

# The Fire Mark

The Newsletter of the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum

PORT HOPE, ONTARIO, CANADA • JUNE 2012

## What's Happening at CFFM?

We're glad you asked because there is a lot going on! We recently did a whole upgrade on the Museum's reception area, display area and exhibits with new paint, display cases, lighting, and electrical upgrades.

Although we expect to be at this location for just a few years more, it was decided that we needed to do some improvements and this Spring was a good time to get things done before our opening in May. Members of the board, as well as various volunteers all got together and gave the Museum store a whole new look with sample exhibits and a brighter atmosphere.

Inside the display room, we've installed bright new lighting and refurbished exhibits, adding new signage and rearranging displays.

Our washroom facilities have been upgraded and redecorated for the convenience of staff and visitors.

Our aim is to give our staff a pleasanter environment and one that's more enjoyable for visitors. Be sure to visit the Museum soon and see if you think we've achieved that goal.



Above: A suspect is tried before Judge Bark, as a convict (Fundraising Chair, Bill Patchet), the prosecutor, and local constables look on. It was our successful "Jail 'n Bail Fundraiser — putting the "fun" in fundraising!"

## We're Out to Raise Money!

It's no secret that we will have to move the Museum in less than two years so now is the time to start raising the funds we'll need to secure a new, and larger premises to house the Museum's collection. The present building is slated to be torn down and the property redeveloped in 2014.

Currently, the Museum is only able to display a fraction of its collection due to space considerations so a much larger building will be sought — ideally still in the heart of Port Hope, close to the retail area with its shops and restaurants.

Port Hope relies on its tourist business and the Museum is one of its draws. That said, a bigger, better museum, in a climate controlled building, has the advantage of being open year round thus drawing visitors to Port Hope all through the seasons. We think there is a tremendous opportunity here for

Port Hope certainly, but for all of the region.

We have been actively fundraising for the past several months, and along with that, we have been raising local awareness of the Museum and the opportunity it provides.

The results so far have been very encouraging and we have been in the news constantly.

Funds raised so far have allowed us to complete some much needed upgrades to the present facility, purchase a new computer and create new marketing materials, including a new brochure, post cards and a beautiful new poster.

We've been getting a lot of support from businesses in the area. These include Wal Mart, Giant Tiger, McDonalds, Rona, Home Depot, Cameco Corporation and the LCBO.

With proven results so far, you can be sure we'll be continuing our fundraising throughout the season! *more...*



## New Additions to the CFFM Artifact Collection:

Curator, John Downs has been busy acquiring new items for the Museum's ever-growing collection of Canadian Firefighting artifacts.

Early in the year, he was able to secure one of the earliest cast iron fire hydrants made in Canada. This was found sitting in a garden in the Kitchener area where it had been since being removed from service some years back. Dating from the mid 1880's, this hydrant has now been refurbished and joins the Museum's hydrant collection — likely the largest of its kind in Canada.



In this Diamond Jubilee year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, it's almost ironic that we've recently acquired a period framed photo of the Port Hope Fire Brigade taken in front of the Port Hope Fire Hall to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1895.

And speaking of Port Hope, John was also lucky to find a vintage Port Hope Fire Chief badge on ebay. It has now been returned to Canada and is on display with several other badges newly acquired, including several from St. John, New Brunswick.

There are always new (old) items arriving, these include a restored fire cart, circa 1900; a collection of fire department shoulder patches



to add to our own collection; and much more!

## Adopt a Fire Hydrant!

Looking for a worthy cause? Why not adopt one of our many vintage fire hydrants that are in need of restoration?

Already a popular program with visitors, now you can choose a hydrant, and for your contribution of \$100 (plus HST), we will have the hydrant blasted, repainted and a brass plaque applied with your name, or the name of a pet, on it. Adoption forms are available at the Museum reception, or call us for one and we'll send it to you.

## Here's Our New Poster!

We commissioned photographer, Jeremy Burgin to come in and photograph bits and pieces all over the Museum.

These included items the size of Fire Trucks down to miniscule details of the items on display. Afterwards, we selected favourite photos and put them together to make the beautiful poster below. Now on sale in the Museum shop for only \$9.99 (includes HST).



## Send a Post Card from CFFM!

Further to above, here's one of our new post cards also on sale in the Museum shop for \$2 each or \$5 for all three. (incl. HST) (see upper right)

## We're looking for a few good men ...and women! We Need Volunteers!

There's lots to do at CFFM, so bring us your talent — we need helpers for fundraising events; Museum docents; Museum maintenance; help with displays, computers, machinery (yes, fire trucks) and much, much more. Can you help us? Please call us at: 905-885-8985 and sign on.

The Fire Mark is the Newsletter of the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum, 95 Mill Street S., Port Hope ON L1A 3W4 Tel: 905-885-8985  
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