

# The Fire Mark

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

## Year-end Report from the Chair:

**T**he Museum remained open two weeks longer than usual this year, closing at the end of October.

Visitor numbers remained fairly constant during these extra weeks and both donations and store sales continued strongly, so it was a good change and one we will look to continue in the future.

In spite of now being officially closed, we remain quite busy. We participated in the Port Hope Santa Claus Parade November 28th. As some of you will be aware, we also hosted Santa immediately after the parade offering free photos, hot drinks and treats to all who visited. A lot of time went into decorating the Museum for Santa's visit and the place looked absolutely great.

We remain very active working on the acquisition of the Canadian Tire property. Our environmental assessments are ongoing, making slow but steady progress. An expert in museum design is working with us to come up with proposals for the interior layout and exterior appearance. We have been actively considering the type and cost of renovations that would be required to bring the building into a state of good repair. Possible sources of funding are being discussed and in some cases pursued. Ways to improve the site drainage are also being looked at, and the list goes on.

At this time I would like to publicly thank Environmental Consultant Catherine Jefferson, Museum Designer Michael Lundholm, Professional Engineer Kelly Murphy and Environmental



Above: Whole families including their pets came to see Santa at the Museum on Saturday, November 28th!

Lawyer Lynn Mitchell, all of whom have provided us with expertise, free of charge.

Recently, the Board received a proposal and presentation from Lett Architects Inc. to perform a comprehensive site feasibility study, which we are considering. We have also put out a call for additional proposals and The Ventin Group Architects will soon table a comparable one for our consideration. We see this as an expensive but prudent and necessary step in the process as we inch toward acquiring this, or any site.

Vice Chair, Jim Clifford and I also travelled to cottage country recently to view a very large collection of artifacts which may soon be donated to the CFFM. Since the deal is

not yet completed, I am unable to name the source, but I will say that the artifacts are in very good condition and this will be a major score for the Museum if we can acquire them. Current storage issues aside, this is the kind of donation that will raise the level of our displays and help to make the CFFM the go-to source for fire fighting information.

*Will Lambert, Chair*

Below: Volunteer, Frank Henderson, rides in the 1941 GMC fire truck at the Port Hope Santa Claus Parade.



## A BIG “Thank You” to Our Intrepid Volunteers:

**W**hat a year it has been for the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum!

We hosted more events on site than we have ever before in the Museum’s 31 years, and also did more outreach events than ever before. On top of the events and outreach we have been working on a proposal for the Canadian Tire Building here in Port Hope and there were a number of people who loaned their skilled hands to the project.

None of it would have been possible without the help of all of our wonderful volunteers involved this year. On behalf of the Board I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone because without you, none of what we do for the community and for history fire fighting would be possible.

Thank you: Peter Abrams, Peggy Bennett, Doug Burke, Ken Burgin, Phil Carter, Barb Coleman, Bruce Coleman, Donna Dumont, Dylan Easby, Ray Easby, George Grimes, Ben Habrel, Frank Henderson, Marie Hughes-Jones, Catherine Jefferson, Jack Jodrell, Brenda Johnston, Bill Hicks, Richard Lafond, Leah-Ann Logel, Margaret Lothian, Michael Lundholm, Ruth Marvin, William MacIsaac, Al MacKenzie, Tiejia MacLaughlin, Helen Matthew, John Matthew, Lynn Mitchell, Cathy Moore, Michael Nelson, Joyce Prince, Ellen Rainey, Chris Rous, Ken Stock, Chris Terry. If we have inadvertently left anyone out, we are sincerely sorry, please accept our apologies!

## My Time at the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum:

**A**s I am writing this piece for the newsletter, it is my last day at the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum. Although my time here has been short, I have very much enjoyed

the experience. I have had the opportunity to work alongside this wonderful group of volunteers and the Board of Directors on a daily basis and these individuals have made my experience at the CFFM extremely enjoyable.

My first day at the Fire Fighters Museum was at the beginning of September and throughout the fall season, I have had the opportunity to work on many different projects. In addition to greeting and assisting visitors, I have been looking after the Museum’s displays, updating the signage throughout the building and working on a community grant.

I have also been assisting with the museum collection where I have accessioned a number of artifacts and added them into the Museum’s *Past Perfect* database. Some of my other duties have been cleaning, writing press releases, coordinating special events, organization projects and government forms and other paper work. I have been very busy over these past few months and have accomplished a lot.

Even though I will no longer be working here, you will still see me around; now as a volunteer. While we are closed for the season, I will continue to manage the Museum’s social media pages. In addition, I will be working on a few other projects and I will continue to volunteer at the CFFM for special events.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors for hiring me at the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum and for their assistance over the past few months. I would also like to thank each of the volunteers. It was great to meet and work with each and every one of them. The CFFM is extremely lucky to have such a great group of dedicated individuals and I was fortunate enough to work alongside of them.

*Leah-Ann Logel*

## New Displays Are Coming!

**E**ven though we are now closed for the season, the volunteers of the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum have been working hard on a number of new projects throughout the building. We are constantly trying to improve our exhibits to further educate our visitors on the history of fire fighting in Canada.

One of the projects Leah-Ann was working on while at the CFFM was our signage throughout both the main gallery, as well as the truck bay. Not only are the new signs consistent throughout the entire museum, she has also made the font on them just slightly bigger, making them easier to read. We have also been working on two new displays in the museum. Firstly, within the museum store, a new display on fire helmets has been added in order to showcase more of the interesting helmets in our collection. In addition, a new display has been created in the fire truck bay. This new exhibit features large nozzles, breathing apparatus, and other pieces of equipment. We are even working on an interactive component for this new exhibit, so stay tuned.

We have a number of projects in mind for next year so you will have to visit again when we reopen in May to see what we have been up to!

## Special Events Report:

**W**e were busy at the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum during our last part of the season! Even though the cold weather was upon us, this did not stop us from hosting a number of special events during the last part of our season

and a Christmas event even after we closed!

On September 20th, 2015 the CFFM hosted the Red Knights (Chapter 13) Charity Ride for Camp Bucko. In total, 120 individuals participated in this event which included a motorcycle ride, BBQ lunch and prizes. All proceeds from the event were donated to Camp Bucko, a camp open to burn survivors between the ages of 7-17. For more information about this camp, you can visit their website: [www.campbucko.ca](http://www.campbucko.ca)

Culture Days was our second event in September which was held on September 25th, 26th and 27th. Culture Days is a Canadawide event with locations throughout the country providing free activities. This year, a scavenger hunt throughout the CFFM was organized for children to complete and win a toy fire truck. In total, we had 40 children complete scavenger hunts that weekend! Stay tuned for details about our Culture Days event again next year taking place on September 30th, October 1st and October 2nd 2016.

On October 3rd, volunteers from the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum travelled to the Newcastle Harvest Festival and brought our 1941 GMC firetruck with us! Despite being a cold and rainy day, while there we spoke to a number of people about the CFFM and educated them about the history of fire fighting in Canada.

For the first time ever, the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum was one of the stops on the ACO's house tour this year. On October 3rd and 4th, the CFFM invited all House Tour participants to the Museum for a tour of our exhibits and our fire truck bay. In addition, we also had coffee, tea and treats available for anyone with a ticket.

We hosted our first ever Hallowe'en event at the CFFM on Saturday September 24th 2015. Children were invited to come dressed up in their costumes or try on fire fighter gear at the Museum. While we did not know how many children to expect, we were quite busy throughout the day! Children completed crafts, played games, and explored the CFFM. They even received Hallowe'en Treat bags!

Our last event for the 2015 season took place on Saturday November 28th 2016, when Santa Claus visited the CFFM. Following the Port Hope Santa Claus Parade, children and families were invited to the Museum for photos with Santa on one of our fire trucks. We had hot chocolate and cookies for all those attended. A special thank you to everyone who donated a toy for the Port Hope Fire Department Toy Drive!!

### CFFM Social Media Update:

If you are not following or social media pages, you are really missing out!! We encourage you to "like" our Facebook page (Canadian Fire Fighters Museum) and follow us on twitter (@cdn-firemuseum). We are always posting photographs of our collection, information about special events, photographs of visitors, fire safety tips, quizzes and other more general information on the Museum itself or on fire-fighting!

So far, 866 people "like" us on Facebook and we have 87 followers on twitter. We would really like to end the year with a 1000

"likes" so, join in the fun and stay up to date with the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum on social media!

### Volunteer Spotlight:

Margaret Lothian has been one of our longest serving volunteers, having been involved with the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum for more than three years.

She is always up for a parade or special event, and did I mention she was a professional baker? Margaret is always experimenting with recipes and brings in "goodie bags" for the other volunteers and staff to take home every Friday morning at the start of her shift. We recently had a bake sale at the Museum and Margaret brought in the most amazing meringue mushrooms, that not only tasted so good but they looked lifelike and fooled everyone!

Margaret has a very keen interest in the arts and has been creating small art pieces and donating them to be sold in our gift shop as a fundraiser. Cute painted rocks and touch stones, Christmas ornaments and now small works on canvas, all with a fire fighting theme are for sale in our shop.

Margaret's skills aside, she is a true supporter of the Museum.



Always trying to convince people to volunteer, participating in the parades we go to with her home-made bubbles and funny outfits and coming to help at events.

Margaret is currently working on a very big project at the Museum, which is to sew accession numbers onto all the artefacts that are in the collection that are made of cloth. Needless to say, that is a lot of work for one person to do, but she is flying through all the bunker gear, dress uniforms and canvas buckets we can find!

She has brought so much to the CFFM family and we thank her for everything she has done for us...but most of all, the lesson I have learned from Margaret is: it doesn't matter

how old you are, you can still contribute to the community. By the way, I know she won't mind if I tell you, as I know she wears her age like a badge of honour, Margaret is in her late 80's and still going strong! Thank you Margaret for everything you do for us.

*Marielle Lambert  
Volunteer  
Coordinator*



Above: Margaret is busy sewing accession numbers on the Museum's cloth items.

## CFFMs 1941 Flagship GMC Firetruck to be Featured in 2016 "Classic Fire Apparatus" Calendar!

**T**hat's right! Our trusty 1941 GMC will adorn a month in the 2016 edition of the "Classic Fire Apparatus" calendar which is billed as being "For the firehouse wall but nice enough for your coffee table!"

We are very proud to be represented in this expertly produced and beautiful to look at calendar!

There's a beautiful photo of a firefighting vehicle every month!

Copies are available for sale at the Museum which is closed for the season now but you can email us at [info@firemuseumcanada.com](mailto:info@firemuseumcanada.com) for more information or to place an order! A great gift for FF enthusiasts!

**Thank you to our Members for a Great 2015 Season!**

**Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from Canadian Fire Fighters Museum! ...and don't forget fire safety this season.**



## From Our Facebook Posts:

At right: These tube shaped fire extinguishers contain dry chemical powder which release carbon dioxide when in contact with heat. Fortunately, they are not harmful to humans.



Check out the moustaches on these fire fighters from Port Hope! Many early fire fighters grew moustaches for the purpose of smoke filters. They would soak them in water, stick them in their mouths and then breath through the wet hairs.



Today we had a family from Toronto visiting the CFFM. While here, they participated in the Culture Days scavenger hunt and also tried on some gear in the dress-up corner!



This is a "Detroit" Door Opener which combines an ordinary bar with a hinged, footed, extendable supporting leg. It is used by fire fighters to gain access to locked reinforced doors.



We have an interactive display about fire safety at the CFFM. Bring your kids by and see how many hazards they can spot in the Museum kitchen! Fire Prevention Week continues until October 10th 2015!

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