

'67 Is Canada's Centennial Year

First American Crossing Peace Bridge Will Get Prizes

FT. ERIE, Dec. 31 — Happy New Year will have some fringe benefits for the first American visitor to this part of Canada after the clock strikes 12 tonight.

A civic welcoming committee will be waiting at midnight at the Ontario end of the Peace Bridge to greet the first American arriving in Canada's Centennial Year.

Mayor John M. Teal will be on hand to present a key to the

village Councilor John M. Daley will present a "first American citizen" certificate and a share of stock in the local centennial organization.

Councilor Daley is president of the newly-organized Ft. Erie National Centennial Celebration Committee Inc. Councilor Archie MacDonald is vice president.

The bridge ceremony will be the first of a year-long series of events being planned in this

border port of entry in connection with the national centennial.

This community celebrated its own centennial in 1957. The first Village Council meeting was held July 13, 1857.

However, local history goes back to 1764 when Capt. John Montessor established the Ft. Erie military post. The community later became known as Waterloo and boasted a larger population than the Village of Buffalo across the river.



Centennial Year





Under the glow of kerosene lamps, members of Fort Erie Council deliberate over the important topics of January 5, 1867. Council members dressed for the occasion in period costume of 100 years ago. Many of the spectators, not used to the fumes of kerosene lighting were almost overcome. — Tribune photo.

COUNCILLORS AUTHENTICALLY GARBED

Fort Erie Council Re-enacts Municipal Meeting Of 1867

FE Council Re-elects 4-36 Meg FORT ERIE — If F. Tertius Kempson, reeve of the Village of Fort Erie in 1867, had walked into town council chambers last night, he would probably have received the impression municipal government here has not progressed much in the past century.

Seated at the head of a huge, oak table, he would have found white-haired Mayor John M. Teal, discussing the burial of Fenians in the glow of kerosene lamps with rows of sober councillors.

He would have heard clerk-treasurer A. E. Jepson's bell summoning council from its ante-chambers and the strident "oyez, oyez", directed at the packed gallery.

Later, to his surprise, he would have been told that this conclave was council's first in Centennial Year and in fact a re-enactment complete with Confederation period dress of the Fort Erie agenda of Jan. 5, 1867.

SUGGESTED TRIBUTE

In keeping with the start of centennial ceremonies in the border town, officials of Fort Erie National Centennial Cele-

brations suggested a week ago council make such a tribute to its distant predecessor.

The usual desks were removed from chambers and kerosene lamps were lit in place of electric facilities. All council members, along with municipal employees and press representatives, turned up in centennial garb, as did many interested citizens.

Mayor Teal explained nature of the meeting and Mr. Jepson read to those present items of interest from century-old minutes.

One passage was extracted from records of a meeting held just after the 1866 Fenian Raid.

BUY BUGLE

Members of council, who included Reeve Kempson, Charles Treble, William Rupell and Peter Schweyer, at that time resolved to look into purchase in Toronto of a sword and bugle for the ill-equipped Welland Canal Field Battery, which had figured prominently in the action.

Reference was also made to the first meeting village council ever had, in July, 1857, when chairman William Russell voted

himself reeve after a council deadlock.

Meetings started at 7:30 p.m. in 1867, as they do now, but 100 years ago, council met in the barracks room, International Ontario - Party, RCR.

One interesting resolution carried at the meeting mentioned was noted as follows: "That the account of Henry Bristow for sundry services performed during month of June last (1866) be entertained in part as follows viz. — for burying a horse — \$1.50 — for burying and disentering a Fenian and articles furnished in performance of same — \$6.50, amounting to \$8 be paid.

DOLLAR FOR COFFIN

Also that the following amounts be paid men who assisted Bristow in said burial as follows: David Magwood — \$1, John Ray — \$1, Joseph Allen — \$1, Wilson Lennox — \$1 and \$1 to Mr. Rupell for lumber furnished to make a coffin. . . ."

Another proposed bylaw ran "for the purpose of licencing houses where fish, oysters, clams or victuals are sold and eaten therein." Fee for such a

licence would be \$20 per year.

Repealed was a motion to pay accounts stated by Joseph Schweyer, Patrick Mooney and Henry Bristow for services as constables during the Fenian Raid.

Council decided not to entertain such an idea, feeling duty to pay rested upon "the county or government".

MESSAGE TO GENERAL

A local telegraph operator, D. O'Reilly, was helped out of a tight spot when members decided his account "for a message dispatched to General Napier on 1st December last, by the Reeve of this council and which was refused by General Napier amounting to \$8.66 be paid."

Later last night, Mayor Teal and councillors discussed actual issues as they were presented 100 years ago.

These topics included among others closing of houses of ill fame, permitting sale of liquor in Fort Erie and helping out a man who had at one time or another supported "three poor females".

Sole 1966 business of the night was an appointing motion for chairman and members of council standing committees.

Following this colorful meeting, most present adjourned to Fort Erie Fire Company No. 2, fire hall for coffee and sandwiches.