

The Fire Mark

The Newsletter of the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum

PORT HOPE, ONTARIO, CANADA • JANUARY 2015

Chair's Message

2014 was a very interesting year at the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum. Our past Chair (Ken Burgin) finished his time on the board and stepped down. Having assumed the role of Chair, I can now truly appreciate how much time Ken was putting into the CFFM and I am very grateful for all of his efforts. Ken continues to volunteer with the museum and he is there for me to talk to whenever I feel the need. Hopefully after a one year hiatus, he will return to the board in another position (as our rules allow). We could certainly use his help again.

In 2014 we developed, launched and operated our 30th Anniversary fundraising lottery. To promote that lotto we traveled to many classic car events to show off our grand prize 1984 GMC pickup truck. There were 3,350 tickets sold with assistance from Elliott Insurance, The Ganaraska Hotel, Primitive Designs, Port Hope Archives, Fire Services Credit Union (Toronto) and CommunicationZone, a TELUS dealer in Milton. A huge thank you to all of our partners and the prize donors: Norm Cherwoniak, Golden Beach Resort, VIA Rail Canada, The Waddell Inn, Black Beans Steak House, Po Ho Bistro, Cameco Capital Arts Center and Dreamers Cafe.

The draw was held January 1st at the Museum and the winners were: Jim Wheeler (grand prize truck), Nan Hendren (week at Golden Beach Resort), Sue Campbell (\$500 VIA Rail voucher) and Rob Simpson (weekend in Port Hope package). See photo next page.



Above: Santa visited the Fire Fighters Museum! After appearing in his traditional spot at the tail end of the Port Hope Christmas Parade, Santa got himself right over to the Museum where he had his photo taken with a big crowd of visitors who enjoyed hot chocolate while touring our cold (unheated) Museum!

The CFFM did a lot of outreach and promotion in 2014 and the results are showing in all of our measures of success. Donations of artifacts and money have both increased, as have visitor numbers which reached an all-time high of 3,203. This is 50% higher than our normal attendance and we hope, the beginning of a continuing trend.

Our visitors gave us overwhelmingly positive feedback on the many improvements that we made to the Museum's displays last spring. We added some new events including using the CFFM as the start and finish point for a car rally and the very popular photos with Santa event, immediately following the Port Hope Christmas parade. There are several new events planned for 2015 including both a "Fire Truck Day" and

a "Fire Boat Day," more details to come, but you won't want to miss these.

We are working very hard to find a new home for the CFFM, preferably in downtown Port Hope. With only one season left to operate from our current facility, time is getting short. Wish us luck!

Collections Report

It is always interesting seeing what gets donated to the Museum! You expect offers of clothing and equipment, photographs—and even vehicles—but every once in a while something unique comes along that you never expected.

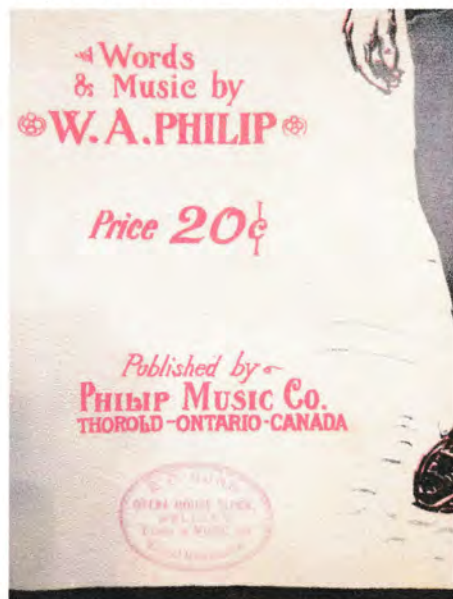
David Broughton bought a job lot of vintage documents and music at

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auction. When he went through it at home he found a very interesting and unique piece of sheet music related to the Fire Service. The tune itself is a bit light-hearted, shall we say, perhaps even tongue-in-cheek, but it comes with some striking poster art on the cover showing a Firefighter and hydrant. This visually appealing and interesting document will be added to the CFFM's permanent collection, with thanks to David.



Additional information... I can find no record of the composer or his music company; however, S. D. Dunn "Stationer" located at the Opera House Block in Welland, Ontario sold this. I have found one record of this company, it was a Christmas advertisement from the Welland newspaper dated 1909. Thus, best guess, this is turn of the century music from the early 1900s.



Above: A young volunteer, in attendance at the draw, pulls Fire Chief, Jim Wheeler's winning ticket from the bin and shows it to the camera. Ironically, Jim can be seen standing in the background! Apparently, Jim had purchased 200 tickets because he "wanted that truck!"



Above: Board Member and Event Coordinator, Marielle Lambert, presents third prize winner, Sue Campbell, with a \$500 VIA Rail voucher. Congratulations Sue!

A Fond Farewell to Ruth Marvin

Ruth, who was our Volunteer of the Year in 2014 has moved to Burlington. Always one of our most enthusiastic volunteers, Ruth is responsible for the rapid acquisition of artifacts and the development of

our forestry fire fighting display. Ruth, through her own initiative, contacted forest centres across Canada and was successful in obtaining some very interesting artifacts. We will miss Ruth greatly—but she's promised to keep in touch and still work for CFFM from afar!

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From the Collection:



Above: A "quick hitch" hose collar allowed fire fighters to quickly hitch up the horses to the rolling stock to get to the fire sooner.

A Fire Department horse collar. Built small and light because these fire department horses already had to pull heavy loads at high speeds. The collars were unique in that they had a hinge at the top allowing them to open at the bottom. They would hang open from the ceiling of the fire hall and when the alarm sounded the well-trained horses would walk up and stand below them. The entire harness was then lowered onto the waiting animals and quickly connected. This resulted in amazing quick "turn-out" times.

CFFM is fortunate to have one of these very interesting and scarce collars. It hangs in our store area but it's not for sale!

Want to see the horse collar in action? Take a look at this Youtube video: [Click here](#)

Thanks to David Lewis for sending us a link to this video. This is one of approximately 30 short videos produced by the Aurora Regional Fire Museum for their exhibit "Getting There • Getting Water • Getting Rescued 150 years of the tools and technology used to fight fires and save lives.

A Volunteer Renews an Old Acquaintance at CFFM

When CFFM Volunteer, Donna DuMont was growing up in Eagle River, Ontario (about 60 miles west of Kenora), her dad worked on a highway crew that took care of Hwy. 17 that runs right through Eagle River. He drove a Caterpillar tractor.

One day, when Donna was about 9, her dad called her mother to bring the kids over to Keewatin, a nearby town, to see an old steam engine and a firetruck that was on display at the local museum. The firetruck was an International Harvester Ladder Carrier, of the 1940's, that had been in service in the Kenora, Ontario area.

At age 17, Donna moved to Quebec and was later married to a man who became a steel worker on projects like the CN Tower and the Cherry Street



Smoke Stack in Toronto. In fact, Donna was at the top of that stack for the "topping off" ceremony which includes a tradition whereby a small fir tree is mounted up top.

One of her husbands later jobs was working at Darlington, so they moved to Bewdley to be closer to work.

Sadly, he passed away some years back and Donna subsequently moved to Port Hope about three and a half years ago and became a volunteer with CFFM.

Now here's the coincidence: Donna was very surprised on touring the Museum that first time to be re-acquainted with the very same Kenora Ladder truck she'd known as a child right here in our Museum! It's been in the CFFM collection for at least a decade!

Donna is a valued CFFM Volunteer who says, "I can't wait 'til Spring when the Museum opens once again!" Either can we Donna!

You're Probably Wondering...

We continue to search and negotiate for a new location for the Museum ...but there's nothing definite yet. We are confident of getting increased support from Port Hope's newly elected town council and we are working with them to achieve our goal of relocating within Port Hope downtown in the next year or so. Local citizen support has never been higher! Please stay tuned—when there's news, you'll be among the first to know!

Membership at the CFFM

Our membership coordinator has been working on updating our membership list and getting out renewals, follow-ups, etc. If you have not renewed your membership, now is the time to do so. Please go to our website and complete the membership application and forward your payment. You will receive your new membership card in a few weeks.

Members help sustain CFFM while enjoying discounts at local restaurants. Membership is an ideal way for you, your family or business to support a local organization dedicated to preserving our Canadian firefighting history. Please spread the word and tell people about your membership and encourage them to join us! If you have new contact details, please forward them to us at grahammarg2003@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Events for 2015:

The special events committee has been working hard to plan some interesting events for the 2015 season, make sure you put these dates in your calendar.

- **Saturday, May 16th** the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum will open for the season.

- **Saturday, July 18th** will be "Toy Fire Truck Day." This is the same weekend as the Port Hope Sidewalk Sale ...come on down and make a day of it in Port Hope. Every child who enters the Museum, accompanied by an adult, will receive a free "Matchbox" fire truck. Feel free to bring in your own favourite fire truck for "show and tell" Come down and look at the special display of toy and scale model trucks we will have visiting the Museum and take a look at the real trucks that we have while you are there.

- **Saturday, August 15th** will be Model Boat Day at the Museum. The Kawartha Marine Modellers will be bringing their 24 ft. portable pond and kids will have an opportunity to operate a radio controlled model boat. They will also be bringing various model boats for display including working fire boats that really squirt water. Sure to be fun for kids of all ages!

- **Saturday, November 28th** after a huge success in 2014, Santa will be returning to the Museum to visit and have pictures taken with anyone interested from 2:00pm-4:00pm, right after the Port Hope Santa Clause Parade.

So, please feel free to come down to the museum on any of those dates & make sure you check the website and future newsletters for other coming events.

Like CFFM On Facebook

Have you visited our Facebook page lately? There's more to see than ever before. Please go to:

Facebook.com/FireMuseumCanada and "like" us!

CFFM would like that a lot!



Above: Our Second Prize Winner of a one week stay at Golden Beach Resort, Mary "Nan" Hendren, seen second from right with her husband Mike, and CFFM Board Members, Marielle Lambert and Dan Lovshin.

Meet Our New Treasurer!

We'd like to announce the addition of Jane Stevenson to the Board of Directors of the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum. Jane will assume the recently vacated role of Treasurer.



Above: This was snapped at a Board Meeting! Jane is seen deep in thought (perhaps about her new job as CFFM Treasurer. LOL).

Jane brings with her a ton of experience. She has been the Executive Director of Cobourg's Beyond

the Blue Box (BBB) for 20 years. At BBB Jane manages a large staff and a thriving business with great finesse that has made that place astonishingly successful.

From all of us at the Museum, thanks for joining us Jane and welcome aboard!

Our apologies for the poor photo, we'll post a better one as soon as one is available!

The Fire Mark is the Newsletter of the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum.
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