

Annual Report 2003

FIRE CHIEF'S MESSAGE

Once again I would like to thank the members of the Musquash Fire Department for another year of dedicated service to the community. Also, a special thanks to the spouses of these members who are missing out on quality time while their spouse is out assisting their neighbours.

This past year saw many significant changes within the department. The restructuring and addition to our officer's ranks has provided a strong foundation on which to build, going into the future. The addition of young, new members has given us a good balance of youth and experience.

Training has played a key role in the success of our department, and 2003 was no exception. Formal courses were held in Firefighter 1, Auto Extrication, Medical First Responder, Rope Rescue, Liquid Petroleum Gas, Driver Training and Wildland Firefighting.

NB Power (Point Lepreau Generating Station) has continued to be a good corporate citizen. They provide many hours of training time and the use of their facilities. They have kept the Musquash Fire Department informed on all issues affecting the community.

The residents of our communities have supported many of our functions such as Canada Day, Remembrance Day and the Annual Fall Supper, and we thank you for that.

During 2003, as in the past, the Local Service District and the fire department worked as a team to help improve the quality of life and safety in our community. This is something we look forward to continuing through 2004 and beyond.

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.

The Officer structure of the department was changed at the start of 2003. Additional officer positions were created at each station for Fire Prevention Officers, and Assistant Training Officers. There are now seven captains consisting of five Crew Leaders, and two Training Officers. There are five lieutenants - a Fire Prevention Officer at each station, an Assistant Training Officer at each station, and a Fire Investigator at Station 1. The Fire Investigator role at Station 2, as well as the position of Public Information Officer are both held by a Crew Captain at Station 2. At the end of 2003 there were a total of forty five firefighters in the department including all officers. The Social Committee consisted of 13 members.

BUDGET

The budget for the fire department for 2003 was \$131,229. This amount represents \$96,750 for operational expenses, and a \$34,479 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. Formal training following the New Brunswick Community College curriculum, hosted by our department and other departments is also attended through out the year by firefighters. During 2003, firefighters received certified training in Firefighter I; Occupational Health & Safety; Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System; Hazardous Materials Awareness; CPR Re-certification; Auto Extrication; Low Angle Rope Rescue; Defensive Driving and Driver Assessment; and Medical First Responder.

The Musquash Fire Department was the first department in the province to receive the new DNR Wildland Firefighting Course, attended by 29 firefighters on November 16, 2003. Firefighters also took part in Industrial Firefighting Training at Point Lepreau Generating Station; and participated in a live burn training exercise of the old Callaghan residence on Route 790 in Musquash. Five members of the department attended the annual NBCC Training Workshop held in Miramichi on September 19 and 20, 2003.

TRAINING STATISTICS

Firefighters currently have training in the following courses:

FIREFIGHTER LEVEL I	44
FIREFIGHTER LEVEL II	29
STANDARD FIRST AID & CPR	43
RED CROSS FIRST RESPONDER & CPR	36
FIRE ATTACK	31
INDUSTRIAL FIREFIGHTING	19
FIRE APPARATUS PRACTICES	33
AUTO EXTRICATION	38
HAZ MAT AWARENESS	41
ADVANCED SCBA	9
BOAT RESCUE - FIRST RESPONDER	26
ICE RESCUE	29
ROPE RESCUE - High Angle	11
ROPE RESCUE - Low Angle	18
AIR BRAKE	30
DEFENSIVE DRIVING	28
DEFENSIVE DRIVING INSTRUCTOR (VFIS)	3
FLAGGING	21
COAST GUARD AUXILIARY	9
FIRE INSTRUCTOR	4
FIRE COMMAND	7
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY (OH&S)	8
W.H.M.I.S.	8
WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER	29

FIRE & ARSON INVESTIGATION I	3
FIRE & ARSON INVESTIGATION II	2
SPECIAL FIRE SCENE INVESTIGATION	2
DEALING WITH THE MEDIA IN TIMES OF CRISIS	1
INCIDENT COMMAND	1

TYPES OF RESPONSES

The Department saw a 29% increase in the number of calls during 2003 compared to 2002. We responded to twice as many Fire Alarms during the year, all of which were activated in error. We also responded to more fires this year, including five structure fires and four vehicle fires. The Musquash Fire Department responded to a total of 59 incidents during 2003 consisting of:

Type of Response	2003	2002
Structure Fire	5	0
Chimney Fire	1	3
Vehicle Fire	4	0
Brush / Grass / Forest / Rubbish Fire	5	7
MVA - Hwy 1 - Extrication Required	1	1
MVA - Other Hwy - Extrication Required	0	2
MVA - Hwy 1 - No Extrication	12	6
MVA - Other Hwy - No Extrication	4	3
Gasoline / Other Hazardous Materials Spill	1	2
Fire Alarm Activated	12	6
Medical Assistance (First Responder)	2	5
Ambulance Assistance	0	2
Water or Ice Rescue	0	0
Rescue Boat Response	1	1
Other Rescue - Not Motor Vehicle	0	1
Mutual Aid Response	0	1
False Alarm - Good Intention	1	3
False Alarm - Malicious	0	0
Other	10	3
TOTALS	59	46

RESPONSES BY COMMUNITY

Community	2003	2002	2001
Chance Harbour	2	5	1
Dipper Harbour	5	7	7
Lepreau	11	10	8
Little Lepreau	5	2	1

Maces Bay	6	2	3
Musquash	23	10	17
New River Beach	0	0	0
Prince of Wales	5	9	2
Pocologan	0	0	0
Saint John	2	0	0

MAJOR INCIDENTS

March 1, 2003 - Firefighters responded to an early morning house fire at 17 Thompson Drive in the Thompson Subdivision. On arrival, the lone male occupant of the house was outside, and told firefighters there was a fire in the basement that he had used a fire extinguisher on. Firefighters entered the house just as the fire was starting to burn again, and quickly extinguished it. This fire was the result of wood stove ashes being stored inside which ignited a wall. The occupant was awoken by a smoke detector and left the house and called 911 from his cell phone outside.

March 14, 2003 - A student arriving home from school saw smoke inside her house and ran to a neighbour's home for help. Firefighters entered the smoke filled home and found that a burned through water pipe had already extinguished the fire located near the electrical panel. This fire was the result of a failed extension cord which was draped over a larger wire along the ceiling of the basement.

April 4, 2003 - A garage located at 159 Boyne Road was fully involved in flames as firefighters arrived. Smoke from this mid morning fire was visible as far away as Red Head in Saint John. Some people reported seeing what they thought was steam coming from the garage earlier in the morning. Firefighters extinguished the fire and kept it from spreading into the adjoining woods. The cause of this fire is undetermined.

June 6, 2003 - Welding caused an early afternoon fire in a detached two car garage at 6 Allen Ave. The homeowner pulled a burning pick up truck out of the garage with his ATV, then used buckets of water to attempt to put out the fire inside the garage.

November 9, 2003 - A call was received reporting a house fire at about 9 am this Sunday morning. On arrival at the home located behind Fire Station #2 there was light smoke showing, and all occupants were out of the house. Firefighters entered the building and found heavy smoke in a back bedroom. The room was ventilated and a fire was found smoldering in clothes that were placed against the baseboard heater.

December 14, 2003 - Firefighters responded to a motor vehicle accident at Hansen Stream on Route 790 in Little Lepreau. Crews from Station 2 assisted Lepreau ambulance with one victim who had gone to a residence for assistance. The crew from Station 1 happened upon the accident scene and assisted the Saint John Regional Hospital ambulance at the scene. One person was deceased at the scene, and another died later in hospital.

The department responded to three collisions involving moose during 2003 along Highway 1. One person was killed when his motorcycle collided with a moose in the westbound lane near the Hansen Stream Reservoir on November 1, 2003.

Several members of the department provided assistance to the RCMP and local ambulance service at Hansen Stream on November 3, 2003 where a person committed suicide. Firefighters involved in these tragic calls attended Critical Incident Stress Debriefing sessions.

The department also responded to four vehicle fires and 17 motor vehicle accidents during 2003.

Residential Fire Alarms accounted for eight calls, while there were four responses for business fire alarms - all were false alarms.

GENERAL and OTHER MEETINGS

The department held four general meetings during the year on March 24, June 16, September 22 and December 22 for the purpose of discussing financial and operational business of the department. There were three officers meetings held during the year on January 16, March 13 and September 10.

A representative of the department attended most meetings of the Royal Fire Fighters Association. Training Officers attended the Royal Zone 2 Training Group meetings on January 22, May 14, September 17 and November 5. Coast Guard Auxiliary meetings were also attended on February 8 and September 6.

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 Lynn Burley, Susan Postma and Marion St. Pierre.

MUSQUASH RECREATION CENTRE

The Department operated the centre since 1992. During 2003 a public meeting was held that resulted in the formation of a Recreation Committee which has now taken over the operation of and responsibility for the centre.

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 Two on October 11.

The annual Appreciation Dinner for the fire fighters and their spouses was held at Station Two on Saturday, December 6.

MAINTENANCE & INVENTORY PROGRAM

Every fifth week is designated for maintenance on the apparatus. Preventive maintenance checklists and inventory checklists are both completed on all apparatus during maintenance week. Since this program was introduced, items needing attention are identified sooner and repaired or replaced quicker.

NEW RESIDENT WELCOME PACKAGE

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 and EMO wardens 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. New residents are visited by a firefighter and an EMO warden and asked to complete a Demographic Survey. During this visit each new household also receives a CNS Device, a smoke detector, Iodine tablets, and a civic number plate.

COMMUNICATIONS

Firefighters each carry a voice pager to be notified of an alarm. Several officers are 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 six frequencies - a fire channel, two simplex fireground channels, two E.M.O. channels and a shared channel between Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station and the Saint John Public Safety Communications Centre.

FIRE PREVENTION & PUBLIC EDUCATION

In early 2003, two additional Fire Prevention Officers were promoted, Lt. Jamie Melanson at Station 1, and Lt. Edna Hoddinott at Station 2.

The theme of Fire Prevention Week for 2003 was "*When Fire Strikes - Get Out & Stay Out!*". Firefighters visited the school and showed a video called the ABCs of Fire Safety. Students were also taught the importance of having a smoke detector in the home, and taught what to do if the detector sounded. Blankets were held low to the floor to simulate smoke and to encourage children to crawl low to escape. Using their hand to test the door for heat, students then had to go to a window where two firefighters in full protective clothing including breathing apparatus met them and helped them climb out the window. Students then got to tour the ATV, Rescue 1, Engine 2 and Rescue 3.

Our apparatus and equipment were on display to coincide with the annual Fall Supper at Station 2.

Child Fire Safety Window Decals were introduced in June, 2003. These reflective decals are for use on the outside window of a child's bedroom, allowing us as firefighters to concentrate our initial rescue efforts on these rooms. Decals are available from the Fire Prevention Officers, and some were left at the school for students.

A 2004 Fire Prevention Calendar was produced which includes several fire prevention tips during each month.

FIRE & ARSON INVESTIGATION TEAM

Captain Andrew Sanojca

The Fire & Arson Investigation Team currently consists of Captain Andrew Sanojca and Lieutenant Grady Curtis. During the year we investigated five structure fires and four vehicle fires.

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 LIASON

Captain Andrew Sanojca

This past year was again a busy one for the Public Information Officer. Several Press Releases were issued about incidents and events the department was involved in. As well, calls from the media were answered, and where possible, our department provided assistance to the media for projects they were working on.

Articles about the department appeared in the St. Croix Courier, The Saint John Times Globe, Fire Fighting in Canada Magazine, the Atlantic Firefighter, on ATV News, ATV Live at Five, Global News, CBC News, and on all local radio stations during the year.

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.

Other projects included the preparation of this annual report, maintaining the department website, ordering of the Child Fire Safety Decals, and production of the 2004 Fire Prevention Calendar.

DNR WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING COURSE

The Musquash Fire Department is the first department to receive the new Department of Natural Resources Wildland Firefighting Course. This course was attended by 29 firefighters on November 29 at Station 1. It will include a practical workday to be held in the spring of 2004.

This course featured important information about tactics, hazards, and equipment used to battle wildland and forest fires.

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

Exercise Intrepid was held on August 26 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. This exercise also included a simulated evacuation of residents by the Emergency Measures Organization.

The prime role of the Musquash Fire Department is to provide Accountability of all responders involved at an emergency, and to provide a Staging Area for resources needed to deal with the incident. The department has an Accountability Board for responses to Point Lepreau. Musquash Firefighters also provide firefighting backup to the Response Team.

SUPPORTING OUR NEIGHBOURS

During the year, besides providing emergency services to residents and visitors of the area, members of the department also play a role in our community. Whenever possible, the department supports our community and the events that are held. In 2003, presentations were made to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Committee in support of the Point Lepreau Nuclear Station. The fire chief also attended workshops and meetings to support the generating station.

Eight firefighters took part in and supported the training exercises hosted by RST Industries in Saint John on May 29 & 30 as they hosted a national convention dealing with the transportation of Liquid Petroleum Gas. A pumper and crew was on hand each day to assist with the training evolutions held as a part of that conference.

The department was again proud to support the Fundy Fisherman's Day held on August 16.

Firefighters attended the provincial Fire Prevention Week kick off and parade held at Hampton on October 11. There were 19 firefighters present for the annual Remembrance Day ceremony at the new monument located at Station 1 which has been designated as an Official Memorial Site.

Also, a thank you luncheon was hosted on November 29 at Fire Station 1 for those who took part in Exercise Intrepid held at Point Lepreau on August 20.

NEW EQUIPMENT - 2003

During 2003 new equipment obtained included black dress uniforms, a portable radio donated by Canada Post in Saint John, five used GP-300 portable radios and ten used voice pagers, a gas detector, identification labels for pagers, radios and SCBA bottles, a marine radio was added to the rescue boat, and new overhead doors were installed at Station 1. As well, the department placed an order for a new pumper, with delivery expected by October 2004. A new air compressor was installed at Station 2 to refill our SCBA bottles, disaster gear which had been stored at the ambulance building in Lepreau was relocated to Station 2, and a new simplex channel was added to our radios to improve operations at an emergency scene.

CHILD FIRE SAFETY WINDOW STICKERS

The department has introduced a reflective sticker for use on the outside of the window of a child's bedroom. These decals are available at both stations.

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. Stephen 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 and the annual Big Bothers & Big Sisters Bowl For Kids. Musters were attended at Long Reach, Greenwich and Rothesay.

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

Qualified members of the community are welcome to apply at anytime to be a volunteer firefighter. During 2003, three firefighters resigned from the department, while one new member was welcomed to the department. The department also welcomed four new members to the Social Committee. New members are needed for the Station 2 coverage area and recruiting efforts will focus on this need.

PLANS FOR 2004

Training - Training will continue to be an important part of the department. Regular Monday night training will continue, and will feature a workshop style setting during the colder months. Small groups of firefighters will work on separate subjects, each gaining a valuable refresher of the subject including radio operations, SCBA use, use of the hydraulic rescue equipment, pump operations, first aid and use of the thermal imaging camera. As well, a First Responder recertification course will be held, a Fire Attack course is planned, and Firefighter Level 2 will be hosted at Station 1.

By-Laws - The department By-Laws will be reviewed and updated as needed during the year.

Standard Operating Guidelines - The Standard Operating Guidelines will be reviewed and updated during 2004.

New Equipment - Delivery is expected by October 2004 of a new pumper. The truck will be equipped with a larger 1050 gpm pump and an on board foam system. It will feature a top mounted pump panel and carry 1200 gallons of water.

Web page - Musquash Fire Department continues to operate a website at 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 have been addressed and the site will be regularly updated during the year.

Street Guide - An updated Street Guide will be released during the year. Copies will be made available to the RCMP, Ambulance, EMO Wardens, Firefighters and public.

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.

<u>FIREFIGHTERS</u>	Member Since
Adam, Horst	2000
Arseneault, Gilles	1987
Cane, Adam	2001-2003
Carroll, John	1990
Cox, Becky	2002
Curtis, Grady	1989
Curtis, Ryan	2002
Dixon, Greg	1987
Dixon, Vanessa	2001
Ells, Cliff	1993
Enkel, Bruce	1986
Galbraith, Neil	1998
Gass, Diane	1985
Gass, Gerald	1985
Gray, Helen	2001
Hanlon, Brian	1995
Hewey, Mac	1985
Hitchcock, Mitchel	2002
Hoddinott, Edna	1998
Hoddinott, Sean	2002
Hoddinott, Vern	2003
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	1985
Robichaud, John	1985
Robichaud, Linda	1985
Rogers, Wade	2001
Russell, Bill	1989-2003
Russell, Troy	1986
Sanojca, Andrew	1991
Short, Hayward	2000
Stevenson, Ashley	2002-2003
Stevenson, Brian	1985
Thompson, Steven	1986
Tiner, Jim	2000
Vautour, Mark	2002
Warner, Ben	2000
Westfield, Jon	2002
White, Rosaline	1997-2003

During research for this year's Annual Report it was found that several members have been involved with the Musquash Fire Department sooner than the official start date of January 1, 1987. The Musquash Fire Department was started in July 1985 when members of the public voted at a meeting to start a community fire department. Those members with start dates now showing as 1985 and 1986 were instrumental in getting the department off the ground, including the purchase of equipment, overseeing the construction of two fire stations, and arranging and participating in training. The start date of January 1, 1987 was when the department was ready to respond to emergency calls.

<u>AUXILIARY MEMBERS</u>	Member Since
Bawn, Kathryn	1988
Curtis, Susan	1991
Dixon, Nancy	1991
Enkel, Leona	2003
Galbraith, Tracey	2001
Hyslop, Helen	2003

Lambert, Wendy	1991
Mawhinney, Eileen	1988
Mawhinney, Mary Jane	1995
Mersereau, Sue	2003
Palmer, Phyllis	2003
Pollock, Judy	1988
Russell, Stacy	1997-2003
Stevenson, Dale	1988

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