

# The Fire Mark

SPRING 2024

## A LEASE SIGNING: LOOKING FORWARD!

MICHELLE HANEY-KILEEG, CHAIR

What a pleasure to report that the Museum has found a home (for now). We have signed a lease with the Town of Cobourg for the former Memorial Arena, on Furnace Street, effective July 1st.

Since 2018, when CFFM was given notice to move from Mill Street in Port Hope, our collection has been in multiple storage sites around Northumberland County. The hard-working Site Selection Committee assessed over 50 sites which included trooping through Northumberland County fields and empty buildings, meetings with landowners and zoom calls about sites in York Region and London Ontario.

The challenge was our requirement for 25,000 - 30,000 square feet and the former arena hit the note. We can exercise our responsibility to display, to the public, the collection that we hold in their trust. Boards feel good about this responsibility.



*Lease signing, March 6, 2024*

The Committee's mandate has been amended to transforming an unheated arena into a safe and sexy museum. I want to reiterate that the board remains committed to our vision of a design-built space and we have communicated this to our local elected officials.

### 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please join me at our 2023 Annual General Meeting on June 26, 2024, which will be held in the Arena, 206 Furnace Street, 6:30-8:00. We will be presenting the plans for use of space and discuss the renovations required for accessibility,

artifact storage, and display. Hear from one of CFFM's advisors Ryan Goldsworthy, Museums Manager, Collections and Research, City of Toronto and former Firefighter.



## MEET A CFFM ADVISOR

**Ryan Goldsworthy** is an accomplished museum professional with over 12 years of experience in museums and heritage associations across Canada – including federal, provincial, municipal, regimental, and private institutions. He is a published historian and material culture expert currently living in Pickering, Ontario. Ryan has supervised many museum and material culture studies students from the University of Toronto where he has lectured and led seminars.

He was recently named the Museums Manager, Collections & Research for the City of Toronto. He is responsible for the collections across Toronto's 10 museums and historic sites, which includes two National Historic Sites: Fort York and Spadina House. The City's collection contains over 150,000 artifacts, one million archaeological specimens, and 3,000 pieces of fine art.

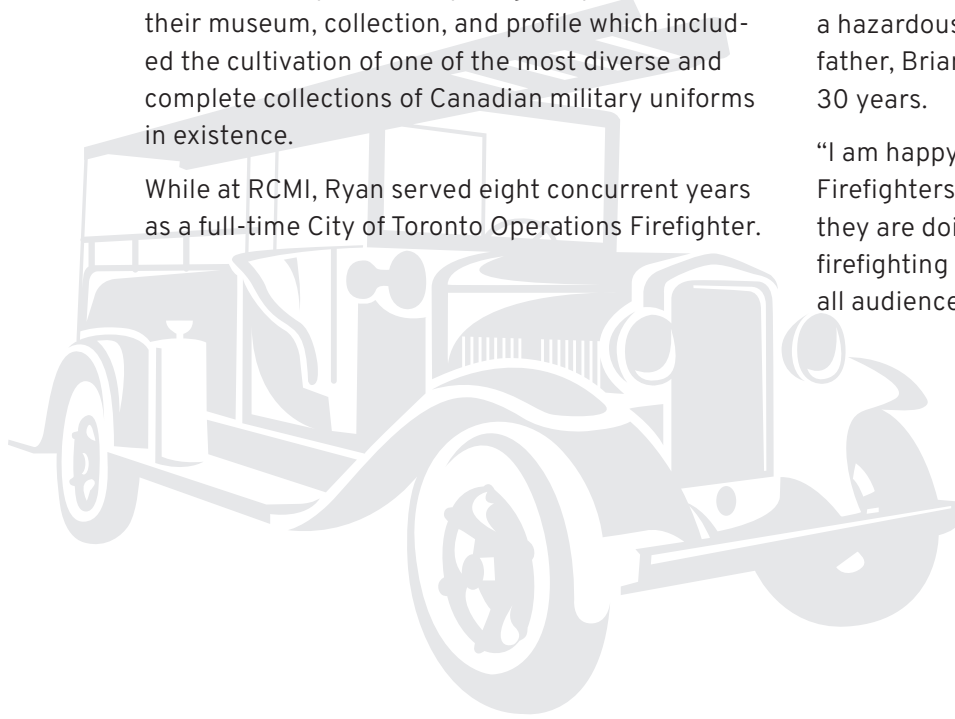
He was previously (2016-2024) the Museum Director & Curator at the Royal Canadian Military Institute (RCMI), one of Canada's oldest and largest military history museums, where he created and curated more than 20 modern exhibitions and permanent galleries. As the first Museum Director in RCMI's 134-year-history, he greatly enhanced their museum, collection, and profile which included the cultivation of one of the most diverse and complete collections of Canadian military uniforms in existence.

While at RCMI, Ryan served eight concurrent years as a full-time City of Toronto Operations Firefighter.



He served at various fire stations in Toronto's South Command, and he completed his service as a hazardous materials & CBRNE technician. His father, Brian, served with Toronto Fire Services for 30 years.

"I am happy to support the Board of the Canadian Firefighters Museum and the excellent work that they are doing. I am passionate to see Canada's firefighting history preserved and presented for all audiences."



## REPORT ON THE SECOND NORTHUMBERLAND ANTIQUE /VINTAGE SHOW & SALE

After the great success of our first fund-raising antique show in October 2023, the CFFM held another show this past May 3 and 4th.

Using the same format as Octobers' show, we were able to rework the layout a little thus allowing us to make room for additional vendors. Our first show had 26 vendor spaces, a large CFFM artefact display area and our circa 1941 fire truck on display. This time we replaced the '41 with the much smaller double chemical cart, reduced the CFFM's display area and eliminated the kids dress-Antiques Roadshow appraisal table which allowed us to expand to 40 spaces.

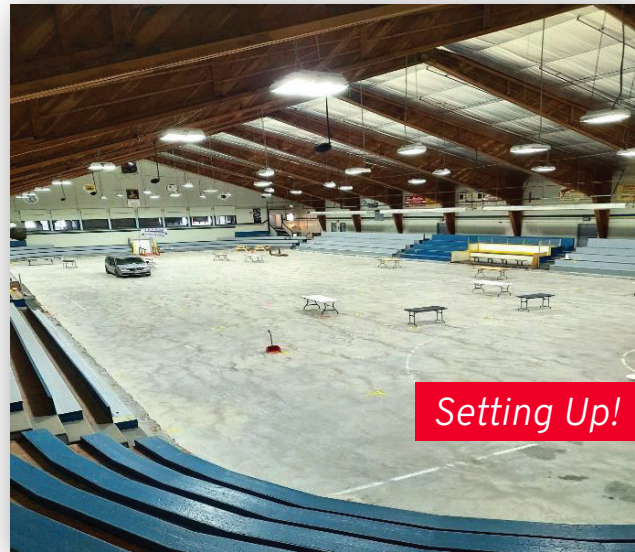
Demand from vendors was even greater than expected and spaces were sold out within a week of opening registration. Another look at the layout realized two smaller spaces which sold out within 2 days.

As of the date of the actual show we had a waiting list of vendors chomping at the bit to participate. We think this is a good problem to have.

The show proved to be quite popular with the public as well which meant that attendance rose significantly. 1100 visitors create a buzz!

We advertised on 3 local radio stations, printed posters and save the date cards for broad distribution and pushed the show hard through all our social media channels. Many of our vendors also supplied us with digital files of inventory they would be bringing to the show, which we then posted on social media, to stir up excitement!

Attendance was good both Friday evening and Saturday. The public seemed to appreciate what was on offer and were in a buying mood, so sales were brisk to the delight of many vendors. The Museum netted \$9400 making it one of the most successful fundraising events in years.



We have been asked many times, by both our vendors and members of the public when the next sale will be, with some vendors already wanting to register for the next show. While we are pleased to hear this, and most encouraged, the board still needs to hold a postmortem and decide whether the show will go on.

We officially take over the lease on July 1st, at which point we will begin moving the collection into the arena. That means there will be competition for space.

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## VINTAGE SHOW CONT.

There is a possibility of hosting future shows at the neighbouring the West Northumberland Curling Club. If we can plan the event around their schedules, it may become a viable option for us. We will keep everyone posted.

Holding such a big event takes a good deal of planning and preparation as well as many volunteers to pull it off so I would be remiss if I did not extend sincere thanks to all those board members, advisors, sponsors, and volunteers who made the Antique/Vintage Show & Sale the huge success it was.

*Will Lambert*  
Curator

*PS from the Editor...A special thank you to Will and Marielle Lambert for their time, energy, knowledge and networking. You led and we followed!*



*The Concert Band of Cobourg performed which added to the energy of the show.*

## IGNITING COMMUNITY SPIRIT: THE INAUGURAL CANADIAN FIRE FIGHTERS MUSEUM CHARITY RUN/WALK!

Friends of the museum are marking their calendars and lacing up their sneakers because on June 23, 2024, the inaugural Canadian Fire Fighters Museum Charity Run/Walk is taking Cobourg by storm! This exciting event isn't just about breaking a sweat; it's about rallying together as a community to support our firefighters and their museum in a fun and meaningful way.

This year's run/walk isn't just any ordinary event—it's our first annual fundraiser aimed at improving our new home for the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum. Participation and donations will directly contribute to enhancing our museum's facilities, ensuring that we can better tell the story of firefighters' vital role in our communities.

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## COMMUNITY SPIRIT CONT.

Supporters will be part of an adrenaline-pumping day filled with excitement! Participants can choose between the exhilarating 5K run, perfect for seasoned runners seeking a challenge, or the family-friendly 2.5K run/walk, ideal for those looking to enjoy a leisurely stroll with loved ones. But wait, there's more! Brace yourselves for the ultimate challenge: the Bunker Gear Challenge. This unique experience allows participants to don their own bunker gear and feel the weight our firefighters bear while tackling emergencies head-on. It's not just a run; it's a tribute to their unwavering dedication and sacrifice.

By joining us for this event and donating, people are not just participating in a run/walk; they're making a meaningful difference. Participants' generosity will directly support the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum, helping us preserve the rich history and honor the heroic legacy of our firefighters. Every

step that is taken and every dollar that is donated brings us one step closer to achieving our goal.

Local sponsors of the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum Run were instrumental in making this fun event happen. We thank Dancing Bee Equipment, Sheila Drew from Re/Max Lakeshore Realty Inc., TAPtiming.ca, and CAMECO. Whether a seasoned runner, a casual walker, or someone looking for a fun way to support a worthy cause, all will play a big part in the Inaugural Canadian Fire Fighters Museum Charity Run/Walk. As a community, we come together to celebrate our firefighters, honor their bravery, and support the museum that preserves their legacy.

Warm regards,

Rod Simpson  
Secretary CFFM

## FEATURING: CFFM DIRECTOR JOHN DOORELEYS

John attended a post Covid service awards ceremony with other retirees of the Toronto Fire Services. John was awarded the;

- Federal 30-year service bar
- Provincial 30-year service bar
- Governor General's Commendation for Service.

*Congratulations John*



## FEATURING, CFFM DIRECTOR WILL LAMBERT

### A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE (PART 1)

When I decided to join the Fire Service in 1985, I applied to both the Scarborough and Brampton Fire Departments, which were the only fire departments taking applications at the time.

After a battery of physical and aptitude tests, I received letters of acceptance from both departments, just three days apart. Being born and raised in the Borough of Scarborough, located just outside of the city of Toronto, I chose the devil I knew.

My training with the Scarborough Fire Department began January 6th, 1986, and lasted for 8 weeks which seemed a very long time. Our recruit class had just 5 members, so to complete some of the particle drills we had to rely on one or more of our instructors to participate.

The “auditorium raise” with a 50 ft. “Bangor ladder” (Fig.1) comes to mind. This involved the completely vertical raise of a 3-fly extension ladder, with two men butting the base of the ladder and four more providing tension on guide ropes to keep the ladder completely vertical and steady. The recruit then climbed to the tip, stepped over the top rung, and descended the opposite side. I never saw this ladder raise used in the field, however; it did teach rookies confidence in their own abilities and trust in their crew mates.



We also trained with “Pompier ladders” (Fig.2), which I never saw in use once I left the training ground. These are ladders with a single beam and rungs that protrude from both sides of that beam. There is a long metal hook extending about 3 feet from the tip at a 90-degree angle. The idea is to break the window on the floor above using the hook, then insert that hook on the windowsill and then climb the ladder which swings like a metronome as you transfer your weight from side to side of the central beam. This was quite old technology, no longer in use, but again it taught the recruits to have confidence in their climbing skills.



There were of course, many hours of classroom instruction on topics ranging from first-aid, ropes and knots, fire department structure and the chain of command, to the much dreaded “hydraulics” where we learned to understand and calculate pump pressures and friction losses within a hose lay, but the practical instruction is the part I recall most fondly.

I will never forget the reaction forces encountered the first time I held a charged hose line. As we proceeded to master stream appliances that were being fed by multiple hose lines (Fig.3) I gained serious respect for the forces of flowing water that could easily lift you, the hoses, and the appliance together, right off the ground.

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## WILL LAMBERT CONT.



Fig. 3

Live fire training in the burn tower taught us the realities of smoke conditions so dense that you literally could not see your hand in front of your face and heat so intense that it would drive you to floor to escape it. Fun fact, thermal layering means that the floor is much cooler and often the only place where you can see more than a few inches. In a structure fire, this is where you want to be operating, on your knees, or your belly if things get really bad.

Finally, having completed my training, I was posted to Hall # 5 at Birchmount and Sheppard where I was assigned to Pump #5 as the “junior man”.

Pump 5 was a peppy and wonderfully tight turning Thibault/Mack of early 1980's vintage with a transverse mounted pump panel (*fig. 4*). This meant that when operating the pump, the driver stood amidships, in an elevated position and able to see either side of the truck, a definite advantage. The truck itself was painted in a high visibility Yellow, something that made complete sense, but was later abandoned in favour of the more traditional red fire trucks.



Fig. 4

Tradition is very strong in the Fire Service, and we often joked that we had “200 years of service, unimpeded by progress”. 35 years later I retired knowing that this was much more than just a joke. Still, I believe that I had one of the best jobs in the world, certainly the exact right fit for me.

Will Lambert,  
Curator CFFM



## HOW TO PURCHASE YOUR MEMBERSHIP

We are looking forward to seeing you at the AGM on June 26th. Memberships can be purchased on our website. <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/canadian-fire-fighters-museum-port-hope/events/2023-2024-cffm-membership/>



## LOOKING FORWARD TO DOCUMENTING THE CHANGES

After July 1st, we will apply to the Town for a new sign as well as determine how to honour the original intent behind the name. We have several banners but the by-laws determine 'everything sign'.



Memorial Arena – NW corner

See the narrow Zamboni door – come to the AGM and hear about plans for a new door.



**WE HEARD YOU AND OUR WEBSITE IS GETTING A FACELIFT, STAY TUNED!**

