

## The Little Old Truck That Could

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At the last fire fought by Acton firefighters' pride and joy – a 1926 Studebaker pumper truck – it outworked newer equipment and solidified a place in Acton firefighter lore.

That lovingly restored

Studebaker will be the key attraction at a heritage museum under construction at the Churchill Road fire station, along with a rich collection of photographs and artifacts, including a wooden hose reel from the late 1890s.

The Studebaker served with the Sudbury Fire Department from 1926 to approximately 1939 when it was traded in for a newer model.

“Acton had very little firefighting apparatus in the 1930s and ‘40s and fire fighters went to Council en mass to try to get a truck. They ended up getting a truck and it happened to be this ‘26 Studebaker, and it served our community well until 1956,” said Acton Fire Fighters Association spokesman, Captain Dave Andrews, prior to the official ground breaking ceremony on Thursday for the museum and fitness room additions to the 17-year-old Churchill Road station.

“The last fire it pumped at – I think it was the Wolf turkey farm behind Bower Avenue – anyway, it was winter and the other two newer trucks that we had froze up while we were pumping, and the little ‘26 just keep going on,” Captain Andrews said, adding the truck really serviced the community well and deserves a place of honour.

Years of tender restorations have the pumper in pretty good shape with a rebuilt engine, but it needs a paint job and other parts and hopefully will be ready for the opening of the museum in December.

The Studebaker will be driveable so it can roll in the Acton's Fire Fighters Association's Santa Claus parade and be used for fire prevention and education programs



**PRIDE & JOY:** This 1926 Studebaker will have a place in honour in the fire museum being constructed at the Churchill Road fire station. – Submitted photo