

FORT ERIE LOOSES ANOTHER LANDMARK

Due to a recent fire in its property on Niagara Street, Ian Gray Real Estate is having the building demolished.

It was in 1904 when the south end was booming with activity, that construction was completed. Along with it, the Little Cottage Hotel across the Street, was being replaced by a much larger establishment to be called the King Edward.

This was the site of the Ferry landing, and also the starting point for the Fort Erie Snake Hill and Pacific Railway that ran to Erie Beach. Here also during the summer months the hacks lined up to take customers of the Ferry to the Race Track.

Ferguson's General Store stood just across the way, and a little thurther along the street was the Liquor of Vance Carey, both popular establishments. Close by, the Hawkins sisters operated a newspaper stand, and it was from here that Chief Richard Griffin operated out of a small building by the roadway.

As soon as the building was available, the front section was taken over by Albert Elliott, the town Druggist. He came to Fort Erie in 1898 and operated a drug store from a section of the old Pool Hall.

From the start the rear section housed the Canadian Customs offices until the early 40's when they built their own place just to the north by the Ferry landing.

Blind George Harris took over the vacated premises and operated a confectioners and newspaper store from this location for many years. A Barbershop occupied the south section of this property, and many an oldtimer will remember Harry Wardell, who always found time to wave a friendly hellow to every passerby.

After the death of Mr. Elliott Nov. 13th. 1947 the business was taken over by Joe Livingston, who had been an employee of the store since the age of seventeen. He operated the Drug store till his death in Aug. of 1961. The business then went to Merve Camm who already operated a Drug store in the South end. He continued to run both, but all prescription drugs had to be bought from Mr. Camm himself at the first location. Merve retired in 1972 and the business was purchased by Mr. W.G. Kaszboy, who operated the store till 1975 when Ian Gray Real Estates took over the property. For the first time in its long History the building no longer housed a Drug store.

On Dec. the 22nd., 1977 the upper floor of the building caught fire from undetermined causes; and after three hours during the evening hours the firemen were able to bring the fire under control.

The damage from fire and water was such that a decision was made to demolish the building, and work got underway by the middle of Jan .78.

In the span of a few short months Fort Erie has lost three of its Landmarks, The Bellard Theatre: The Fort Erie Motel: and the ELLIOTT DRUG STORE; however for many of the oldtimers in town, their memories of these establishments, still live on.

Mr. Louis Mc. Dermott
Jan. 22nd. 1978.