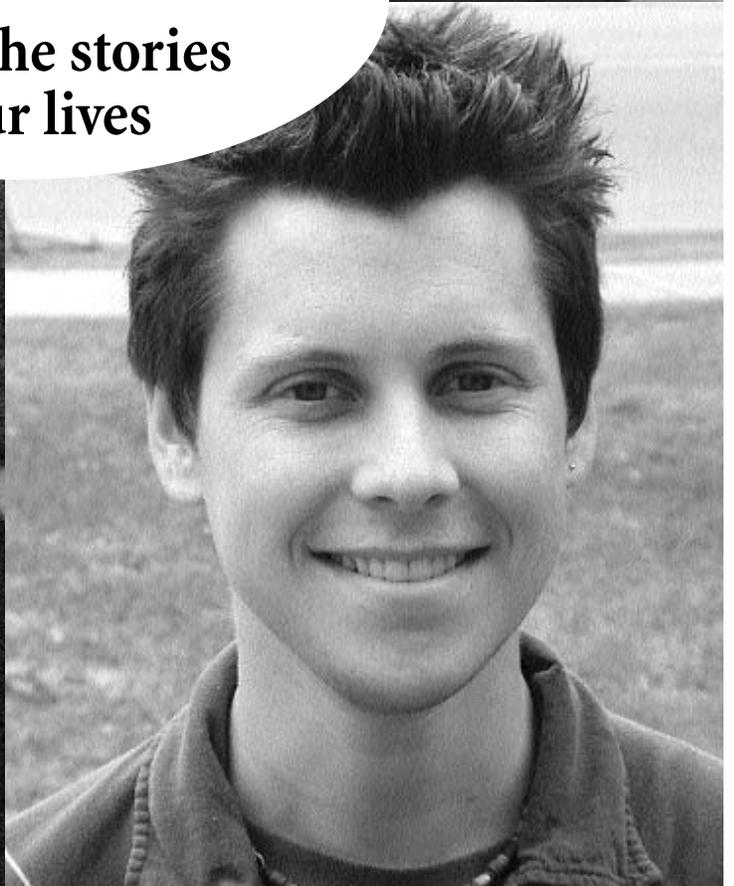


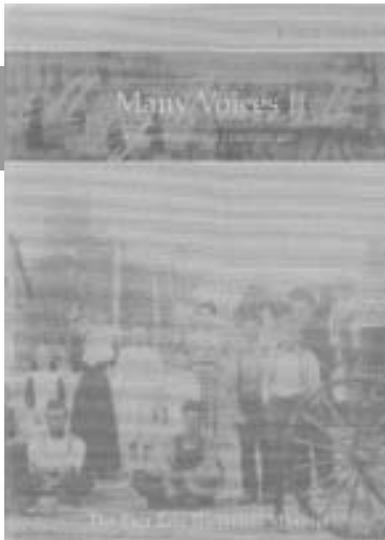


Museums

Telling the stories
of our lives



Newsletter • Summer 2005



It's Done!

The much-anticipated next edition of the Canadian bestseller Many Voices, was released in Dec. 2004. Many Voices II, contains updates of the stories from the first edition and over 300 new photographs — bringing the total number of pictures to about 600. The book also includes two new chapters (Crystal

Beach Park and Policing) and many new sidebars.

The new cover shows a group of residents gathered at a crossroad - symbolic of anywhere in Fort Erie. Citizens young and old, at crossroads, hamlets, and villages, made Fort Erie what it is today, and continue to shape its future.

The book has been sent worldwide as gifts for birthdays and anniversaries and continues to receive rave reviews. It is also used by businesses for presentations to clients and colleagues. The book sells for \$34.95 and is available at the Fort Erie Historical and Railroad Museums and the Town Hall. Discounts are available for bulk purchases. Contact the Museum at 894-5322.



With thanks!

Members of the Waverly Beach Community Group presented the Museum with a \$650 donation in support of the

Museum's work in recognizing the historical importance of waterfront communities. Their donation will go towards an outreach exhibit about these communities which is currently in the planning stages. They also published a history book entitled "Waverly Beach Chronicles" which is available at the Museum. In photo, from left to right are, Kathie Goldman, Debby Cohen, Pat Schnirel and Bob Schnirel.

Newsletter

The Fort Erie Museums Newsletter is distributed once a year to every household and twice a year to those on our mailing list. To add your name to the list call 894-5322.

Written and designed by Jane Davies, Curator.

Cover Photos

Clockwise from top left: Councillor Paul Fell; child visitor; student Andrew Sinclair; and Paul Hawkins with his mother.

Contact Us

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e• museum@forterie.on.ca
w• museum.forterie.ca

Visit Us

Historical: 402 Ridge Rd.
Open daily 9-5 until Sept. 1
Open Sun.-Fri. 9-5 for the balance of the year
Railroad - Central Ave. at Gilmore Road
Open daily 9-5 until Sept. 1

Mission Statement

- Fort Erie's Museums care for a base of knowledge that belongs to the future.
- Fort Erie's Museums help create a strong and proud community by celebrating our shared heritage.
- Fort Erie's Museums help satisfy the intellectual needs of the community.



FREE Sunday's at the Museum

Visit the Historical Museum for FREE any Sunday afternoon! Assistant Curator Jude Scott (centre) has been helping visitors with genealogy research and, in the fall, with advice on artifact conservation. Seated are Rob Duffy (left) and Andrew Sinclair who are doing data entry to assist with Jude's genealogy project. Standing is Reid Canavan, the Town's IT technician who

provides us with technical assistance. See you on Sunday!

MEWINZHA

A gallery featuring Native history and the 10,000 year-old archaeology collection will open in 2006 in the Public Bridge Authority building at the Peace Bridge. It has been named "Mewinzha - A Journey Back in Time." Mewinzha is an Anishinawbek name meaning "A long time ago."

Fleet and the President

The final donation of artifacts from Fleet Industries are being processed and over 1,500 items have been catalogued so far by Museum volunteers. Shown here is a photo of the founder of Fleet Industries, Reuben Fleet (right) with President Woodrow Wilson at the inauguration of U.S. Air Mail Service in 1918.



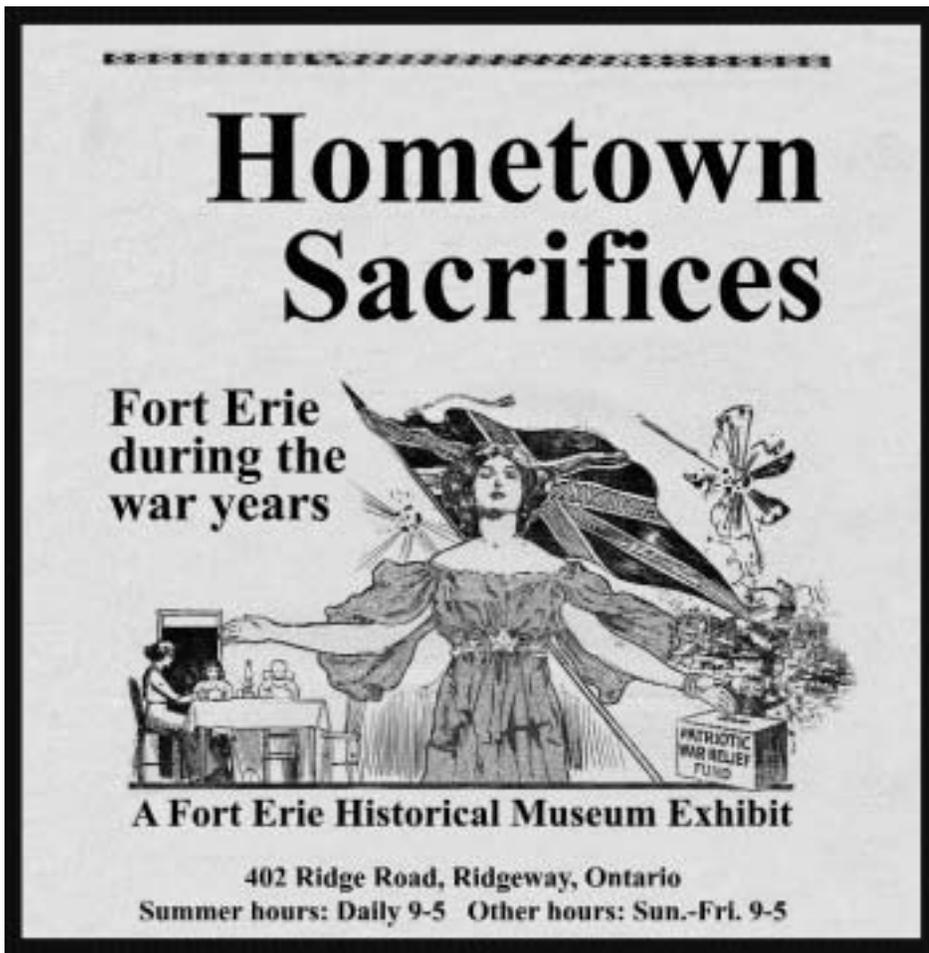
100 years of dedication

Three Museum volunteers were recognized for their loyalty and long service. Pat Mitchell (left) has been volunteering at the Museum for the past 30 years, Bev Jewson (centre) and Jean Tripp (right) for the past 35.

They have been faithfully working each week on cataloguing, conservation, research and in the early years, on displays, school programs,

hiring students, and advertising. Bev and Jean were on the committee who started the Historical Museum in 1970, and they haven't wavered in their commitment to preserving the town's history and of making everyone aware of how proud we should be of Fort Erie. THANK YOU!!!

New Exhibition



In honour of the Year of the Veteran, the Fort Erie Historical Museum has unveiled a new exhibit "Hometown Sacrifices, Fort Erie during the war years."

During the 20th century, wars fought abroad affected the lives of everyone 'back home'.

Citizens of all ages participated in the war by collecting money to finance it; by rationing and collecting supplies; or by working in war related industries. This exhibit pays tribute to the sacrifices made on the homefront, as well as those made on the front lines.

Visitors have been e-mailing the museum about this new exhibit... "We were VERY impressed!"

Jean and Chip

"There's a lot of respect shown here."

Anonymous

"The war exhibit is very impressive."

Norman

"You've fit a lot in a small room and still managed to leave space...room for contemplation. We all owe a great thanks to our parent's generation."

Diane



Charles Coulthurst

Research

Background research for this exhibit included compiling a list of men and women who left Fort Erie to serve in a war. To date over 1,000 names appear in the gallery. If you notice a name missing, please let us know. Further information and photographs about these service men and women continue to pour

in and will become part of the Museum's archives, and will be included in future educational programs and publications.



Did you know?

Did you know that on panel 29E - Line 9 of the Vietnam Memorial Wall is the name of a Fort Erie resident? Ridgeway's Patrick (Hicks) Dearborn began his tour of duty in Vietnam on May 30, 1965 and was killed in action on Nov. 2, 1966.

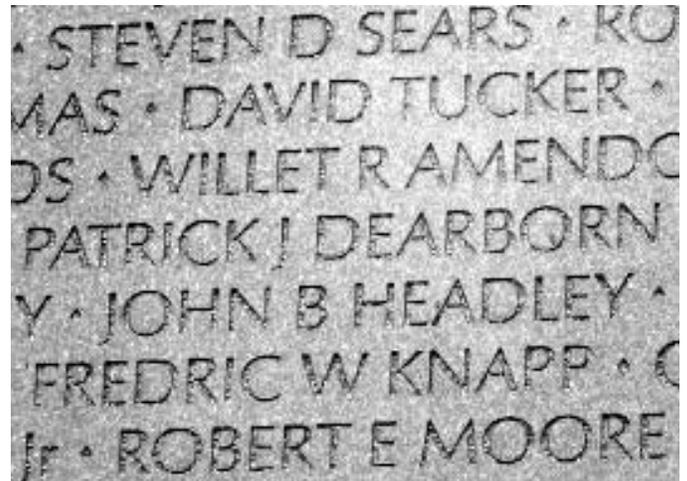
Patrick, the son of an American parent, was one of several Fort Erie residents who served in this war. At a time when many U.S. citizens were travelling west across the Peace Bridge to find asylum in Canada, Patrick travelled east and enlisted.

Lance Corporal Dearborn was one of 25 Marines guarding Dineen Hill, or Hill 25, when it was attacked at 2:00 a.m. by approximately

100 North Vietnamese. At daybreak his body was found near a foxhole. He was 18 years old. Fellow Marines remember Patrick as having a "good sense of humour, who always made everyone around him feel good." He was nicknamed "Canuck" since he sometimes used a stick and pretended to play goalie while playing catcher during baseball games.



Dineen Hill



Rationing

Throughout the ages the distribution of food between the well-off and the starving has shown mankind at its best and at its worst. During WWII food consumption was restricted at home so that it could be sent to the hungry in Britain and to the troops. Countries under siege such as Holland, where foreign aid was not allowed in, were not so lucky. Many Dutch, Russians and other peoples died of starvation. The Canadian government created the rationing program in order to relieve hunger in those with the greatest need.

Compare this to today where hunger is debated at a G-8 Summit and rock concerts held to bring this need to the world's attention.

YOUR KITCHEN

Is a Battle Station Too

FIGHT WASTE

1. Plan your shopping.
2. Plan your time.
3. Plan your menus.
4. Use all leftovers.
5. Learn the food rules.
6. Cook to retain all food values.
7. Have your family clean their plates.



Remember When?

What Fort Erie beach is this sand dragon quietly sleeping on?

Why Crystal Beach, of course. In the 1980's many events were held at Crystal Beach Park in an attempt to boost attendance; including sand sculpting, swimsuit and body building competitions, and band concerts. If you have pictures of Crystal Beach Park in the later years (i.e. 1960s

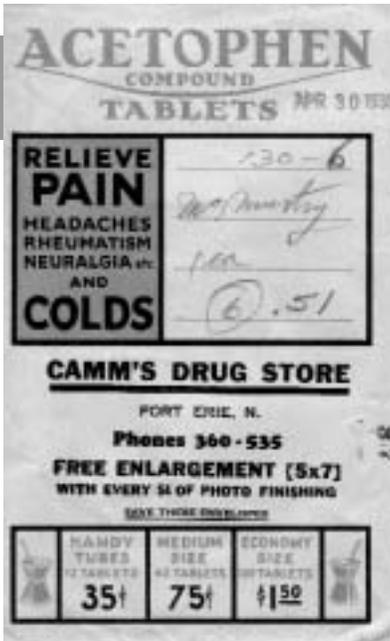
to 80s) contact the Museum. We will scan your pictures for our archives and return the originals to you. Thanks to Helen Bolton for her picture collection, including the one seen above.

Editorial

We thought you'd like to read a copy of the following editorial, printed in the Atlantic Journal:

"The world is too big for us, too much is going on, too many crimes, too much violence and excitement. Try as you will, you get behind in the race in spite of yourself. It's a constant strain to keep pace...and still, you lose ground. Science empties its discoveries on you so fast that you stagger beneath them in hopeless bewilderment. The political world is news seen rapidly, you're out of breath trying to keep pace with who's in and who's out. Everything is high pressure. Human nature can't endure much more."

Atlantic Journal
June 16, 1883



Artifact Corner

Artifacts are catalogued to record the history behind items, so that their stories are not lost. This bag from Camm's Drug Store shows that in 1935 it was located in Fort Erie N., and sold tubes of 12 Acetophen tablets for 35¢, developed film, and had two phone lines - 360 & 535. Since the bag was from McMurtry's cottage in Bay Beach, this family likely shopped at Camm's Derby Rd. location.

CAO VISIT
The Town's new CAO, Harry Schlange visited the Museum in July to meet the staff and volunteers and become familiar with the historical resources under the Town's care. Mr. Schlange commended the Museum on their book Many Voices, which he has been reading for background on Fort Erie. Welcome Mr. Schlange!



Thanks to the Lawson Brothers

When Laurie and Gordon Lawson (left) heard about our war exhibit, they offered to go to Washington D.C. to make a rubbing from the Vietnam Memorial Wall of Patrick Dearborne's name. Their mother Eila Lawson taught home-ec at Ridgeway High, and is now 93 years old and living with Gordon in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

IN MEMORIAM



Former Museum Chair
Bill Kieffer
passed away June 19, 2005.
Bill's generous and kind spirit
is missed by us all.

CONGRATULATIONS



Museum Administrator
Jane Davies and
Bruce Cummings
were married on
June 25, 2005.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

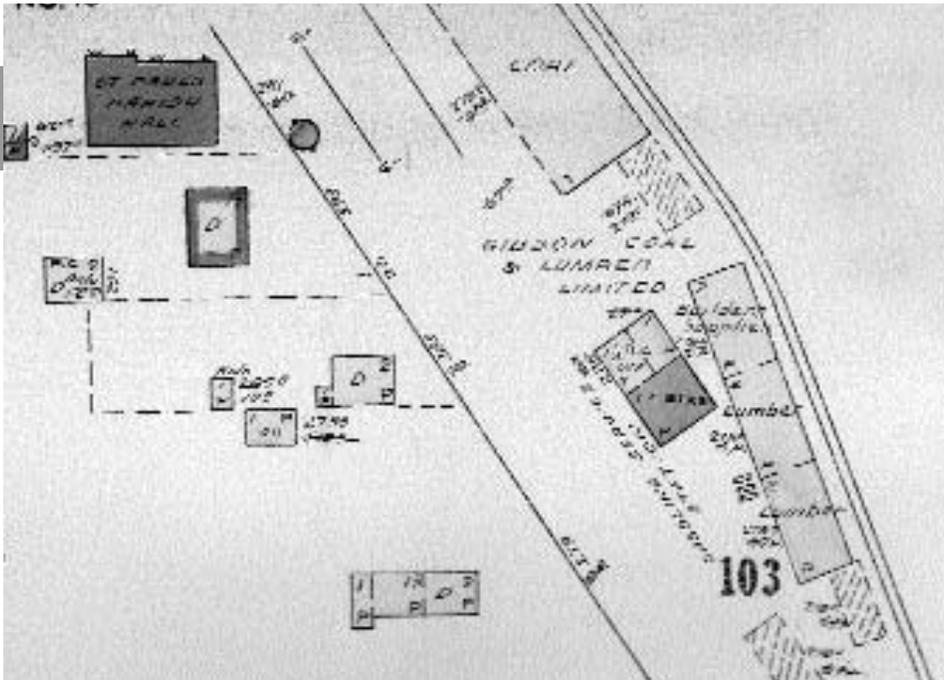


The Museum's 1st
Volunteer Curator,
Ruth Ellsworth
celebrated 101 years
Jan. 27, 2005.

Philately

The "Friends of Philately" (stamp collectors) newsletter is published in Halifax. Their June issue is "dedicated to the staff of the Fort Erie Museum Board and their excellent publication Many Voices." Bridgeburg postmarks are also discussed in this edition. To subscribe contact David Cooper, 28 Karen Cres., Porters Lake, NS, B3E 1K3. Born in Bridgeburg, David helps the Museum with various research projects.

Fire Insurance Maps



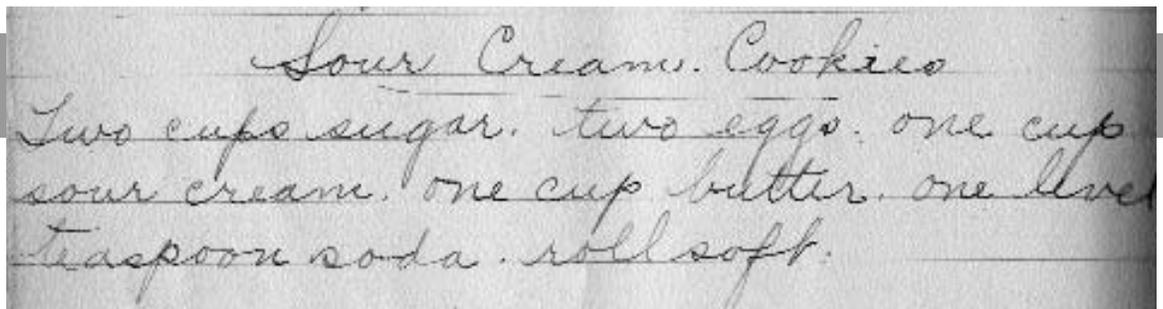
The Museum recently acquired a set of Fire Insurance Maps for Fort Erie. This set was made in 1951 and updated in 1961. These colour-coded maps show the location, dimension, composition and in some instances ownership of every structure in Fort Erie.

These maps were produced by the Underwriters' Survey Bureau and used by

Insurance Companies to process claims. For instance if a fire destroyed your home, an adjuster would not need to spend time investigating the claim...the map would show that you owned a 2 storey, 800 sq.ft. frame building with an attached garage; and since they would have past maps, they could also determine when it was built.

These maps provide valuable information about businesses and land use patterns. The above section shows the industrial nature of Niagara Boulevard in 1961. The New York Central Railway ran along the Niagara River, and located across from St. Paul's Parish Hall (now Redstack's Retirement Home) was Gibson Coal and Lumber Ltd. It included a 1 storey frame building with a metal roof for coal; a 2 storey frame building with a shingle roof for builders supplies and lumber; a 1 storey cement block building with a shingle roof for a gasoline service station; and a 1 1/2 storey frame office building. The areas with dotted lines represent lumber piles.

Recipes



There is nothing quite like food to evoke memories of

special people and times. Warm gingerbread might remind you of Sunday dinners at your Grandma's house; and the turkey stuffing recipe that has been passed down through generations will be the one used by your children...or it just wouldn't be Christmas dinner.

The recipe above is from the Museum's archives. It has not been tested, so bake at your own risk! To make your recipe books more meaningful for your grandchildren, make notes in them of your favourites, the "flops", and for what occasions you liked to make them. Your cookbooks will become mini-diaries and something for your children to treasure.

Student Profile



The Museums are fortunate to have on staff this summer, four talented, enthusiastic and hard-working students who are responsible for maintenance, research, data entry and visitor services.

Clockwise from top left are:

Alex MacDonald - taking co-op Biochemistry at Brock; with plans to become a Genetic Engineer, specializing in curing Down's Syndrome.

Amanda Longfellow - taking Education Studies at Brock, with plans to teach primary school.

Andrew Sinclair - taking History at Brock, with plans to pursue a PhD. in German history - "Bismarkian Diplomacy" and then teach in Europe.

Lindsey Williams - taking Communications and English at McMaster, with plans to pursue a career in media.



Recent Donations

Artifacts, photographs and documents about the history of Fort Erie continue to be donated to the Museum from members of the community. Recent donations include Rebekah Lodge minute books and memorabilia; Crystal Beach Park ticket boxes; Fenian Raid musket; 1920 Ridgeway High School athletic ribbons; People's United Church of Crystal Beach 1940 constitution; and photographs of Bridgeburg High class of 1926-27 and the arrival of the Prince of Wales at the Peace Bridge in 1927.



March to Ridgeway

On June 5th, members of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry arrived in Ridgeway. They had left Hamilton on June 3rd, recreating the trek taken by their predecessors, the Hamilton 13th Battalion during the 1866 Battle of Ridgeway. This part-time reserve troop toured the Fenian Raid exhibit and then proceeded to the Memorial Cairn on Hwy. #3 in the Battlefield Park.



Data Management

The Town of Fort Erie's IT Dept. donated 5 computers to the Museum. These old machines are only useful for simple data management and will help the Museum provide a better service to the community. At right, Rob Duffy begins the daunting task of entering archival records. Rob is part of a March of Dimes training program at the Museum this summer.

Strong Families

25 years of research with 14,000 families at the University of Alabama showed that successful families shared six common elements. The first being "Commitment." "Encourage your children to be proud of their heritage, revel in your family history by learning about your grandparents' lives, create traditions, share stories, etc."

Tourism

A survey done by the Tourism Industry Association of America found that 81% of Americans who took at least one trip of 80 km or more from home, took in a cultural, heritage or arts activity. The survey concluded "a promising wave of opportunity for cultural and historic tourism with the affluent baby boomers nearing retirement."

When your friends visit this summer remember to bring them by the Museums. Children especially enjoy the Railroad Museum on Central Ave., where they can climb aboard a steam locomotive, sit in the engineer's seat, gaze down the track and ring the train's bell. They can also explore the interior of a caboose and train station. That site is open daily from 9-5 until Labour Day.



Funding Support

In 2004, the Town of Fort Erie accepted the Museum Board's "Results-based Business Plan" with the overall goal being to achieve a stable base-level of funding for the Museums. In 2005, Council took the Museum's another step closer to stable funding. Thank you!

The Provincial Ministry of Culture also helps to fund the Museums with their annual "Operating

Grant" program. The funding level for Fort Erie's Museums was increased by then Minister Tim Hudak, and remains the same today. Thank you!

The photo above is of the "Baby Hole" beach on Niagara Blvd., now part of Riverwalk.



Beware of Tape

The glue found in tape will eventually destroy any paper that it comes in contact with. At times, people bring in artifacts to the Museum that are beyond repair. At left is the corner of a colour brochure from Erie Beach Park. Through the years, the owners have tried to “fix” the creases and tears in this document with scotch tape. The glue in tape will turn the paper it is stuck to a brown colour. This can totally cover up any image you were trying to save. The glue also makes the paper brittle causing it to fall apart. The worst type of glue is that found in laminating sheets. In time it will

disintegrate the item that you were trying to protect.

The Museum repairs documents using an archival-grade adhesive tape that contains a “safe” type of glue. It is called Filmoplast P. If you have a lot of repairing to do, stop by the Museum and inquire about ordering a box of this tape. If you only have one or two documents to fix, bring them by the Museum and we will give you a price on repairing them. But, whatever you do...don't use tape on pictures, maps, letters, wills, certificates and all other paper documents. In time, it will cause that document's “demise.”

The history of tape is quite interesting. The automobile inspired the invention of tape. In the 1920s, garages didn't have the tools to create two-tone finishes. They fastened newspaper with glue to the car before painting, but many times it left a permanent residue. In 1925, engineer Richard Drew overheard a garage worker complaining about another ruined paint job. He returned to his office at Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing (3M) and invented a product that would stick tightly, mask perfectly, pull off easily and leave no residue. That product was masking tape. The adhesive he invented was a combination of cabinetmaker's glue and glycerin. In 1930 Drew invented cellophane tape by applying the same adhesive to the new product cellophane.

Lottery Support

A heartfelt thanks to the Bertie Historical Society, lottery chairman Dan Pattison and all the volunteers who help to raise funds to support Museum operations — such as this newsletter.



Bloomin' Donation

Janet Cocksedge, owner of Tulip Tree Floral, donated a garden-full of daylilies, hostas, and lamb's ears to the Historical Museum. As these perennials grow and flourish they will be transplanted to the Battlefield and Railroad Museum sites. It is our hope to have full perennial beds in the future. Thank you Janet for getting us started in such a big way!



An additional thanks to the Fort Erie Horticultural Society for donating and planting flowers at the Railroad site. These projects help Fort Erie to be a “Community in Bloom!”

From Beach to Bridge and Ferry

Crystal Beach	Ridgeway	Bridge	Ferry
6.00	6.05	6.35	6.45
7.45	7.50	8.20	8.25
8.30	8.35	9.05	9.10
9.15	9.20	9.50	9.55
10.00	10.05	10.35	10.40
11.15	11.20	11.50	11.55
12.15 p.m.	12.20 p.m.	12.50 p.m.	12.55 p.m.
1.00	1.05	1.35	1.40
2.15	2.20	2.50	2.55
3.00	3.05	3.35	3.40
4.45	4.50	5.20	5.25
6.30	6.35	7.05	7.10
7.15	7.20	7.50	7.55
8.30	8.35	9.05	9.10
9.00	9.05	9.35	9.40
10.30	10.35	11.05	11.10
x12.00	12.05 a.m.	12.30 a.m.	12.35 a.m.

x Not on Sundays

Mass Transit

Mass transit was introduced to this area in 1921 by the Red Bus Line. This was the same year that Crystal Beach was incorporated as a village. The Red Bus Line was owned by Alfred (Bob) Skerrett and Frank Millington. They provided service from the ferry boat landing in Fort Erie, down Garrison Rd. to Ridgeway and on to Crystal Beach. Bus service was provided every 30 minutes in the summer and every hour in the winter. By 1927 they were also running seven buses a day to Port Colborne. The schedule pictured above is for the year 1927. Buses began leaving Crystal Beach at 6:00 a.m. arriving at the

ferry dock at 6:45 a.m. The last bus left Crystal Beach at midnight, but not on Sundays.

The photo below is of the first bus in the Red Bus Line fleet. It was a 1915 Model T Ford (the last model to feature the brass radiator.) The chassis of all Model T's were the same, the type and number of seats varied as per the customer's order. Millington and Skerrett later added three Ruggles and one REO Speed Wagon to their fleet. The photo below was taken at Crystal Beach Park looking north towards Erie Road. The roof line of the old Ontario Hotel can be seen in the background.

