

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 • J U N E 2 0 0 9

A Good Start to 2009! Here's what's happening lately at the Museum:

With an early start this season, we've already had a group of boy scouts visit from Sarnia on the 28th of May—39 people in total.

On a June Sunday, we had our annual guests, the Red Knights Motorcycle Club (99 percenters!) doing a scavenger hunt and cooking a BBQ on the front lawn. There were approx 22 people in attendance and everyone was having a great time. We always look forward to their visits!

We had our 1941 GMC and the 1929 Bickle at the car show in Cobourg at Thomas Pontiac on May 10th. This was the first show they've had there and based on its success, they may have another one in the Fall that we can attend.

In a week or so, we'll be taking the 41 GMC to the Cobourg Waterfront Festival and later, it will be in the "Estival" Parade. This Sunday (June 21st), the truck will be displayed on Port Hope's main street for the Father's day celebrations.

This year, the Junior Fire Fighters will be coming for five weeks instead of the usual four and they will be staying all day instead of half a day. This is a wonderful opportunity to teach the youngsters fire safety and we are looking forward



The 1941 GMC, Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company Truck made a special appearance in May at the first-ever Thomas Pontiac car show in Cobourg.

to having them here. For the first time ever, we hosted a "Business After Five" get-together on May 21st in connection with the Port Hope Chamber of Commerce. Many local business representatives were in attendance and exchanged business cards while examining our Museum exhibits and munching on snacks. This was the first visit for some of them and they were impressed!

We had the Fire Fighter's Mutual Aid Meeting on May 28th, with approx. 50 people. Pouring rain may have dampened clothing but not spirits as they still managed to hold a BBQ in the rain. That night they also demonstrated their new fire truck across the river.

We have been given an interesting display of awards, and medals, etc. belonging to the late Len Holdaway who was the fire chief in Bewdley a few miles north of Port Hope. He was 32 years on the force. There is also a picture of him receiving the new resuscitator.

We have been invited to bring a truck to Campbellford on Sept. 12th to celebrate 100 years of electricity.

The Museum is fortunate to have our summer student, Stephanie, back again this year. She has now completed her four years of university and will be attending Nipissing in September to complete her training to become a teacher in England where teaching jobs are more plentiful.

The Museum may have to move soon

This is probably our last year here on Mill Street South in Port Hope as the town has officially given us notice to vacate so that the property can be cleaned up and possibly redeveloped. This is a sad state of affairs as we still do not have a new site available to us and the future is consequently uncertain. The Museum has been in this building since its beginnings in June 1986. The Museum was officially opened during a Northumberland Mutual Aid meeting with about 100 people present. At that time, only a third of the building was occupied by the Museum.

By June 1990, the middle section of the building had been taken over and the next year, another building of approximately 1000 square feet was erected on the property for Museum expansion. By 1993, the Museum occupied the entire building.

In September 1996, the local Rotary Club erected another building on the property with 50 percent of the space allotted to the Museum. And since then, the Museum has continued to expand its collections.

We are moving some of the trucks we have in storage in a building on the Centre pier in the next couple of weeks. We must, however, find secure storage elsewhere before the moving process can begin. Please call us if you can provide some storage space.



Above: An interesting display of awards, and medals, etc. belonging to the late Len Holdaway who was the fire chief in Bewdley.

Our fire trucks are a big hit in the movies

In the past few years some of our trucks have become movie stars. Well OK, bit players but in the movies none-the-less! This has been a great

source of extra revenue for the Museum as the production companies have good budgets to obtain authentic fire fighting equipment needed when the script calls for a fire fighting scene.

Some of the pictures our rigs have been in include: *Firehouse Dog*, *The Amelia Earhart Story* and *Happy Town*.

Watch for our trucks in future productions as we are always being 'scouted' by the movie people!

Visit the Museum

The Canadian Fire Fighters Museum is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from Victoria Day weekend to Thanksgiving. Admission to the Museum is FREE!

Be a Volunteer!

We are always looking for dedicated volunteers to help out at the Museum. Knowledge of firefighting, equipment is not necessary. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer with the Canadian Firefighters Museum, please contact the Museum. Your help will be greatly appreciated and we promise you a rewarding experience.



The Fire Mark is the newsletter of the Canadian Firefighters Museum,
95 Mill Street South, Port Hope,
Ontario Canada
905-885-8985

www.firemuseumcanada.com