

Fire Department -Clayton Shaver Collection

Finding Aid



Table of Contents

Brief Overview of the Oshawa Fire Department	3
Clayton Shaver Collection of Photographs	4
Fire Dept Fond.....	7
Fire Investigation *File Contains Sensitive Material – Access Controlled by Archivist*	7
General History	8
Personnel and Non-Emergency Events.....	8
Fire Prevention Week Newsletters	9
Fires Newspaper Collection	9
Development & Changes	9
By-laws.....	9
Awards & Ribbons.....	9
Culling WWI Letter.....	9
White Box.....	9

Brief Overview of the Oshawa Fire Department

Oshawa's first fire department was organized on February 4, 1856, made up entirely of volunteers. Chief Engineer P. Thornton was the first to organize and equip the volunteer company and as a result, became the first fire chief. The very first piece of equipment that company had was an old one-handed pumper cart.

The Oshawa Fire Department was incorporated as a full time department on July 20, 1868, and they were once again under the command of Chief Thornton. He was responsible for 50 men with the Fire Company and a further 15 men with the Hook and Ladder Company, plus 1 engine, some ladders and numerous hose lines.

Before the waterworks system of hydrants, water for fighting fires was supplied from domestic wells or underground tanks. The largest storage tank was built of concrete and was located beneath the Town Hall at the southwest corner of Richmond and Simcoe Streets (the Town Hall also served as the Fire Station and Police Station). Other tanks were built of cedar logs and were placed at several suitable locations in the downtown area. The tanks were usually filled by rain water from roofs and ditches, but if necessary, water had to be hauled in to maintain a suitable level.

Clayton Shaver Collection of Photographs

A012.5.5 - Black & White photo of three unknown fire department associates in a park, one holding an instrument.

A012.5.6 - Black & White photo of seven fire department associates around a truck, one individual is sitting in the driving seat. They are identified as Tom Dally, Milt Octen, Bill Lougerman, Bill Cullen, Gus Chase (front). Gond Laugton; Harry Hester; 2 men next to Culling (back).

A012.5.7 - Black & White photo of an unknown fire fighter.

A012.5.8 - Black & White photo of 27 unknown fire department associates in front of a Fire Department.

A012.5.9 - Black & White photo of the Basset Fire, 1909. A lightning bolt is also visible.

A012.5.10 - Black & White photo of an 1873 Steamer water pump.

A012.5.11 - Black & White photo of a Fire buggy and horse traveling down street in Oshawa amongst bystanders. Basset corner appears to stand in the background.

A012.5.12 Black & White scene of gas tank blow up on Albert Street in Oshawa. A water steam pump is displayed in action (1907).

A012.5.13 Black & White photo of a group of men attending an event in Alexandra Park. Many men in uniform surround a single individual while holding a long pole. A picture of Queen Victoria is visible in the back.

A012.5.14 - Black & White photo of a fire truck in a fire department.

A012.5.15 - Black & White photo taken by Gus Chase of a 1930 GMC-Bickle service ladder truck.

A012.5.16 - Black & White photo of a group of organized individuals standing in two lines connected by rope. A seemingly superior officer stands in the front with two children. A wheeled device is placed at the rear. They are positioned in front of a large building.

A012.5.17 - Black & White photo of the Basset Fire, March 1944 taken by Robert Holden Sr. (angle 1).

A012.5.18 - Black & White photo of the Basset Fire, March 1944 taken by Robert Holden Sr. (angle 2).

A012.5.19 - Black & White photo of the Basset Fire, March 1944 taken by Robert Holden Sr. (angle 3).

A012.5.20 - Black & White photo of the Basset Fire, March 1944 taken by Robert Holden Sr. (angle 4).

A012.5.21 - Sepia photo of a group of firemen amongst a fire buggy and horse. They are positioned upon a street in what seems to be downtown Oshawa.

A012.5.23 - Black & White photo of the church fire on Mary St North 1989 (angle 1).

A012.5.24 - Black & White photo of the church fire on Mary St North 1989 (angle 2).

A012.5.25 - Black & White photo of the church fire on Mary St North 1989 (angle 3).

A012.5.26 - Black & White photo of the church fire on Mary St North 1989 (angle 4).

A012.5.27 - Black & White photo of the church fire on Mary St North 1989 (angle 5).

A012.5.28 - Black & White photo of the church fire on Mary St North 1989 (angle 6).

A012.5.30 - Black & White photo of the church fire on Mary St North 1989 (angle 7).

A012.5.31 - Black & White photo of the church fire on Mary St North 1989 (angle 8).

A012.5.32 - Three film shots of the inside aftermath of the Mary Street Church Fire.

A012.5.33 - Black & White image of unknown firefighting in action at building partly labeled as 'WOOL WORTH' on September 2, 1958.

A012.5.34 - Black & White portrait of two unknown early fire fighters. Circa 1900s.

A012.5.35 - Black & White image of unknown fire damages.

A012.5.36 - Black & White photo of fire fighting in action with close up shot of unknown individual in bottom right corner.

A012.5.37 - Black & White photo of a fire truck in front of what appears to be a fire station department.

A012.5.38 - Black & White Christmas portrait of unknown fire department associate with children and an unknown individual dressed as Santa.

A012.5.39 - Unknown (firefighting?) plane floating on a body of water.

A012.5.40 - Black & White group image of five fire department associates in front of a fire department. A fire truck is also visible in the background.

A012.5.41 - Black & White portrait-like image of an unknown fire department associate with a type of department vehicle in the background.

A012.5.42 - Black & White group image of three unknown fire department associates in front of an unknown building.

A012.5.43 - Black & White group image of fire department associates and other figures such as priests during the opening of a headquarters on December 18, 1951.

A012.5.44 - Two fire department associates sitting in a fire truck along a street.

A012.5.45 - Black & White group image of eight fire department associates in front of a fire truck.

A012.5.46 - Black & White group image of seven fire department associates sitting on grass in front of a building.

A012.5.47 - Black & White group image of seven fire department associates sitting and standing around a rail fence with their back faced to a sidewalk.

A012.5.48 - Black & White group image of four fire department associates standing on a driveway.

A012.5.49 - Black & White photo of three unknown gentlemen sitting in chairs on a city sidewalk corner. Two are holding type of book and one is lifting his hat.

A012.5.53 - Black & White photo of indoor damages from an unknown house fire (angle 1).

A012.5.54 - Black & White photo of indoor damages from an unknown house fire (angle 2).

A012.5.55 - Black & White photo of indoor damages from an unknown house fire (angle 3).

A012.5.56 - Black & White photo of indoor damages from an unknown house fire (angle 4).

A012.5.57 - Black & White photo of indoor damages from an unknown house fire (angle 5).

A012.5.58 - Black & White photo of indoor damages from an unknown house fire (angle 6).

A012.5.59 - Black & White photo of indoor damages from an unknown house fire (angle 7).

A012.5.61 - Sepia photo of damage from Adelaide St E Fire of August 1989 (angle 1).

A012.5.62 - Sepia photo of damage from Adelaide St E Fire of August 1989 (angle 2).

A012.5.63 - Sepia photo of damage from Adelaide St E Fire of August 1989 (angle 3).

A012.5.64 - Sepia photo of damage from Adelaide St E Fire of August 1989 (angle 4).

A012.5.65 - Sepia photo of damage from Adelaide St E Fire of August 1989 (angle 5).

A012.5.66 - Sepia photo of damage from Adelaide St E Fire of August 1989 (angle 6).

A012.5.67 - Sepia photo of damage from Adelaide St E Fire of August 1989 (angle 7).

A012.5.68 - Sepia photo of damage from Adelaide St E Fire of August 1989 (angle 8).

A012.5.69 - Black & White photo of fire fighters attending a 4 story apartment fire in Whitby (angle 1).

A012.5.70 - Black & White photo of fire fighters attending a 4 story apartment fire in Whitby (angle 2).

A012.5.71 - Black & White photo of a fire fighter in OFD Snorkel truck basket with sky in background.

A012.5.72 - Unknown isolated forest home on fire. Several individuals are visible around the scene.

A012.5.73 - Black & White photo of night firefighting in action along a city street (angle 1) (possibly Oshawa Times fire of 1971).

A012.5.74 - Black & White photo of night firefighting in action along a city street (angle 2) (possibly Oshawa Times fire of 1971).

Fire Dept. Fond.

Fire Investigation *File Contains Sensitive Material – Access Controlled by Archivist*

A012.5.90– Black & White photograph of a woman on an autopsy table.

A012.5.91– Black & White photograph a close of the woman face on the autopsy table.

A012.5.92– Black & White photograph of a house fire. House number 413. Some smoke damage can be seen at the window and above the door.

A012.5.93– Black & White photograph of the interior damage of the house fire.

A012.5.94– Black & White photograph of the exterior of a house fire.

A012.5.95- Order from the Fire Marshall Dated May 2nd, 1973 accompanied by a letter to Ronald Templar at 39 Simcoe St N from G.A. Pelletier, P. Eng. Chief Fire Engineering Section Office of the Fire Marshall.

A012.5.96- Order from the Office of the Fire Marshall Dated May 27th, 1980 to Mr. G. Bosancich for 200 Bond St W.

A012.5.97- Order from the Office of the Fire Marshall Dated January 13th, 1981 to Mr. Reg Malachowski for 431 Centre St.

A012.5.98– Verdict of Coroner's Jury serving on the inquest into the death of Clayton Murray Demerchant dated February 18th, 1981 with regards to a fire at 476 Albert St.

A012.5.99- Order from the Fire Marshall Dated July 20th, 1982 to Mr. G. Macko Sr for 473 Ritson Rd S.

A012.5.100- Jury Verdict Inquest of Alan Andrews on October 26th, 1988 this inquest concerns the accident at G & R Chemical on January 12th, 1988.

A012.5.101- Memorandum from Councillor Brian Nicholson to Mayor Allan Pilkey and Members of Council requesting a full investigation of a fire that resulted in the death of a two year child. A copy of a confidential letter sent to the Crown Attorney's Office is also included Dated August 16th, 1989.

A012.5.102 - A collection of hand written reports for the Fire Prevention Office - The Corporation of the City of Oshawa

Contains a copy of a letter from the Fire Department R.H. Templar Chief Fire Prevention Officer to Mr. G. Macko Sr at 473 Ritson Rd S. Also contained is a report of an incident at G & R Chemicals at 1345 Thornton Rd S in which two employee were rescued by the fire department. Contains a copy of an Alarm Log from the Oshawa Fire Department for August 11th, 1989 from 18:00-08:00. A copy of a witness statement from Daniel Tennisco the Office of the Ontario Fire Marshall Dated August 11th, 1989 for 115 Adelaide St E. A copy of a witness statement from Brad C. Barnoski the Office of the Ontario Fire Marshall Dated August 11th, 1989 for 115 Adelaide St E. A fire investigation report for 115 Adelaide Ave E Dated August 11th, 1989 also included is an alarm report and a summary written by Rick Newman a Fire Prevention Officer. A copy of a handwritten report dates August 11th, 1989 at 115 Adelaide Ave W. A copy of the alarm report for August 11th, 1989 for 115 Adelaide E. A General Occurrence report for a

fire at 413 Athol St E May 24th, 1978. A copy of the fire investigation report for the death of Tricia Howell at 413 Athol St E dated June 7th, 1978 from the Ministry of the Solicitor General of the Fire Marshall. A copy of the Homicide and Sudden Death Report for Tricia Howell dated May 24th, 1978 at 413 Athol St E. A copy of a report from the Oshawa Fire Prevention Bureau Investigation regarding 413 Athol St E dated May 24th, 1978. This file also contains 9 pieces of vertical file newspaper clippings.

General History

A012.5.103 - Magazine – 5th Annual Hockey Benefit at the Civic Auditorium Dated January 14th, 1972 N.H.L. Oldtimers vs The Flying Fathers.

A012.5.104 - A glossy picture labelled 1972 Fire calls.

A012.5.105 - A Proclamation for Fire Prevention Week in the City of Oshawa, October 4th -10th, 1987.

A012.5.106 - Magazine - Provincial Federation of Ontario Fire Fighters 10th Annual Convention of Oshawa Fire Fighters Association Local 465 Dated June 7th-11th, 1992 at the Holiday Inn, Oshawa.

A012.5.107 – A letter from the Oshawa and District Historical Society to Chief E. Stacey at the Oshawa Fire Department No. 1 Station 109 Simcoe St N Dated May 25, 1973 and attached is a receipt of items donated a Megaphone: engraved silver, measures 19 inches long – C. 1890. Also included is a Fireman's Helmet: black composition; badge number 14 - C. 1940 Donated by the Oshawa Fire Department May 23rd, 1973.

Collection also contain a Megaphone: engraved silver, measures 19 inches long – C. 1890. Also included is a Fireman's Helmet: black composition; badge number 14 - C. 1940 Donated by the Oshawa Fire Department May 23rd, 1973.

A report on the History of the Oshawa Fire Department. File also contains a report on the Fire History in Oshawa. File also includes 16 Black & White copies of photographs. There're 2 newspaper clippings and both are from the Oshawa Journal from October 2nd, 1968.

Personnel and Non-Emergency Events

A012.5.108 - A Proclamation for Fire Prevention Week in the City of Oshawa, October 4th -10th, 1987.

A012.5.109– Booklet – The Fireman and the Arsonist Office of the Fire Marshal Attorney-General's Department Prepared by Fire Marshal W.J. Scott September 1, 1936.

A012.5.110– Handout – First Aid News – April –May 1968.

File contain a Fire Department Civic Scene November 1969 and the civic scene report for the February Issue. Also included is a copy of a Medal of Bravery to James E. O'Boyle in recognition of an act of bravery in hazardous circumstances and was given at Rideau Hall February 25, 1974. This file also contains 42 pieces of vertical newspaper clippings.

Fire Prevention Week Newsletters

Fire Prevention News October 7, 1972, October 7, 1975 October 8, 1977. Also included is a copy of a newspaper article from the Oshawa Journal October 2, 1968.

Fires Newspaper Collection

File contains 73 pieces of vertical files newspaper articles.

Development & Changes

File contains 27 pieces of vertical files newspaper clippings.

By-laws

A012.5.111 - Booklet – Fire Fighter 275 compiled by Wm. H. Wilson.

A012.5.112 - Booklet - Constitution and By-Laws and Rule of Order of the Oshawa Fire Brigade 1873.

File contains copies of By-Laws Numbered 40-68, 43-75, 51-85, 98-82, 131-74, 141-74, 163-74, 175-69, 261.66, 1676, 1770, 1796, 1919, 2423, 2487, 2545, 2769, 2779, 2792, 2805, 3153, 3561, 4411, and 4447.

Council By-Laws 1850-1965: By-Law Numbers: 32, 33, 126, 142, 187,188, 209, 210, 235, 237, 238, 254, 295, 409, 410, 411, 412, 643, 644, 660, 661, 662, 683, 684, 704, 705, 706, 1356, 1357, 1377, 1378, 1572, and 1573.

Awards & Ribbons

A012.5.77 - Bill Culling's Annual Convention Oshawa June 17-19 1931 Medal.

A012.5.78 - Oshawa Fire Department Delegate Medal.

A012.5.80 - Fourteenth Annual Convention Provincial Vol. Firemen's Assn. Of Ontario (1913) Ribbon.

Culling WWI Letter

A012.5.29 - Farewell letter from the Oshawa Fire Brigade to Wm. Culling upon leaving for service in World War One (1914).

A012.5.79 - Oshawa Fire Department Crowning Medal. An image of Queen Elizabeth II and George VI is on one side.

White Box

A012.5.82 - Rough Chronology of Oshawa Fire Department (1862-1869)

- By-law notes
- Newspaper sections
- General writings by C. Shaver and others
- Council and budget reports

A012.5.83 - Rough Chronology of Oshawa Fire Department (1870-1899).

- Large newspaper sections
- General writings by C. Shaver and others

- A few letters to the editor
- Council and budget reports
- Constitution and by-law, and Rules of Order for the Oshawa Fire Brigade 1873 notes

A012.5.84 - Rough Chronology of Oshawa Fire Department (1900-1949)

- Annual reports
- Personnel and year listings
- By-law notes
- Newspaper sections
- Consolidated By-Law of the City of Oshawa Passed November 4th, 1940 (“This is the first consolidation of the by-laws since 1908”)

A012.5.85 - Rough Chronology of Oshawa Fire Department (1950-1993)

- Equipment records
- Personnel and year listings
- Newspapers clippings and copies of newspaper pages
- Annual reports
- 10th Annual Convention Preparation (125th Anniversary Committee)
- A collection of letters
- A copy of the Oshawa Fire Fighters Association Local 465 Constitution and By-laws.

A012.5.86 - Photographic Image Newspaper Inventory. Lists dates and newspaper locations to find images and related articles involving fires.

A012.5.87 - Collection of by-law listings dating from 1925-1972 which affected the Oshawa Fire Department. By-Laws included in this collection: 49-72, 1769, 1770, 1841, 21-71, 124-72, 21-69, 3078, 4447, 2502, 4261, 3789, 3462, 2436, 154-67, 3809, 3892, 2628, 2629, 2922, 2617, 1702, 3515, 3569.

A012.5.89 - Large collection of the fire prevention summary reports from 1841 to 1991. Call log reports which include dates, address of incident, description of incident, owner’s name, dollar’s loss, and the name of the inspector. Notes on by-laws pertaining to the fire department. Included are some personnel status records. Also included is a list of accidents to members of staff and accidents – apparatus.