

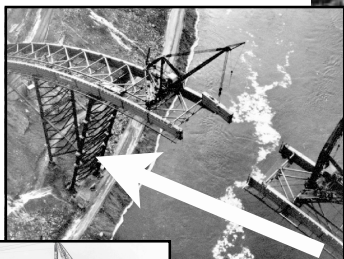


# Lewiston-Queenston Bridge Celebrates 50 Years of Operation

International bridge opened November 1, 1962, becoming the world's longest steel arched bridge without hinges.

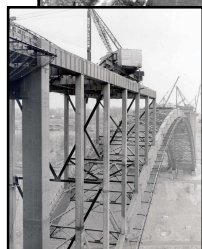


An average of over 10,000 cars and trucks cross the bridge every day, making it one of the busiest international crossings in North America. The bridge opened 50 years ago is still going strong. It replaced the old suspension bridge built in 1899, while connecting the NY State Thruway (built in the 1950s) with the Queen Elizabeth Way in Ontario. It stretches 1,600 feet from abutment to abutment and cost \$16 million. In 2005, \$45 million was invested in the bridge to expand it from four fixed lanes to five reversible lanes, allowing traffic across the span to be configured according to whichever direction has the heaviest volume. It is owned and operated by the bi-national Niagara Falls Bridge Commission, which also owns the Rainbow and Whirlpool bridges.



### No Easy Task

Building the bridge hundreds of feet above the swirling Niagara River was no easy task. The lives of 15 workers were spared on Dec. 1, 1961 when a crashing jet plane from the Niagara Falls Air Base swerved at the last second and missed the vertical support structures (see arrow) by inches before smashing into the gorge wall.



### Dignitaries at 1962 Opening Ceremony

NY State Governor Nelson Rockefeller (left), Ontario Premier John P. Robarts (center), and NY State Senator Earl W. Brydges (right) attended the bridge dedication.

Interestingly, weeks before it was officially opened to traffic, local resident Tim Henderson was the first to cross the bridge as part of a "See the USA in your Chevrolet" commercial. He was 15 years old and was paid \$100.



## Flames Through Lewiston!

Saturday,  
December 15  
6:30-7:30pm



You don't want to miss this spectacular event that will commemorate Lewiston's most important day in history.

The British attacked Lewiston on Dec. 19, 1813, during the War of 1812, and turned the Village into a pile of ashes. Residents, many barefoot, ran for their lives through the snow and mud. The local Tuscaroras came to the rescue and helped the survivors escape the onslaught.

On the evening of December 15, Center St. will be closed to traffic from 4th to 5th St., and there will be 10 large fires down the middle of the street. This is the 3rd annual Flames event and this year's production will be better than ever. See British soldiers and natives chase Lewiston citizens out of town. Be a part of Lewiston's rich heritage, and imagine, just for an evening, what it must have been like for Lewiston's earliest settlers as they tried to escape the burning torches and tomahawks.



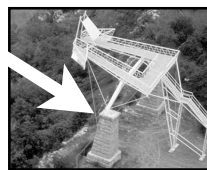
### The Ongiara Ferry

Between 1864 and 1899, there was no bridge connecting Lewiston, NY, and Queenston, Ontario. If you wanted to cross the river, you would have to go to Niagara Falls, or take the popular Ongiara Ferry boat seen here. The Ongiara was very busy in the 1880s and 90s.



### Bridge Traffic Backed Up 85 Years Ago

Some things never change. You can see cars lined up on the old Lewiston suspension bridge waiting to get into Canada in 1927. The bridge was located at Artpark between 1899 to 1962. The suspension cables supporting the bridge were strung across the river and attached to large pillars at Artpark that you can still see today. The pillars were used as a base for a steel viewing platform built in 1981 called "Omega."



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The Historical Association of Lewiston hopes you enjoy your visit to our historic and quaint village. Mark your calendar for our next spectacular Lewiston Tour of Homes on Dec. 1 & 2, 2012.

Get our free email newsletters by sending an email to: [join@HistoricLewiston.org](mailto:join@HistoricLewiston.org). You can also see and download our past placemats at our website, [HistoricLewiston.org](http://HistoricLewiston.org). Historic Lewiston placemats written and designed by volunteer, Lee Simonson.

### Tuscarora Heroes Save Lewiston Lives



The amazing and true story of how the Tuscaroras saved Lewiston citizens from the brutal British attack during the War of 1812. The book is now available at DiCamillo Bakery and the Lewiston Museum. Price: \$10.

Get your copy and find out why Lewiston citizens will be forever grateful to the Tuscarora Nation.



### 8th Annual Lewiston Tour of Homes

December 1 & 2, 2012  
10am-5pm

Our most popular event!  
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