

The Fire Mark

The Newsletter of the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum

PORT HOPE, ONTARIO, CANADA • FEBRUARY 2014

What's Happening at CFFM?

It's winter at the Museum, and everywhere else for that matter! But it seems this year is a bit colder and a lot longer ...or maybe we're just imagining things!

The Museum was put to bed in mid november after having closed for the season on Thanksgiving weekend. That said, board members: Marielle Lambert and Marie Jones were still to be found spending a lot of time updating the cataloging of artifacts and doing a cleanout of the upper office to make way for a new system, hopefully to be up and running this season— a new digital museum cataloging system that includes upgraded professional quality museum software, a new digital camera, a large format digital scanner and a few more items to help us keep track of the ever-expanding museum collection.

We are currently getting ready to launch our 2nd annual Red Door Week fundraising campaign — a series of six member-hosted parties around the Valentine's Day date. Last year, the Red Door events raised almost \$6,000, and this year we hope to do at least the same, as the money will going directly to funding the cataloging system mentioned above.

These Red Door parties not only help us to raise funds but help in building our local awareness as many people who attend are new to the area and may not yet know much about the Museum. We're looking forward to Valentine's Day!



We Help Bring Santa to Town ...Again!

Every year CFFM takes part in the Port Hope Santa Claus Parade — weather permitting. This year we were planning to really do it up big time, but alas there were a few things beyond our control. We had planned to be in three parades: Port Hope, Cobourg and Peterborough. And we'd planned to introduce our recently acquired 1945 JOX ariel ladder truck, but things turned out to conspire against us — it rained on the Cobourg parade day and we just can't take our vintage trucks out in messy weather! Next came Port Hope, but the JOX, all decorated and pretty, let us down at the last minute with a blown rad hose and had to be coaxed back to the barn. Luckily our old reliable 1941 GMC was there and we all climbed aboard and did



Top: Our trusty 41 GMC, loaded with CFFM members and volunteers, rounds the curve near the end of the Port Hope Santa Claus Parade.

Above: Museum Vice Chair, Will Lambert, in one of our "repro" vintage Fire Fighter tunics, walked the parade from start to finish!

the Santa Claus Parade in style!

With the JOX out of commission, and the 41 GMC the only road licenced vehicle left, it was decided to sit the Peterborough parade out for this year as the 41 is running a bit rough! We'll do better next year. We promise!

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Stay Tuned for a Big Event This May!

Believe it or not, 2014 marks the 30th anniversary of CFFM which was started in 1984 by a group of local fire fighting enthusiasts. Since then, the Museum has steadily built an outstanding Canadian artifact collection which includes more than a dozen fire trucks, thousands of artifacts, Canada's largest collection of cast iron fire hydrants and lots and lots more!

So this year, just before we open for the season, we're planning a "Sneak Peak" gala opening party and we're inviting all of our friends, sponsors, donors and members. You'll be hearing more about this as it develops, so watch our Facebook page for updates! That's all we can say for now, but we promise, this is going to be BIG!

What we *can* say is we'll be opening the 2014 season with new and updated displays and many new projects underway that we are very excited about and think you will be too. The Board of Directors has been busier than ever coordinating opportunities to extend our reach and grow our membership. As we prepare to make our move into a new larger facility, there's lots of work to be done.

Our Volunteers Make the Difference!

We say it often, and it's very, very true — we could not keep our doors open if it was not for the help of our team of wonderful volunteers.

CFFM was pleased this past year to present The Chair's Award for Volunteer of the Year 2013 to Al Mackenzie! For the past year Al has been a pivotal member of our volunteer team. Always cheerful and helpful, Al contributes in so many



Above: CFFM Chair, Ken Burgin presents Al MacKenzie with the Chair's Award for Volunteer of the Year at the CFFM Annual General Meeting.

ways including carpentry, maintenance and dressing up in the Parade! Retired from GM, Al enjoys spending time with his grandchildren, working with his Kinsmen Club and lucky for us — helping out at the Museum! Be sure to stop by the Museum and say hello to Al!

If you have a few hours a week to donate to "Canada's Hottest Museum" you will be eligible to receive this prestigious award celebrating your commitment to your community! Call Marielle Lambert at the Museum, 905.885.8985 to volunteer.



Introducing One of Our Newest Board Members

CFFM is honoured this year to welcome Kevin Connolly to our board of directors.

Kevin is the CEO of the Fire Services Credit Union and brings more than 30 years of Marketing, Sales Management and General

Management experience, including more than 15 years in various executive roles in the financial services business, overseeing and managing member assets of over \$1 Billion. We are excited to have Kevin as part of our team and have already benefited from his vast experience and connections. Welcome Kevin!

The Big Ask — Get Ready— It's Coming: a NATIONAL Fire Fighter's Museum

If you never ask, you'll never get. Over the past year we've been busy with not only fundraising which will allow us to move into a newer and more spacious location, but with enlisting the support and representation of fire fighting across Canada. We've had the opportunity this year to speak at the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs and the Ontario Association of Professional Fire Fighters and will be present at the upcoming OAFCA Annual Convention in May!

The next 12 -18 months is critical as we strive to build a NATIONAL Fire Fighting Museum. If you or your organization would like to be part of that vision by donating, time or money contact us at 905.885.8985.



The Fire Mark is the Newsletter of the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum, 95 Mill Street S., Port Hope ON L1A 3W4 www.FireMuseumCanada.com www.facebook.com/FireMuseumCanada

