

McDermott honoured for historical contributions

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THE TIMES

Fort Erie's "Man For all Seasons", Louis McDermott, was feted by friends, family and the community Sunday, for his lifetime of contributions to the community.

Close to 100 people attended the celebration at the Knights of Columbus Hall Sunday afternoon.

"He has just done so much," said Lee Moore, one of the organizers of the celebration.

"He's just been a person who has given his whole life."

With McDermott's many involvements in the community, there were plenty of accolades to give Sunday afternoon.

History has been a long passion of McDermott's, and his vast knowledge of local history was touched on by Fort Erie Historical Museum curator Jane Davies, who hosted the event.

"Our community is fortunate to have Louis McDermott not only as a collector, but as a museum," Davies said. "And his house was and is Fort Erie's first museum."

"You're a hard act to follow," she told McDermott.

His wide interest in local history often brings him to the Fort Erie Public Library, and librarian Lynda

Goodridge told the guests that although McDermott

"But I knew somewhere in the files of Louis' head we'd be able to find the information."

It's with displays, costumes and performances that he has also helps out the Bertie Historical Society, according to Carol House.

"He is such a good sport," she said. "He doesn't mind getting up and putting on an act for all of us."

While costumes, history and entertaining are sure to keep McDermott busy, he seems to have an endless supply of time to help other people.

It's his impressive record of volunteering that brought him a salute from Pam Clark, day-program coordinator at Gilmore Lodge.

McDermott began volunteering with the day programs before Gilmore Lodge existed, she said, and he still entertains and visits people every day.

"He is one of the most dedicated visitors we have," she said.

"He takes time out to visit everyone, and makes sure they realize how important they are to him."

Emily Yando made a presentation to McDermott on behalf of the St. Michael's Church choir, of which he has been a member since 1949, and he didn't disappoint, leading all those in attendance in a spirited sing



Ed Colgan provided the guitar accompaniment, Louis McDermott led guests in a sing along during celebration honouring his many contributions, he Sunday at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Guest spoke of McDermott's years of volunteering, entertaining, and chronicling of local history at the event which drew close to 100.

along

McDermott also borrowed from his deepest resource on Sunday afternoon, filling the room with laughter through stories dating back to the 1930s.

He spoke of the opening of the refurbished Old Fort, where he was a bugler, parades for Fort Erie's Centennial and Canada's Centennial.

"I love to tell the stories," he said.

"But I never have a chance to look back on these things, because I'm so busy

doing what I have to do today."

Council backs McDermott for award

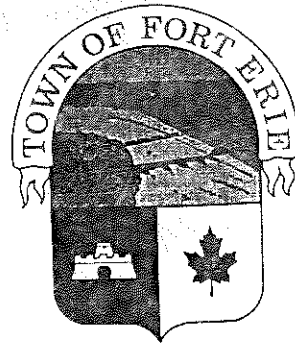
He's the history man.

Louis McDermott received accolades and applause from Fort Erie council Monday for his "generous assistance and contributions to the historical community of Fort Erie."

Long recognized as a veritable 'one-stop' historical archivist, McDermott has been active since 1957 in the community's celebrations.

He sported period garb for Canada's centennial in 1967, and provided one-of-a-kind photographs and memorabilia of how the town used to look.

In presenting the town's award to him, Mayor Wayne Redekop said McDermott "lives and breathes the history of the community... He's the custodian of the past. His living memory is a community resource."



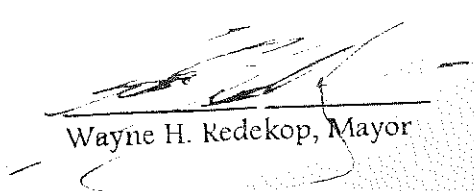
The Municipal Council
of the
Town of Fort Erie
on behalf of the Residents

wish to recognize and
express appreciation
to

Louis McDermott

for his generous assistance
over the years of collecting and providing
historical information
within the
Town of Fort Erie

Dated: July 20, 1998


Wayne H. Kedekop, Mayor

Heritage Foundation honours McDermott

A local historian is being honoured by the Ontario Heritage Foundation for his efforts in promoting the heritage of Fort Erie.

Louis McDermott is among a group of 127 Ontarians to receive the honour which, according to the OHF, "recognizes individual contributions in the areas of built, natural and cultural heritage.

"He has an extensive collection of photographs, documents, costumes, accessories and other artifacts related to local domestic and commercial life," according to an OHF press release, "which he shares through loans, donations to the museum and exhibits for the public library."

McDermott has lived in Fort Erie since 1929 and is a member of the Bertie Historical Society.

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REGION
158-0114, Ext. 136

FE historian honoured

FORT ERIE - Longtime Fort Erie historian Louis McDermott is among 127 people honoured province-wide for their work in heritage preservation.

The Ontario Heritage Foundation announced the winners of its Heritage Community Recognition Program. It recognizes the work of people in built, natural or cultural heritage

preservation.

At his home, McDermott has a large collection of photos, documents, costumes and accessories and other artifacts related to the town's past.

He shares them through loans and donations to the Fort Erie Historical Museum, and by displaying them occasionally at the Fort Erie Public Library.