

Media Release

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MUSEUM ANNOUNCES NEW HOME

The Kelowna Fire Museum & Education Centre will soon be opening its doors in the heart of downtown Kelowna, next to the historic Water Street firehouse.

"We're thrilled with this location," says Brian Moore, of the Friends of the Kelowna Fire Museum Society. "We can't wait to get up and running to showcase our memorabilia and educate the public in unintentional injuries."

The 10,000 square foot building at 1630 Water Street was originally built for Kelowna Motors in 1950. The August family, which has a long association with the city and the original Kelowna Fire Brigade for over 60 years, has made the property available.

Brian and Gary August had the following to say: "When our father came to Kelowna in 1945 he became a volunteer fireman and actually lived at the Water Street Fire Hall until he was married in 1947. His relationship with the Fire Department continued and he became Deputy Chief of the Volunteer Firemen. Many employees of Kelowna Motors were also volunteer firemen and there were many times when a fire would occur and most of the employees would leave to fight the fire, with only a skeleton staff remaining to operate Kelowna Motors. Our family is delighted that this building can be of benefit to the citizens of Kelowna and to the children who will benefit from the education that will be provided from

this location. We know that our father Archie and his brother Harold, who owned Kelowna Motors and assisted the Fire Department in so many ways, and all former Kelowna Motors employees would also be pleased to see this occur.”

Once the required plans and permits are in place, renovation work will begin with a planned opening of August 2009. The Museum and Education Centre will be made possible through a combination of volunteer labour, donations and fundraising. The Friends of the Kelowna Fire Museum Society is in the process of launching a volunteer recruitment program and fundraising campaign and there are a variety of ways for everyone to become involved in this unique project. For further details about volunteering, please contact Kelly Paley at kpaley@firemuseum.ca, (250) 870 4106 or visit our website at www.firemuseum.ca.

BACKGROUND

The Kelowna Fire Museum and Education Centre is operated by The Friends of the Kelowna Fire Museum Society. It is comprised of current and retired volunteer and career firefighters, as well as interested members of the public. The education centre will focus on the prevention of unintentional childhood injuries. Not only will the Kelowna Fire Museum and Education Centre be an exciting tourist destination, it will also become a unique community resource for daycares, schools, families and the public at large. For more information, log on to www.firemuseum.ca.

The Museum's collection includes a fully restored 1928 Graham ladder truck, a 1961 American LaFrance pumper, chemical wagon, hose wagon, a Gamewell pull box alarm system, and many other artifacts showcasing 100 years of service to the citizens of Kelowna.

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