

**CFFM IS EXTENDING ITS SEASON UNTIL THE END OF OCTOBER!**

# The Fire Mark

The Newsletter of the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum  
PORT HOPE, ONTARIO, CANADA • SEPTEMBER 2015

## Chair's Message:

**W**ith the majority of the 2015 season behind us, I can say without hesitation that this has been a *very* good year for the CFFM. Visitor numbers have been strong and the comments from those who toured the Museum have been tremendously positive. It raises our spirits when we hear that all of the volunteer's efforts have been noticed and appreciated.

Fundraising has also gone well this year and we are not only able to finance the Museum's regular operations, but make a number of improvements and additions as well. Included in this area would be the purchase of a BBQ and a large cooler for use during special events, extending the contracts of both summer students and the addition of some more outdoor signage

With our summer students both having finished up and headed back to school, but time left in our 2015 season, we needed help. Enter Leah-Ann Logell.

I first met Leah-Ann when she was hired to work at the Port Hope Archives last year, while the regular Archivist was off on maternity leave. Leah-Ann grabbed the bull by the horns and did an amazing job for the Archives. She is intelligent, hard-working, creative and very personable, so when the CFFM Board decided to hire someone to help us finish out our season, we checked and were delighted to find out that she was both available and interested.

Leah-Ann will do everything our students did and a great deal more. She has already taken on our social media accounts and is helping out with adver-



*Above:* Board member, Port Hope Fire Chief Jim Wheeler, serves up a dish to a guest at our Summer Fundraiser.

tising and promotion as well. It gives me a great sense of security to know that she is there running the day-to-day operation. In fact, this has been a factor in inspiring the Board to extend our season by more than two weeks, until the end of October.

Another pleasant surprise has been the performance of the Museum store, which is doing a great business this year. We have been able to find unique and interesting products, some purchased, others donated, that are literally flying off the shelves. Extending our season may mean that we can take advantage of those looking for a unique Christmas gift for someone who is either involved in the Fire Service or just an interest in firefighting.

We continue to work on acquiring a new home for the Museum, but have to be very careful and thorough in our investigation of each possibility. Things are looking good for our preferred site at the

moment, but there is still a lot of work to be done, especially in the area of environmental concerns. A second local site has recently presented itself and we are trying to gather some more information about it as well, but we remain focussed on our preferred site.

I am looking forward to the day when we can say "Yes. This is the site we want to go after and we're convinced it's the right choice for the CFFM". Then we can plug all of the information into our strategic and business plans and get on to the job of making presentations to the municipality, county, fire service organizations, businesses and individuals, seeking support for our bid to purchase the property and renovate it.

Until that time, and afterword, we will need you in our corner. To quote CBC's Dead Dog Cafe, "Stay calm, Be brave, Wait for the signs". We are doing well and making good progress.

*Will Lambert, Chair*

## About the Collections:

This past summer has been very busy here at the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum. When I took over the board position of Collections Manager in May, I knew there was a lot of work to be done. We hired a summer student, Jaron, whose sole responsibility was to get the collection accessioned, and I'm pleased to say Jaron was very successful at getting a lot of the work accomplished. (see article at right)

I am also very pleased to report that as of our last board meeting we have over 840 items in the collection along with over 70 donors now identified and recorded in our "PastPerfect", which is a collection management software used in over 9500 museums.

The work still continues and I am looking forward to working on the very extensive patch collection next. If you check our website, you'll see that we will soon be selling or trading any extra patches we have.

Lastly, have you visited our web site lately? We have redesigned the home page with a series of icons that are actually quick links to specific items of interest inside the site. This has led to an actual increase in site visits over our already high numbers of visitors from across Canada and around the world!  
*David Moore, Collections Manager*

The screenshot shows the website's navigation menu with the following items: NEWS & EVENTS, BECOME A MEMBER, BE A VOLUNTEER, ADOPT A FIRE HYDRANT, SEE OUR COLLECTION, MAKE A DONATION, ITEMS TO TRADE, BE A SPONSOR, and VISIT PORT HOPE. The footer contains the text 'FIND US ON Facebook' and '© 2014 Canadian Fire Fighters Museum'.

## A Volunteer's Update:

by Jaron Fitch



Well, summer has now come to a close and I find myself once more getting things ready for my second – and final – year of school at the University of Toronto. I will be finishing my Master's degree in the iSchool program, which specializes in library, archival and museum studies. Having spent the last three months working here at the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum, I am happy to say that I will be heading back to class a little bit smarter and a whole lot more experienced.

For those who are not already aware, I was hired by Marielle Lambert to help organize the collection of fire fighter artifacts kept in the Museum facility. This involved identifying, tagging and describing items found and then placing this information into the Museum's digital repository, called "PastPerfect". Dave gave me the structure I needed to begin this project and Will was usually there to answer any questions I had regarding the identity of the more bizarre artifacts. Dan also made frequent visits to the Museum, and his company was always welcome.

Apart from my duties involving the collection, I had the added pleasure of working closely with the volunteers on an individual basis every week. From cleaning, to sewing, to gardening and helping me manage the counter,

all of them brought a helpful set of skills that not only made my job easier but kept the Museum running smoothly. Monday's I was with Donna and Ellen. Donna and I would argue over who got to clean the toilets, and Ellen would always hold down the fort when I needed to be upstairs with the collection. Thursday's was with my two main men Frank and George. Frank was

the master duster who used to work as a volunteer firefighter in Palgrave, ON, and George was the gardener who used to tell me some of the wildest stories I have ever heard. Friday's were with Margaret. She was the seamstress who made me delicious cookies and loved to chat with me about things ranging from butterflies to U.F.O's. Last but not least of course was Jack. I was never sure what day was Jack's day to come in because he would show up all the time. A handyman extraordinaire!

So in closing, I would like to once again reiterate how much I enjoyed working at the Canadian Firefighters Museum this summer and wish you all the best in the years to come.

*Jaron Fitch, Summer Student CFFM*

## Membership Report:

Recently the Board reviewed our policies and has decided to update the Membership Policy.

In order to keep things organized we have decided to move to one expiry date per year for all memberships with the new expiry date being April 30th of every year.

If you have recently renewed your membership, don't worry, you will receive a pro-rated membership so that your membership covers next year.

Individual memberships will remain at \$20, Family remains at \$40



and Firefighter (current/retired) is \$10. As well, we have sponsorships available for your consideration.

Please bear with us during this transitional period. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [grahammarg2003@yahoo.com](mailto:grahammarg2003@yahoo.com)  
*Marg Graham, Membership*

## Remaining Events of 2015:

If you missed “Toy Fire Truck Day” and “Model Boat Day”, you still have a chance to attend some of our special events for 2015:

- **Friday, September 25th to Sunday, September 27th** it’s “Culture Days” with a childrens’ scavenger hunt for prizes and a chance to learn about Canada’s fire fighting history.



- **Saturday, October 24th** it’s Hallowe’en at the Museum! Come in a costume or dress up in some of our firefighter gear. There will be special crafts, guests and free treat bags!
- **Saturday, November 28th** After a huge success in 2014, Santa will be returning to the Museum for a visit and pictures from 2:00pm-4:00pm, right after the Port Hope Santa Clause Parade. Please bring a new toy to donate to the Port Hope Fire Department Christmas Toy Drive.

So come to the Museum, and be sure to check the website for future events next season.



## And The Winners Are:

We’re sure you’re wondering who the lucky winners of our Fire Truck Peddle Cars Draw were. The first prize was won by Henry and Kingston Hilliard and the second prize was won by Al Wales. Congratulations! ...and have fun!

## Two NEW Summer Events

Two new events were held this summer at the Museum. Toy Fire Truck Day saw all kids who visited the Museum presented with a Matchbox toy fire truck.

In addition to the giveaways, the Port Hope Fire Department was on-hand with their fire safety bouncy house. Cameco sent “Big Blue” (their fire truck) and a restored 1970’s ambulance was also on display.

The event was very well received with some kids (and adults) waiting outside the Museum half an hour before opening time so that they wouldn’t miss out on the toy fire truck. By the end of the day approximately 250 people had visited the Museum.

Model Boat Day saw the Kawartha Marine Modellers (KMM) from the Lindsay area visit the Museum with their portable boat pond and a large display of model boats. The boat pond

was filled with water by the Port Hope Fire Department who also brought their fire safety bouncy house, fire safety information and a fire truck.

The boat pond provided an opportunity for kids to operate a radio controlled boat and the KMM to show off some of their craft. A BBQ (thanks Chef Will) and bake sale rounded out the day. Attendance wasn’t as large as we had hoped for but those

who attended had a great time.

The day was topped off with the KMM making a generous financial donation to the CFFM and indicating that they want to be part of our next Model Boat Day.

As both events were successful, the planning for next year has already started!

*Jim Clifford, Vice Chair*



Above: An amazingly detailed model boat cruises by remote control in our temporary lake.

## Our Most Successful Summer Fundraiser Ever!

The 2015 season for the CFFM has been a very successful one, and one of the reasons for that, is the absolutely amazing fundraiser which was held at the home of one of our members, Peggy Bennett.

The fundraiser was held at the end of July in the beautiful backyard of Peggy's home. The weather, although very hot, was perfect for a backyard get together and everyone was in the mood to relax and enjoy themselves. People from all around southern Ontario were invited and approximately 150 showed up. There was plenty of food (which people are still talking about) and lots to drink. To say that everyone had a great time is an understatement!

The event culminated with CFFM chair, Will Lambert, giving a speech which let everyone in on the big secret we had been holding onto for a while, which was that the CFFM and Canadian Tire have started negotiations for the purchase of the vacant building located in downtown Port Hope. Everyone in attendance was very pleased and excited by the good news!

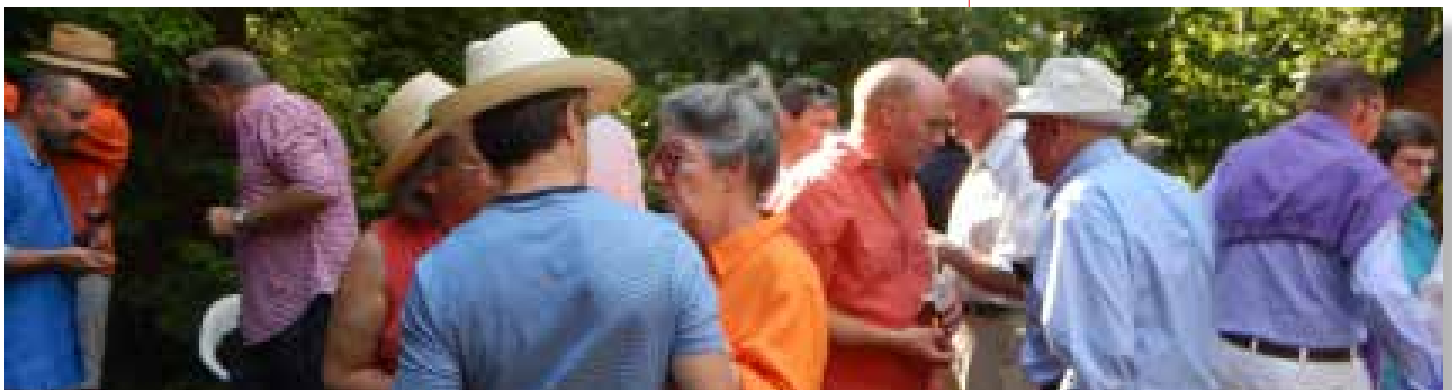
We would like to take this opportunity to thank Peggy for her generosity. I understand she has decided to make this an annual event!

I would personally like to thank, Helen Matthew, Cathy Moore, and Richard Lafond for their contributions to the food, and John Matthew for tending bar ...a job well done.

*Marielle Lambert, Event Coordinator*



Top: Marielle and Helen in the kitchen. Above: Over 150 Museum supporters enjoyed the afternoon with plenty of conversation, food and drinks in Peggy Bennett's beautiful garden. Below: Our host, Peggy at centre.





## From Our Facebook Posts:

At right: Port Hope Fire Department, c1930s. That truck is still in town — it's in our collection! See below.



Did you know that in 1941, Prime Minister Mackenzie King and the British Government agreed to form a Corps of Canadian Fire Fighters to assist in the war effort during the Second World War? A total of 422 specially selected men from across Canada volunteered to serve as members of the Corps. To learn more, have a look at the Corps of Canadian Fire Fighters display next time you visit us!



Insurance companies played a huge role in the development of the fire service as early “fire companies” formed contracts with particular insurers. A fire mark (such as the one in the photograph above) on the outside of a building indicated that it was protected by a certain insurer and in the event of a fire should be saved by that fire company. Competition was fierce and this could lead to multiple fire companies showing up at a scene, but only the contracted one worked to stop the blaze.



We are very thankful for all of the hard work from our volunteers! Here we see Frank cleaning a fire truck!

Please don't forget — if you haven't already, go to: [Facebook.com/Fire-MuseumCanada](https://www.facebook.com/Fire-MuseumCanada) and “like” us! CFFM would like that a lot!



Today we had some young visitors from Windsor, Ontario. They had a great time trying on some fire fighting equipment and exploring the Museum!

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