

1900's::: Jonas Sherk, who owned a large farm on the north east corner of Bertie and Concession roads, was the first gentleman to start in the Dairy Business in the village of Fort Erie. He continued to operate till 1922, when he sold to a Mr. Hunt, who carried on with the business, which he named Fort Erie Dairy. Operated only a few years and name went with the business.

1900's::: In the early 1900's Mr. E.L. Lichtenberger, who had his farm on the west side of Sunset Rd. just north of the Bowen, began in the Dairy business. He started supplying milk to the workers at the Shipyards, and after it's closing moved to Jarvis St. to supply the needs of the people in Bridgeburg Amigari and Fort Erie. In 1936 they built a two story brick building on the S.S. side of Jarvis, just west of the Post Office: no. 67. At this move the business name changed to the North End Dairy. He continued at this location till 1945 when he sold to Mr. I.W. Ohm of Thorold. In 1952 the business was sold to two partners: Gordon Gray & Karl Parr. Eventually Mr. Parr became the sole owner. Early in 1963 plans got underway for a new Bank of Montreal on this site and the business was again sold, this time to Silverwoods of St. Catherines, marking the end of the North End Dairy.

1900's. George Miller, who had the farm on the south east corner of Ridgemount Road and the Bowen, went into the Dairy business with his brother Henry under the name of Hillcrest Dairy. They split the north end district into two sections. Their milk was delivered by pail; and whenever out serving customers, they always wore spotlessly white uniforms.

Fred Miller who had the farm to the west on Split Rock rd. (RIDGE) just back from the Bowen, operated at the same time, under the name of Maple Grove Dairy. In the 1940's new regulations governing the Dairy business came into effect, and Hillcrest Dairy closed, in favour of Maple Grove. It finally sold out to the Ridge Dairy. 1953

1902. Crescent Dairy, opened with William Kraft as proprietor. He did a good business along the Lake Shore, where he supplied the American summer visitors. His farm was on the west side of Kraft Rd., just south of the Dominion.

1919 In 1919 the Everett twins, Rowland and Burwell; established themselves in Bridgeburg and Fort Erie under the name Everett Bros. The family farm was on the west side of Windmill Point Rd., opposite the Christ Disciple Church. They started out with a sales office in the Pool Hall building in the south end, Niagara St. They also used the Red Barn of J.F. Ferguson that stood at the foot of Bertie St. In 1926 they opened their new Dairy Store in the Allen Block on the north side of Jarvis where they sold milk, ice cream and other Dairy products.

1921. Francis Alexander went into the Dairy business from his farm on the north side of Garrison Road, known as Maplewood, formerly the home of Ernest A. Cruikshank. The milk bottles were marked Francis Alexander and sons, however the letter-head, the wagons and the vans carried the name of the farm MAPLEWOOD.

In 1926 Mr. Alexander sold out to Otto Mehlenbacher and Orvil Zavitz, and their business became part of the newly formed: FORT ERIE DAIRY.

1921. William Doan was the founder of the RIDGE DAIRY in Crystal Beach. He started his business from the family farm on the west side of Ridge Road, that had belonged to his father. He operated his Dairy business from a small cement building that stood close to the road in front of the barn. The business moved to new quarters, almost directly across Ridge Road. Once more it moved: this time to the north east corner of Rebstock and Derby roads, where they built a large brick building, and a dairy bar on the corner where they sold milk, ice cream and other Dairy products. Bill Doan sold out to Mr. Willson, and for a time the business was owned by Horace Clough of Crescent Park. It was finally taken over by Archie Malloy who became owner and manager. In 1922 the business was absorbed by Avondale of St. Catharines; and they moved their operations from Fort Erie to this site. After a few short years Avondale moved back to their head plant in St. Catharines.

1922. At this time Jonas Sherk sold his farm in Fort Erie and his Dairy business was continued to be operated by the new owner Mr. Hunt.

1923. Whiticker Clough bought the farm of Melford Hershey, on the east side of Rose Hill Road, and started his Dairy business, which was called the "ROSE HILL DAIRY". He continued in operation till 1926 when he sold to Otto Mehlenbacher and Orvil Zavitz. It then became part of the newly formed "FORT ERIE DAIRY".

1926. In 1926 the Everett Bros. Dairy moved to Bridgeburg and a part of the Allan Block, which stood on the north side of Jarvis in the middle of the business district.
1926. Orvil Zavitz and Otto Mehlenbacher purchased the Business of Mr. F. Alexander of Garrison Road, and also that of Mr. W. Clough, Rose Hill Dairy; and combined the two into the newly formed "FORT ERIE DAIRY". Mr. Mehlenbacher became owner and operator. They continued to supply their customers till June 1970, when they merged with Avondale of St. Catharines. Mr. Mehlenbacher retired in 1962, and Mr. E Holmes became the manager., Avondale continued to use the buildings of the Fort Erie Dairy, however after purchasing the Ridge Dairy, they moved their operations to Crystal Beach. A number of the old employees of the Fort Erie Dairy were kept on after the merger with Avondale but they had to adjust to many changes .

NORTH END DAIRY:::

1936. The Lichtenberger family built the red brick building on the south side of Jarvis and it opened the North End Dairy, continuing in business till 1945., when they sold to I.W. Ohm of Thorold.
- 1949 : Opening of the Dairy Bar at the North End Dairy.
1952. Gordon Gray and Karl Parr of Milton Ont., became the new owners of the "NORTH END DAIRY" at 67 Jarvis St.

In 1963 plans got underway for the new bank of Montreal. The business was sold to Silveroods of St. Catherines , the building was demolished and thus ended the North End Dairy.

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1970. In June of 1970 a great change in the Dairy Industry took place not only in Fort Erie but all of Ontario. We began to see the end of the independent Dairy farmer, and in their place we had the big Dairy concerns. One dairy after another sold out, and we saw the end of the FORT ERIE DAIRY which sold out to Avendale on May 25th., 1970

1971. The first JUG store opened in the north end at the cr. of Dufferin and Central Ave. It was also a new venture in Milk merchandising. It was called the Corner Store, and although milk and dairy products were the big seller, you could also purchase general merchandise , such as cigaretts, papers, packaged meats etc. They were operated under a franchise system.

1972. THE RIDGE DAIRY sold to Avendale of St. Catharines. Avendale then moved the operations from their place in Fort Erie to the plant in Ridgeway. They left this location after only a few years, and all operations came out of St. Catharines.

1975. BECKERS opened their Jug milk store on Bertie St., in the building that had formerly been Thompson's Store.

1976. Beckers opened their second store on the south west cr. of Crescent road and the Garrison. 3 1253.

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