

# Keeping our community safe

A salute to our local firefighters and first responders



## Waterloo

PARTENAIRE DE VIE

La Ville de Waterloo aimerait profiter de cette occasion pour remercier tous nos premiers répondants et pompiers dévoués. Nous aimerions également remercier leurs familles pour tout le soutien qu'elles apportent

Ville de Waterloo would like to take this opportunity to thank all our dedicated First Responders and Firefighters. We would also like to thank their families for all the support they provide.

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# A tip of the hat to those who are always there

Clean air, fresh water, pristine lakes, mountain vistas. Add safe and caring communities to the list of benefits that come from living in the Eastern Townships, thanks to the dedication of hundreds of firefighters and First Responders. Since the first emergency bell rang from a church belfry or in a town square, men and women of good will have been putting their own lives at risk to keep our homes and families safe. It's as much a Townships' tradition as maple sugaring in spring.

The first loosely-organized fire departments coincided with the settling of each of our small towns, as a first response to a disaster. The good-neighbour policy, which continues to exist today, was established early, with able-bodied men in neighbouring communities rushing to the scene with all available manpower and equipment wherever disaster struck. Volunteer firefighters in the early days were equipped with little more than two-gallon buckets and wooden ladders, decked out in leather helmets and the sturdiest jacket they owned. It wasn't until the early 1900s that the rubber duck coats and rubber boots became the garb du jour, offering a modicum of protection to the volunteers battling raging fires in primarily wooden homes, barns and businesses.

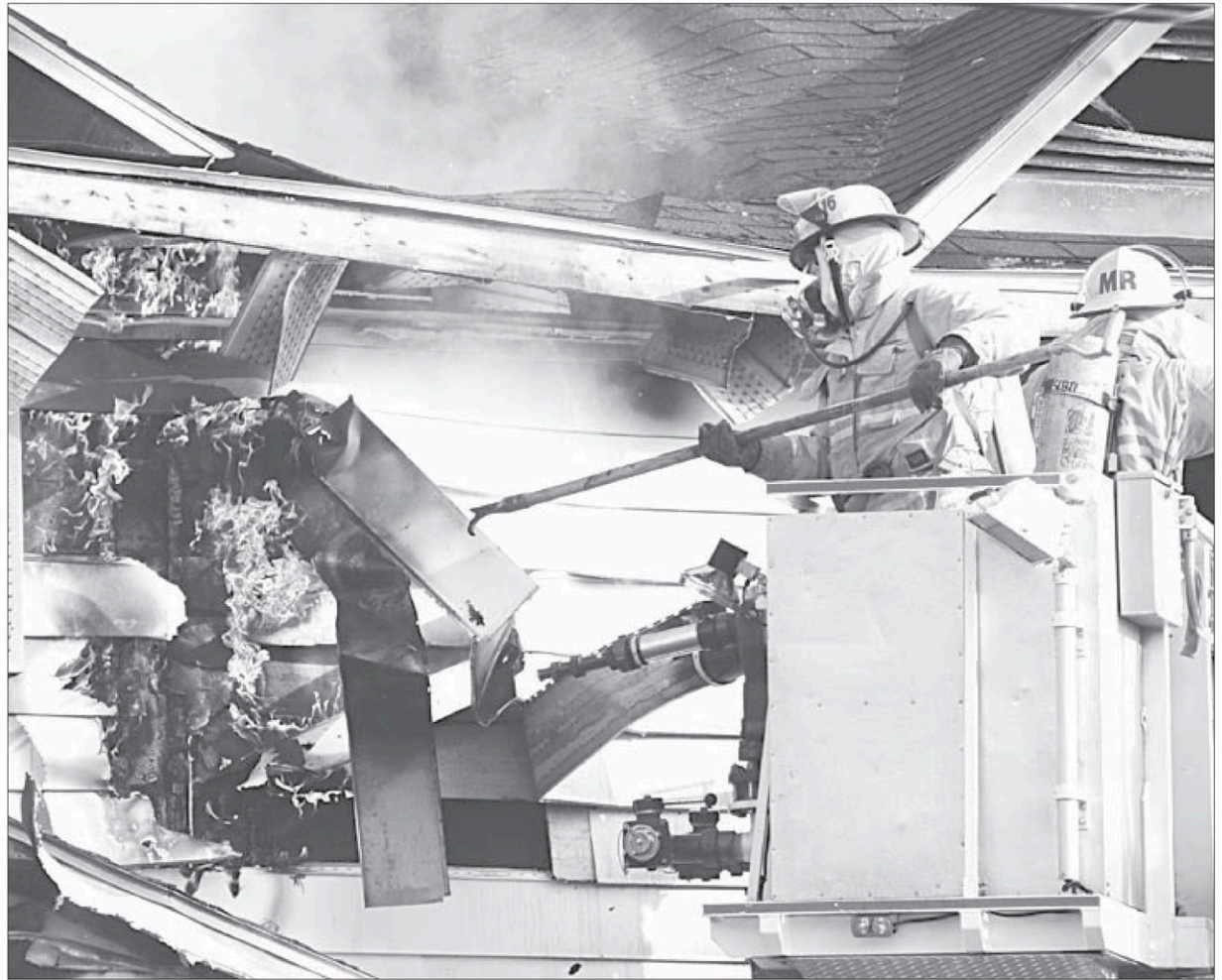
Towns with lakes were a godsend providing easy access to water that could be hauled to a scene by horse and cart. Scientific advances were a double-edged sword, on the one hand bringing steam-powered engines, fire hydrants and sturdier equipment, but on the

other, a host of new materials used in construction that produced dangerous emissions, exposing firefighters to noxious fumes. Masks were introduced to mitigate the risk, but it's safe to say firefighters in 2018 are exposed to a multitude of risks when they respond to a fire call.

Today's firefighters and First Responders are well-trained, highly skilled and physically fit with state-of-the-art fire-fighting equipment. But they have challenges never dreamed of a century ago: faster cars, higher buildings, jobs that take them away from their homes and a lifestyle that leaves little time for much. Still, when the call comes in, the safety of others be-

comes their first priority. This characteristic of putting others before self extends beyond safety to the overall well-being of people in the community as evidenced by the many activities organized by fire fighters, from toy drives to community BBQ's and special events for children.

A cursory look through The Record archives bears witness to the thousands of disasters that have been lessened by the quick and sure response and personal risk of firefighters and First Responders. We owe them our thanks. And in many cases, we owe them our lives.  
**Sharon McCully**



RECORD ARCHIVES


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to all First Responders and Firefighters for your service




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*Thank you to the Stanbridge East Volunteer Fire Department for their dedication and commitment to making a positive difference in our community.*



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**Cover photo:**  
2006 Fire at North Hatley inn  
photo from The Record archives

# Firefighters and First Responders in Austin, TBL and Sutton

By Ann Davidson

Someone once said that Firefighters and First Responders are “indispensable foot soldiers here at home”. They risk their lives everyday and manifest the epitome of selflessness in this noble calling.

Ask any firefighter or first responder what it is that calls them to these emergencies and the unanimous response is “I love my community and want to help.” It’s not about the money. Rather, they say that it is about the common mission to ensure safety and health as well as the “comaraderie” that bonds their team.

For outsiders it may seem like a glamorous job to assume. However, in rural parts where volunteers have always been the backbone to communities, being a firefighter or first responder means more than reaching out at the moment of crisis. It is all about dedication, commitment, preparedness, and sacrifice. It’s also about having the courage to keep doing what they do even after witnessing the most horrific situations.

In talking to both Don Mirreault, director of the TBL/Sutton Fire Departments as well as Paul Robitaille, the days when anyone can simply rush to the emergency call to help out are gone. In Quebec, since 2008 when Law 108 was passed, all municipalities must have adequate fire protection. That means that personnel must be trained and have proper certification in order to qualify for service. Municipalities must be prepared to undertake prevention programs and respond to smoke, floods and fire, road accidents, ice and water rescues, handling of dangerous materials and also undertake research to determine the cause of fires. In these parts, saving livestock is also an issue. In Brome Lake, a program was started to help firefighters identify where domestic pets live so that they too can be



TBL First Responders gather together for a formal shot of the current team.

COURTESY

saved. Firefighters also must ensure that the millions of dollars in equipment is kept in meticulous operating order.

When most volunteers are already employed in full-time jobs, it means that there needs to be an agreement with the employer to be able to leave the workplace when there is an emergency. It also means that many hours of time away from family and other personal responsibilities is a premium. Plans can be interrupted in a blink. When they are on call, they are not permitted to use alcohol or other recreational stimulants.

Even though most municipalities pay for the registration costs of the training programs there are a lot of hours to put in. The basic entry course for a firefighter takes over 300 hours. Additional modules for ladder truck, pump truck, vehicle extrication, forestry rescue, ice rescue, water rescue can require anywhere from 30 to 45 hours extra for each. And then it takes an additional 150 hours to become an officer. Practices and simulations are a major part of the programs. They are undertaken on a routine basis; sometimes bi-weekly, others monthly and others several times yearly. To become a first responder one must take a 45-hour course. To maintain

that certification, participants must follow a refresher course every three months. Robitaille started as a volunteer 39 years ago. In 1996 he became director and now heads up a 35-person team as a full-time employee of the municipality of Austin. Some of his 16 first responders double as firefighters. “It wasn’t easy,” explained Robitaille. “It took five years going to school part-time to become properly certified. But I like what I am doing.”

Many Townships municipalities are small and operate on budgets that simply cannot afford their own equipment. That’s why mutual aid agreements are made between those that have equipment and manpower and those that don’t. Distances are an issue when it comes to an emergency. Water resources are not always readily available. Hence the call to other municipalities to come with their pumps and tankers. While Mansonville is custodian of a \$50,000 jaws-of-life, Austin has a boat. The towns call upon those services between each other when needed.

Ross Clarkson is working full time for TBL as an officer in the fire department. He says that lot goes on behind the scenes that citizens are not aware of.

For instance, we recognize when homes need fire detectors and they can’t afford one. We make sure to give them to the home owners.

## Town of Brome Lake

After 42 years of service to the community of Brome Lake, Pierre Laplante hung up his hat as Director of Public Security a year ago. His sense of duty continues as he serves as a volunteer First Responder. In a move to cut administrative costs the two director generals of Sutton and TBL came up with a plan to share the position of Director. Don Mirreault is almost half-way through the two-year trial period of this plan. He is pleased with how well the arrangement is working. “Morale between the two municipalities is way higher than expectation. It’s going so well with the two merged departments. We are training together and our protocols are in sync. It’s been a really nice project.”

Mirreault knew that there would be some challenges but has been surprised that the transition has gone so smoothly. He says that the key to success has been in the delegation of responsibilities. Owner of an electrical company, Mirreault says that he loves his job as director. “Firefighting is my passion. It has become my down time. It’s a lot of fun for me” Adding that his officers all have their specific responsibilities including preparation of all the practices, Mirreault says that the size of the two towns is almost the same and that amazingly each averaged about 300 calls last year.

Officer for the TBL Fire Department, Ross Clarkson, says that each person reacts differently to different situations. “Some handle things better than others. We have our colleagues and families to talk to, the CLSC offers counselling services and we are covered by CSST when we need support in the aftermath of a difficult event that we take care of. “If you don’t talk about it, it will eat you up.”

Being a volunteer fireman affects their families and together they accept it. “When we have to leave a family function or cancel plans it can be upsetting. No matter where we go, there are



ANN DAVIDSON

Last summer, after a lifelong career, at his retirement, TBL's Director of Public Security, Pierre Laplante, handed over the reins to Sutton's Don Mirreault who now oversees both municipal fire departments. Laplante remains a volunteer for TBL's first responders.

COURTESY

CONT'D ON PAGE 6

# Lennoxville Fire Department 2008



GRANT SIMEON

From left to right - Chris Galvin, Brian Montgomery, Brent Sutton, Robert Beaulieu, James Davidson, Chris Fowler, Scott Passmore, George Martel, Terry Beattie, Chief George Beaulieu, Eric Mackeage, René Marchand, Scott Daignault, Les Beaulieu, Andy Doherty, Gerry McNab, Daryl Clark, Jean-Francois Dubois, Eric Clark and Keith Carter

# Lennoxville Volunteer Fire Department Early 1960s



Back row: Terrill Painter, George Bealieu, Eric Nobes, John Nichol, Sam Bauer, Stewart Deacon, George Martel, Urbain Cryan. Front row: Velmore Lacasse, Leon Fleck, Jim Laramee, Ira Whipple

## Martel reflects on 50 years of firefighting

By Gordon Lambie

George Martel says that it was the excitement of fighting fires that first got him started on what ended up being a 50-year career as a Lennoxville firefighter.

"I had some friends on there," the retired firefighter said, recalling that it was his best man who first made the connection. "Archie Fearon, he was the one who got me on."

Martel started with the Lennoxville volunteer firefighters in 1964 and re-

tired in 2014, and said that he saw a wide variety of big and little incidents along the way. Asked about what interventions stood out, the retired firefighter specifically mentioned the night in September of 2009 when the building housing Lennoxville's Korvette store burned on Queen Street.


"That was a long night, that one" he said, explaining that the department responded first to an apartment fire on College Street near the corner with Vaudry. Although the apartment fire was brought under control and the building saved, the two fires back-to-back made things harder than usual. "We all got home and then got called again," he continued, adding that the fire that consumed the Korvette was a different beast entirely.

Although people tend to think of fires when it comes to firefighters, Martel pointed out that a lot of calls were actually to respond to car accidents.

"I can't remember them all," he said.

It is clear, however, that what sticks with Martel from his work is the community connection that has been developed and supported through the work of the Lennoxville Volunteer Firemen's Association.

"The association worked hard, and it still does," he said, pointing to years of fundraising that helped to support both the department and community events like the visit of Santa Claus that still takes place every year. "We bought the truck, and the jaws of life. Once upon a time we bought a boat. All of that came from the community" he said.

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# Potton First Responders and Firemen – serving the community for over 26 years

By Mable Hastings

For over 26 years now (since 1992), the Potton (Mansonville) First Responders and Firefighters have been providing a variety of fire safety techniques as well as displaying great pride, not only in themselves, but in their community through their emergency response efforts. Anyone who has had to call upon the Potton Firefighters and First Responders will likely tell you that, over the past 26 years, some wonderful and dedicated individuals have served Potton's people.

Through time, the Mansonville Fire Department and First Responders have evolved into a multi-faceted emergency response service in diversified rescue in all seasons. Fire prevention and public education are also two vital aspects of the job in keeping the community safe.

"The fact is that 95% of the calls we receive, do not relate to fire," explained Ronney Korman, Director of Fire Prevention and Safety for the Municipality of Potton. "We receive calls regarding car accidents, electrical issues, flooding, fallen trees, search and rescue in cases where people are lost or missing and more."

The Potton Fire Department has 24 Firefighters and there are 16 First Responders, 12 of whom are also Firefighters. Some 300 hours of basic training is

required to become a firefighter and additional hours are essential for the added training for, First Responder certification, the Jaws of Life, Pump use or to become an Officer... Recertification is also required when due. There are 1 to 2 practices per month and Korman says that on average, the unit receives around 130 calls per year.

Dedicated to making a commitment to the community, the rewards in becoming a firefighter or first responder are many. Each new service or life saving measure added in responding to emergencies for the Potton community and surrounding areas instills a sense of gratification and accomplishment for the group.

"We are lucky to have a very active and implicated fundraising committee," said Korman. "The group, through their efforts and the support of the community has made many improvements in equipment over the years possible."

These equipment improvements include an upgraded Jaws of Life service, the installation of 6 defibrillators in Potton (three purchased by the fundraising committee and three by the Municipality) and are maintained by the Fire Department. Located at Jewett's Store in Vale Perkins, the Caisse Populaire on Principal Street, Parc Andre Gagnon (Rte 243 North), the Rocket in South Bolton, Carrefours des Campeurs on the way to

Dunkin and at the Wharf in Knowlton's landing, these life saving devices have already been used.

The most recent purchase was a side by side all rescue vehicle which cost in the area of \$47,000 and can be used to save lives in all seasons. The side by side was used last year on Owl's Head Mountain where rescuers were able to go up the mountain and directly to the person suffering from a cardiac issue to offer

help.

"In 2017 our unit celebrated its 25th Anniversary," Korman shared. "We have a dynamic and motivated team that is focused on keeping the community safe."

If you would like more information about the Potton (Mansonville) Firefighters or First Responders visit: [www.potton.ca](http://www.potton.ca) or contact Ronney Korman at 450-292-3313 poste 225 [korman.r@potton.ca](mailto:korman.r@potton.ca)



COURTESY

Shawn Pouliot (Captain), Stephane Fortin (Captain) and Ronney Korman (Director of Fire Prevention and Safety for the Municipality of Potton) pose next to the side by side all rescue vehicle.

## In Recognition of Years of Devoted Service,

On behalf of the members of the municipal council and all citizens of Potton, we would like to thank our First Responders and Firemen for their invaluable service benefiting our community. We would also like to thank all those who have generously made donations throughout the years.



**POTTON**

## En reconnaissance des années de loyaux services,

Au nom des membres du Conseil municipal et de tous les citoyens de Potton, nous aimerions remercier nos premiers répondants et pompiers pour leurs services inestimables au bénéfice de notre communauté. Nous aimerions également remercier tous ceux qui ont généreusement fait des dons au fil des ans.

Thank you to all the volunteer firemen and women for your years of service in our community.



# Austin, TBL and Sutton

CONT'D FROM PAGE 3

specific things that we have to have ready to take with us like our pagers and radios, just in case. It's all about the mindset. Our personal stuff has to be with us," said Clarkson. Another aspect is that when they are on call, they are tied to being in town and not away. They are not paid for the time that they are restricted in location or activity. "Our members don't get paid for being available. There are so many times we have to stick around because there "might" be an emergency."

Alan Bowbrick is operations manager for TBL's First Responders. He explained that they usually get more calls than the fire department but tend to fly under the radar a lot more. They are less visible when it comes to responding to emergencies. Sliding into driveways quietly in the middle of the night is not an infrequent activity for first responders.

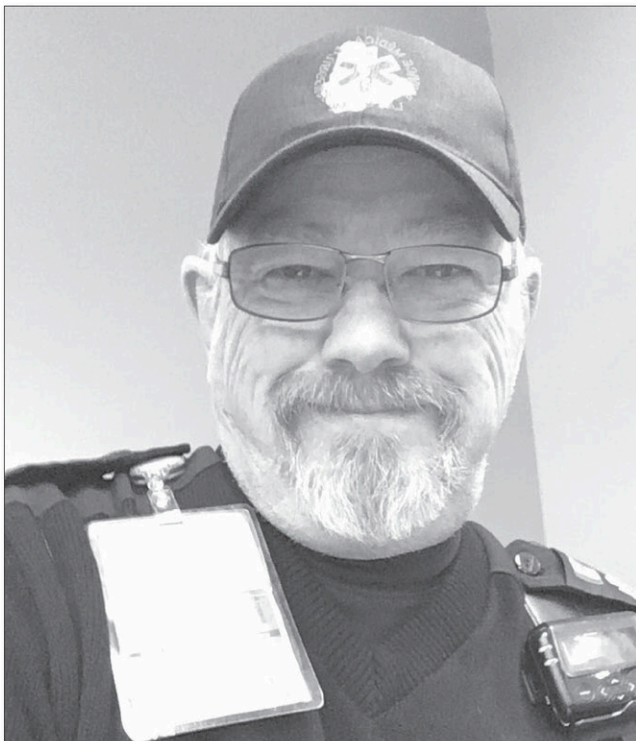
Although I have back ups, I am officially on the payroll 12 hours per week I am on call 24-hours -a-day, seven-days-a-week. Shuttering at the thought of managing a situation such as Humbolt, Saskatchewan, which is a town with a similar population, Clarkson can't imagine having to deal with it. He says that he sincerely hopes he would never have to but we do have the manpower and training to handle a mass casualty. The reality is the practice is never the way reality is and there would be a certain level of chaos to manage. "We never really want to ever have to use our training for that."

In general terms, Bowbrick would like more recruits. With absences owing to illness and vacations we are spread a bit thin but we are ok and are planning more training. They responded to 486 calls last year making it roughly 1.3 interventions per day. "This year we are a little bit down with about 30 to 35 calls monthly, 55 traffic accidents in Brome Lake last year," remarking that West Brome had 14 accidents that happened between 3 and 5 pm. He wonders why this pattern is showing up and would like to look farther into it. But we don't do the investigation, he added. "We are all about the immediate intervention and the people involved."

The longer you are there, you carry baggage. You remember the calls. I have five calls that stick in my head. I don't dwell on them but the memories are there. I keep doing it because I just want to help my community and stay involved. My team is my other family and so are the firefighters.

### Austin

The proudest moments come when lives are saved.



(COURTESY)

Alan Bowbrick is operations manager for the TBL First Responders and says that even though he is paid for 12 hours to manage the administrative responsibility, he, along with the 31 members of his team are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Happiest moments are when they arrive at the call to find it was a false alarm. "It's not a false alarm until we get there and when we find out it is, it is satisfying to know that everything is ok. If we would not respond, it would be terrible if something actually happened!" said veteran firefighter for 30 years, Robert St. Pierre who does double duty between Potton and Austin fire departments.

"We learn to communicate making sure that when the masks and radio are on, we want to make sure that everyone is clear on what is going on, what the situation is, what the plan of action is. When everyone is in an adrenalin rush, it is really important for communication to be concise. We need to be able to read how our partners are reacting to the situation as well. That's why we speak with codes such as 10-01 (I'm listening) 10 -17 (I've just arrived), 10-34 (the ambulance arriving.), explained Robert St. Pierre. He admits that he loves helping the community but also likes the thrill. Always eager to learn more, he spends a lot of time taking new courses. He and a couple of his confreres are heading to Indianapolis where 2500 firefighters from all over North America will be attending the Fire Department Instructor Convention to do special training while demolishing a large area of buildings near the city. He has been to these conventions a couple of times and laments the cost. This one will be (\$ 1,500 each) and the funds come out of our personal coffers. He says that he is also looking forward to a few smaller training programs being offered in Vermont. One is about how to deal with the new electric vehicles that would be in accidents.

Dave Cormier is an officer under Robitaille. He works for the town, lives in the town and volunteers for the town and says that the fire department for them is a way of this town's life. "There is a lot of self-satisfaction in what we do." He has been a fireman for 23 years and retired his duties as a first responder a couple of years ago. He admits that dealing with the tough stuff is part of the job. We carry it for the rest of our lives. The interventions with people all around who know the victims makes it even harder because you feel their pain. "I found that the first responders was too much. The courses, the emotional impact, the time away on top of the fires. I have considered going back to it but I not ready to do more at this point and am happy being a firefighter."

Everyone who crosses the threshold of the Marché Austin knows Brigitte Cyr. She is the manager of the store and is also the officer in charge of the municipality's first responders. Also qualified as a firefighter, Cyr says that she loves the medical aspect of the inter-



(COURTESY)

Dunham-May 2015 The older wood frame structures are often vulnerable to fire. This house in Dunham was razed to the ground as a result of a grass fire that ran away in mere minutes.



(COURTESY)

TBL firefighters make a point of going to the two elementary schools to teach fire safety to the students. The winner of a contest that they organize gets to be "Fireman for the day".

ventions that she has been doing since the service was established in 2001. Interestingly, she says that she would never want to be a nurse or doctor, but being a paramedic is perfect for her. She, like all the others who are involved, has a massive drive to help people and her community. Cyr says that about 75 per cent of the calls are for first responders. Robitaille quoted 468 emergency calls last year with only about 11 that were false alarms.

It's not all work for any of these people. When they are not rescuing, they continue to give back to their communities. They are always present at main events such as Canada Day and Fêtes National, special parades. TBL's first responders get to Tour de Lac Brome and Brome Fair too. And the TBL Fireman's Association couples with the First Responders for a massive annual BBQ that targets the needs of the community. Last year over 400 people attended.

As former MNA, Robert Benoit once said, "Thirty-five years since the late Arthur Bryant founded the fire department we find our firefighters and first responders are men and women who voluntarily contribute with generosity, courage and professionalism, to protect our assets and, in an emergency, our health."



ANN DAVIDSON

Firefighters in Austin were called to deal with a garbage truck that ran into trouble when combustible contents had ignited.



GRANT SIMEON

**Ayer's Cliff Fire Department** - Left to right: Yves Legault, Daniel Chartier, Kevin Harnish, Jean-Francois Cliché, Eric Larochelle, Marcel Noel, Alain Dupont, Corrie Shover, Mike McKenna, Christine Viens, Les Beaulieu, Denis Paquette, Sophie Boisvert, Nicholas Norrie, Ian Pratt, Michel Campagna, Henry Paintin, and Danny Brus.

## Fire escape plans can save lives

**F**ires are harmful to everyone, but children are at the greatest risk from home fire-related death and injury because they are less aware of danger and can't react as quickly and properly as adults in a life-threatening situation.

That's why it's important to have an escape plan in case a fire breaks out. First, draw a map of your home. On a big piece of cardboard or paper, draw your home's floor plan, marking exits and a meeting spot. Post the map and review it often with children.

Ensure that your kids know what to do in case of a fire by staging a fire drill. Set off a smoke detector, and walk them through two different escape routes. Tell them they have to act fast — there will be no time to gather up toys or belongings. Explain that it might be loud, dark and smoky. Teach them some escape tips, including how to crawl under smoke and cover their noses with a shirt to prevent smoke inhalation. Practice feeling doors before opening them to see if they are hot. If they are hot, tell your kids not to open the door because there could be a fire on the other side. Instead, they should look for another way out. For

young kids, show them a window they can stand next to if they can't get out or forget what to do. A firefighter or pre-designated parent can then spot them easily at that window and help them escape safely.

While you are practicing the escape plan, it's also a good time to test emergency exits. Open all windows — they should open easily and wide enough for someone to escape. They should not be nailed or painted shut. If they have security bars, make sure they can open or have them retrofitted with quick-release devices. Check if there's a way to get down from windows, whether it's via a ladder or tree. (Don't let kids practice escaping from a window, otherwise they'll injure themselves.)

After kids escape, have them head to the designated meeting spot. Pick a place that's safe and easy to remember, such as a mailbox, a spot at the end of the driveway or under a tree. At a neighbor's house, they can call 911 for help. Kids should never re-enter a burning building for someone or something.

By practicing an escape plan with your family, you can help your children safely escape a fire.

It's important to teach kids about fire safety and test an escape plan should a fire occur in your home.

(Source: Metro Creative)



On behalf of the Town Council, We would like to express our gratitude to all the First Responders and Firefighters for their Service and Dedication.

**Mr. Pierre Janecek** (Mayor)

**Mr. Kevin Mitchell**  
(Councillor)

**Mr. François Tremblay**  
(Councillor)

**Mr. Gaston Chamberland**  
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**Jean-Marc Bélanger**  
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Merci à tout nos Pompiers et  
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# Always ready, never knowing

By Matthew McCully

Chris Goodsell has seen a lot in 15 years, some of it he'd like to forget.

Goodsell is the Fire Chief for the Stanstead Fire Department.

In the past 15 years, he estimates having gone on around 1,000 calls.

"The thing is you just never know what you're going into," Goodsell said, "And you don't know how long you will be gone."

There are times when the pager goes off and within 15 minutes, everyone rushes to the station to learn the call has been cancelled.

Other times, it could be 17 hours, Goodsell said.

While the inclination is to thank firefighters for their service, Goodsell pointed out that employers deserve credit as well. It takes an understanding boss to accept that when there is a firefighter on staff, there are times they won't make it to work because of a call.

Of all the calls Goodsell has gone on while with the department, there is one that stood out more than the others.

He was relatively new on the job, about two or three years, he said.

It was a Sunday evening. The fire department and ambulance services had received a call from a granite shop in Ogdén.

"A forklift operator was moving a

large piece of granite," Goodsell explained.

"It tipped forward. There was a young guy in front of it. He went to move, but he tripped on a piece of wood and fell," he recalled.

The piece of granite fell across the legs of the young man.

"I remember when I got there, I saw other guys running between the building and the truck grabbing cribbing, airbags and tools. Looking at some of those guys, looking at their faces, I could tell this was a very serious call," Goodsell said.

"The young guy was pinned but still conscious and screaming; he was in a lot of pain."

"The first thing I did was look to the older guys for guidance," Goodsell said.

"No training can prepare you for every call. Each one is different, unique. Even the repetitive ones," he said.

"I was the first one to say I don't know what to do. The officer in charge gave me a task, and I went and did it," Goodsell said, essentially on auto pilot as the firefighters and emergency personnel with more experience took the lead.

"To watch those guys work under those circumstances was incredible," Goodsell said.

"After that call we had to have a debriefing. We had to get together and go through what we had seen and how we were feeling about it," he said.

"It was a nice summer evening," Goodsell remarked. "You have to deal with it. You have to go home with all that on your mind."

Goodsell said that during the call, no one could predict what was going to happen.

"That day there were a lot of critical decisions made in a very short time. They were tough decisions to make," Goodsell said, sparing the graphic details.

"That call stuck with me for many years."

The young man involved in the accident survived, but lost both of his legs. According to Goodsell, he has become a source of inspiration in the community for maintaining a positive attitude, having overcome such a challenging obstacle.

"You never know what you're going to and for how long," Goodsell reiterated.

"You are going to what the pager says. It could say downed power line and then oops, you arrive and it's on a vehicle and there is someone still in it," he said.

By the same token, there have been calls of a house on fire, to arrive and realize it was just someone burning brush behind a house and a passerby saw smoke and thought the worst.

It's not uncommon for the fire department to be criticized for overkill, Goodsell said. Speeding down Main Street at 100 km for a bonfire could seem unnecessary and dangerous, but Goodsell explained, "That's not what we were given for information."

In 2017, the Stanstead Fire Department responded to 109 calls.

The busiest year Goodsell could remember was 120 calls in one year. The slowest was around 65, he said.

"You can never predict it," Goodsell said, explaining that storms can play a big role, resulting in accidents on the road and power outages.

The Ice Storm of 2014 was a particularly challenging one, Goodsell said.

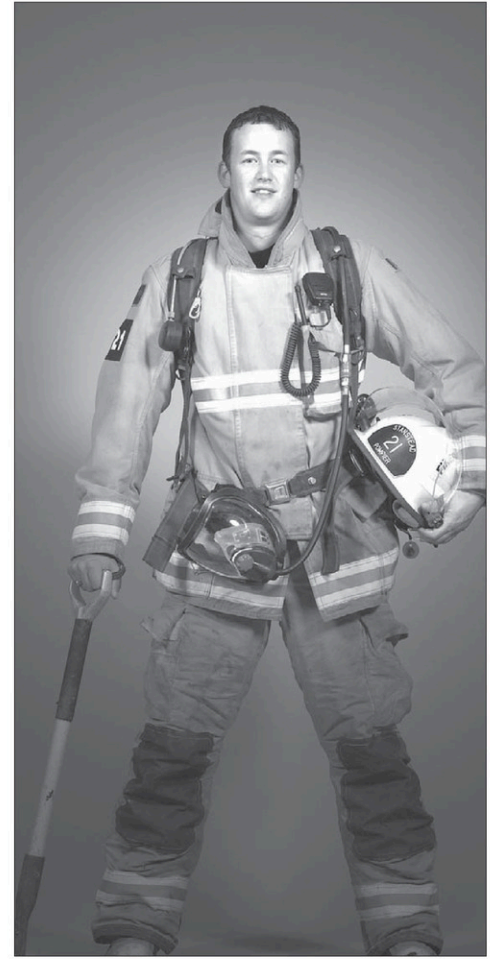
"It was during the Christmas holidays. In the span of four days, we got 30 calls," he said. "It was cold, nasty and blowing, and we all just wanted to be home."

There were people in the area that had been out of power for over a week, Goodsell said. Some began using alternate heat sources in their homes, which caused fire hazards and issues with carbon monoxide.

"It was very tough. During that period, all you hoped for was that the pager wouldn't go off."

That year Goodsell was hosting a family brunch at his home. He was expecting around 25 friends and family members.

"I got up at 5 a.m. to prep everything," he said. "I had just finished the last piece



GRANT SIMEON

Chris Goodsell - Stanstead Fire Chief

of bacon when the pager went off."

It was a jaws-of-life call on Autoroute 55.

He was gone for about an hour-and-a-half. "I knew it was coming," he said.

While Goodsell has seen a lot in his 15 years as a firefighter, he called it a drop in the bucket compared to some of his colleagues.

"There are guys in the department who have been there for more than 30 years," he said, adding they would have answered upwards of 3,000 calls during their careers.

"Those guys are the real troopers. They've been there since I was a kid," commented Goodsell.

"They are irreplaceable. You will never find people as dedicated as some of those guys. Nothing against new guys, but these days, everyone has some place else to be," Goodsell said.

"Thirty years ago, you didn't leave home as much," he said, adding that these days people are more on the move on weekends, wanting to spend time with family. "It's tough to find guys willing to take calls. And they need down time too," he added.

"For most of them, this isn't a hobby. They take it seriously," Goodsell said.

"Coming to the station, you're part of the team. It's a place to be where you are part of something good, and it makes you feel good," he said.



RECORD ARCHIVES

A fire at Shur-Gain in Ayer's Cliff



INCENDIE STANSTEAD FIRE

The Town of Stanstead would like to express its sincere gratitude to every single volunteer in the Stanstead Fire Department. Your strength, devotion and courage are keeping our community safe.

# All for the community

By Matthew McCully

Being a firefighter isn't always about charging into a burning building.

According to Bedford Chief Ralph Gilman, a big part of the job is staying connected with the community.

"We do about 40 activities a year for the town," Gilman said.

"If there's an activity, there's usually someone from the Bedford Fire Department going to it."

Over the weekend the crew participated in a fundraiser to help purchase a wheelchair for someone in Farnham. For the past three years, they have participated in a bicycle rally to raise money for cancer. Just recently, members of the department climbed a tower in Montreal in the name of muscular dystrophy.

In terms of fire services, Gilman said Bedford is well known for jaws-of-life interventions as well as off-road and water rescues. The department is also one of the few that has the equipment required for large animal rescue. They are currently working on a project (along with Saint Armand, Sutton and Cowansville) with their American counterparts for hazardous waste interventions.

"They have equipment we haven't even heard of," Gilman said, referring to the Vermont department.

While firefighting is still a male-dominated profession, Gilman pointed out that times are changing.

"We have the most women of any de-

partment," he said, comparing Bedford to others in the Townships.

Of the 32-member team, four are women; a fifth is currently in training, he added.

"We say guys, even though she is one of them," Gilman said, referring to a trusted department member, adding that she is usually the first off the truck.

Gilman said one of the biggest challenges faced by the department these days isn't emergency calls; it's recruitment, he said.

"We have no applications."

Becoming a firefighter requires 350 hours of training and three provincial exams.

It takes about two years to get the certification, Gilman said, and that is only for the base training.

The department members are constantly upgrading.

"Wednesday to Friday, we've got four firemen doing a special training for confined space rescues," said Gilman.

"You have to keep your training up to date," commented Gilman. Each year requires 25 hours of regular 'maintenance' training, and then any specialties also require updating.

"Things are changing all the time," Gilman said. He used the example of jaws-of-life interventions. "Now there are more electric cars," he said, explaining that firefighters need to know how to approach a rescue with that type of vehicle.

"It never ends. We're trying to keep

our finger in the pie so we know what's going on," Gilman said, which requires a substantial commitment to the department.

"We meet with the family," Gilman said, before taking on a new recruit. It is important that family members recognize their loved one will be in training every Tuesday or Wednesday night for two years. They will then have to respond to around 150 calls per year, and there are at least 40 different events and activities they will be expected to attend.

"They are expected to be available almost every weekend," Gilman said. Not everyone is willing to accept a schedule like that, and neither are many spouses and family members.

It costs close to \$15,000 to train a firefighter, according to Gilman, so the department doesn't take on a new recruit without making sure the job is a good fit.

The certification fees to the provincial government are close to \$4,000. A fire suit costs \$2,500. Boots and gloves are \$500 each, and then there are helmets and other accoutrements to consider.

"They need to keep the firefighters they get," Gilman said, referring to smaller municipalities where recruitment is low.

"Treat us right," he joked.

Part of the problem is that there are few employment opportunities in small towns. "In Bedford, we still have factories," he said, but even so there are mem-

bers coming to work for the department from St. Jean.

While some towns have a rule where a department member needs to be a maximum of five minutes from the station, Gilman said if that were the case in Bedford, he would lose half the department.

So with all the training and time commitments required, what's the profile of a prospective firefighter?

"Someone who is community-minded," Gilman replied.

"You're protecting your friends, your neighbours, your kids."

Last weekend members were representing the department in Montreal, showing off their lawn tractor racing skills at a monster truck rally. In the next few weeks there are five or six different community fundraisers happening, Gilman said.

"That's all volunteer," he said, explaining that for many of the department members, those events are a part of the job that they enjoy. "We have fun being here," commented Gilman.

"When they closed the police forces in all these towns, firemen picked up the slack."

Gilman said there are running jokes about some of the less urgent calls the department gets like a raccoon hit by a car, or the stereotypical cat stuck up a tree.

"We go because there's nobody else to go. And we're going to keep doing it, because that's what we do," he said.

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# Magog Fire

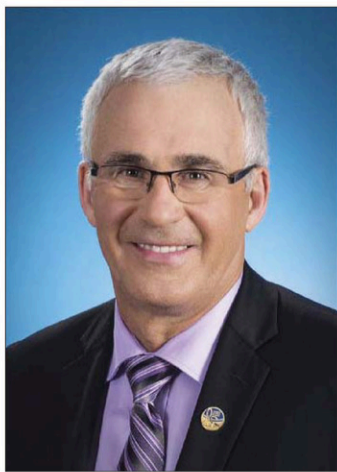


Left to right: André Dubé, Mathieu Lavoie, Stéphane Rousseau, Marcial Barrette, Richard Beaudoin, oliver Lavoie, Christopher Bourque, Mathieu Lapalme, Denis Vachon, José Tétrault, Lt. Dany Labée Bouchard, Miguel Blouin, Raffael Asselin and Phillippe Lamoureux

Je souhaite souligner le courage et la bravoure des hommes et des femmes du comté de Mégantic qui s'engagent comme pompiers volontaires dans les services d'incendie et comme premiers intervenants afin de protéger les citoyens et les citoyennes. Grâce à ces personnes dévouées, la sécurité de nos familles et de nos amis est ainsi assurée. Merci aux centaines de bénévoles qui risquent leur vie à tout moment pour sauver la nôtre.

~

I wish to acknowledge the courage and bravery of the men and women of Mégantic County who volunteer as firefighters in the fire services and as first responders to protect the citizens. Thanks to these dedicated people, the safety of our families and friends is assured. Thanks to the hundreds of volunteers who risk their lives at any time to save ours.



**Ghislain Bolduc**  
Député de Mégantic

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# “Firefighting is a fascinating job”

## George Beaulieu on the changes over the years

By Gordon Lambie

Over the course of the 43 years he worked as a firefighter George Beaulieu saw significant changes take place in his own career and in the world of fire prevention and control. Between 1965 and 2007, he went from a part-time volunteer in Lennoxville to chief of Sherbrooke’s Division 6 and dealing with everything from fender-benders to flaming infernos in the process.

“Firefighting is a fascinating job,” Beaulieu said, describing a career that involved constantly learning new and better ways to keep people safe. Although his time as a firefighter began with training on the most basic fundamentals of the work with an officer from the Quebec Government, the former chief explained that skills and techniques were build up in various training courses across Eastern Canada and the United States over the years.

Among the things that Beaulieu said he saw develop over his time were standard operating practices like organizing on-call teams under lieutenants but also changes to firefighting culture, like allowing women to become firefighters.

Thinking back on the greatest lesson he learned, the former chief said that he came to understand over the years that the safety of his team was the first prior-

ity.

“It took a while, after I joined, to realize that,” Beaulieu said, explaining that he took the task of ensuring that the team stayed safe upon himself in later years. “If the base burned down so be it.”

Larger fire departments today have a safety officer specifically dedicated to this task, he added, explaining that pushing a team too far can put more lives in danger.

“You’ve got to rotate, you can’t just strap on another bottle of air,” he said. “You’ve got to give them a rest.”

It is clearly a message that Beaulieu took to heart, as he could recall only a handful of minor injuries amongst his men over the 43 years leading up to his retirement in 2007.

“I had a great gang,” he reflected, explaining that what started as a small force with not much equipment gradually learned how to be a collaborative team with great response times.

Although Beaulieu shared a feeling that the Lennoxville department ended up in a good place, he was also clear that there were bumps in the road to get there.

“We had to push one truck to a garage once so it could get some gas,” he said. “You can’t have that in a fire department, you have to be ready to get called out any time, night or day, and do the job.”

Similarly, he said that the idea of working in teams that rotate being on call came from one summer day when “we had more fireman in North Hatley eating ice cream than we had in Lennoxville.”

By the time he retired, Beaulieu was working as a permanent part-time employee of the city of Sherbrooke and paid an hourly wage. This, he said, was another thing that changed considerably from the start of his career to its end.

“In 1965, if you had a fire you could put out in 10 minutes, you got \$2,” he said. “If it took you 10 hours to put it out, you got \$2.”

That, the former chief said, is just a part of the job for a volunteer firefighter. Being paid only while at fires, all the men had other jobs that they would dash out of when they got “the call.”

For the owner of Beaulieu’s grocery store on the corner of what was then Belvedere and Queen Streets, it was a matter of running down the road.

“To run from the store to the garage you had to be in pretty good shape,” Beaulieu said, remembering that he once locked a shopper inside the store on his way out the door by accident. “He wasn’t too happy when I got back,” the retired firefighter said, adding, “Our businesses came first, but when you got the call, you had to go.”

Asked about his most memorable experience on the job, Beaulieu looked back to the summer of 1995 when a train

of propane cars derailed behind where Peps restaurant used to be.

“A propane car is never empty, they take all they can get out,” he said, explaining that the fire chief at the time was out of town that day and coordinating the response fell to him. That day, he said, involved not only evacuating a large section of the town, but also finding the right equipment to burn off the leftover propane inside the tanks while keeping them from overheating in the summer sun.

Perhaps not surprising in a person who committed so much of his life to the task, Beaulieu is passionate about the role of the firefighter. That role, however, goes beyond the job of simply fighting fires.

“A small town and the men who live there, that’s what a fire department is,” he said. “We weren’t supposed to rescue cats, but we rescued cats. We did a lot of stuff for people.”

That element of “doing stuff for people” is where Beaulieu’s pride for the work of the department overlaps with his pride for the work of the Lennoxville Volunteer Firemen’s Association

“What the association wanted to do, basically, was do some training on our own, and also raise some money for equipment,” he said, adding that the work came to form the backbone of the connection between the department and the community through a variety of outreach and fundraising activities.

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RECORD ARCHIVES



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GRANT SIMEON

Richmond Fire Department Left to right: Sylvain Parenteau, Jeff Garrett, Jason Smith, Martin Ouellet, Steve Faucher and Hugo Fouquette

## Fire extinguisher know-how

**F**ire extinguishers are an important safety component in any home or building. They can mean the difference between a devastating fire or a minor incident. Although a fire extinguisher in the hands of a trained adult can be a life- and property-saving tool, many people are not properly skilled in the use of fire extinguishers.

A large portion of the public has not received training on fire extinguisher use and when to use them. Sometimes the use of the wrong extinguisher can exacerbate a fire, as there are different fire extinguishers for different types of fires. Learning when and where to use an extinguisher can be a matter of life and death.

### Type of Extinguisher

Not all fires are alike, and fires started from different materials require the use of different extinguishing agents to safely and quickly put the fire out. There are five different types of extinguishers, and generally each will feature a symbol to show the applicable fire on which they can be used.

**Class A:** These are used on ordinary substances, like cloth, wood, paper, and plastics.

**Class B:** These extinguishers are used on fires that feature flammable liquids, such as oil-based paints or gasoline.

**Class C:** These extinguishers are used on electrical equipment, such as tools or appliances that are plugged in.

**Class D:** Commonly found in specific factories, these extinguishers are used on flammable metals.

**Class K:** Combustible cooking materials, like animal oils and fats, can be extinguished with this agent. They are commonly found in commercial kitchens, but are now infiltrating residential markets as well.

**Multipurpose:** Some extinguishers combine different agents so they are applicable for a range of fires.

### When to Use a Fire Extinguisher

Small fires may be smothered with an extinguisher. If the fire has spread or is already large in size, it's likely only a trained firefighter can handle the blaze. Only use a fire extinguisher in these circumstances.

1. The fire is small and contained.
2. You have already called the fire department.
3. There is little chance of being consumed by toxic smoke.
4. You can escape safely if necessary.
5. The fire is not between you and the escape route.
6. You are physically able to carry its weight and exert the necessary pressure to operate it.

Fire extinguishers should be routinely inspected and maintained to ensure they will be effective. Some need to be shaken to keep the dry chemicals from settling. Others need to have the pressure at the correct level. An extinguisher may need to be recharged or replaced if

it is damaged.

Individuals can talk with firefighters about possible training courses in the use of fire extinguishers. This will help a person know the correct way to handle and activate an extinguisher should it need to be used.

(Source: Metro Creative)



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# Some local Fire Chiefs



Patrick Gallagher - Waterloo Fire Chief

MATTHEW MCCULLY



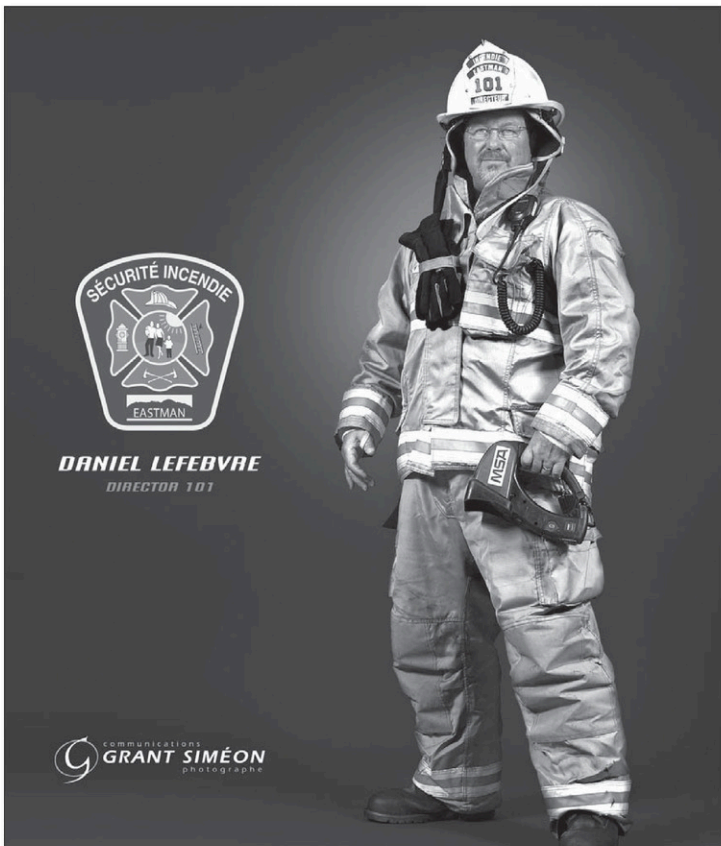
George Beaulieu - Lennoxville Fire Chief

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Ralph Gilman - Bedford Fire Chief

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Daniel Lefebvre - Eastman Fire Chief

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Mike McKenna - North Hatley Fire Chief

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Stephane Simoneau - Sherbrooke Fire Chief

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Sherbrooke Fire Department leaders, left to right: Alexandre Groleau, Chief of Operations, Stéphane Brochu, division chief, Dany Robitaille, Division chief, Rémy Beaulieu, division chief, Stéphane Simoneau, director, Daniel Gingras, assistant director, Lee Hansford, chief of operations, Simon Brière, chief of operations, Claude Langlois, chief of operations.



GRANT SIMEON

**Eastman Fire Department** - Left to right: Thierry Normand, Jean-Pierre Perreault, Sébastien Blanchette, David Lefebvre, Daniel Dussault, Martin Lavallé, Joel Denis, Philippe Gaudreau, Daniel Monette, Noël Simard, Michel Duceppe, Daniel Lefebvre, Yves Gagnon, Patrick McNicoll, Alain Maisonneuve, Charles-Olivier Fontaine, Antony Compagnat, Domonic Thériault, James Bouthillier, David Gagnon and Rehean Bouthillier

# Fire Prevention check list

1. Are flammable items, such as fertilizers and turpentine, kept in their original containers in a locked storage area separate from the home?
2. Is gasoline stored in a garage or shed in a container approved for gasoline storage?
3. Do you keep things that can burn away from your fireplace and keep a glass or metal screen in front of your fireplace?
4. Do you have chimneys, fireplaces, wood and coal stoves, central furnaces and space heaters inspected by professionals once a year and cleaned regularly?
5. Do you keep space heaters at least three feet away from combustibles, such as curtains or stacks of newspaper, and always turn off heaters when leaving the room or going to bed?
6. Do you keep matches and lighters in a locked cabinet?
7. Do you always stay in the kitchen when food is cooking on the stove?
8. Do you keep things that can burn, such as dish towels, paper or plastic bags, and curtains at least three feet away from the range top?
9. Do you douse cigarette and cigar butts with water before dumping them in the trash?
10. Are you careful not to leave barbecue grills unattended while in use?
11. Do you keep grills away from play areas and at least three feet away from other objects, including the house and any shrubs or bushes?
12. Are you careful not to leave burning candles unattended?
13. Do you keep candles out of the reach of children and pets?
14. Are you careful not to overload electrical outlets, extension cords and power strips?
15. Do you check all wires and cords for damage and cover all unused electrical outlets?

## Smoke Alarms

1. Have you installed smoke alarms on every level of your home and near every sleeping area?
2. Have you pushed the "test button" on smoke alarms to ensure everyone will recognize the sound of the alarm?
3. Are smoke alarms mounted high on walls or ceilings away from windows, doors and ducts where drafts might interfere with their operation?
4. Are smoke alarms located well away from the path of steam from bathrooms and cooking vapors from the kitchen, which can result in false or nuisance alarms?
5. Do you test your smoke alarms once a month to make sure they are working, and replace the batteries every year?
6. Have you considered installing hard-wired, interconnected smoke alarms with battery back-up so that if one alarm operates, they all signal together?
7. Do you replace your smoke alarms when they are 10 years or older?

## Fire Escape Plans

1. Have you identified two exits out of every room?
2. Does your family have a designated meeting place outside of your home?
3. Does your family practice a home fire escape plan twice a year?
4. Have you sketched out a floor plan of your home, including all rooms, windows, interior and exterior doors, stairways, fire escapes and smoke alarms? Is every family member familiar with the layout?
5. Have you identified and remedied anything in your home that could interfere with your ability to get out quickly in an emergency including windows that are stuck, heavy furniture blocking an exit and broken and dangerous locks?
6. Are you careful to always keep escape routes clear of clutter?

7. If you have a multi-story home, have you considered purchasing fire escape ladders for upstairs bedrooms? If you have fire escape ladders, have you opened them safely from a ground-floor window for practice?
  8. Have you ensured that family members with special needs, such as ill or frail family members or small children, have a buddy to help them get out safely?
  9. Do family members know to get out first if there is a fire, and then call for help once safely outside?
  10. Do you hold family fire drills frequently and at various times so your escape plans become second nature?
  11. During your fire drill, have you practiced what it would be like to escape through smoke by getting down on hands and knees and crawling below the smoke to the nearest exit? Has your family practiced feeling doors before opening them to escape, by testing for warmth with the back of the hand?
- If you've answered "NO" to any of these questions, it's time to rethink your fire-safety plan.



## Thank You!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Firemen and First Responders for their dedication and service.

I would also like to thank all the Municipalities and Businesses that supported this wonderful and unique special edition that highlights some of our areas greatest teams and individuals.



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**Bromptonville Fire Department** - Left to right: Pascal Mardis, Mario Dostie, Gilles Lapointe, Danny Allaire, Félix Gagné, Francois Jacques, Alain Cartier, Marvell Allaire, Stéphane Trempe, Luc Vaillancourt, Gaston Boucher, Serge Michard, Yvon Champagne, Sylvain Bouchard and Renald Coté



GRANT SIMEON

**North Hatley Fire Department** - Left to right: Grant Morse, Oliver Koritar, Jordan Hirtle, Nick DeFrancesco, Steven Kimmel, Ross Drew, Jesse Morse, Samuel Vaillancourt, Steve Piercy, Scot Fargusson, Mike McKenna (Chief), Wade Morse (Lieutenant), Dan McKelvey (Captain), Robert Corriveau, Simon Rancourt, Mike Munkittrick, C.J. Chute, Marc Richard, Mike Corriveau, Francis Nadeau, Samuel Gazaille and Kris Smith

# The dos and don'ts of backyard fire pits

Once a rarity, fire pits have grown increasingly popular in recent years, as more and more homeowners turn their homes into private oases. Fire pits run the gamut from the very simple to the more elaborate, and the fire pits homeowners choose often depend on the space they have available as well as their budgets.

But even homeowners without any space or budget constraints should give careful consideration to which fire pit they ultimately install, especially if they plan to make that installation themselves. The following are some dos and don'ts of fire pits for those homeowners about to add this relaxing and popular accessory to their backyards.

**DO** confirm you can legally build a fire pit in your yard. Fire pits have become so commonplace that homeowners may think there are no regulations governing their construction. However, it's still best to confirm with your local government planning or zoning offices if you can build a fire pit and if any restrictions apply.

**DON'T** proceed with the project until you have been granted official approval. Assuming you have the go-ahead to build a fire pit is not the same thing as knowing you have been approved. Starting early could result in fines if it turns out you aren't allowed to have a fire pit. But you may also begin building a bigger fire pit than the local government allows, and that could be money down the drain later. Wait until you get official word before you proceed with the project.

**DO** build on flat ground. The fire pit

should be built on flat ground to reduce risk of accident and/or injury. A fire pit built on flat ground also means everyone can enjoy it comfortably and equally once the project is finished. If the ground around the pit is not flat, some people may be forced to sit crooked or lean forward just to enjoy the pit.

**DON'T** build near flammable structures. Build the fire pit far enough away from existing structures, such as your home, garage or shed, so flickering flames do not catch some wind and lead to disaster. Before building in a given spot, monitor the wind patterns for a few days by sitting in a lawn chair at the spot you ultimately want the fire pit to be. If you notice the wind is blowing toward your house, you will want to choose another area for the pit so smoke from the fire will not be blowing into your home every night.

**DO** choose the right size. The size of your fire pit will depend on the space you have available, but even if you have a vast swath of space, keep in mind that professional contractors typically recommend building a fire pit no bigger than 44 inches wide. Anything larger can be unsightly and may not appeal to prospective buyers down the road. In addition, an especially large fire pit may result in potentially unruly flames that can present a fire hazard.

**DON'T** go it alone if your DIY skills are suspect. Installing a fire pit is a relatively inexpensive DIY job, but that does not mean anyone can do it. Ground needs to be excavated and the slope of the yard must be measured so the fire pit is safe



and functional for years to come. If your DIY skills are not up to snuff, hire a professional contractor so your backyard oasis does not become a costly headache.

A fire pit can turn a boring backyard

into a relaxing retreat. But homeowners must adhere to the dos and don'ts of fire pits to ensure their retreat is something they can enjoy for years to come.

(Source: Metro Creative)

# The making of the Austin Fire Department

**M**arch 14, 1978 was the first time the notion of a fire department was officially brought to Council in Austin, Quebec.

April 4 - They moved to send 6 volunteer fireman to fire courses in Lyndonville, Vermont.

May 24 - The Council submitted a bid to purchase its first fire truck.

June 26 - The municipality made a request for a grant to build a fire hall and purchase fire trucks, which was subsequently approved.

On September 18, 1978 Councillors Allen Dowbiggin and Larry Etier were appointed to the fire committee, and Arthur Bryant was appointed Fire Chief. The council at the time consisted of the

following men:

- Roger Nicolet - Mayor
- Allen Dowbiggin - Councillor
- Reginald Dingman - Councillor
- Grayson Westover - Councillor
- Larry Etier - Councillor
- Elwin Bryant - Councillor
- Louis Viscogliosi - Councillor

It is thanks to these men that Austin

was able to form its Fire Department. A legacy we can all be proud of and that still continues today. Thank you to all past and current First Responders and Firemen for your dedication and commitment.

Thank you!

Submitted by Gordon Bryant and Sons



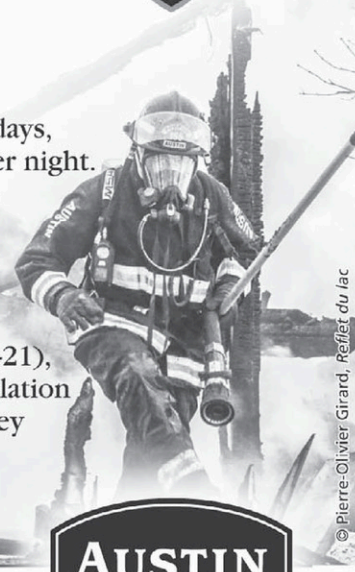
A huge thank you to all the men and women of the Austin Fire Department for keeping our community safe! - Submitted by Diana Wilkinson

## A Heartfelt Thank You to our Firefighters and First Responders



These men and women respond to calls at all hours of the day and night. They get called out on weekends and holidays, in blizzards and in the dead of a cold winter night. They miss family events and anniversaries to come to our rescue. And they regularly put their lives on the line to protect and save us.

In the upcoming Volunteer Week (April 15-21), the Municipality of Austin invites the population to say a heartfelt "Thank You" whenever they meet one of our outstanding firefighters and first responders.

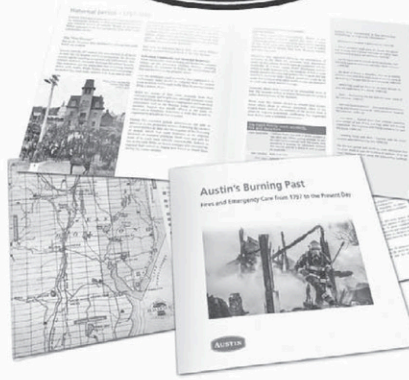


### Wish to know more about the history of our fire brigade?

Get a free copy of the historical brochure, "Austin's Burning Past," published by the Municipality of Austin in 2014 to highlight the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its Fire Department:

☎ 819 843 2388

✉ info@municipalite.austin.qc.ca



**En temps que résident du Canton de Potton, il me fait plaisir de soutenir nos pompiers et nos premiers répondant.**

**As a resident of Potton, I am pleased to support our firefighters and first responders.**



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# Sawyerville Volunteer Fire Department

**O**n August 20, 1970, our family home burned to the ground. I being a teenager, never really appreciated the effort that the Sawyerville Volunteer Fire Department put into fighting that fire.

Fast forward to 1999, when I was invited to join that same fire department. With the hours of training and working together, one soon realizes the effort and commitment it takes to be a

firefighter/first responder. The trusting friendships developed on these teams is special and everlasting.

Thank you to those who fought the fire back in 1970 and to all who continue to do so today.

Good luck and be safe.

**Craig McBurney**  
Cookshire-Eaton Firefighter/First Responder  
Sawyerville Station 1999-2010

# Thank you!



Thank you Robert for your dedication and service from the St-Pierre family

# Bury Volunteer Firefighters and First Responders

**W**e would like to submit the Bury Volunteer Firefighter and First Responders for recognition of a group of people who give of their own time to make sure they know how to help us in times of need, such as fire or accidents. They are a conscientious group who

perform drills for places like our Old Folks Home and school so if a tragedy arises they are well versed on where how and when to take action. People like this deserve our thanks because our safety is foremost on their minds. Thank you!

**Isobel Laroche**

# To all citizens of the Town of Brome Lake



looking forward to being there for you whenever you need assistance for many years to come. We serve you with honour and pride and are extremely grateful to all of you who have supported us in the past and continue to do to this day. Over these many years, we have lost four of our team namely Jim "Ace" McLellan, William Weston, Terry Therrien due to illness and my partner for many years, Karen Brooks, who left us while we were on call together in November, 2009. Their memory lives in us and we shall never forget their contributions to our team and to the citizens to whom they served. From saving lives to simply holding hands we continue to make a real difference to our community. We are trained by the best and enjoy one of the highest success rates in the province. Along with our brothers and sisters from the Town of Brome Lake Fire Department, we continue to make our beautiful TBL one of the safest communities in Quebec. Thank you all again from the bottom of our hearts.

Respectfully,  
**Reginald Gauthier**  
First Responder

**M**arch 7th was the 15th anniversary of the Town of Brome Lake First Responders. On behalf of all our team 954 members, I wish you to know just how proud we are to have served you over the past 15 years and how we are



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# Waterloo Fire Department



MATTHEW MCCULLY



MATTHEW MCCULLY

The Waterloo Fire Department, formed in 1874, is settling into its new headquarters at 400 rue Bernard. The firefighters moved into the new building two months ago.

Featured near the entrance way is this trophy, awarded to the department in 1896 for winning a hosting competition.



RECORD ARCHIVES



RECORD ARCHIVES

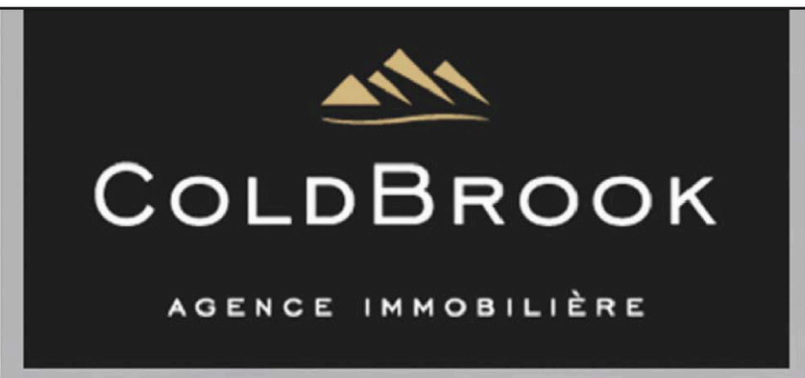


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COURTESY

Waterloo Fire Department September 1946



***Proud Supporters  
of all those who serve***



**Reginald Gauthier**  
Courtier immobilier agréé  
450.531.3652

**Lilian Sharko**  
Courtier immobilier  
450.405.7512

# *Thank You!*

This year marks the 15-year anniversary of the Town of Brome Lake First Responders, who respond to medical emergencies. Along with the Fire Department, residents can count on about 60 responders who are present at all times. **On Behalf of the council, I thank all past and present members for your dedication and availability.**

**Mayor  
Richard Burcombe**

