



The Erie Canal, finished in 1825, made possible the settlement of Fairport Village as it drained the surrounding unhealthy swamps. Fairport became a thriving village with services for all and successful businesses. The 1922 photo shows several tugs and a barge on the canal in Fairport village. The cupola of the Fairport Municipal Building and lift bridge over the canal on Main Street are also visible.

For over 100 years the Erie Canal was used for commerce and travel. As commercial traffic increasingly turned to the railroad, and then to the highway, the canal was used less and less. While at one point it was suggested by some that the canal be filled in, by the 1960's people were beginning to see the canal as a recreational resource. Today the Erie Canal has become a draw for locals and tourists alike who use the canal itself for kayaks, canoes, and other pleasure boats, the canal path for walking and biking, and the adjacent parks for picnicking and other leisure activities. Significantly wider and deeper than it was in 1825, the Erie Canal is an area treasure.

This week's "Window to the Past" is a 1922 photo of the Erie Canal in Fairport looking west toward the lift bridge. The cupola on the village hall is visible over the trees on the left of the photo, as are several of the old Main Street buildings. For further information or questions, please contact Jean Keplinger, Perinton historian, at 223-0770