

The **PROFESSIONAL** *CAR*



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COVER PHOTOS – Almost from the day he started working for an ambulance service, Chatham, Ontario PCS member **Len Langlois** has been collecting and squirreling away old ambulances and ambulance- and emergency-service-related artifacts. Anyone who has visited the oversized garage behind Len's home has marveled at his impressive collection of vintage sirens and emergency vehicle lights picked up at countless old car flea markets and swap meets. While Len has been only too happy to show his collection to anyone interested, he has long sought a permanent home for his "stuff," so it could be seen and enjoyed by the public in general. For years, Len thought of setting up an ambulance service museum. A few years ago, he got the green light from the Heritage Village he's long been associated with near Essex, Ontario where he's volunteered several days a week (and many weekends) for decades. Two years ago construction started on a stand-alone Ontario EMS Museum adjacent to the Village's main *Canadian Transportation Museum* building. Len's long-held dream was realized late last June, when opening ceremonies were held at the new museum.

Among the many guests in attendance was fellow PCS member **Peter Adsten** who flew in from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan for the occasion. Peter has some pretty impressive ambulance service credentials himself. He's one of the founders of *Crestline Coach*, which grew from a small conversion shop in Saskatoon in the 1970s into Canada's largest ambulance manufacturer, with a huge export business. Also on hand was PCS member **Ted Kalinowski** of nearby Windsor, the official photographer for the grand opening. Ted's son Vince took the group shot of PCS members at the June 27 event.

CENTERSTRETCH - Ted hauled out his wide-angle lens to take this fine indoor shot of the new EMS Museum's feature exhibit – a one-of-a-kind 1947 Cadillac ambulance that originally saw service in Manasquan, New Jersey. Read all about it in our EMS Museum sidebar story, *This Ambulance Led Three Lives*.

The other feature story in this issue covers the short history of the *Briarean* – a Chrysler station wagon hearse/ambulance combination made by the Richard Brothers Division of Allied Industries in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. The catalyst for this long-overdue story was a cache of *Briarean* photos acquired by PCS member **Warren Cooley**, who resides in Mason, Michigan near Eaton Rapids. We're deeply grateful to Warren for sharing this rare material profiling one of the industry's lesser-known, short-lived players with us.