

John McKenzie House Survives 2013 Ice Storm Thanks to Copperhead Mechanical

June 14, 2014 – Copperhead Mechanical receives OHS Award of Merit

Rob Leverty
The Ontario Historical Society
rleverty@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

On December 21, 2013, Toronto was hit by a severe ice storm; that evening the historic John McKenzie House lost its electricity. On the following day, Willowdale looked akin to a war zone, with fallen trees and power lines blocking many of the neighbourhood streets. At the time, we did not know that the OHS's headquarters would be without hydro for another six days.



By Monday morning, the temperature in the house was rapidly dropping and it was decided in consultation with Copperhead Mechanical's master plumber Dino Orsini that we should shut off the main water valve into the house, open the taps and put plumbers' anti-freeze in all of the toilets and sinks.

At 7:30 a.m. the next day – still with no hydro – it was decided that we had no other option but to drain the boilers, the 27 historic radiators (pictured above) and all of the connecting pipes throughout the three-storey house. Dino immediately sent his best plumbers to complete the mission. Seen here after completing six hours

of hard work in a very cold house are Copperhead Mechanical's Mike Klement (left) and Shane Conlon. Tremendous work, guys!

On December 28, as soon as hydro was restored, Dino sent a crew of plumbers and boiler mechanics to restart the hot water heating system at the John McKenzie House.

A potential nightmare of unthinkable damage – including burst pipes, radiators and flooding to our headquarters – was averted thanks to the services of skilled and talented individuals who also appreciate historic buildings. We are deeply grateful for the loyalty, outstanding work and incredible customer service of Dino and the crews from Copperhead Mechanical during this extended emergency.

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