



PRESS RELEASE

REGIONAL FIREFIGHTERS HELP THEODORE TUGBOAT Theodore's weathered cap gets fresh coat of paint from friends

(August 17,, 2015 - Halifax, N.S.) Sometimes even our big, strong friends need a helping hand. Theodore Tugboat was concerned that his faded red cap was affecting his ability to continue to be the best Nova Scotia ambassador he could possibly be. That's when regional firefighters, along with two local businesses, reached out to give their friend Theodore Tugboat a refresh.

On Thursday, August 4th, a voluntary team of seven firefighters, along with their Chief and an aerial platform, stopped by the Cable Wharf on the Halifax waterfront for a few hours to give Theodore's hat a much-needed coat of paint.

"When I heard Theodore needed a paint job I figured who better to provide it than Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency. Afterall, we're both in the business of helping people out of tough situations," said Fire Chief Doug Trussler. "Both Theodore and firefighters instinctively jump into dangerous situations to make people's lives better."

As a fully functioning 105-tonne tugboat, stretching 40 feet high, 65 feet long, with a cap measuring 15 feet in diameter, the task of re-coating Theodore's cap is no easy feat.

"Theodore's important work in the Big Harbour requires him to be outdoors, exposed to four seasons of weather," said Mitch Owens, Theodore's captain, "After this particular winter, it became quite obvious that it had been ten years since his cap had received a fresh coat of paint."

International Paints Akzo Nobel, in Burnside, donated Theodore's hat paint (annually donating paint for Theodore's general upkeep as well) and Atlantic Cat offers him an annual engine check.

Supervising the painting of Theodore's cap on Thursday morning were twenty-five pre-schoolers from St Joseph's Day Care , who were invited as special guests by Murphy's to a dockside viewing area adjacent to where the work was being done.

"Firefighters, plus a fire truck, plus Theodore getting his hat painted was almost too much excitement for these kids!", laughed Jeff Farwell, one of the owners of Murphy's, "They had so much fun and we were so pleased to host them and to gift them with a small Theodore-themed souvenir."

As the star of the popular children's television show, Theodore Tugboat, which aired for nine years, he has become an icon for the people of Halifax. From his base at Murphy's the Cable Wharf, Theodore takes children and their families, as well as school groups,

on daily tours throughout Halifax harbour from May to October, but he keeps watch over the harbour year-round.

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About Theodore Tugboat

Theodore Tugboat is a full-size replica (105-ton) of a scale model that was used to film the TV series of the same name. Now owned and operated by Murphy's the Cable Wharf from the Halifax waterfront, life-size Theodore was built at Snyder's Shipyard in Dayspring, Nova Scotia, and launched in 2000. Theodore Tugboat was popularized by the children's TV program of the same name. The program was co-produced and aired by CBC Television: 130 episodes over nine years. Episodes of the program can still be purchased on DVD and viewed on YouTube.

About Murphy's - Ambassatours

Throughout its impressive history on the Halifax waterfront, Murphy's has developed into a vibrant and diverse tourism sightseeing business: offering a wide variety of water tours, unique food & beverage experiences in its dockside restaurant. Murphy's The Cable Wharf, along with its sister company, Ambassatours Gray Line is, Canada's largest land and water sightseeing tour company. Both established tourism companies have been offering top-quality, memorable experiences to visitors for over 25 years. The joint company now employs over 450 peak season staff and is the only company in the Gray Line family worldwide to offer both land and water tours. In 2014, Ambassatours-Murphy's was recognized by Progress Magazine as one of the region's fastest-growing companies.

High-res event photos available upon request.

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