

## # 20 – Hensall Fire Department



# Historic HENSALL



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In 1900 a Fire Hall was rented from Mr. Petty. 5 year later Hensall's first fire chief was appointed at a salary of \$5.00 per year, he was to recruit a brigade of 15 men to be paid \$1.00 per annum. The first fire suits cost \$15.25 each. The first fire truck was pulled by horses and could not leave the municipality without permission from the Reeve.

On July 19<sup>th</sup>, 1949, eight men travelled from Hensall to Toronto to research fire equipment for the village. In the first car were Reeve A.W. Kerslake, Councillor Norm Jones, Councillor William Parke, and Village Clerk James Patterson. In the second car were Councillor Melvin Moir, Councillor W. Carl Passmore, Councillor Jack Tudor, and Fire Chief Edward Fink. North of Brantford the second car collided with a truck. Melvin Moir died instantly, Carl Passmore succumbed to his injuries on July 27<sup>th</sup>. Jack Tudor and Ed Fink were both seriously injured. All these men were members of the Hensall Fire Brigade and prominent members of the community. A plaque in the Hensall Fire Hall honours the sacrifice these men made.

Today the Hensall Fire Department continues to serve Hensall and surrounding area with a brigade of 20 members and 3 vehicles. The Fire Department participates in community events such as the Annual Firemen's Breakfast, the Spring Fair Parade and the Annual Food Drive. In 2018 the Fire Department helped make the dream of a resident of Queensway Nursing Home come true as Sim rode in a Fire Truck during the 150<sup>th</sup> Hensall Fair parade.

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