

While Fort Erie planned its summer Festival , the Moore family and I, planned our own project: to "Raise" the flag over Maplewood Farm on the Garrison; the former home of brig. General Ernest Cruikshank.

It was not to be just any ordinary flag-pole, but a 58ft. maple tree cut from the back of the property bordering the Queen Elizabeth way. Mr. Moore, and two of the children Peter and Joseph proceeded to search out the straightest tree they could find , and to cut it down on Tues. evening June 6th. A couple of nights later June 8th. Mr. Moore the two boys and I, headed for the back acre, this time equipped with a "Come/Along" and more spirit than muscle. We proceeded to inch the hudge pole out by hand , and were two hours in getting it to the edge of the woods. For good measure we took along a second pole, which we managed to move in slightly over an hours time.

The following evening with the help of Bob Ford and his family from Bowen Rd., we attached chains to the trees and with the help of his truck pulled them to the Queen E. They were loaded on the truck and trailer, in short order for their journey down the Queen E , along the Thompson , and up the Garrison to the front of the Moore property .

On Sunday morning June 11th. Mrs. Moore and the children proceeded to skin the log, while Mr. Moore took pains to remove the last traces of branches. After air drying the pole was creosoted several times within the next few days.

On Mond. night June 26th. with the help of MR. Freeman from the Hydro, we all gathered again to raise the pole by hand; as the continous rains over the past few weeks had made it impossible to bring in any heavy equipment. A hole almost six FT. deep had to be dug with a post hole digger and bar; and the men took turns. When the hole was completed, guide ropes were attached to the pole and the children divided themselves on each side. Mr. Moore and Mr. Freeman lifted, while I guided the pole , and Mrs. Moore followed behind with a guide board inching along as the pole moved upwards.

The work proceeded smoothly, the pole was erected, the dirt replaced and the ground cleaned up before sunset.

On July 3rd. the second day of the summer festival we had the U.S. Marine band back to Maplewood Farm after their concert at the Fort Erie Race track. . They were under the Command of Chief Warrant Officer E.W. Alfes. Quantico Marine Base Virginia. About seven that evening , the six man flag raising detail, completed their job and the Canadian and American Flags flew for the first time , from this pole at Maplewood.

The Flag Raising detail under Sgt. Robert Morton were:

Trumpeter : L.CPL. Chuck Bridy.
Drumer : L.CPL. Jim Shelly
Flag-man : P.F.C. Mc. Millen
Ropes : Prvt. Rose.
Ropes : P.F.C. Candido Maldonado