

The Fire Mark

The Newsletter of the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum
P O R T H O P E , O N T A R I O , C A N A D A • F A L L 2 0 1 6

Report from the Chair:

Hello members and friends of the CFFM! Well, that summer certainly went by quickly for us. The Museum has been very busy with good visitor numbers and a lot of internal improvements happening.

The gift shop has been restocked and the displays enhanced. Thanks to a donation from Ontario Power Generation, we have new fire gear in the dress up area. We're still working on a new display that will give visitors a hands-on answer to their constant question "How much does all that gear weigh?"

We have added more items to our display on the Corps of Canadian Firefighters, who served in England during WWII, and we now have a great video display on the subject as well.

Lett Architects have been hard at work on our Feasibility Study, which is turning out very well. The designs they came up with for the inside and outside are first-rate. Thanks to a lot of effort that went into fundraising, and a helpful donation from Cameco, we will be able to easily cover the cost of this study.

An earlier planned presentation to Council had to be delayed as the Board needed more time to go over the study for final approval. Due to some scheduling conflicts it now looks like the Council meeting on November 1st will be the soonest we can present it publicly.



Above: Front cover of CFFM Feasibility Study written by Lett Architects. Over 80 pages of information.

In July, we had a donation of a very tired and beat up fire truck that we were pleased to accept, on the condition that the owner was aware we would be stripping it and scrapping the remainder. This put a few dollars into our hands while helping the donor get rid of a sadly unloved and no longer useful vehicle.

We have also received a number of artifact donations that went straight into our collection. It would seem that as the word of the Museum spreads, more and more people consider us a fit place to donate their fire-related items. It's a bit of a double-edged sword, as we are tight for space, but smaller items are never a problem and we're glad to have them and be able to protect and/or display them. A few smaller items are

seen in this newsletter.

I'm very pleased to report that we have made real progress in our discussions with the Ministry of the Environment and the majority of our concerns about the health of the Canadian Tire (CTC) property we've had our eyes on, have been addressed.

That is one more hurdle out of the way in our quest to secure a new site for a bigger and better CFFM. Discussion with CTC will need to begin soon and we have been keeping them fully informed of our progress. We must first have some serious negotiations with both the Municipality and the Port Hope Area Initiative, but we are moving steadily forward!

*Will Lambert,
Chair*

A Kids Play at the Museum!

On October 8th, as a part of the Farley Festival, celebrating author, Farley Mowat, who lived in Port Hope before he passed, a short play, "Taking Care of Crumley" was presented at the Museum. Written for children aged 5 to 10, it was a free event that attracted over 45 people on a sunny Fall day. The play was written by local author, Ted Staunton and was about the problem of bullying. It was a fun show with lots of laughs and the everyone loved it (kids and adults). There was also popcorn, face painting and free kids books (courtesy of Ted).

It was a very successful day for the Museum with over 85 people visiting. Holding an event like this was a first for CFFM. It meant some exhibits in the truck area needed to be rearranged to create space—the 1941 GMC and the air raid pumper (whose tire was repaired the previous day by Northumberland Tire at no charge) outside. We moved the Kingston pumper over close to the 1926 Gotfredson and pushed everything else up against the back wall to create a big enough space to stage the play.



Above: Audience enjoys a scene from the play which was fun and lively and had a great message about bullying!



Above: Members of the Firefighter Red Knights Motor Cycle Club at their yearly charity ride event headquarters on the CFFM grounds. Almost 100 fabulous motorcycles fill the parking lot! [Read more >>](#)

CFFM is Holding a Draw for Commemorative Coins

As a major fundraising project, the Museum is again holding a draw for valuable prizes—gold and silver commemorative coins!

This is the third fundraising draw the Museum has held, the first one having been held in 2014 with a restored GMC pickup truck as a prize.

This time, the prizes feature a 2016 \$100 gold coin depicting the fire that destroyed the original Ottawa Parliament Building. The value is \$610. CFFM was a consultant on the design of this coin.

The 2nd Prize is a 2016 boxed set of four, \$15 Silver "Canadian Heroes" Coins showing first responders: a firefighter, a police officer, a soldier, and a paramedic). The value of the set is \$300.

The 3rd Prize is a 2016 \$15 Silver "Hero" Coin depicting a firefighter and valued at \$75.

Prizes to be drawn: January 1st, 2017, at 12:00 noon, at the Museum.

Tickets may be purchased at the Museum, Holtons Flowers, Antiques on Queen and Comtech Fire Credit Union. (Sorry, due to regulations be-

yond our control, draw is available to Ontario residents only.)



Our Already Fabulous Social Media Presence is About to Get Even Better!

You may already be a friend of our Facebook posts which are placed for the most part by our Chair, Will Lambert, who is really, really busy with a plethora of other duties!

Will has been doing a great job—our Facebook page has a five star rating with over 1100 likes! But to relieve Will of at least one thing on his busy plate, we've been able to win the services of social media expert, Letitia Calver who being young, energetic and "clued in" to the social media scene has already proposed some exciting new social media opportunities:

1. Digital ads for events that we're hosting e.g. "Hallowe'en at the Museum. She will create graphics that are visually engaging and be able to post a few times about an event to attract more interest.

2. Each week she will highlight an artifact from the Museum on various social media platforms with links back to our web site.

3. Create a short preview video of what can be seen at the Museum.

4. Create an Instagram account for CFFM. Instagram is one of the most used social media platforms as it is easy to reach a large audience.

We expect that these ideas, and more to come, will increase traffic to our web site and thus attract more visitors to the Museum. We're looking forward to working with Letitia!

Annual Red Knights MC Visit

In September, 130 riders got on the road at about 10:30 am at the Museum parking lot expecting to be returning (staggered) around 1:00 pm. It was the annual Scott's Ride for Camp Bucko.

This annual charity ride remembers Scott Robinson, a Bewdley, Ontario Firefighter and all proceeds go to the wonderful Camp Bucko children's camp for burn victims. The ride is hosted by the local chapter of the Red Knights, but everyone is welcome and encouraged to join in.

The ride starts and ends at the Museum, leaving around 10am and returning around 1:30 or 2:00.

People from all over come down to CFFM and just ogle all the shiny hunks of chrome and talk to the owners about bikes—they're a great bunch of men and women, very friendly, with their hearts in the right places. We look forward to their visit again next year!



2nd Annual Model Boat Day

It was a rainy Saturday but Model Boat Day went on with the help of the Kawartha Marine Modelers who arrived with a huge portable pond and lots of great model boats and steam engines to look at.

Things got better when the rain went away and visitors were treated to some great model craft—one fireboat could actually squirt water!

Inside CFFM, the modelers set up some great displays. See photos below



Above: There were meticulously crafted model boats of all sizes and types on display as well as a fantastic working miniature steam engine.

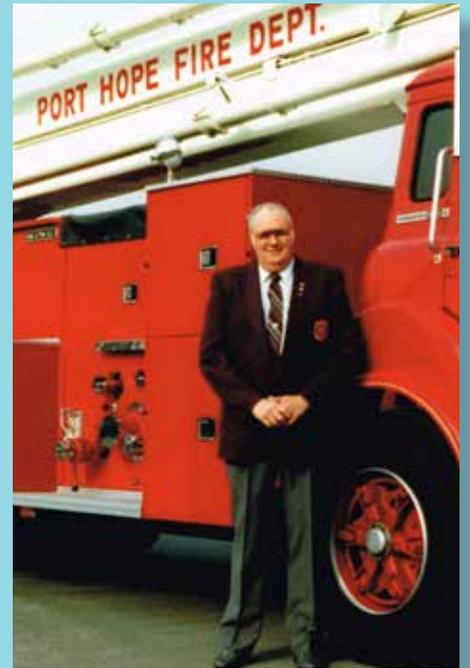
Next year's Model Boat Day is already booked with date to be announced. Hope to see you there!.

Keith Brown Remembered

Donations were recently made in the memory of Keith Laverne Brown, who was a volunteer firefighter for Port Hope from January 1st 1977 to July 1st 1993. He was also an honorary member of the Port Hope Fire Department.

As a result of Keith's wishes that donations be made in lieu of flowers, the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum has received over \$1400 in donations from Keith's family and friends.

We are truly grateful for these donations and we honour and remember Keith for his long service to the Port Hope Fire Department. *Thank You*



Some New Acquisitions

The Museum is constantly receiving new items for display. Here are a few recent gifts. Others can be seen on the "New Acquisitions" page of the web site.



Above: A lieutenant's cap badge from Kimberley BC. Circa unknown, but the King's Crown would place it between 1901 and 1952.

If you have an artifact or photo involved with Canadian fire fighting history that you'd like to donate, please contact us. Tax receipts are available for appraised items.



Above: A very attractive convention ribbon from Whitby, Ontario. Reversible to be worn as a memorial ribbon.

Final 2016 Events

There are still two more upcoming special events at the Museum this season:

October 29th – 11am to 3pm Hallowe'en at the Museum!

With crafts and games! Come in a costume for some fun and treats!



November 26th – 11am to 3pm 3rd Annual Santa at CFFM!

That's right, he's back! Bring your list and set aside some time to talk to Santa after the Port Hope Santa Claus Parade. From 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Santa will be sitting on an antique fire truck. Save room for cookies and hot chocolate while you're waiting your visit with Santa!

Goodbye and THANKS to This Year's Summer Students!



L-R top row, summer student (Maddy), fall staff (Shannon), summer student (Luke), new volunteer (Dennis).
L-R bottom row, Volunteer coordinator (Marielle) and as the Dalmatian, student volunteer (Jefferson).



We Celebrate Canada Day!

The Museum likes to be in a parade! And Port Hope's Canada parade is a good one to participate in. Some say Port Hope's parades are dominated by all the fire trucks, so we say "One of them might as well be ours!"

A literal "truckload" of friends and volunteers came out to ride on the truck, including Port Hope's "Citizen of the Year", Marielle Lambert, our own Secretary and Event Coordinator!

It was so much fun being in the Port Hope parade, we took the truck over to nearby Cobourg and drove in that town's parade too!

Want to ride in the parade? Let us know well ahead of time, space is limited and special status goes to our volunteers!

Next parade: the Port Hope Santa Claus Parade (and who knows where else!).



WWII Medals For Corps of Canadian Firefighters Collection

Recently, our Chair, Will Lambert, discovered these medals of the Corps of Canadian Firefighters on Kijiji. He purchased them and donated them to the Museum to display in our ever-growing collection of items to do with this heroic corps of firefighters.

Although it took several decades of lobbying, eventually approval was given for members of the corps to receive and wear the following:

- The Defence Medal – for defending Britain
- The Volunteer Medal, with bar – for voluntary service (the bar denotes overseas service)
- The War Medal – for all who did full-time service.

Interestingly, a contact at Veterans Affairs was not aware that these “civilian” volunteers were allowed to wear the Volunteer Medal. The research that Will did clarified this and the contact was put “straight”!

FURTHER:

Meet the late John Zinnicker, “Leading Fireman” with the Corps of Canadian Firefighters, 1942-1945. Carrying badge number T393, John was trained and licensed to drive the fire truck. Note his British license in the photo above. The



Museum is very grateful to John's son, Doug Zinnicker, for the donation of these and several other items which are helping us to tell the story of the Corps.

DON'T FORGET:

The special Christmas shopping openings at the Museum on Saturday Dec. 10th and 17th, from 11am to 3pm. Shoppers will also be able to tour the Museum if desired. Be sure to bring your friends for some unique, gift items.

New Items in Our Shop

We're adding unique new items all the time—here's some of the latest ornaments, toys, books, posters, clothing and more:



From Our Facebook Posts:

Below: AUGUST 3rd - Over the long weekend, we had a lot of visitors, including two fairly large groups. About 40 kids from the municipal Camp program were through on Saturday and a bus tour of about 50 people arrived Sunday morning. I don't yet have photos of the camp crew, but see below for a pic of bus tour group. We love it when the place is busy and bustling with people.



Below: July 31 - A new exhibit, courtesy of the Ontario Fire College in Gravenhurst. This massive 4 piston pump is out of a 30s Ahrens Fox. It has been cut-away to show it's inner workings. The tall vacuum cylinder at the front help keep the pump primed and the large spherical air dome on top evened out the water pressure, so it didn't pulse. Just one of the interesting things we have to show you, come visit us!



Above: July 28 - The CFFM now has a display in the Ontario Legislature. Marielle was in Toronto today putting together a presentation about the Corps Of Canadian Fire Fighters. We are blessed to have a lot of documents and artifacts on this little known part of Canadian fire fighting history where over 400 volunteered to help fight the fires created by the Blitz during WWII. If you find yourself in Toronto, take the tour of the Legislature & check it out. We also have a larger display at the museum in Port Hope. Come see it!



Above: July 30 - How they got there...This 1955 American LaFrance pumper, fresh from the factory, is being off-loaded at a railway station. Although this photo was taken in Meadville, Pennsylvania; the same shipping method would have been used across Canada. A pumper like this one would fit nicely inside a standard box car, without much room to spare. Note here that several members of the local fire department are on hand to witness, help with and supervise the unloading. The last thing they would want is a scratch on their new pride and joy.

Below: August 10 - A few memories of a recent visit to the museum from Jennifer's Jazz It Up. The dance troop decided to use the CFFM as a backdrop for their photo day. Some great shots resulted, thanks for visiting.



The Fire Mark is the Newsletter of the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum.
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