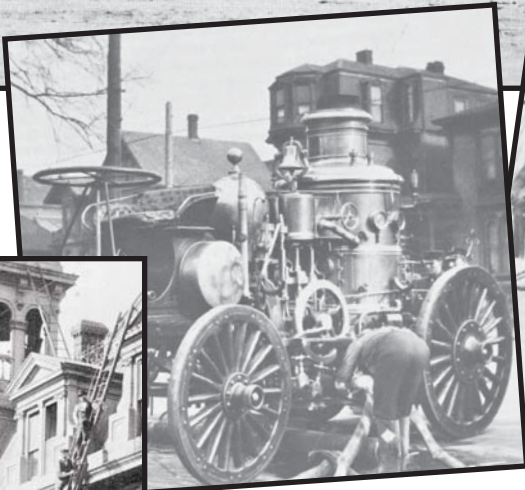


Celebrating 150 years!



*Photos
courtesy
Provincial
Archives*



Fire Bells & Fanfare

For 150 years, since the time of Fort Victoria and the influx of 20,000 miners en route to the goldfields, buildings in British Columbia's Capital have been protected by a long line of dedicated firefighters and ever-changing technology.

From the days when hose reels were drawn down rutted streets by stalwart men through times when horses, then steam, gas and diesel powered an assortment of wagons, pumpers and engines racing towards flames and billowing smoke, progressive changes to vehicles, equipment, gear and training have led to ever-improving fire protection for the City of Victoria.

A century and a half of service was celebrated Aug. 2-3, 2008 as fire equipment used over the past 150 years was put on display around Victoria's Inner Harbour.

The event kicked off with the dedication of a memorial to Victoria's firefighters followed by a parade and static display. Steam engines belched smoke and water was flying when working displays were fired up.

Celebrating 150 years!



Firebells & Fanfare fun part of BC Day weekend festivities

Following the dedication of a memorial to Victoria's fallen firefighters – a 1,500 pound bronze fire bell cast in 1873 – more than 70 vintage restored fire wagons and trucks paraded through downtown Victoria in celebration of 150 years of firefighting service dating back to the days of Fort Victoria.

Whether horse-drawn or steam-powered, the colourful and

oftentimes noisy apparatus were a hit with an appreciative audience over the BC Day long weekend, particularly the working displays that filled the Inner Harbour with bursts of spraying water and clouds of steam. Pictured at left, horse-drawn engine in the parade; at right, PCC CEO Ray Parks onboard fire truck acknowledging the commission's support for the event.

For more photos see slideshow below