



Victoria Fire Department to Unveil a Piece of History

Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2010

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — A piece of Victoria's history is about to be unveiled. For the past three years, members of the Victoria Fire Department Historical Society have worked tirelessly to restore a vintage, 1937 Chevrolet fire truck, that once served the citizens of Victoria. Tomorrow afternoon, retired and active members of the Department will gather for the truck's official unveiling and to honour the citizen who donated it.

Although closed to the public, the media is invited to attend. A reception will follow.

What: Official Recognition and Unveiling of Vintage 1937 Chevrolet Fire Truck
When: Wednesday, March 31, 2010, from 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.
Where: Fire Station 1, 1234 Yates Street

Street parking is available on Camosun and Yates Streets or in the Station's west parking lot.

During World War II, the Victoria Fire Department purchased the vehicle to train new fire fighters and for use as an auxiliary fire truck. Already several years old, the truck was a standard commercial model, equipped with a heavy duty chassis, rear axle and dual wheels. A small pump, fire hose reel and tank were installed for fighting grass fires and other small, non-life threatening blazes. The truck also freed up the larger, front-line apparatus for more serious emergencies.

When a Victoria fire fighter tragically lost his life in a training accident in December 1947, the truck was used as the funeral vehicle. Several years later, it was sold to Esquimalt Public Works, who used it for watering municipal flower beds and general hauling.

In 1964, the truck was sold to the Eng family in Saanich, where it largely remained outdoors for over 40 years. The vehicle was in a deteriorated state when the Historical Society's Mike Heppell approached Mrs. Terry Eng about donating the truck for restoration and public display.

The restored Chevy will join the Historical Society's collection of antique fire apparatus, artifacts, photographs and documents that represent a valuable part of Victoria's history. The Victoria Fire Department Historical Society is dedicated to preserving its 150-year plus history of community service. Its membership includes active and retired Victoria fire fighters, as well as members of the community. For more information, visit:

www.victoriafirehistorical.ca

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