

Battle of Ridgeway Anniversary Event, June 4, 2016

It was a scorching hot day on June 2, 1866 when the Canadian troops were called out to Fort Erie to defend this land against an army who had invaded from Buffalo. About 800-1,200 soldiers from the Fenian Army intended to capture the Province of Canada and trade this piece of British North America for Ireland's freedom.

The resulting Battle of Ridgeway alarmed the colonies and hastened talks towards Confederation. This battle made it apparent that together they could better defend themselves instead of relying on Britain for their defence. Canada became a country one year later in 1867.

Today, 150 years after that nation-building battle, the descendants of the regiments who fought at the Battle of Ridgeway are returning to commemorate this important event in Canadian history. On June 4, 2016, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry will participate in a parade, ceremony and festival.

Hosted by the Town of Fort Erie, these events are being coordinated by Russ Wilson and Jane Davies who are co-chairing the Town's 150th Battle of Ridgeway celebrations. Wilson noted that "these events will give the public a rare opportunity to celebrate this 150th anniversary with Canada's Armed Forces. In order to accommodate the anticipated large crowds, Highway #3 will be closed from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. and free parking and shuttle bus service will be available at Crystal Ridge Arena."

Davies noted that "a formal Military parade will begin at Crystal Ridge Arena at noon, with the soldiers marching up Ridge Road to the Battle of Ridgeway Park which is located on Highway #3. A formal ceremony will take place at the park between 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. The ceremony will include a parachute drop, period music, plaque unveilings and tributes to the soldiers who lost their lives as a result of this battle.

Following the ceremony a festival will be held back at Crystal Ridge Arena park between 3:00 – 6:30 p.m. This will include tactical demonstrations, weapons and uniform displays, artifact displays, interactive children's activities, food and music."

Planning for this major anniversary has been underway since 2014 and all events are free of charge. For further information about this event contact the Fort Erie Historical Museum, 905-894-5322, museum@forterie.ca, www.museum.forterie.ca

[View the brochure](#)