



Canadian Civil Defence Museum and Archives

Preserving and presenting the Canadian Civil Defence Emergency Preparedness history to the World

Message from Founder and Executive Director **FRED ARMBRUSTER**

May 17, 2017 ~ Welcome to the Canadian Civil Defence Museum and Archives newsletter! We look forward to continuing to share the Canadian Civil Defence Emergency Preparedness history nationally. Since 2012, CCDMA has been preserving and presenting the mostly forgotten and/ or abandoned Canadian Civil Defence Cold War Emergency Preparedness history to the world!

We are thrilled to announce that the City of Edmonton has provided support through Canada 150 Community Celebration sponsorship towards the Edmonton portion of our Celebration in August 2017 of the 70th Anniversary of the origin of the Canadian Civil Defence organization. To celebrate, the CCDMA will re-create the Alberta portion of the 1953 cross-Canada Civil Defence tour, which was used to recruit and educate civilian volunteers on the importance of emergency preparedness during the Cold War, circa 1947 to 1968. Updates on this project will be posted on our website and Facebook page.

We look forward to partnering with the City for this and future projects, to also promote Edmonton's role in the Canadian Civil Defence organization and to identify, preserve, and educate the public about infrastructure and artifacts within Edmonton from this period. Edmonton was an early leader in adopting Civil Defence processes, was home to the provincial headquarters, and built the

first municipal command centre bunker in Canada, which still stands today.

CANADIAN CIVIL DEFENCE HISTORY

Canadian Civil Defence was a federal government initiative that also ran at the provincial and municipal levels from circa 1947 to 1968 in response to the Cold War, in order to prepare and educate ordinary Canadians about what to do in the event of a nuclear attack or natural disaster.

Civil Defence began as a division under the Department of National Defence, a standalone civilian operation of volunteer emergency preparedness responders, including fire fighters, police, radiological technologists, medical personnel, etc., who worked alongside federal, provincial, and municipal emergency responders and staff.



Civil Defence touched the life of every Canadian and every community. The Canadian Civil Defence organization brought local communities together, while also providing greater safety and equipment standards for municipalities and first responders. Provincial government Civil Defence headquarters were set up in major cities, and citizens volunteered across Canada to be engaged in training and preparing to respond to a nation-wide or local emergency in a structured, organized manner ... *just in case*. Municipal infrastructures were improved and standardized across Canada, ensuring efficient response. Some of these Civil Defence processes are still in use today, such as encapsulated water treatment facilities, standardized hydrant connectors for fire hoses, standardized telecommunication systems, and modernized equipment used by first responders. The CCDMA is committed to preserving this history!



THE CANADIAN CIVIL DEFENCE MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES (CCDMA) MAKES HEADLINES

In 2017, CCDMA Executive Director, Fred Armbruster, was interviewed about historic and present day Civil Defence operations. Please search online for the interviews.

Postmedia (National Post and affiliates):

“This is a Real Emergency – Chilling Artifacts from when Canada Prepared for Nuclear Annihilation”

CBC News: Edmonton (English and French):

“Most Likely to be Bombed – Unearthing Edmonton’s Cold War Secrets”

CBC Radio: The Current:

“Bomb Shelter Sales Skyrocket”

VICE Canada magazine online

"What Happens to Canada in a Nuclear War"

DONATIONS

The CCDMA is a national charitable organization dedicated to presenting and preserving the mostly-forgotten and abandoned Canadian Civil Defence Cold War Emergency Preparedness history to all Canadians.

Some of the projects your donations will contribute to:

~ Capital campaign: the CCDMA has unique artifact and archival collections and needs to raise funds for a building to display and store them. Funds are needed to either rent or purchase an appropriate building and conduct the proper environmental assessments, if necessary.

~ Reimagining our 1966 GMC Old Look Bus (top photo) into our Mobile Storyboard Bus (bottom photo).

~ We appreciate monetary, gift-in-kind, and artifact/archival material donations. You can donate online via our Facebook page or our website:

www.facebook.com/canadiancivildefencemuseumassociation

www.civildefencemuseum.ca

or contact the CCDMA via email regarding artifact/archival material donation:

info@civildefencemuseum.ca

All donors will be recognized publicly in our newsletter and on social media, and receive the benefits identified at each donor level.



CANADIAN CIVIL DEFENCE MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES
Charitable Registration # 82973-5380

Fred Armbruster, Executive Director & Founder
Edmonton, AB T6L 5L9
780.690.0854
info@civildefencemuseum.ca
www.twitter.com/bea_alerte

Thank you for your support!