

Fort Erie National Centennial

PROGRAM



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Fort Erie

Summer meet opens July 3 through August 12

Post Time 2 p.m. daily

1857 - Fort Erie - 1967



OLD FORT ERIE

Fort Erie, in this Centennial Year, really marks two hundred years of history. It was born of the need for transportation and transportation has been its life-line ever since.

Indian tribes first came here to obtain the valuable chert for their crude utensils and tools of war, until the coming of the white man made Niagara River the first great pathway of our era for soldiers, sailors and settlers, when in 1764 a wooden fort was built at the water's edge by Captain John Montrossor, under orders of General Bradstreet, as a military post and wharf. Because of the lake it was named Fort Erie and was the only port at the foot of the lake.

Twice destroyed by icy gales, the fort was finally rebuilt of stone on the hill above and was in use until captured and blown up by the Americans in the War of 1812. Restored by the Niagara Parks Commission in 1939, this historic site has become a mecca for summer tourists.

In the meantime, thousands of United Empire Loyalists, Quakers and Pennsylvania Dutch, seeking security from the Revolutionary War in the States, came to Canada, some 180 families settling in Bertie township, and a small settlement had grown up around the grist mill, a mile down-stream from

the fort, called Fort Erie Mills or Waterloo. The place thrived through its ferry connections with Black Rock, across the river, the lone place of entry to Canada from western New York and trade and travel passed through to the old stagecoach route to Newark, York (Toronto) and Montreal. In fact, as a trading centre, the community was outdistancing Buffalo.

But the building of the two canals, Welland and Erie, in 1824-25 diverted trade elsewhere and relegated Waterloo to a sleepy little village. An upsurge, however, was experienced later, with the building of a rail line and car ferry to Buffalo, and Waterloo, with a population of 900 was incorporated as the village of Fort Erie in 1857, with great expectations for the future, when the opening of the International Railway Bridge in 1873, a mile down stream, made the car ferry obsolete and again diverted commerce from Fort Erie.

With the building of this bridge and the subsequent settlement there, industry and population swept down to the new village of Victoria incorporated in 1894 and as the Town of Bridgeburg in 1916.

Then in 1927 the Peace Bridge was built — the greatest memorial of international goodwill between

two friendly nations — and the old town of Fort Erie came into its own again. This was the age of the automobile and the bridge became the main artery for vehicular traffic (5½ million cars crossed this Bridge in 1966).

Finally seeking the advantages of amalgamation, the two towns became one on January 1st, 1932, retaining the old historic name of Fort Erie.

Since then growth has been steady and with a population nearing 10,000 the town is fast achieving city status. With the two bridges bringing in tremendous trade and traffic, Fort Erie has become one of the largest ports of entry in Canada. It offers all facilities to industry, is well endowed with modern utilities and has all the amenities of the good life.

The years, indeed, have brought wondrous changes from the days of the Indian trail to the days of railways, highways and skyways of this modern era; and while Fort Erie looks back nostalgically to its historic past, in this, its Centennial Year, it also looks forward hopefully to an ever flourishing future.

(Courtesy the Late Marguerite A. Raymond, Historian, Fort Erie Historical Society)



TWO SYMBOLS OF PROGRESS



CANADA CELEBRATES CONFEDERATION — ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF NATIONHOOD — A CENTURY OF HUMAN ACCOMPLISHMENT IN A RICH, RESOURCEFUL LAND.

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Our Heritage

Canada has had a most interesting and eventful history during the past 300 years.

Little is known about the people who inhabited this country prior to the coming of the European adventurers but evidence was found in the Town of Fort Erie during the past four years that bands of Indians were in existence in the area bordering on Lake Erie and the Niagara River at least 3,000 years ago.

While excavating for a parking lot at the corner of Forsyth and Niagara Street and for a building extension to the Queen's Hotel at the corner of Queen and Niagara Streets, skeletons and artifacts were uncovered which date back to a period 1,000 years before the birth of Christ. This fact was established through the combined efforts of members of the archaeology departments of the Canadian and United States Governments.

These famous discoveries now rest in the Federal Museum in Ottawa. Just south of the city of Peterborough in Central Ontario and situated on the north shore of Rice Lake the Serpent Mounds were discovered several years ago. With the help of the Provincial and Federal Governments these mounds were investigated and many skeletons and artifacts were discovered showing that here also was evidence of early tribes of Indians who roamed through the Trent River Valley and Muskoka

Lakes districts.

To the far north we have a different race of people, in the Eskimo tribes who live in the Northwest Territories and Labrador, hunting and fishing to maintain their existence. They live in igloos made of snow and ice and live a very primitive life in the boundary areas of the frozen North Country. These people still exist, as do the Indian tribes, but their numbers have been depleted over the centuries and would have no doubt become extinct but for the help from Federal and Provincial Governments. It is only in recent years that these people have become fully recognized as an essential part of our great Canadian heritage.

As we move on from these original properers of Canada and come down through the centuries to the early adventurers who boldly left their native shores of Great Britain, France, Spain and the Scandinavian countries, we find that during the 1400s, 1500s and 1600s, voyageurs braved the then unknown oceans to travel to the West to find the new land and a new life.

Adventurers such as Cartier, LaSalle, Cooke, Columbus, Ericson, Cabot and others eventually landed at various places in North America and claimed the new world for their respective native countries. Some of these adventurers landed in what is known as our Eastern

Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland.

They ventured into the inland part of the country by way of the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes, making maps and establishing small settlements wherever they sojourned.

As the news of this great and wonderful land was carried back to the native lands of the voyageurs, many natives of these lands set forth to make their homes in the new land of opportunity.

Those who came had to struggle mightily to clear the land and set up homesteads to house their families. Their trials and hardships were many and considerable numbers sacrificed their lives for the cause. But despite the setbacks, they carried on and kept multiplying in numbers, forming more villages and towns as the years passed by. It is to these original pioneers that we owe so much. They established our heritage and paved the way for the many wonderful events that were to follow in later years.

RELIGIOUS LIFE

During the early years, the religious life of the settlers was not neglected. In the Eastern Provinces, the Scottish, English and French brought out men of their respective churches who carried the Gospel to the people, putting in

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Our Heritage

Continued from Page 3

long hours and covering many miles by horseback in order to reach the outlying settlements and preach the word to all settlers.

From the earliest days we read of the tremendous work and sacrifices of the Jesuit priests of the Roman Catholic Church who travelled on foot and by canoe in order to establish their faith in the great new land. As the years passed, slowly but surely the faith of our forefathers was established throughout the land so that today we are privileged to worship in the faith of our choice, freely and un-

obstructed and in the light of His countenance.

EDUCATION

With the settlers, came the problem of educating the people. Small country schools were established and in most cases the old one room school served to teach all children the three r's of elementary studies. As our population grew in numbers and expanded forth into the unknown territories, more schools were built and we are aware of the fact that as governments began to take a more active part in education there

slowly evolved the Educational system as we know it today, the Public School System, the High School System and then our Colleges and Universities. However, let us not forget that the foundation of our education system was, to use a colloquial phrase, "the little red school house" with its one teacher for all grades and the old box stove fired by logs cut by the villagers as part of their duty to the community.

The area surrounding Fort Erie was no different than so many

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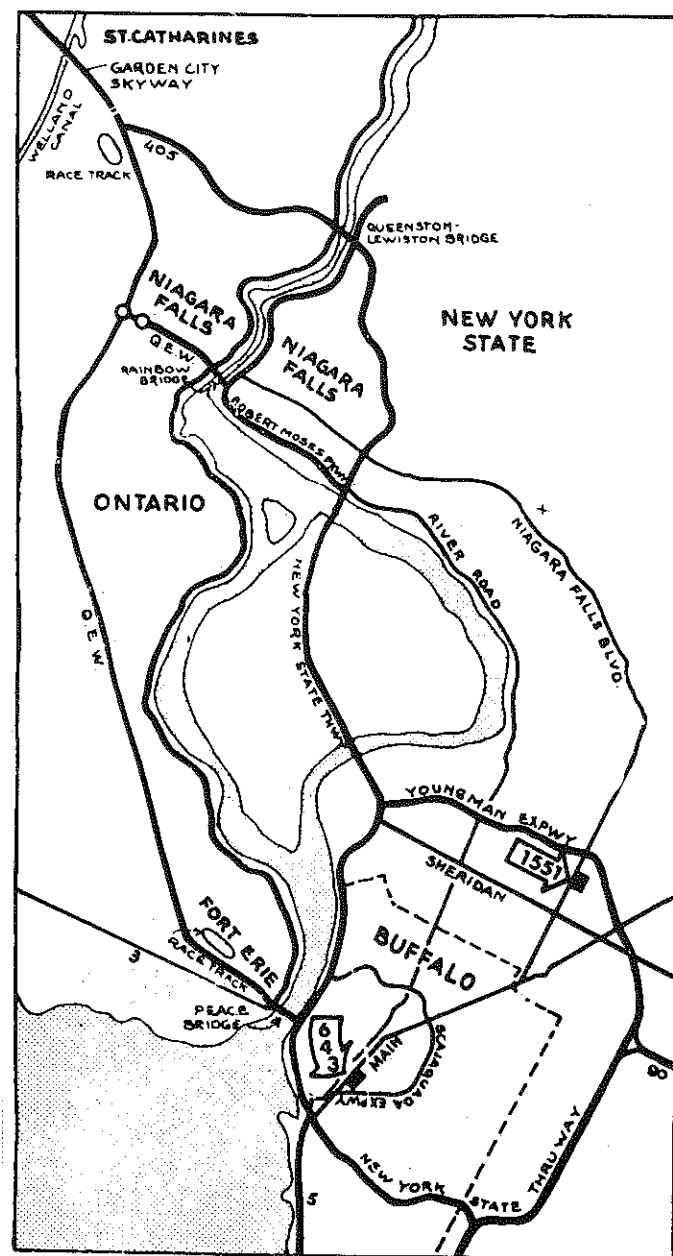
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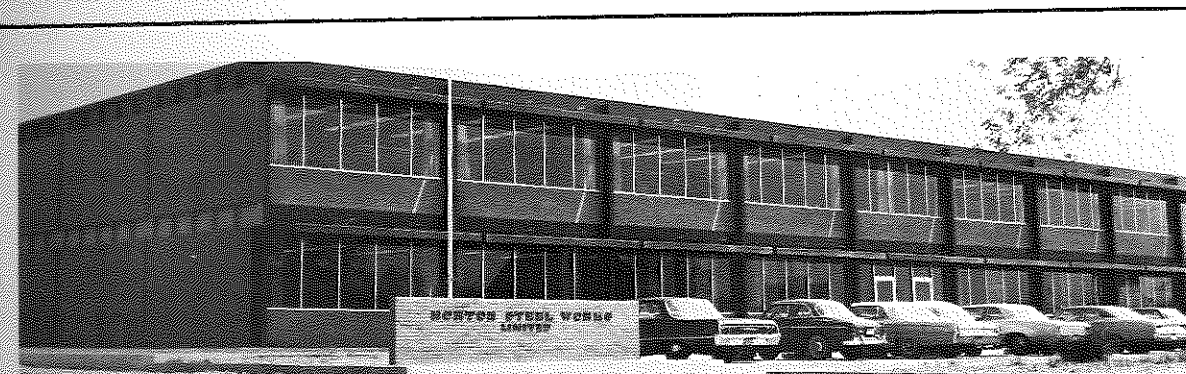
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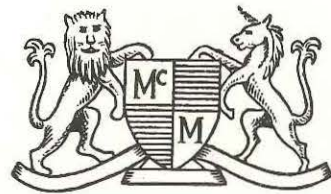
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Our Heritage

Continued from Page 5

other parts of our country. We still have evidence of the many one room school houses in the surrounding municipalities. During the past 20 years and even in the last five years we have seen the transition take place where we have gone from the one term public school section buildings to the more modern and composite district school complexes. Our area High Schools have combined to form a District High School System and it is suggested that eventually we should do like some with our public schools in the

surrounding area. By taking this procedure, we are advancing with the times and updating our educational systems to meet modern day challenges and modern day educational costs.

INDUSTRY

As Canada accepted the challenge to move ahead with the times, we are mindful of the necessary changes and advanced thinking required in our Industrial complex, in order to keep pace with other nations throughout the world. Many men rose to the occasion and leaders from all walks of life

came forward with new ideas for modernized equipment and new methods of production until today we find ourselves side by side with all other countries in the production and advancement phases of modern Industry. We, in the Fort Erie area can look with pride at the modern factories with their highly skilled personnel who turn out top grade products which are shipped to the farthest corners of the globe. Our factory produced products are second to none and competitive with most all others, so that today we have earned,

Continued on Page 10

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1927 40th Anniversary 1967 Fort Erie, Ontario

Our Heritage

Continued from Page 9

through diligent work and intelligent applications, a rightful place among the other producing nations of the world in the industrial field.

GOVERNMENT

The various complicated governmental bodies which handle the affairs of the people today have developed from the very simple form of small groups of people who volunteered their time and efforts as a duty to their Villages and Towns in order to control and develop their communities, to our present day multiple systems which includes Town and City Councils for Municipal areas, Township Councils for large spread out areas, County Councils for County Government, Provincial Governments for the Provinces and of course our Federal Government to serve the whole of Canada.

The party system has been with

us since the very earliest days with the Grits and Tories or the Liberals and Conservatives being the main two parties. However, as our governments progressed through the years, many other parties were formed so that today we have a multiple party system which includes the original two main parties plus what is known as the third major party, in the National Democratic Party or the N.D.P. as it is commonly called. Because Canada is a democratic country we do have other splinter parties such as the Communist Party. Many candidates run as independents not wishing to associate themselves with any particular party.

At the present time the Town of Fort Erie is represented in the County Government by Reeve Clare Burger and Deputy Reeve Gordon (Mike) Taylor. In the Provincial Parliament our current member is Mr. George Bukator M.P.P. who represents the Niagara

Riding. During the past two years, our legislators have made territorial changes in our riding areas in order to more equalize the population in the electoral districts. Provincially, Fort Erie will now be known as Welland South Riding.

In the Federal Government, Fort Erie is part of the Niagara Riding and we are represented by the Honourable Judy LaMarsh who holds the portfolio of Secretary of State in the Pearson Government. Miss LaMarsh has held several portfolios during her tenure of office and as Minister of Health was influential in setting up the Canada Pension Plan and having the bill passed in Parliament several years ago. Miss LaMarsh is also in charge of all Federal arrangements for Canada's Centennial Birthday which position in itself is a tremendous task. She has also been quite actively connected with the Canadian Broadcasting Company,

Continued on Page 16

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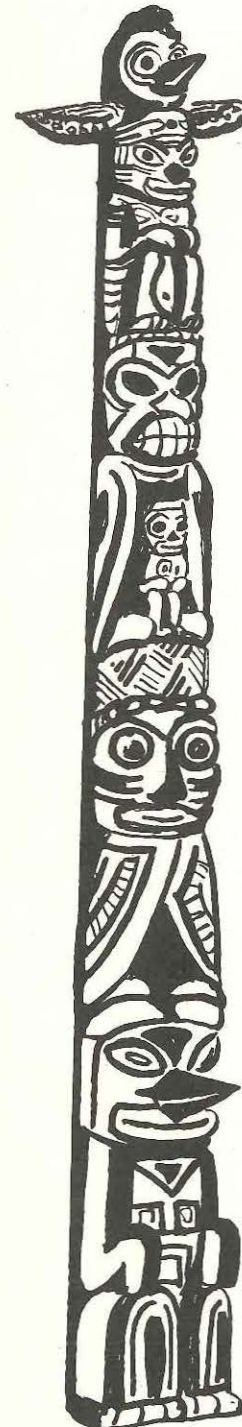
Written, Produced and Directed by Edward J. Hamilton

Narrators:

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VERNA BRIGGS
WINNIFRED STEIN

MAX BEACHIN
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EPISODE I — Prologue

TRUMPETEERS — Amy Renshaw, Margie Conway, Debbie Pearce, Dawn Collie, Grace Anne Durante, Cindy Lainson.

JOHN CABOT — Don Hall

JACQUES CARTIER — Guy Simpson

"MISS FORT ERIE NATIONAL CENTENNIAL AND HER COURT" — The Entire Cast

EPISODE II — Tribunal

JUDGE — Jack Daly

DEFENCE — Archie Macdonald

PROSECUTOR — Bert Reynolds

EPISODE III — Land of Shadows

INDIANS — Carol Roberts, Janis Agrette, Paul Reaman, Wendall Beachin, Hedy Weiss, Judy Reaman, Kathy Roy, Michael Roy, Leslie-Ann Parton, Kevin Nastasiuk, Lori-Anne Everett, Betty Reaman, Muriel Beachin, Janet Beachin, Marg Parton, Jean Roy, David Richer, Donald Richer, Evelyn Hughes, Florence Everett, Carol Richer, Rolene Nastasiuk, Corinne Lidbetter, Dawn Lidbetter, Mary Everett, Candy Everett, Brenda Hughes, Jimmy Lidbetter, Bobby Lidbetter, Joanne Lidbetter, Anne Seebach, Lynn Everett, Richard Everett, Mrs. Marion Egeto, David Everett.

INDIAN DANCERS — Debbie Sahli, Debby Eversden, Shirley Ann Rogers, Barbara Ferdinandi, Frani Graydon, Bev. Reddon, Cathy Arno, Cathy O'Connor, Elsa Collingridge, Rita Palumbo, Vali Cazelatto, Cathy Gallagher, Susan Rogers, Elli MacDonal, Beth Hughes, Linda Gordon, Stephanie Puza, Marion Aselstine, Ann Thompson, Adele Di Francesco.

EPISODE IV — They Came From Far and Near

PIONEERS — Gwendolyn Kells, Mildred Zubovic, Mrs. Hazel Lee, Jenny McIntyre, Robert Lee, Yvonne Johnston, Joanne Meredith, Chester Johnston, Beverly Johnston, Mrs. Patricia

"By These Waters"

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Mrs. Lonsbury in charge of children.

EPISODE V — Thunder Across the Border

Tom Reid, Ernie Morris, Leslie Ratcliffe, Wayne Larocque, Howard Cox, Guy Spear, Wayne Barret, Nelson Lamb, Percy Purpura, Bill Clayton, Mike Lanthier, Tom Greggain, Chuck Collingridge, Gord Irish, Guy Simpson, Mort Eggleton, Allan Barber, Angelo Aliberti, Bill McRancy, Don Lull, Bruce Albert.

EPISODE VI — Faith of Our Fathers

EPISODE VII — Larnin' Our ABC's

Cindy Heckman, Sheryl Cox, Glen Cox, Grant Boutin, Darcey Boutin, Nancy Boutin, Kathe Boutin, Barb Hardy, Jim Knox, Bill Knox, Heather Kellin, Jim Hardy, Richard McLeod, Brad Callie, Rose Kellin.

EPISODE VIII — Invasion?

Rick Roberts, Alan Hooper, Gord Irish, Bill Robertson, Mike Lanthier, Wayne Barret, Nelson

Lamb, Bill Clayton, Doug Leonard, Percy Purpura, Richard Hurren, Bruce Albert, Angelo Aliberti, Santo Giorno, Bill Hartman, Guy Speak, Roy Simoulan, Gord Sims, Tom Greggain.

EPISODE IX — Confederation

EPISODE X — Westward

EPISODE XI — The Coming of the Railroad

WOMAN IN BUGGY — Toni Cox

REELERS — Glen Hutton, Vi Hutton, Clarence Kendrick, Duckie Kendrick, Jean Roy, Ross W. Parton, Marie Bailey, Allen Cotton, Muriel Beachin, Janet Beachin, Joyce Harker, Agatha Bond, Philip Bond, Stan Hurst, Marjorie Parton, Toni Cox, Howie Cox, Mrs. Eva Cox, Debby Taylor, Lefty Roy, Betty Reaman, Doug Reaman, Rose Canfield, Rose Kellin, Pat Schneider, Eva Minto, James Leo, Marilyn Anne Reid, Max Beachin, Orval Eberly, Thelma Eberly, Evelyn Bailey, Maxine Backlund, L. C. Sharpe, Mary Sharpe, Ethel Lewis, Magdalene Bugay, Dora Overholt, John Overholt, Liz McComb, Joanne Frerotte, Elizabeth Cotton, A. W. Cotton, Guy Spear, Santo Giorno, Bill Hartman, Debbie McGowan, Cindy Lainson, Patricia Love, Murray McGregor, William Briggs, Nancy Briggs, Don Briggs.

EPISODE XII — The Golden Era

PICNICKERS — Ross Parton, Lisa Hindle, Tracy Lynn Sourwine, Leslie Ann Parton, Ethel Lewis, Marjorie Parton, Carol Manuel, Reinhold Nagel, Ernie Morris, Bessie Dunn, Marie Hill, Randy Stevenson, Dick Stevenson, David Roberts, Maxine Backlund, Helen Backlund, Evelyn Keeley, George Backlund, Kim Backlund, Louis McDermott, Michael Roy, Kathy Roy, Jack Halbert, Carol Bezpaleo, Clifford Plato, Minnie Plato, Philip W. Roberts, Lena Morse, Helen Walton, Alice R. Muma, Hilda Packer, Stella Atwood, George H. Walton, Dorothy Stouffer, Mrs. Shirley McNeill, Prudy Stevenson, Mrs. Joan Roberts, Anita Pudwell, Carol Pilote, Wayne Barret, Bill Robertson, Bill Clayton, Doug Rose, Doug Carter, Steve Holm, Cindy Heckman, Rory Stevenson, Vi Hutton, Glen Hutton, Barbara Campbell, Max Beachin, Jim Hindle, Lefty Roy, Jean Roy, Betty Reaman, Doug Reaman, Janet Beachin, Rose Kellin, Peter Brand, Ken McCay, Mary Pat Sparling, Margaret Mindorff, Janice Carter, Nancy Benner, Sharon Clark, Berthen Kennedy, Maureen McCarron, Dan McCarron, Kaye McCarron,



Selagh McCarron, Linda Wilson, Silvana Pontello, Linda Anderson, Charlene Heckman, Bob Heckman, Ernie Pontello, Guy Gos, Mary Pudwell, Mary Vamplew, Pat Chesney, Betty Ann Gallagher, Leon Sprentall, Pat Whitmore, Eva Minto, Wayne Miller.

BATHING BEAUTIES — Linda Anderson, Sylvanna Pontello, Linda Wilson, Nancy Benner, Anita Pudwell, Mary Vamplew, Mary Pudwell, Sharon Clark, Pat Chesney.

MUSCLE BEACH — Donald Briggs, Bill Clayton, Reinhold Nagel, Guy Gos, Ermis Pontello.

EPISODE XIII — The Big One

PARTICIPANTS — Clarence Kendrick, Duckie Kendrick, Donna Gow, Ethel Lewis, Agatha Bond, Philip Bond, Gary Lewis, Hilda Packer, Stella Atwood, Rose Canfield, Patti Canfield, Murray McGregor, James Leo.

EPISODE XIV — Twenty-One Skidoo and Fort Erie Too!

THEDA BARA — Charlene Heckman

LOVER — Lefty Roy

HUSBAND — Bob Heckman

CHARLESTON DANCERS — Stephanie Puza, Marion Asseltine, Linda Gordon, Susan Rogers, Nancy Glenny, Shirley Rogers, Nancy Briggs, Cathy Gallagher, Adela F. Francisca, Ann Thompson, Carol Manuel, Donald Briggs.

EPISODE XV — The Growing Years

EPISODE XVI — Teenagers!

The teens of our cast.

EPISODE XVII — The Missile Affair

EPISODE XVIII — The Verdict

The entire cast.

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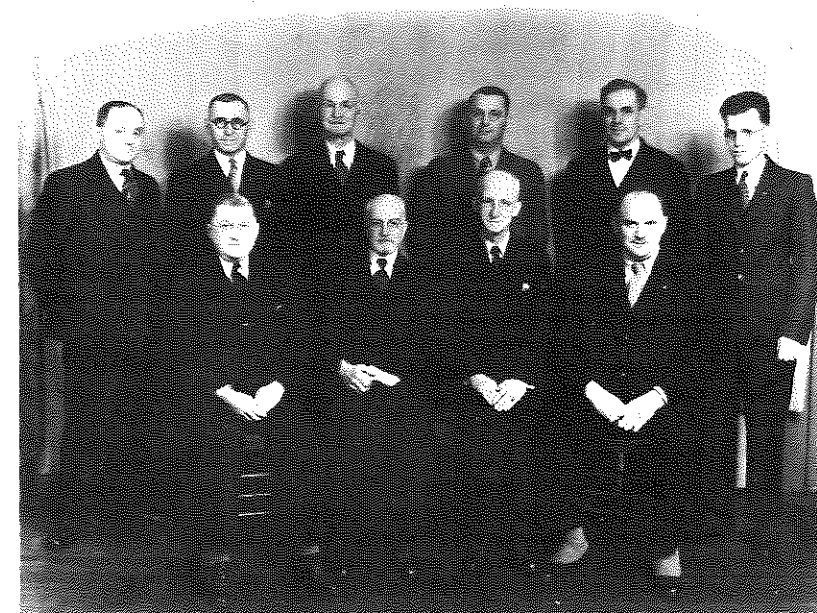
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Bertie at Central

Prop. Vern O'Brien

Our Heritage

Continued from Page 10

which has proved to be one of the most controversial subjects of those in which she has been active. At the conclusion of this term of our present Parliament, Miss LaMarsh intends to retire from political life after a most colourful, active and most successful career in the service of our Country. She will return

to her law practice in Niagara Falls, Ontario, in which she had previously established herself as a competent and very successful barrister and solicitor.

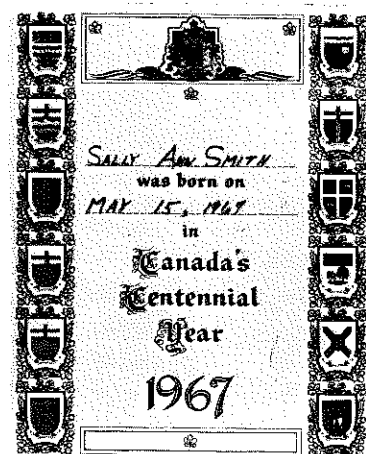
The town of Fort Erie is governed by the local council. The

members are elected to office in wards in which they stand for office. The present council consists of the following.

Mayor:

John M. Teal

Continued on Page 17



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FORT ERIE, Ontario

Our Heritage

Continued from Page 16

Reeve:

Clare Burger

Deputy Reeve:

Gordon Taylor

Councillor at Large:

Victor Miller

Councillors:

Lavern Minor

William White

Archie Macdonald

John M. Daly

Lloyd Williams

Clerk Treasurer:

A. E. Jepson

Assistant:

James Sauer

Assessor:

Thomas H. Greggain

Town Superintendent:

Roy Renshaw

Solicitor:

George Honey

A competent staff assists the Mayor and Council in the performance of the duties in running

Continued on Page 18

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FORT ERIE ONTARIO

Our Heritage

Continued from Page 17

the affairs of the corporation of the Town of Fort Erie. The town of Fort Erie and the surrounding area have played a very important part in the history of Canada. Located at the eastern end of Lake Erie where the lake empties into the mighty Niagara River and living on the International Boundary line between Canada and the United States of America the name Fort Erie was most prominent during the War of 1812-13-14. The original Fort built in the 1700s

was recently restored and is now an important Historical Site in the Niagara Parkway System. We are also reminded of the period following the American Revolution when many United Empire Loyalists left the States to seek a new life in Canada. Many of the old family names are still prevalent throughout the area and living descendants of those loyal families still recall hardship stories handed down from generation to generation. In 1866 the Fenians conducted raids along the Niagara

River and in June of that year penetrated into Canada as far as Ridgeway where they were met by the Canadian and British forces along with the loyal farmers and were repelled and driven back to the American side.

A resumé of events of the era during the past 100 years would not be complete without mention of the Natural Gas Industry and the original Telephone Company.

In 1892 the first Natural Gas Well of the Provincial Natural Gas

Continued on Page 20

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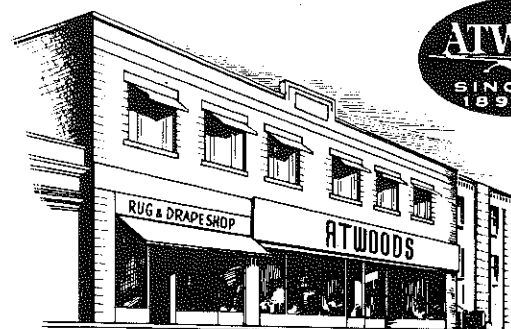
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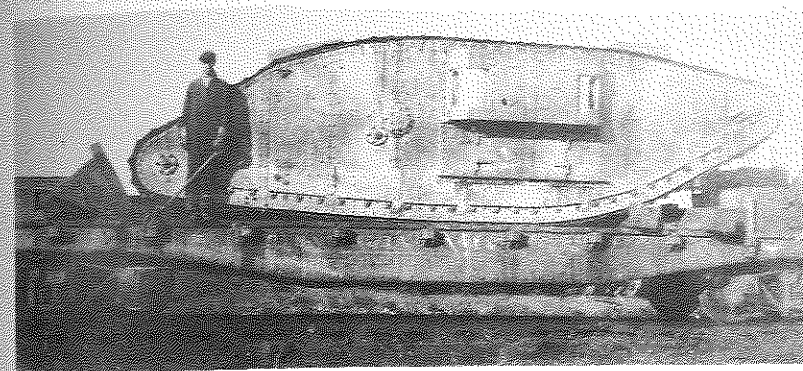
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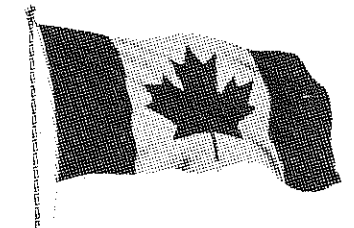
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Peace Bridge
District

Our Heritage

Continued from Page 18

and Fuel Company was drilled on the Zavitz farm which was located on the Town Line between Humberstone and Bertie Townships. This location is at the first "s" turn on No. 3 Highway at the town line road. Evidence of the well is still there as the old horse-power and shack are still standing. This well continued to produce a flow of natural gas up until 1965 at which time it became flooded with water and was consequently abandoned. The drilling of the well and the production of gas from it brought to fruition a dream of the Caste Brothers, whose family name is a legend in the early history and development of Canada. This No. 1 well was the beginning of the commercial, industrial and residential natural gas industry in the Niagara Peninsula under the now known Provincial Gas Company, which services all of Lincoln and Welland Counties. Although the Bell Telephone Company of Canada now owns the telephone systems in Fort Erie and surrounding area, nevertheless in the early days, telephone service was started by two young men who lived some distance apart in the farming com-

munity not far from the Town of Fort Erie.

When we think of the wonderful progress made in the telephone industry and the complexities of the systems as we now know them it is a surprising fact that two

young men were responsible for the original service by stringing wires on farm fence lines and communicating with each other by means of crude forms of telephones when compared to our

Continued on Page 22

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Our Heritage

Continued from Page 20

modern equipment of today. One of those two young men of yesterday is still living in Fort Erie today and is a respected and revered gentleman, active in our historical society, and himself a local historian of note. Mr. Charles N. Glenny was one of the two young men who eventually founded the Welland County Telephone Company which served this area for many years. Not too many years ago the Bell Telephone Company purchased the franchise and one of our pioneer industries became part of the tremendous Bell System which serves all of Canada.

We are also mindful of the fact that Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone was also a Canadian born in the town of Brantford, Ontario. His contribution to our Canadian way of life and also that of the whole world, makes him a truly great Canadian and a world famous personage.

Looking back over the last 100 years in the life of our beloved Canada we can surely be extremely proud of the heritage left to us by our forefathers. Their courage

and thoughtfulness in helping to bring Canada to the fullness of nationhood where she can take her rightful place beside the other nations of the world, should ever

be an inspiration to all Canadians to continue to stand steadfast in all things that are righteous and good, to stand on guard for our

Continued on Page 23

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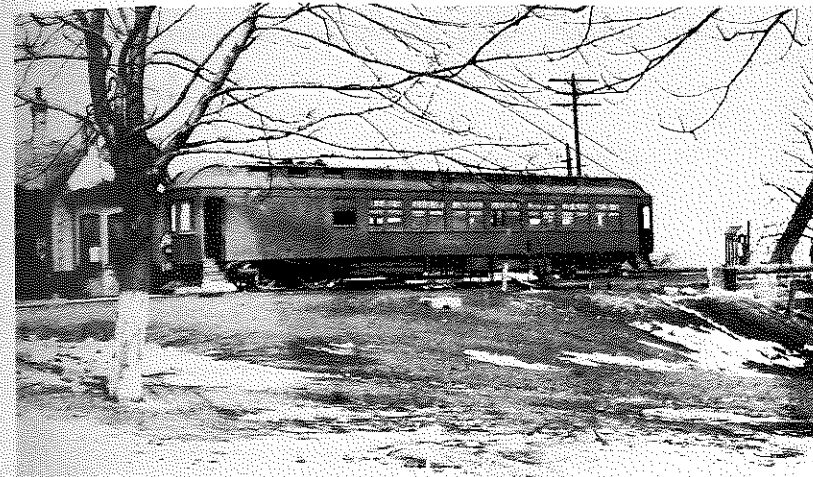
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Our Heritage



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Continued from Page 22

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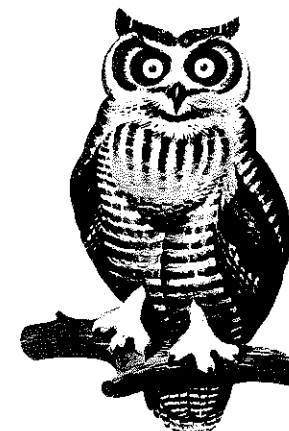
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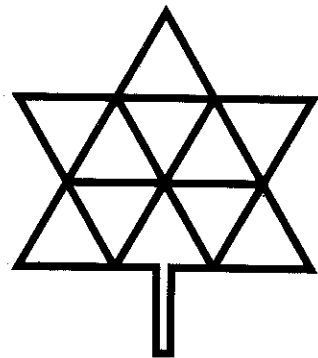
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