

# Annual Report 2002

## FIRE CHIEF'S MESSAGE

The past year of 2002 was one marked both by successes and tragedies. Motor vehicle accidents claimed the lives of three community members during 2002, including two brothers of one of our own firefighters. We again would like to extend condolences to these families.

During 2002 we took part in exercises at Point Lepreau involving the Point Lepreau Response Team and the Saint John Fire Department. We also introduced our Accountability Boards into use, allowing us to keep better track of our firefighters and what tasks they are performing at an emergency scene. Also, a regular maintenance program for our fleet of vehicles and the equipment on them has been implemented.

Training, as always, continued to play a key role within the department during 2002. Regular Monday night training involved several key subjects through out the year. Specialized training courses were also held, both on Monday nights and on the occasional weekend.

Looking forward to 2003, among other plans, our Monday night training will be revamped to involve refresher training in more subjects, we will be introducing a 911 data base, allowing us to call up critical information about a residence that we are responding to, and we will introduce a Physical Fitness Testing Program.

Congratulations must be extended to the residents of our communities - we are happy to report that we did not respond to any structure fires during the year, and thank you for practicing fire safety throughout the year. Also, we must thank the residents for their ongoing support of the fire department including our fund raising activities.

Again this year, I must express a sincere thank you to all our members and their spouses for the commitment and dedication that they have given to their community.

Wayne Pollock, Fire Chief

## ORGANIZATION

The Chief of Department is Wayne Pollock, assisted by a Deputy Chief at each of the two stations, Deputy Chief Gilles Arseneault at Station 1, and Deputy Chief Greg Dixon at Station 2.

Other officers of the department during 2002 included five captains, and three lieutenants. Each captain is responsible for a crew of firefighters. One captain also serves as the Fire Prevention Officer, and one serves as a Training Officer. One lieutenant serves as a Training Officer, one as a Fire Investigator, and one as a Public Information Officer / Fire Investigator. At the end of 2002 there were a total of forty eight firefighters in the department, including all officers. The Social Committee consisted of ten members.

## BUDGET

The budget for the fire department for 2002 was \$128,479 - a decrease of almost \$20,000 from the previous year. This amount represents \$94,050 for operational expenses, and a \$34,429 loan payment for our equipment truck, Rescue 1. The budget year runs from January 1 to December 31. The department budget is managed by the Fire Chief, and overseen by the Musquash Local Service District Advisory Committee.

## **TRAINING**

Training is conducted both in house, and formally. Each Monday evening, in house training is held on various firefighting and rescue subjects at both fire halls. Formal training, hosted by our department and other departments is also attended through out the year by firefighters. During 2002, firefighters received certified training in Standard First Aid; First Responder; Ice Rescue; Firefighter Level I and Level II; Defensive Driving and Driver Assessment; and Pump Operators Training. Firefighters also took part in Industrial Firefighting Training; the annual EMS Symposium at the Saint John Regional Hospital; a Mechanism of Injury Seminar hosted by Westfield Ambulance; an Instructor's Workshop through NBCC; a DNR Field Day covering wildland firefighting techniques; and a live burn of an old structure on Stillwater Road. Members of the department who are members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary continued training during 2002.

## **TRAINING STATISTICS**

Firefighters currently have training in the following courses:

FIREFIGHTER LEVEL I	39
FIREFIGHTER LEVEL II	31
STANDARD FIRST AID & CPR	46
RED CROSS FIRST RESPONDER & CPR	26
NB PARAMEDIC I	1
FIRE ATTACK	32
INDUSTRIAL FIREFIGHTING	19
FIRE APPARATUS PRACTICES	34
AUTO EXTRICATION	27
HAZ MAT AWARENESS	38
ADVANCED SCBA	9
BOAT RESCUE - FIRST RESPONDER	25
ICE RESCUE	30
ROPE RESCUE	12
CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS DE-BRIEFER	1
FIRE & ARSON INVESTIGATION I	1
FIRE & ARSON INVESTIGATION II	2
FIREFIGHTER IN THE WITNESS BOX	1
DEALING WITH THE MEDIA IN TIMES OF CRISIS	1

## **RESPONSES BY COMMUNITY**

<b>Community</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2001</b>
Chance Harbour	5	1
Dipper Harbour	7	7
Lepreau	10	8
Little Lepreau	2	1

Maces Bay	2	3
Musquash	10	17
New River Beach	0	0
Prince of Wales	9	2
Pocologan	0	0
Saint John	0	0

## **TYPES OF RESPONSES**

Although the department did not respond to any vehicle or structure fires during 2002, the total number of calls did increase slightly. The Musquash Fire Department responded to a total of 45 incidents during 2002 consisting of:

<b>Type of Response</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2001</b>
Structure Fire	0	2
Chimney Fire	3	5
Vehicle Fire	0	2
Brush / Grass / Forest / Rubbish Fire	7	11
MVA - Hwy 1 - Extrication Required	1	4
MVA - Other Hwy - Extrication Required	2	1
MVA - Hwy 1 - No Extrication	6	2
MVA - Other Hwy - No Extrication	3	3
Gasoline / Other Hazardous Materials Spill	2	0
Fire Alarm Activated	6	3
Medical Assistance (First Responder)	5	3
Ambulance Assistance	2	0
Water or Ice Rescue	0	0
Rescue Boat Response	1	0
Other Rescue - Not Motor Vehicle	1	2
Mutual Aid Response	0	1
False Alarm - Good Intention	3	0
False Alarm - Malicious	0	0
Other	3	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>40</b>
Fire Suppression and related calls, 2002	36	80.0%
Other (non-fire) Calls, 2002	9	20.0%

## **MAJOR INCIDENTS**

Firefighters responded to three calls that involved four fatalities including two separate motor vehicle accidents and one rescue call for a kayaker that was in the Bay of Fundy and succumbed to hypothermia. The kayaker had been taking part in an adventure race and his kayak had

overturned in the Bay. Another kayaker with him was unable to get him out of the water, so the victim held onto his friend's kayak. The duo were taken aboard a fishing boat whose owner called 911, and brought them to the Chance Harbour wharf. The local ambulance was already tied up on a call with another adventurer who had been involved in a bicycle collision. The kayaker was transported to hospital by a Saint John Regional Hospital based ambulance. The Fire Department assisted with both of these calls.

### **GENERAL and OTHER MEETINGS**

The department held four general meetings during the year on March 18, June 17, September 23 and December 16 for the purpose of discussing financial and operational business of the department. Many of these meetings were preceded by an officer's meeting, usually the week before, held to discuss training and other department issues.

As well, a representative of the department attended most meetings of the Royal Fire Fighters Association. One or both of the department's Training Officers attended the Royal Zone 2 Training Group meetings on a regular basis. Delegates were also sent to the New Brunswick Association of Fire Chiefs Convention held in May at Fredericton.

### **LOCAL SERVICE DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The department would like to acknowledge and thank the members of the Musquash Local Service District Advisory Committee for their co-operation and support of the fire department - Chairman Dave Rogers, Secretary Midge Thompson, and members Susan Postma and Sandy Ross.

### **15 YEAR SERVICE PINS AWARDED**

This year two members of the department qualified to receive their 15 year provincial service pins from the provincial Fire Marshal's Office. These pins are awarded as recognition of the commitments made as a firefighter and were presented at the Annual Appreciation Dinner by Fire Chief Pollock to Lt. Jack Lambert and Firefighter Ken Jonah.

### **MUSQUASH RECREATION CENTRE**

The Musquash Rec Centre has been owned by the Department since 1992 and was again put to good use by different groups within our community. The building was used four nights a week by community groups as well as by the Conservation Council on a regular basis. Monday nights saw the building used by Sparks under the direction of Lisa Melanson, followed by Alcoholics Anonymous. Tuesdays had leader Laura Lee Nice and her Guides, Beavers were in on Wednesdays with Steven Bradley and Allan Caldwell and Catechism classes were held on Thursday evenings under the instruction of Mary Astorino.

### **SOCIAL COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

Members of the social committee organized the following events which were attended by the public and firefighters:

Canada Day Celebrations including Bingo, Barbecue, and Children's Games.

The annual Fall Supper at Station One on October 12.

The annual Appreciation Dinner for the fire fighters and their spouses was held at Station One on Saturday, December 7.

### **COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION SOLUTIONS (CNS) DEVICES**

In 2001 the department was contracted by the Emergency Measures Organization to conduct a survey of all residences within a 20 km radius of Point Lepreau. This survey was used to update the information of residents in case of an emergency and also provided the department with the opportunity to stress the importance of properly displayed civic numbers. Besides involving our seven communities, the area also encompassed the nearby communities of New River Beach, Pocologan, and Pennfield.

During 2002, EMO placed Community Notification Solutions (CNS) Devices in houses and businesses. These units are connected to the phone line and can be used to notify the community of major emergencies. The Fire Department members accounted for 93% of these placements or approximately 1,050 devices.

As part of this program, the Fire Department is continually watching for changes in the community and will visit new houses and new residents to complete a Demographic Survey. In conjunction with the local EMO wardens, each new residence will receive a CNS Device, a smoke detector, Iodine tablets, and a civic number plate once the survey is completed.

### **VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT**

Qualified members of the community are welcome to apply at anytime to be a volunteer firefighter. During 2002, three firefighters resigned from the department, while eight new members were welcomed to the ranks and began their Firefighter I training. There was no change within the Social Committee.

### **FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES**

Fund raising efforts by firefighters and social committee members continued throughout 2002 to the benefit of the department and the communities we serve. Over the past several years these fundraising efforts have paid for two rescue boats, an all terrain vehicle for rescue and firefighting efforts off road, and a four wheel drive pick up truck.

The mini van purchased by the firefighters has been paid off, however firefighters continue to make a \$223.00 per month payment to the Credit Union to pay off our Thermal Imaging Camera.

To raise this money, firefighters and social committee members held a weekly bingo at Station #1. Any profits from the annual fall supper and Canada Day festivities are also put towards these projects.

Another contributor to these efforts was the CNS Device placement done for the Emergency Measures Organization.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Firefighters each carry a voice pager to be notified of an alarm. Officers are all assigned a portable radio. Emergency calls are dispatched by the Public Safety Communications Centre in Saint John. Each large apparatus (pumpers and rescue van) carries a mobile radio and a minimum of two portable radios. The rescue van also has a radio in the back area at the built in Command Post. Each fire station has a base radio. These radios all have capabilities to use at

least five frequencies - a fire channel, a fireground channel, two E.M.O. channels and a shared channel between Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station and the Saint John Public Safety Communications Centre. All channels operate on a repeater except for the fireground channel. Due to the placement of the repeater at Point Lepreau, the effective coverage area for Saint John / Point Lepreau channel is limited to the Point Lepreau grounds.

### **MAINTENANCE & INVENTORY PROGRAM**

Every fifth week throughout the year is designated for maintenance on the apparatus. Preventive maintenance checklists have been developed for each piece of apparatus. Each apparatus also has an inventory checklist that is done every five weeks. Since this program was introduced, items needing attention are identified sooner and repaired or replaced quicker.

### **FIRE PREVENTION & PUBLIC EDUCATION**

#### ***Captain Linda Robichaud***

The theme of Fire Prevention Week for 2002 was "Team Up For Fire Safety". This theme was presented to several community groups during the week including students at Fundy Shores School where the importance of Home Fire Drills was practiced. Beavers received the same presentation and hand outs at Station 1 among the fire trucks. The Musquash Pre-School Playgroup also received this important message. The final presentation was to Sparks, Brownies and Guides at Station 1 wrapping up with give aways. Our apparatus and equipment were on display to coincide with the annual Fall Supper at Station 1.

### **FIRE & ARSON INVESTIGATION TEAM**

#### ***Lieutenant Andrew Sanojca***

The Fire & Arson Investigation Team currently consists of Lieutenant Grady Curtis, Lieutenant Andrew Sanojca and Firefighter Cliff Ells.

The team is responsible for Fire Cause Determination, which includes Identifying Fire Cause, gathering pertinent information, interviewing all witnesses, securing the scene and any evidence, and working with the RCMP and Insurance Crime Prevention Bureau.

### **PUBLIC INFORMATION - MEDIA**

#### ***Lieutenant Andrew Sanojca***

The department's Public Information Officer (PIO) is responsible for distributing material to the public to keep them informed of significant department responses and other activities. These messages, whenever possible, include safety tips or ways for other people to prevent being a victim of the same situation being reported. During a major incident, the Public Information Officer would release information to the media in a timely manner, allowing the fire chief and other officers to concentrate on the emergency in progress.

Several press releases were issued during the year, resulting in positive press coverage for the department in all forms of media - radio, newspapers and television. Other projects included the preparation of this annual report, establishing a department website, and updating the Street Guide.

### **NEW EQUIPMENT - 2002**

During 2002, the department placed into service a Bullard T3 thermal imaging camera. New Accountability Boards were designed by Captain Linda Robichaud and built by Firefighter John Paul Robichaud. These units have been placed into Rescue 1 and Rescue 3. Colour coded "Incident Command", Accountability" and "Staging" vests have been placed into Rescues 1 and 3, and Engine 2. New 1 3/4 inch attack hose was placed on Engines 1 and 2, and all three pumpers were outfitted with one length each of flexible hard suction hose. Three sets of new turnout gear were placed into service, and a "baby" barn was constructed at Station 2 to replace storage space lost when Rescue 3 was parked in the fire station.

### **POINT LEPREAU TRAINING**

NB Power at Point Lepreau continues to be a greatly appreciated supporter of the Musquash Fire Department. On several occasions, the Fire Department was granted access to the live fire training props at the fire training grounds on site. We also utilized the SCBA training maze.

### **POINT LEPREAU EXERCISE**

A joint training exercise was held on October 5, 2002 at Point Lepreau simulating a fire and other emergency scenarios that involved the Musquash Fire Department, the Saint John Fire Department and the Point Lepreau Response Teams. Again, this was a valuable experience, allowing us to be better prepared for a response to this facility.

The prime role of the Musquash Fire Department will be to keep Accountability of all responders involved at an emergency. The department has a dedicated Accountability Board for responses to Point Lepreau. Musquash Firefighters may also provide firefighting backup to the Response Team.

### **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

Just as the Musquash Fire Department enjoys the support of the people in the communities we serve, we are also pleased to support many events that take place throughout the community. As an example, firefighters were on hand for the Musquash Paddle on July 21, Fundy Fishermen's Days on August 10, and the Remembrance Day dedication at Station 1 of the new memorial.

### **STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES BOOKLET**

Each firefighter was issued a copy of the department's updated Standard Operating Guidelines.

### **RECREATIONAL SPORTS GATHERINGS**

Members again enjoyed several social events during the year allowing for comradery and friendly competition. Horseshoe tournaments were hosted at the chief's camp in the spring and fall while several firefighters again took to the links at the St. Andrews Golf Course in late fall. Firefighters Gerald and Dianne Gass hosted the barbeque and awards banquet at their camp after the golf. Teams also took part in curling events at Hampton and St. Stephen. Also, the Musquash Fire Department took part in the annual Big Brothers & Big Sisters Bowl For Kids. Firefighters fielded a team to play the RCMP at Fundy Fishermen's Days and also attended the muster hosted by Long Reach Fire Department.

### **CIVIC ADDRESSING PROGRAM**

The department continues to work closely with residents when civic numbers are required. The civic numbering program has been beneficial to the firefighters, giving them an accurate location

to respond to. As part of the Civic Numbering Program a Street Guide is produced for all responders in the area, and distributed to firefighters, EMO wardens, RCMP, Maritime EMS, Fundy Ambulance and Saint John Regional Hospital Ambulance. The department also maintains a database of addresses, and maintains private road signs.

### **PLANS FOR 2003**

**Training** - During 2002 the department's in house training will be reorganized. More subjects will be covered by smaller groups on training nights, and more firefighters will be asked to provide this refresher training. The new firefighters will continue their Firefighter I course as part of the second group within the province to train under the new curriculum. The new Firefighter I includes WHMIS training, Occupational Health & Safety training and Hazardous Material Awareness training. Other certified courses planned for the year include Low Angle Rope Rescue; Auto Extrication; Fire Attack; and First Aid training and recertification.

**Officer Reorganization** - In part due to the new emphasis on in house training, a reorganization of the Officer structure is planned for early 2003. Assistant Training Officers will be introduced at each station. Also, a fire prevention officer will be assigned to each station. Each of these will hold the rank of Lieutenant. Crew Captains will be renamed as Crew Leaders, and will still hold the rank of Captain. There will also be two Fire Investigators, and one Public Information Officer, each with a rank of Lieutenant.

**New Equipment** - The department has plans to purchase an Automated External Defibrillator unit. This unit will be on board and available for quick use by firefighters in case a firefighter collapses at an emergency scene from a heart attack. Also, new dress uniforms will be purchased in 2003, and a gas detector will be placed into service.

**Web page** - Musquash Fire Department did establish a web site in early 2002 at [www.musquashfire.ca](http://www.musquashfire.ca) This site contains information about the department, how we serve and protect our communities and will include a copy of this annual report. Problems associated with the timely updating of our site are being addressed and should be resolved in early 2003.

**Child Safety Stickers** - The Fire Prevention Officers are continuing to work on introducing a readily identified window sticker to mark a child's bedroom, allowing us to concentrate initially on these rooms in case of a fire.

**Tactical Worksheets** - A Tactical Worksheet, unique to the needs of the Musquash Fire Department will be designed and introduced. This sheet will be used to help Incident Commanders to remember all that needs to be done in the crucial first few minutes of an emergency. Thank You is extended to the Saint John Fire Department for providing us with a copy of their Tactical Worksheet on which ours will be based.

**911 Database** - A data base of each civic address will be built, allowing us quick access to vital information about the residence, occupants and other special considerations about a particular house. It is planned to have this data stored in a lap top computer that can be accessed while en route to the address.

### **STATIONS, APPARATUS & EQUIPMENT**

The department has eight units housed at two fire halls. Station 1 is located at 35 Malcolm Meehan Road in Musquash and has the following equipment:



**Rescue 1** 2000 International / Dynamic Fiber Rescue / Equipment vehicle with 18 foot walk in box, diesel engine and automatic transmission. It is equipped with firefighting equipment and Halmatro hydraulic extrication tools, airbags and other specialized rescue equipment.

**Engine 1** 1986 GMC 7000 / Metalfab 325 g.p.m. tanker / pumper which carries 1350 gallons of water, and is equipped with a Robwen Class "A" foam system.

**ATV** 1999 Honda 450 four wheel ATV with tandem axle all terrain off road trailer, carried on a tandem axle Scott built trailer.

**Boats** 1999 16 foot rigid hull Zodiac Cherokee with 50 hp four stroke Yamaha outboard motor.

Eight foot zodiac cadet with 2 hp Honda four stroke motor for use in remote areas and for ice rescue.

**Rescue 2** 1995 GMC Silverado 4x4 extended cab pickup.

Fire Station 2 is located at 1270 Route 790 Highway in Dipper Harbour. This station has a cascade system used for refilling Self Contained Breathing Apparatus bottles, and houses the following apparatus:

**Engine 2** 1986 GMC 7000 / Metalfab pumper with a 625 g.p.m. pump, 1200 gallon water tank, Robwen Class "A" foam system with 20 gallon Class "A" foam tank.

**Engine 3** 1991 GMC Topkick / Metalfab tanker / pumper with a 325 g.p.m. pump and 1350 gallons of water. This truck also carries first aid, immobilization and hydraulic extrication equipment.

**Rescue 3** 1998 Plymouth Voyager seven passenger van equipped with Medical First Responder equipment.

<b><u>FIREFIGHTERS</u></b>	Member Since
Adam, Horst	2000
Arseneault, Gilles	1987
Cane, Adam	2001
Carroll, John	1990
Corey, Peter	2001-2002
Cox, Becky	2002
Curtis, Grady	1989
Curtis, Ryan	2002
Dixon, Greg	1987
<a href="#">Dixon, Vanessa</a>	2001
Ells, Cliff	1993

Enkel, Bruce	1987
Galbraith, Neil	1998
Gass, Diane	1987
Gass, Gerald	1987
Gray, Helen	2001
Hanlon, Brian	1995
Henderson, Fred	2000-2002
Hewey, Mac	1987
Hitchcock, Mitchel	2002
Hoddinott, Edna	1998
Hoddinott, Sean	2002
Hyslop, Lester	2001
Jonah, Ken	1988
Lambert, Jack	1988
Lomax, Derek	1995
Lomax, Sheldon	1988
Mawhinney, Stewart	2001
Melanson, Dwayne	1996
Melanson, Jamie	1998
Melanson, Kevin	2000
Melanson, Philip	2002
Mersereau, Micheal	1998
Palmer, Russell	2000
Pollock, Wayne	1987
Robichaud, John	1987
Robichaud, Linda	1987
Rogers, Wade	2001
Russell, Bill	1989
Russell, Troy	1987
<a href="#">Sanojca, Andrew</a>	1991
Short, Hayward	2000
Small, Jason	2001-2002
Stevenson, Ashley	2002
Stevenson, Brian	1987
Thompson, Steven	1987
Tiner, Jim	2000
Vautour, Mark	2002
Warner, Ben	2000
Westfield, Jon	2002
White, Rosaline	1997

<b><u>AUXILIARY MEMBERS</u></b>	Member Since
Bawn, Kathryn	1988
Curtis, Susan	1991
Dixon, Nancy	1991
Galbraith, Tracey	2001
Lambert, Wendy	1991
Mawhinney, Eileen	1988
Mawhinney, Mary Jane	1995
Pollock, Judy	1988
Russell, Stacy	1997
Stevenson, Dale	1988

***THANK YOU to all past & present members for their dedication!  
THANK YOU to the residents of the Community for Your Support***