



MEDIA RELEASE
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ACTIVITIES AT MUSEUM MARK 60th ANNIVERSARY OF 1947 FIRE

KENNEBUNK – Sixty years ago this month, epic forest fires blazed their way through Maine, burning nearly 200,000 acres and costing millions in damages. The Brick Store Museum reflects on this seminal natural disaster with its ongoing exhibition, *Burned into our Memories: The '47 Fire...Sixty Years Later*, made possible through its proud business partner, The Captain Lord Mansion. Through photographs and artifacts, the show explores such issues as why the Fire of '47 continues to endure in our collective memory, if it could happen again, and what might be done differently to fight such a fire today. Sections on firefighting techniques and relief efforts invite comparison to how technologies have changed over the decades. In addition to the exhibition, which remains on view through the end of this year, the Museum is offering two related special events:

- **Saturday, October 20, 11AM – 1PM:** Historian Joyce Butler will be on hand in the *Burned into our Memories* exhibition at the Museum to answer questions about the Fire of 1947 and to sign copies of her definitive publication on the topic, *Wildfire Loose: The Week Maine Burned*. First published in 1978, the book is now in its third edition and holds the distinction of being listed among 100 books that best "reveal the history of the state and the life of its people." The list was compiled from 400 years of Maine books and published by the University of Maine Press as *The Mirror of Maine*. Butler is a former curator for both The Brick Store Museum and the Maine Historical Society and has served as Kennebunk's Town Historian since 1990. She has authored and contributed to numerous historical publications. Bring your own copy, or purchase one at the Museum for \$18.95.
- **Tuesday, October 23, 4:30 – 7:30PM:** To honor all our first responders—past and present—the Museum will have special extended evening hours, staying open until 7:30PM. Admission is FREE for all fire, rescue, and public safety personnel and their families, with half-price Museum membership offered if joining that night. There will be light refreshments in the *Burned into our Memories* exhibition, door prizes, scavenger hunts for kids, and a special appearance by Joyce Butler, historian and author *Wildfire Loose: The Week Maine Burned*. She will be autographing copies of her book and answering questions in the *Burned into our Memories* exhibition from 6 to 7:30PM.

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The Brick Store Museum is located at 117 Main Street in Kennebunk's historic district and for more than seventy years has been dedicated to preserving and exhibiting the region's rich cultural and artistic heritage. Its galleries and research archives are open to the public year-round: Tuesdays through Fridays, 10 – 4:30 and Saturdays, 10 – 1. Admission to the Museum is by donation, suggested \$5 per person. Visit www.brickstoremuseum.org or call 207.985.4802 for further information.

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