

In August 1904 , the Grand Trunk had plans for the building of a R.R. Y.M.C.A. , and J. Beck of Black Rock gave the contract to Hanna Bros. of Ridgeway; to construct the building that was to be completed by Feb. 1st., 1905, at a cost of \$4,500.00.

Mr. Coleleugh, the Superintendent of the International Bridge , gave considerable time to this new venture. As work progressed the need to secure a secretary and to get things in shape for the opening became evident; and F.C. Brown , of the Buffalo Creek Association was brought over by F. Thatcher and Mr. Moore , to take charge of the work until the building was ready, for the opening.

On Feb. 3rd., 1905 Mr. Moore representing the International Committee and Mr. Copeland of the Provincial Committee of the Y.M.C.A. , met the following and formed a committee of management::: Mr. Coleleugh superintendent of International Bridge; A.A. Coulthurst agent of the G.T.R.; W.M. Dougall, clerk of the Wabash; Martin Harvey engineer G.T.R.R.; A.E. Henry engineer M.C.R.R.; A.B. Hurrel; J.T. James; and Alexander Jackson

At this meeting the following officers were elected:

Mr. Coleleugh -- Chairman      A.A. Coulthurst treasurer: A.A. Jackson sect.  
F.C. Brown was Secretary in charge of the building. The management was placed upon the shoulders of these eight men by Mr. Copeland, who gave an interesting talk on the duties and responsibilities of the committee of management.

On March 21st , the opening took place, attended by members of the International Committee, and the Provincial Committee, Y.M.C.A., R.R. officials and others from far and near. It was a great day for old Fort Erie, for the old slogan of the R.R. "y" a home for men away from home" , was brought back with due force.

The following evening the Committee met and by-laws of the association were passed. The name " Bridgeburg Fort Erie Railroad Department of Young Men's Christian Association" was adopted.

Ever since the building was completed , there was talk of moving it because the company needed more room for tracks, and finally the directors aquired half an acre from Messrs Walker and Riselay on Lewis St. Rails were laid and greased and a locomotive hauled the building to its position on the new site. Together with the necessary changes that had to be made, this cost in the neighbourhood of \$1,000.00. The move altered the status of the building ; as the company owned the building and the association the land; with the result that the trustees were appointed to arrange for the morgage. They were Mr. Coleleugh., W.H. Dougall and John T. James. On Nov. 13th., 1905 F.W. James was elected to the directors.

The question of an addition to the building had been brought up continually for ten years, as the men were sleeping in chairs and on the tables. So in 1917 , once more the committee came to our need, and had plans drawn and approved by the Board for an addition which cost \$5,450.00. The contract was let to the Troup Bros. of Fort Erie. Terminal Superintendent T.W. Saunders and M. Swartz B.B. Superintendent were both very helpful in every way to facilitate the early completion of the work; and Secretary ay worked untiringly in getting the new wing ready. When the work was completed the Board of Trustees signed an agreement with the G.T. Railroad respecting the new building , which increased the accomodation to 40 beds, better bathroom facilities, and better quarters for the staff.

On Oct. 19th 1920 the entire upper floor was burnt out, however the first floor was saved ; and they were able to rebuild the damaged section.

A new "Y" was officially opened in 1969 on Lewis St. close to the R.R crossing.