



Victoria Fire Department Celebrates Official Launch of *First Water, Tigers!*

Date: Thursday, February 12, 2009

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — This Friday, the Victoria Fire Department will be celebrating the official launch of the second edition of *First Water, Tigers!*, a historical tribute to the dedicated service of Victoria fire fighters since 1858. Mayor Dean Fortin will be joined by retired and active members of the Department to recognize author, Dave Parker, for his work in chronicling the history of Victoria's development since the pioneer days of Fort Victoria.

Although closed to the public, media is invited to attend to learn more about the book and meet the author. A reception will follow.

What: Official Launch of *First Water, Tigers! The Victoria Fire Department 1858 – 2008*
Second Edition
When: Friday, February 13, 2009, from 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Where: Fire Station No. 1, 1234 Yates Street
Street parking is available on Camosun and Yates Streets or in the Station's west parking lot, located just past the building on Yates Street

Published in December by the Victoria Fire Department Historical Society, the book is the culmination of the Department's 150th anniversary celebrations last year. It vividly captures *Fire Bells and Fanfare*, a two-day event that included the dedication of a memorial fire bell to all Victoria fire fighters, as well as a colourful parade and interactive exhibits of fire fighting apparatus from old to modern day. The first edition, written by Parker and published by Sono Nis Press in 1987, covered 130 years of the Department's history.

An honorary member of the Victoria Fire Department, Dave Parker was a curator of history with the Royal BC Museum and currently works as an archivist at the Township of Esquimalt.

The book's title dates back to the era when volunteer engine companies, the *Tigers* and *Deluge*, would compete to get the "first water" on a fire. Designed as a coffee table book, *First Water, Tigers!* retails for \$45 at Bolen Books, Munro's Books, and Tanner's Books.

— 30 —

For More Information:

Fire Chief Doug Angrove
Victoria Fire Department
250.920.3353

Mike Heppell
Victoria Fire Department Historical Society
250.658.1391