

FORT ERIE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Mather Arch

FORT ERIE, ONTARIO, CANADA

Early archives indicate that on a September day in the year 1684, hundreds of war canoes, containing 700 painted Indian warriors from the Ottawa, Sac, Fox and other nations friendly to the French, as well as 150 French soldiers from the western posts, paddled from Lake Erie into the Niagara river, passing the site of the Old Fort. They were on their way to join an expedition under Gov. de la Barre against the Iroquois.

In 1764 the British replaced the French trading post defences with what was to become known as Fort Erie. During the ~~WAR~~ war of 1812, United States forces occupied the Fort for a short time. Much bitter hand-to-hand fighting took place as opposing forces struggled to hold the fortifications.

Last year some 57,000 tourists and visitors passed through the gates of the Old Fort on guided tours of the battlegrounds.

Fort Erie, Ontario, continues to retain its traditional position as a transportation centre. The war canoes, ~~and~~ were followed by sailing ships (The Griffon, 1679); ^{and} portage wagon trains and stage coach; ^{were replaced by} the railways (Huron & Erie, 1872) ^{and the} C.N.R., C.P.R., G.T.R., T.H.&B., Wabash, N.Y.C.; Fleet Air Craft Co., and presently the Peace Bridge, connects ~~to~~ Ontario's Queen Elizabeth highway and New York State's Thruway in the most densely populated area of the North American continent.

Points of Interest:-

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