



MEDIA RELEASE
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**BRICK STORE MUSEUM MARKS 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF 1947 FIRE WITH
EXHIBITION AND SPECIAL LECTURE**

KENNEBUNK, MAINE – Sixty years after epic forest fires blazed their way through Maine in 1947, The Brick Store Museum reflects on this seminal natural disaster with an exhibition and special lecture. *Burned into our Memories: The '47 Fire...Sixty Years Later* opens August 16 as the Museum's newest exhibition. Through photographs and artifacts, the show explores such questions 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. The exhibition remains on view through December 29, 2007, with support from the Museum's proud business partner, The Captain Lord Mansion.

An opening reception will be held at the Museum on August 16 from 5 to 7 PM. That evening, guests will additionally be treated to refreshments and special appearances by historical and contemporary engine trucks and firefighting equipment from the Kennebunk and Kennebunkport Fire Departments.

Special Lecture

To complement the exhibition, the Museum is offering a public lecture on August 23 at 7 PM at The Colony Hotel, 140 Ocean Avenue, Kennebunkport. Renowned Maine historian and author Joyce Butler presents, "Remembering the Fire of 1947" through her remarks, slides, and a Q&A session. Her retrospective will place the fire in a larger historical context and reflect upon why memories of the fire have endured for generations. At the conclusion of the program, Butler will 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.

Butler's lecture is offered free of charge, with donations gratefully accepted. No reservations are required. Books will be on sale both in advance at the Museum and at the event for \$18.95 plus tax, with a 10% discount for Museum members. This lecture is made possible by the Museum's John Rogers Memorial Lecture Fund and the Colony Hotel.

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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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