

# FRONT

News, people, briefs, trends + tips

## Fire in his belly



Fiery passion: CA and self-professed fire buff Mark Bindman spends his evenings helping the pros during major blazes

**W**hen he's not putting out fires for clients during tax time, Mark Bindman literally feels the heat alongside firefighters in his city. While he doesn't run into burning buildings, as a member of the *Pompiers Auxiliaires de Montréal* he is among 28 volunteers who provide on-site support services to the Montreal Fire Department during major blazes. "We take care of the firefighters, keep them safe and provide fluid replacement," says Bindman, 54. "Last night's fire was so big and hot we put portable showers out on the street so they could cool themselves off."

Being on call seven days a week means Bindman will occasionally wear his uniform into the office (CA firm Bessner Gallay Kreisman, where he is a partner in charge of quality control and professional standards) after spending an entire night at a fire scene. "I can work off the adrenaline for hours, and most of my clients are amazed by what I do," he says. Given that he spends about 30 hours a week on his "fire passion," Bindman says his partners are supportive too. "Some weeks I'll get called to a scene two or three times, but I don't respond to [fire] calls during the workday."

A self-professed fire buff, Bindman started chasing fire trucks in his early 20s because "the thrill, sights and smell of it all really got to me." Since then he has acquired an impressive collection of fire paraphernalia, including eight full-size fire hydrants, a dozen extinguishers, hundreds of fire department T-shirts and thousands of photos of fire stations across North America and the Caribbean. "My one dream is to buy my own fire truck but I really don't know where I'd store it."

Still, Bindman has no intention of giving up his day job. "I took a few fire-fighting courses and know how to cut someone out of a car using basic tools, but this is a hobby I've turned into a community service," he says. In fact, being a fire buff CA has its advantages. "During tax season when I'm particularly stressed, I'll spend 15 minutes going through my collection and it calms me down and keeps me going."

Rosalind Stefanac

CHRISTIAN FLEURBAEY/IX

### Résumé

- 1978** obtains CA designation (Quebec)
- 1998** becomes a volunteer with the *Pompiers Auxiliaires de Montréal*
- 2001** joins Bessner Gallay Kreisman as partner
- 2006** elected auxiliary's treasurer/deputy chief

### New forms for charities

Effective September 1, 2009, the Canada Revenue Agency will no longer accept Form T2050(01) for applications to register a charity under the Income Tax Act. Applications for registration as a charity must now be submitted to the CRA on the new Form T2050(08), which has been available since December at [www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/tpbg/tt/t2050](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/tpbg/tt/t2050).

A number of the Charities Directorate's PDF fillable forms can now also be downloaded and saved to your computer, thus avoiding the frustration of losing the work you have done. For more information and to access the forms log on to [www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/chrts/formspubs/filbifrms-eng.html](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/chrts/formspubs/filbifrms-eng.html).