

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 L Y 2 0 1 5

Chair's Message:

I will begin by apologizing profusely for being so tardy about getting this issue of our newsletter out to you. All I can say in my defence is that we have been *very* busy.

We have implemented an annual sponsorship program and sent out letters to companies and organizations. The Carpenter's Union Local 397, Port Hope, was the first to respond at the Captains level. For more information on sponsorship, go to our website.

As some of you know, we lost our storage facility in Port Britain and had to move two pumpers and an aerial truck to the Museum. This was quite an undertaking, considering none of these trucks are in running condition. Our mechanic, Ray Easby, is currently reviving one of the pumpers which we now have inside the Museum. We continue to search for suitable space for the others. (see photo on page 3)

A fibreglass forest fire tower lookout cupola and 30 feet of tower were also transported to the Museum from the Ganaraska Forest Centre and stored in the back yard. They will eventually undergo restoration. Huge thanks to Dan Lovshin for organizing and coordinating this feat.

"Pumper", the baby squirrel, found near death in the Museum and lovingly nursed back to health by Marielle and especially Maddy, has been returned to us and now has a house behind the Museum after spending several weeks at a wildlife sanctuary.

There have been major improvements in the "curb appeal" of the



Above: A group of stalwart CFFM volunteers prepare the 41 GMC for the Port Hope Canada Day Parade!

Museum this year as a lot of work has gone into gardening, grounds keeping and a host of minor but important building improvements. The exterior is now looking much better than it has for many years.

We have been busy on our outreach program. We loaned a number of artifacts to the Fire Hall Bistro in Orono, where CFFM members now receive a discount. We attended fire trade shows in Lindsay and Toronto, gave a presentation in Bowmanville and participated in the local Canada Day parade.

A number of great upcoming events are planned, including toy fire truck day at the Museum, July 18th. If you have kids or grandkids, you won't want to miss this one. See the website: Fire-MuseumCanada.com for more details about that and other upcoming events.

I suppose the biggest news of all is

that we have entered into early negotiations for a new home for the CFFM. We are a long way from having a deal, but I can tell you that if successful, we will have a bigger, better location in downtown Port Hope. A lot of the credit for this goes out to the members of our action committee: Bill Hicks, Chris Terry, and Ken Stock. Thanks gents, you have done, and continue to do, remarkable work on behalf of the Museum.

Will Lambert, Chair

From the Vice Chair:

It has been a busy time here at the Museum. On July the 8th, our gift shop was a very busy place as a large donation of items for the shop was priced and put on display. The donation included diecast emergency

more >>

vehicles, books, framed prints, puzzles and several unique items. The donation in total was valued at more than \$4,000 and was donated by a friend of the Museum.

Two upcoming special events I want to remind you of are the Toy Fire Truck Day on Saturday, July 18th and Model Boat Day on Saturday, August 15th when the Kawartha Marine Modelers will visit the Museum. On Toy Fire Truck Day, all kids 12 and under who are accompanied by an adult will receive a Matchbox fire truck. Kids are encouraged to bring their favourite toy fire truck and show them to Museum staff and volunteers.

On Model Boat Day, the Kawartha Marine Modelers will bring a number of their scale model boats to display. In addition, the group will be bringing their portable pond and some radio-controlled boats that kids visiting that day will have an opportunity to operate.

We have just finalized all of the details with The Norris – Banonis Group who produce a Classic Fire Apparatus calendar, to have our 1941 GMC pumper featured in the 2016 calendar. In addition, there will be a short write-up on the Museum. Copies of the 2015 edition of the calendar are available in the Museum gift shop for purchase. In addition to great photos of some classic rigs, the calendar has a number of interesting facts and articles. The 2015 edition, for example, has a story on the evolution of firefighter personal protective equipment.

A reminder, mark your calendars for Wednesday, August 19th when the CFFM AGM will be held at the Museum. Members will be receiving their AGM packages very shortly. Please plan on attending and if you can't attend, make use of the Proxy Form that is part of the AGM package.

Jim Clifford, Vice Chair

Collections Report:

I would like to start by introducing myself to the members, I am David Moore and I took over the Collections Manager portfolio in May when I joined the board.

I was given the job of digitizing the collection. Since May, I have verified inventory and ensured entry into the "Past Perfect Acquisitions" program, the artifacts in the Gallery. We then hired Jaron, a summer student and the recording of the collections took off. We now have 540 artifacts and 52 donors recorded.

We not only have the gallery finished but also the upper storage area as well. Far surpassing the goal I set for the summer. I am now matching original paperwork and where possible identifying donors for artifacts.

We also have over 1000 Canadian Fire Department Patches recorded on an Excel spreadsheet, I am currently inventorying the patches and prepared to trade and sell patches with other collectors. I will keep you posted as work on this important process continues.

David Moore, Collections Manager

Volunteer Update:

The 2015 season is well underway and we are so pleased with the volunteers this year! We welcome back a number of folks from last year but we are also glad to welcome a few more to our "happy band".

Everyone has been busy with projects this year and we are working really hard to get the collection documented, photographed and stored away properly, with the help of summer students Maddy Shaw-Rimington, who has returned for a 2nd year, and Jaron Fitch.

Some of the projects the volunteers have been working on are cataloguing newspaper articles and photographs about firefighting, sewing accession numbers into donated uniforms and clothing, refurbishing one of the two fire towers we have on the property, planting the front gardens which had been ignored for a number of years and repainting a recently donated hose reel. But as you can see in the picture from the 2015 Port Hope Canada Day Parade, there is always time for fun!

If you are interested in becoming a CFFM volunteer please contact me!

Marielle Lambert, Volunteer Coordinator



Above: Volunteers, Margaret and Donna, riding high on a fire truck during Canada Day Parade in Port Hope.

Spotlight on a Volunteer:

Jack Jodrell's interest in the CFFM probably stems, in part, from the fact that both his Dad and Grandfather had careers with the Toronto Fire Department. Having been injured in a fall, Jack found himself convalescing at home and not feeling particularly useful. He'd always been an active guy who worked with his hands, so what to do? Lucky for us, Jack lives quite close to the Museum and noticed that we needed a little help.

Jack has now become something of a fixture around the CFFM. This volunteer handyman is indeed extremely handy. Whether we need an area cleaned and organized, something new built or repairs made, Jack is on it—often supplying his own tools and frequently working on projects at home. Jack has contributed a lot of volunteer hours and been a wonderful addition to the CFFM family. He not only comes up with creative solutions and does great work, he manages to do it all with a smile and good humour.

Thanks Jack! Your friendship and great work are truly appreciated!



Above: Jack Jodrell, volunteer extraordinaire, puts finishing touches on new door and awning he has installed.!



Above: One of our Forest Fire Lookout Cupolas has been moved to the front of the Museum. Volunteers have been busy painting and repairing this for several weeks. The tower and ladder sections are in storage elsewhere.



Above: Moving two pumpers and an aerial truck to the Museum from our former storage facility in Port Britain was no easy task considering neither of these trucks are in running condition. Truck on the right now being worked on at the Museum by our very capable mechanic, Ray Easyby.



This is a painstakingly exact replica of the Oshkosh Striker 3000 Crash truck in service at the Calgary Airport. It's approximately 10 inches long and has steerable wheels, front and rear, just like the real thing. The compartment doors even roll up to reveal their contents. It's definitely an item for the

From Our Collection:

We're constantly adding items to the CFFM collection. With Toy Fire Truck Day coming up, we thought we should showcase this wonderfully detailed die-cast, 1/50 scale model by TWH Collectables that we just received.

serious collector and not something you would let a child play with. The many small parts would surely get lost or damaged. This came to us as part of a large donation of brand new items for our gift shop, but this one is so interesting we decided to make it part of our fire related toy display.

From Our Facebook Posts:

If you haven't already visited our Facebook page, here's a few interesting photos and bits from past postings. Lots of good stuff!



Another couple of young visitors prove that dressing up in fire gear is loads of fun. Visit the CFFM and find out for yourself. Perfect way to spend an hour or two on a rainy day, like today.



Just one of many great old pieces that are on display at the fire museum in Yarmouth NS. Well worth the visit if you find yourself on the East Coast.



This beautiful building is Montreal's fire station #30 at the corner of St. Laurent & Fairmount. Although it appears older, it was actually built in 1904.



The view from the driver's seat of our 29 Bickle.



1886 was Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. These members of Mayflower Rescue Co. are headed to the Grand Firemen's Tournament that formed part of the celebrations. Note the beautifully decorated hose reel wagon and the Smith hand pump behind it. The companies motto "Prompt to Rescue" is displayed on the fire house and a large American flag hangs from a wire alongside the Union Jack. This house on Spring Garden Road, Halifax NS., closed in 1920.

Please don't forget- if you haven't already, go to: [Facebook.com/Fire-](https://www.facebook.com/Fire-)

MuseumCanada and "like" us! CFFM would like that a lot!

The Fire Mark is the Newsletter of the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum.
95 Mill Street S., Port Hope, ON L1A 3W4
www.firemuseumcanada.com
[Facebook.com/FireMuseumCanada](https://www.facebook.com/FireMuseumCanada)

