

# Firefighters restore Erin's first piece of firefighting equipment

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Town of Erin Fire & Emergency Services personnel over the past four years have been restoring the Town's first piece of firefighting equipment.

This circa 1920 chemical engine was purchased many years prior to the formation of a formal fire department after a number of serious fires in the village and was housed in a garage beside the old Globe Hotel.

When a fire was reported the Anglican church bells would be rung to alert members of the bucket brigade. The engine would be pulled by hand or in some cases by sitting in the back of a pickup truck and hanging onto it.

At the scene, a glass jar of soda would be broken into the water tanks; an agitator then mixed this to produce pressure out the hose reel to the nozzle.

In 1945 the Globe Hotel was destroyed by fire, prompting the formation of a formal fire department. In November 1946 L.G. Mathews was named its first Chief.

In 2006 the unit was taken to Mennonite country to have the wooden wheels rebuilt. Upon completion of this, several firefighters worked a considerable number of hours stripping all of the metal pieces off, sandblasting and repainting. The unit was then reassembled and pulled through Town in the Santa Claus parade in 2009, some 80 to 90 years after its first arrival.

In order to protect it from the elements and put it on display, the firefighters poured a concrete pad at the front of the Erin Fire Hall and built a cedar canopy over the pumper.

Feel free to stop by and have a look in it.

Several hundred volunteer hours were put in by the firefighters. Also, monetary donations from the Royal Canadian Legion Erin Branch 442 and Erin Optimists Club made this project all possible. – Ken Keeler, Deputy Chief, Town of Erin Fire & Emergency Services, Station 10

**In the photo:** Town of Erin firefighters with the beautifully restored circa 1920's antique pumper, which can be seen at the front of the Erin Fire Hall. L.-r., John Carney, Trevor Bunn, Rick Scott, Ed Scott, Karl Stoll, Scott Driscoll, Dave Evans, Charles Hamilton, Mike Kucharczuk, Joel Hansen, Andrew Greggain, Ken Keeler, Pete Terry.

Photo: [www.tristanphotography.ca](http://www.tristanphotography.ca)

