

The Fire Mark

The Newsletter of the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum
PORT HOPE, ONTARIO, CANADA • JANUARY 2021

Message from the Chairs

Greetings and Happy New Year. The Museum held its 2019 AGM on December 21st via Zoom. That was a novel but necessary experience.

The 2019 Financial Statements were circulated, presented by Treasurer, Dickson Wood and approved.

The members re-appointed Lynch Rutherford Tozer as the accountants for the Museum.

A slate of Directors was presented and approved. We are pleased to share the list of Directors for 2020-21:

Michelle Haney-Kileeg

Kathy Kobelski

Dickson Wood

Ellen Rainey

Pam Marr

John Appleman

The Museum has a need for additional volunteers as we hope 2021 will be a year of concrete action regarding a future site. We also recognize that we do not have any sector representation as well the overdue requirement to feed our social media presence. These are just examples, please consider the opportunity to assist the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum to grow again. We'd be happy to discuss this with you. If interested please contact us at:

cfirefightersmuseum@gmail.com.

We plan to hold board meetings via zoom every six weeks and in person when restrictions are lifted.

Thank you again for your membership — the strongest way you can express your support.



Above: Our 1941 GMC Pumper after cleaning. Still looking great after 80 years!

Kathy and Michelle

An Update on the Collection

Our collection is still securely stored away at locations in Port Hope and must be inspected at regular intervals. Several members of the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum have spent time over the last four months making sure that the Museum's exceptional collection is being well looked after in its various temporary homes.

When the Museum was required to vacate its facility at 95 Mill Street South as part of the remediation of industrial waste project, temporary homes were required for the extensive collection of archives, administrative records and a staggering array of two and three-dimensional artefacts. Everything from photographs to clothing and fire vehicles had to be moved. It was a monumental task but it was

completed with time to spare by the March 31, 2019 deadline.

The Museum was very pleased to have the offer from the Municipality of Port Hope for temporary storage in three facilities possessing space not immediately required for operational purposes. Without this gracious helping hand, the Museum would have faced some very difficult decisions.

The vehicles retained for the collection after the move were transferred to one of the equipment buildings at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Most of the smaller artifacts, the records and the archival collections are in rooms under the Library at the Hub in Canton. Other artefacts are stored in the Municipal facility on Mill Street South.

Our precious 1866 Amoskeag steam pumper is stored in the former Canadian Tire store on Robertson Street — and thanks to the generos-



Above: An example of a Data Plate with full details.

ity of owner Walter Hillman, our fire tower and other weather resistant items are held in the compound on that building's exterior along with a shipping container we bought that is full of smaller items.

One vehicle is at the Agricultural Heritage Machinery site in Canton and yet other artefacts are held on private premises in the area.

We had planned to undertake a systematic survey of all of the collection storage sites in early 2020, roughly one year after they were moved. This is standard practice for museum collections held off-site and especially when their long-term home is not fully fixed. The idea is to ensure that the collection is safe and protected from the elements as much as possible, that there are no infestations, that they have not been moved or damaged and that they are clean. Covid-19 brought that to a screeching halt.

However, when restrictions in Northumberland were relaxed during the summer we were able to put the plan back into effect. With the willing co-operation of all of the collection's hosts, the Collection Committee — supplemented by some enthusiastic other members — visited each site. As much as possible, all of the collection was given a good going over.

In particular, we spent two sessions with the vehicles. Using a borrowed air pump we inflated several tires which had gone soft; we cleaned all of the vehicles, spread tarps in one spot where there was a water leak and draped plastic drops over all open

cabs to keep bird droppings, dust and water off. We also photographed as many of the makers' identification plates as we could find. Speaking personally, there is nothing like being up close and personal with these complex machines for a layperson to gain some sense of the nuances of their design and the practicalities of their use. Having a hugely experienced veteran like CFFM Curator, Will Lambert along to explain it all in very personal terms was an experience not to be missed. Such are the benefits of volunteering.

Other trips covered the steam pumper and fire tower, plus a large collection of vintage hydrants ensconced in a lovely empty stable and the large amount of material held at Canton.

We are happy to report that the collection has survived well in its various temporary locations. There were no visible infestations, no environmental damage, no vandalism and no natural failures due to old age! Our only issue was that we could not locate some records that appear to have been moved during some structural renovations at the Hub. The search for them continues.

We will continue to keep an eye on the collection while it is in storage. In particular we will go back to clean the vehicles in the summer and make sure that they have survived the winter in good condition.

Having had the opportunity to see the collection in its entirety in a condensed period of time I think I can say with confidence that it is a



Above: Our 1866 Amoskeag Steam Pumper is safe and dry, heated storage at the building on Robertson Street.



Above: Our 1867 Amoskeag Steam Pumper in safe and dry, Wil Lambert checks the tires on a JOX Arial Ladder Truck.

remarkable assemblage which is a credit to those who brought it together. It provides a wonderful basis on which to build a new Canadian Fire Fighters facility.



Above: Golf Tournament Winners relax at the 19th hole!

2020 certainly presented us all with a whole new set of challenges. Our Second Annual Golf Tournament was no exception. The original event was scheduled for Saturday, August 29, 2020. The night before, the golf course received over 40 centimetres of rain which forced a postponement by our host Dalewood Golf Club.

We lost three golf teams due to the date change and at the last minute three more groups cancelled leaving 20 golfers in total. Covid-19 restrictions affected the tournament format as well. Individual team tee offs were scheduled in succession as opposed the usual “shot gun start”.

The five teams that *did* participate, had a great time. As well as carts, 18 holes and BBQ, there was a putting challenge at the end of the round on one of the practice greens. The overall winner of the tournament, Kurt Appleman, donated his winnings back to the Museum. We appreciated Kurt’s selfless gesture. Lastly, we held a silent auction of donated items from

local sponsors, including many items supplied by Kelly Morgan-Batton. The event was a success and raised almost \$2000.

A huge thank you goes out to all participants, volunteers, sponsors and those who provided items for the silent auction.

Plans for the Third Annual CFFM Golf Tournament 2021 are underway. We hope to make it bigger and better this year. Our wish is to play at the

newly redesigned Port Hope Golf and Country Club. Further information will be forthcoming. If you want to participate, sponsor the event or donate an item or gift certificate for our silent auction please don’t hesitate to email the fundraising chair, John Appleman at jpappleman@yahoo.ca. You should also watch for other great fundraising initiatives to be announced in our next newsletter

Below: Three of our Golf Tournament supporters.





In Memorium— Janet Waddington

With family roots and a country home in the municipality of Port Hope, we were fortunate to have Janet Waddington join the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum Board of Directors in 2017. Janet brought with her 40 years of experience working in palaeontology after retiring from the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. She used her knowledge and experience at

the ROM to enhance our museum in Port Hope.

As the CFFM Collections Manager, Janet's focused, organized approach shaped the way our collection was documented and archived. She embraced the daunting task of reviewing, collating, and sequencing 35 years of records — artefacts, trucks, memorabilia, publications — that were in the CFFM collection. When it was time to pack up the location at 95 Mill Street in 2018, Janet and her husband, Dennis, photographed, grouped, and recorded the various collections as well as researched certain artefacts that were unique or had little information. During the move, everything was allocated to several storage facilities throughout Port Hope. Janet was hands on, not only packing up artefacts, but cataloguing every item precisely. She made meticulous records identifying and numbering every piece that went into each storage location. At the same time, she tried to identify unnecessary duplication within the collection, selecting the best example and proposing proper deaccessioning of others. All of this was a huge task which Janet

approached with genuine enthusiasm! Janet was also a key member of both the Governance Committee and the Collections Committee.

Aside from her role as a board member, Janet volunteered her time on many special occasions — decorating for the Santa Claus or Canada Day Parade; serving at BBQs; assisting with The Toy Boat Show and The Walk of Flame. She joined other board members in a visit to Ingenium (the former Science and Technology Museum in Ottawa) to view their collection, of which some artefacts which were generously donated to the CFFM. Janet was always happy to participate, advise or assist in any way to she could to help our museum.

Janet resigned from the CFFM in November 2019 due to illness. Sadly, she died on January 3, 2020 after a brief struggle with pancreatic cancer. We are grateful that we (Board Members and volunteers) had the opportunity to know and work with Janet as well as have our museum benefit from her considerable skill and passion. Her husband of 49 years, Dennis Waddington, continues to support our efforts in Janet's name.

In Memorium— Kelly Morgan-Batten

Our Site Selection Director, Kelly Morgan-Batten, passed away peacefully at Northumberland Hills Hospital, Cobourg on Saturday, November 28, 2020.

As a returning member to the CFFM Board of Directors, Kelly worked in collaboration with Site Selection Committee member, Will Lambert, to search out possible locations for a new museum site — both undeveloped land and existing properties.

Kelly and Will visited potential sites, met with Port Hope Municipal-

ity officials, and our local MPP to gain support for our venture.

As a long-term resident of Port Hope, she was very involved in community affairs. Kelly was the founder and operator of Sound Hearing Solutions in Port Hope and Newcastle; a recipient of the 2018 International Hearing Society – Outstanding Professional Member Award; Past President of the Port Hope Rotary Club and former President of the Port Hope HBIA. Kelly was a lifelong learner who, in retirement, returned to college to obtain her real estate assessor license. She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother, businesswoman, and active community

member who will be remembered for her all of her contributions.



THE PORT HOPE FIRE PUMPER MYSTERY

Fire Mark Challenge: Where's "Union"?

In the July 2018 issue of *Fire Mark*, the article titled *Fire Engines 1.0* described the development and use of hand-drawn, manually-operated fire pumps used extensively until replaced in the 19th century by more powerful steam-operated pumps and hydrants on high pressure municipal water systems. In that article we described the three pumps purchased by the Town of Port Hope, Ontario for its three fire companies.

The first, named "Rescue", was reported to have been purchased in 1849 from "T. Snook" in Rochester, N.Y., for \$750. Available records indicate that the second unit, "Union" was purchased in 1853, and the third, "Victoria", was purchased in 1859, but those records do not say where these came from.

It is unknown whether they were all of the same design and manufacture, but pictures show Union to have been an "end stroke" design. The available records *do* say that all three were taken out of service after the town installed a high-pressure water system to protect the downtown area, supplemented by two chemical engines. At that point they disappear from the historical record. However, several archival photos, one possibly of "Union" from a centennial celebration parade in 1934, and the others which are definitely "Union" on public display show it has been restored at least to the point of mobility if not to actual pumping capability.

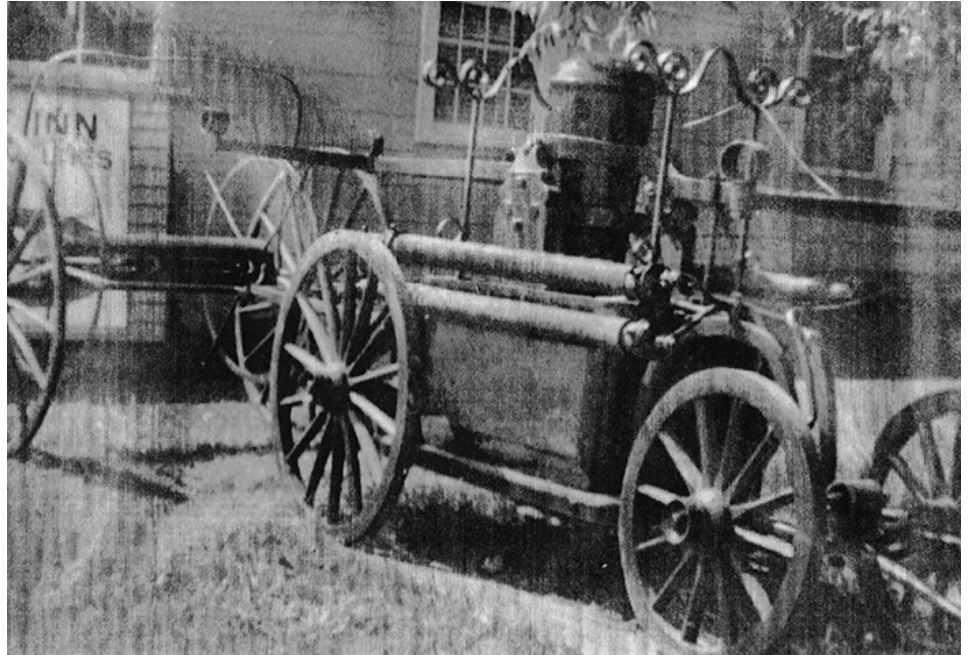
The most recent picture is possibly from the 1960s. This suggests it got into the hands of historical equipment enthusiasts to be restored and preserved until at least 70 years after

its official retirement. Now, another 50 or 60 years on, we at CFFM are asking if "Union" might have escaped the scrap metal fate of many early engines and still be around, perhaps on the antique equipment show circuit or in the back of a barn somewhere. If it is, it will have more interesting tales to tell of its last 125 years of life. We are

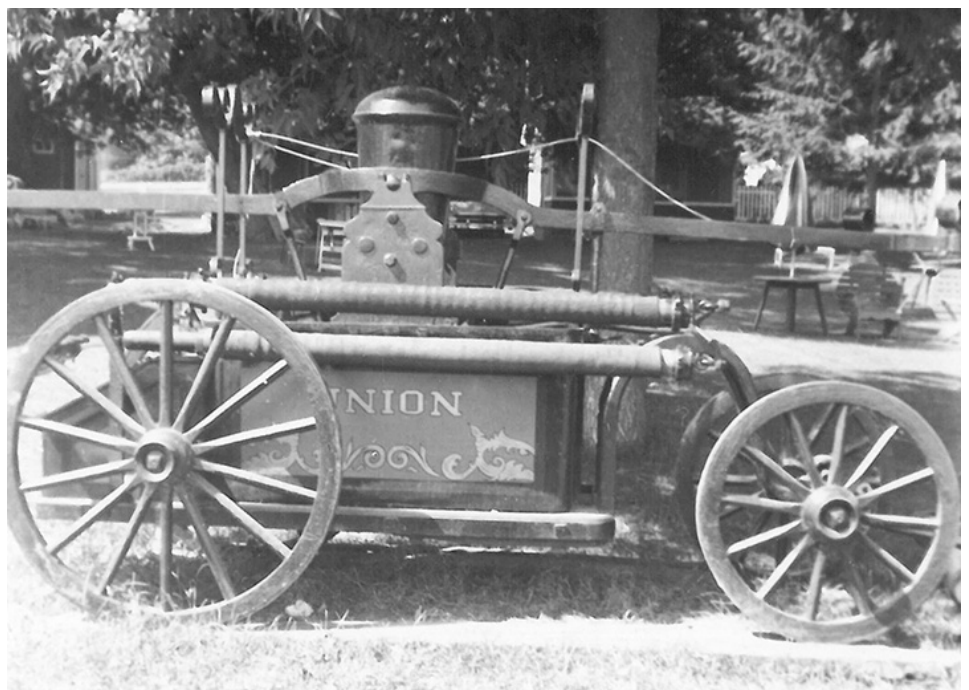
therefore putting out the call for readers to search their memories and work their networks to see if "Union" can be located and more of its early Canadian firefighting story can be told.

Anyone with information may contact Dennis Waddington at: dhw@ca.inter.net.

Dennis Waddington



Above: A rare photo of Port Hope's "Union" pumper at an unidentified location. Do you know where this was? Photo courtesy of Port Hope Fire Department
Below: The Union seen from the side, possibly the same location as above. Photo courtesy of Port Hope Archives.



Museums have histories too

Those who read financial statements will know that Note One to an organization's statements sets out the background of the organization. In the case of Canadian Fire Fighters Museum, Note One says "The Canadian Fire Fighters Museum (Port Hope) ("CFFM") was incorporated by Letters Patent dated June 18, 1984 as a non-profit corporation under the Corporations Act (Ontario)." Sounds simple. Not many words to describe the results of a lot of work and planning by a large number of people and institutions who got together to make it happen. Looking behind that innocent sentence for how it started then ...

In 1971 the Ontario Fire Buff Associates organization was formed by interested people from around southern Ontario. This group was the first in Ontario following a tradition that had been well established in the US for many decades. Fire buff groups were made up of influential and community-minded citizens who promoted an interest in their fire service. Some buff groups established fire museums, some would serve coffee and food to weary firefighters at major fires, other buff groups would promote fire prevention. The O.F.B.A. picked up on a growing interest in fire services and their histories. They promoted preservation and restoration of historical apparatus and answered a growing interest amongst firefighters to hold firemen's field days and musters where various fire departments parade and compete with vintage fire apparatus. The first muster in Ontario was held in 1979 and was sponsored by the O.F.B.A.

In the late 1970s the O.F.B.A. was gaining momentum and recognized that many community museums had displays of their local fire service history, and some larger provincial and federal institutions had some related



Above: Another photo of Port Hope's "Union" pumper taken in July 1934 at Port Hope's centennial celebration. Photo courtesy of Port Hope Archives.

displays, but there was nothing primarily dedicated to fire and emergency services. O.F.B.A.'s president John Holden formed a committee, headed by past president James Campbell, to explore and promote the concept of a dedicated, large scale museum. In 1981 Fire Chief Roy Dayman of Port Hope invited the O.F.B.A. to hold its annual muster in Port Hope in 1983. The great enthusiasm displayed by this fire department and its town led to the suggestion of locating the museum in Port Hope, especially with its proximity to Highway 401. Port Hope representatives quickly agreed.

The O.F.B.A. efforts moved ahead through 1983 and early 1984 and Letters Patent were issued under the Corporations Act (Ontario) that created CFFM as a non-profit corporation on June 18, 1984, the first directors being John Holden (Oshawa) who became Chairman, James Campbell (Dundas) who became Curator, Gloria Spence (a Port Hope town councillor) who became Secretary-Treasurer, Roy Dayman (Port Hope's Fire Chief) and Donald Chalmers (Port Hope's Chief Building Inspector and former Captain in the Toronto Fire Department). The registered head office was at the Port Hope Town Hall.

Their vision was ambitious. It was "the largest project the O.F.B.A. has taken on" and was to be "a first-class, quality museum that will be worthy of the recognition by the public of the heritage and heroism of the Canadian fire service" and was further described as "a large facility of 15,000 to 25,000 square feet to include various display areas for antique fire trucks, early equipment of the trade, alarm room and communications equipment, photo displays and an area for restoration of both apparatus and equipment. Also to be included are a lecture room, archives room, storage facility, gift shop, offices and wash-rooms."

"The intent is an operating museum where visitors can view representative mementos of the earlier days of firefighting, see restoration work in progress, and in some cases handle and operate early hand-powered fire equipment. Audio-visual effects will heighten the experience of visitors in areas such as an alarm room and century old fire hall.

The museum will represent the eras of hand-drawn, horse-drawn and motor-powered apparatus covering a span of time from about 1830 to 1950. The history of fire fighting in

communities large and small across Canada will be the focus.”

Once things got busy the written history gets pretty skimpy. CFFM’s early years seem to have been taken up with concept development, property search, identifying potential funding sources and acquiring donated artifacts. Several developments reported in O.F.B.A. newsletters seem to have ultimately gone nowhere. It got its feet on the ground when the Town of Port Hope gave CFFM the use of part of the old Works Dept building at 95 Mill St. South as a temporary home while it worked on its plans for its own site. It was set up as Workshop, with public hours on summer weekends in 1986 to observe the work underway. The official opening was held on June 26 with 65 firefighters and 200 guests in attendance as part of the monthly meeting of the Northumberland County Mutual Aid Association and a mini-muster with seven vintage trucks demonstrating pumper relays from the river.

Corporate entities have a habit of taking on a life of their own once they get going. CFFM was no exception as it moved forward with its program at 95 Mill St. and expanded into more of the building, building up the gallery and shop and vehicle displays people

would have seen by the time it had to put the collections into storage when the site was taken over by the Port Hope Area Initiative as part of its low-level radioactive waste cleanup. The final state of the museum can be viewed as a virtual tour on the CFFM website www.firemuseumcanada.com.

In some ways the CFFM has come full circle in its development, but by all accounts it has been an exciting three decades getting to where it is now. The history of its future is still to be written and the history of its past mainly resides with the many people who served on its board and as volunteers and visitors over the years. The effects of age, geography and general interest influences the volunteer base and institutions evolve with their supporters and connections with founders often get stretched. The present board recognizes and honours their predecessors’ contributions even though they may be largely unrecorded in any official sense. CFFM invites anyone with anecdotes or memories from the past 36 years to share them. This could be by setting them out as a short article for *Fire Mark* or talking with present board members or otherwise helping get the stories told. Museums present history but often don’t think of telling their own histories.

Dennis Waddington

Update on Site Selection

At the Dec 21, 2020 Annual General Meeting, Co Chair Kathy Kobelski presented an overview of the past year’s activities. This is an excerpt from her message.

“The Site Selection Committee led by Will Lambert in collaboration with Chris Terry has been consistently busy meeting with elected officials at different levels to ascertain their support for various sites as well as business owners with land and/or space. The Committee is focusing on Northumberland County but is vetting any potential site that

comes to their attention.”

2020 challenged the search but the Committee remains vigilant and continues to investigate new opportunities as well as re evaluate properties that were either out of scope or were not on the market when the committee could congregate. They developed a site evaluation grid to guide discussions and have built a projected operating budget. Owning, renting, and partnering with other groups have now been tabled as options for the Board’s consideration in particular because Covid 19 has also had an impact on the real estate and commercial rental markets.

Have YOU renewed your CFFM membership? Now is the time!

You are receiving this newsletter because you are a current CFFM member OR you have been one in past years. As a member you are very important to us.

As a volunteer-run organization, we need the help and support of everyone who has taken an interest in establishing a truly-great Canadian Fire Fighters Museum.

The unfortunate necessity leading to the closing of the Port Hope location has meant our ability to engage with the public has been drastically reduced, and Covid-19 has delayed the vital progress of our location search — but YOUR continued interest and support is a huge and vital ingredient in helping us get this museum back to being one that serves the history of firefighting in Canada as it truly deserves. If you have not done so already, **PLEASE RENEW!**

Individual membership is only \$20/yr., families \$40/yr.

We accept e-transfers at:

cffirefightersmuseum@gmail.com

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

Port Hope, Ontario

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