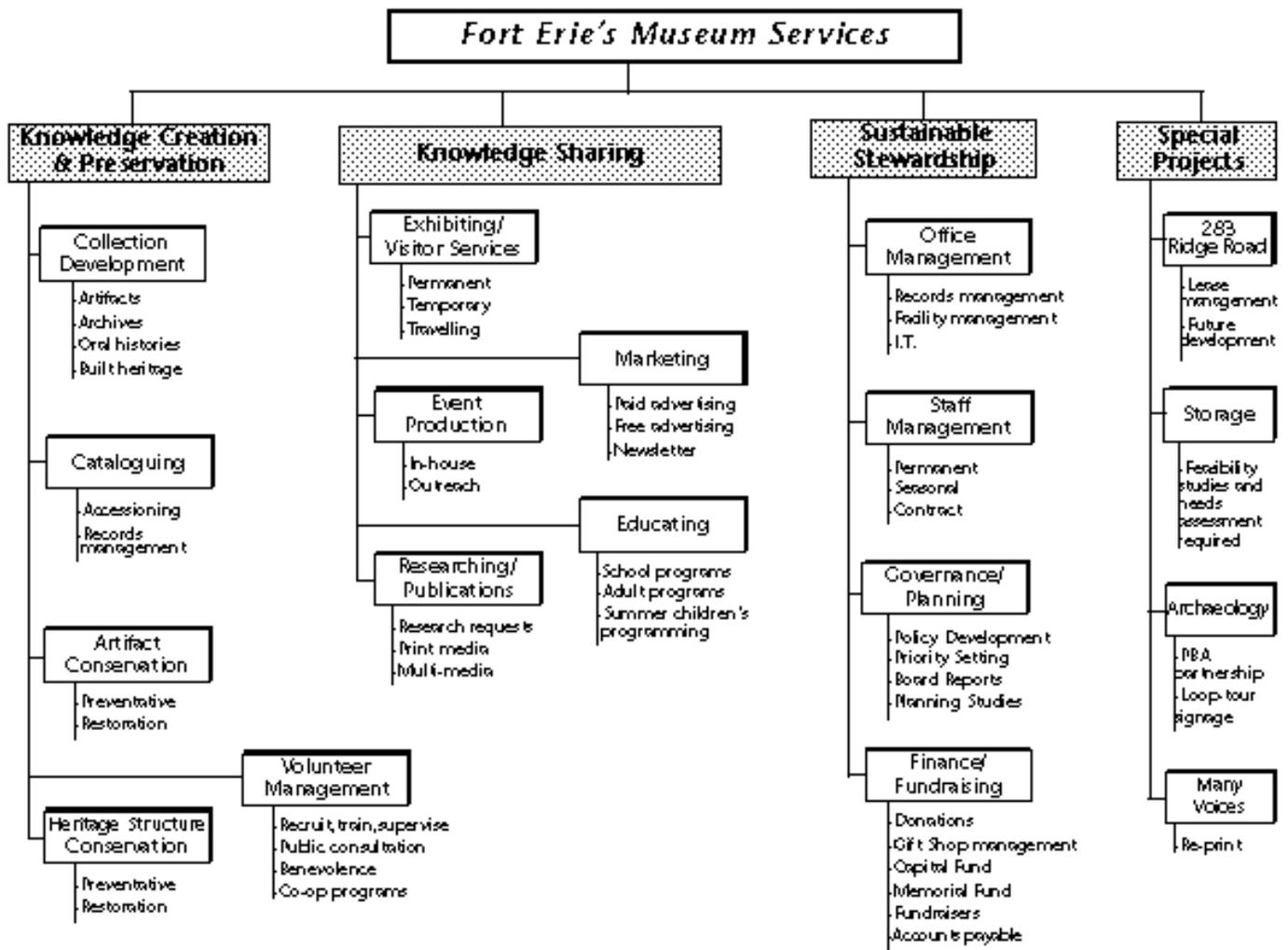
From the archives

For one dollar a year, citizens could subscribe to the Ridgeway Herald and be kept up to date with the latest comings and goings. Local hotels would submit their guest registers for publication and everyone would then know who was in town.

On Aug. 18, 1911 the following guests stayed at the Bon-Air Hotel: Carl Halgard of Flint Mich.; Mrs. A. Chaurin of Youngstown, Ohio; and Mrs. Jas. Cilbert, Miss Viola Cilbert and R. Kennedy of Toronto. The proprietor of the Hotel Detroit, Mr. Ross, purchased a steam yacht, the "Katonka" for the purpose of his guests.

Historical • 9-5 weekdays year-round • Daily June-Sept.

Museum's Business Plan



The Town of Fort Erie has adopted a business plan for the delivery of museum services. The plan includes what services will be delivered (see chart above) and at what level. The complete business plan can be viewed on-line at forterie.on.ca and click on performance measures; or stop by the Historical Museum at 283 Ridge Road.

Remember when?

As gas prices continue to climb, remember when it was cheaper to fill up in Canada than in the U.S.? In the mid 1970s gas stations in Fort Erie had continuous line-ups of vehicles from Buffalo, so much so, that many created designated lines for their Canadian customers.





Don Woods

Don served on the Museum Board for 9 years and was a member of the Friends of the Railroad Museum for over 20 years. Don generously used his woodworking skills to restore many artifacts.



Gerry Fretz

A 10-year member of the Artifacts Committee and author of a chapter in Many Voices, Jerry used her artistic and teaching skills for cataloguing, decorating and fundraising projects at the Museum.

In Memorium



Lorne Kendrick

Lorne was instrumental in negotiating the donation of steam engine 6218 to Fort Erie. Lorne was the telegraph operator at the Ridgeway Station and the Clerk for Bertie Township.

Memorial Fund donations were gratefully received for these volunteers. Donations were also received in memory of BHS members Lois Elliot and Ray Sider.

Have you been following the Museum's monthly articles in the Fort Erie Times? They appear on the fourth Saturday of each month. Past articles can be found in the archives at the Historical Museum and include the following:

- The Aqua Queen of Lake Erie
- Shackles from the Underground Railroad
- Point Abino Lighthouse Men Hockey Team
 - The Daredevil at Irvin
- The 1866 Citizens Committee for Safety
 - Century-old Council Duties



History lost

Last fall vandals set fire to a Museum off-site storage building and 18 artifacts were lost. In response, Council funded a temporary storage facility at the Gibson Centre. This 5,000² building will keep the artifacts safe from fire, water damage and theft. They will still deteriorate due to temperature and humidity fluctuations, hence the solution is only temporary.



2004-2006 Museum Board

Council appointed the following citizens to serve on the Museum Board for the next three years. They meet once a month to oversee the operations at the Town's three museum sites. Their primary focus is policy development, long range planning and financial management. Back row l-r - Dennis Weadon, Bill Kieffer, Councillor Paul Fell, Tim Haggerty. Front row l-r - Tom Haines, Gary Haines. Absent were Laura and Axel Fair-Schulz.

Look what we found written on the cover of Jackson Brewster's Latin textbook, dated Sept. 1, 1921. Students at Ridgeway High must have been taught this cheer the first day of school!

Strawberry shortcake
 Huckleberry pie
 V-I-C-T-O-R-Y
 Baby in a high chair
 Who put him there
 Ma, Pa, sis boom bah
 Ridgeway, Ridgeway
 Rah, Rah, Rah!

Welcome Aboard Jude!

The position of Assistant Curator, vacant for 14 months, has been filled. Jude Scott, who worked for the Ontario Museum Association and then started her own museum consulting business, began working here in May. She will be responsible for school and volunteer programs and special events. Stop by to meet the newest member of the team!



Museum 2004 Budget

Council approved a change in the way Museum Services are funded with the passing of their 2004 budget. Over the next three years the Town will be moving towards funding the Museum's staff and utilities. This will create a stable funding base similar to that already in place for Library Services. Voting in favour of creating this stable funding base and reducing the Museum's reliance on bingo funding were Mayor Redekop, Councillor Fell, Councillor Gorham and Councillor Schular.

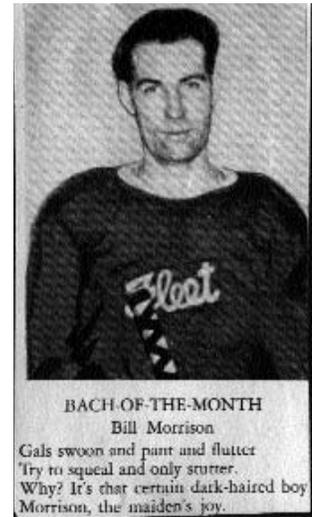
Museum Cafe on the Trail • Fundraising Continues...



Kinart Donation

Betty Kinnart's photo albums and scrapbooks were recently donated to the Historical Museum.

They contain candid shots of growing up in Fort Erie (like this 1934 Douglas School class picture) and many articles clipped from the Fleet newsletter (like this "Bachelor" notice). The poem reads: Gals swoon and pant and flutter. Try to squeal and only stutter. Why? It's that certain dark-haired Morrison, the maiden's joy.



This photo is from the Historical Museum's slide collection. It shows Ross and Cliff Spear c. 1919 in front of J. Weis and Son. This business was located on the west side of Stevensville Road, north of Main St. in Stevensville.

