Fire Hydrants Along the Way



From Vermont to Quebec
June 2010

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The Concept…



- Well, we took another trip and looked at fire hydrants along the way to see what differences existed.
- We found some different varieties of course and we saw our first metric hydrants when we entered Quebec Province.
- Like last year, we also found that maintenance was lacking in some areas and very good in others.
- Here's what we found along the way…

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Lunenburg, Vermont





In Vermont, we found this pretty typical hydrant in the “town square” area of a small community. It appeared that hydrants were few and far between in this small New England town. Just because a fire hydrant exists does not mean that the fire fighting water supply is adequate.

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Northumberland, NH



Not sure whose house this is - but we guess a fireman's house. This "Mae West" style hydrant was well cared for (and operational) in this small New Hampshire town. We doubt you could do this in a big city.

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Berlin, New Hampshire





We found this steel pipe dry hydrant (we assume) along Route 16 in the Northwoods Region of New Hampshire. Looks like it could use a little TLC and a sign. It also looks like the suction head is a 4-1/2-inch head. The water supply looks great though.

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Rangeley, Maine





Found these two in the small town of Rangeley, Maine. They looked well maintained and operational. The one on the right is a brand that we have seen in Baltimore, Maryland – quite a ways away. Different brand hydrants can drive a small town's public works department crazy when repairs are needed. But if you inspect them and maintain them – hydrants seldom need repairs.

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Moose Alley, Maine







Not sure what kind of fire protection device this is but we believe it to be water supply related. The weird thing is that we could not find any type of control valve. There were a bunch of these connections along Route 16 (a.k.a Moose Alley) near Eustis, Maine. We also saw the 4-legged caretaker nearby.

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Lac Megantic, Quebec





In Lac Megantic, Quebec, we found that hydrants were color-coded using signs. We assume that this is the same type of system as the NFPA system for color-coding hydrant flows.

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Lac Megantic, Quebec





The fitting on the hydrants in Quebec were all metric. That steamer outlet looks small compared to its US counterparts.

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Saint Martin, Quebec



We found this hydrant in St Martin, Quebec – not sure of the brand – perhaps a Clow (made in Quebec). Definitely metric and definitely no steamer fitting.

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Quebec City, Quebec





Another similar hydrant in Quebec City. No steamer fitting again. We hope that the FD can get adequate water out of these type of hydrants given the nature of the building construction in this part of town.

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Quebec City, Quebec





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Quebec City, Quebec





There it is! Hope a fire truck can get to it on this narrow street in the old part of Quebec.

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Summary



- This was another interesting trip regarding the hydrants that we spotted along the way.
- We again saw variances in how different communities take care of their hydrants – the theme seemed to be pretty common across the country. Some do and some don’t as much. Which is most likely a function of funding.

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