

## Belmont Structure Fire Levels Historic Home

On Saturday, January 25th, just before 9:30am a structure fire was reported at the home of Gail and David Wilson. This beautiful home was an iconic building in the community of Belmont for over 120 years.

A Mutual Aid call was sent out and support received from Debert Fire Brigade, Great Village and District Volunteer Fire Brigade, North River and District Fire Brigade, Cobequid District Fire Brigade, Bible Hill Fire & Emergency, Valley-Kemptown & District Fire Brigade, Salmon River Fire Brigade with stand-by from Bass River Fire Brigade and Hilden Fire Brigade. Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Nova Scotia Emergency Health Services - EHS were also called to the scene.

Despite the enduring efforts of the fire fighters, it didn't take long for the flames to totally engulf this historic home. Fortunately, everyone escaped the home uninjured but the family lost everything but the clothes on their backs.

Valley-Kemptown's aerial ladder was a big assistance on the scene. OBFB Lieutenant Blayne Turner brought in an excavator from his family's local business to assist with knocking down the burned structure so the flames could be extinguished more easily.

There were in excess of 50 fire fighters battling the blaze and looking after cleaning up of the hotspots for over 7 hours. CN was notified, and in communication, because of the close proximity to the railway tracks.

The Wilson family is well known in the community

and an outpouring of support began as soon as word of the devastating fire was received. District 9 Councillor Marie Benoit started a 50/50 board and raffle as well as accepting donations to assist the family with immediate needs. A gofundme account was set up by the Rushton family for David, Gail and Trish and within a few hours had already surpassed the goal of \$5000.

Thank you to all the volunteers from surrounding areas who showed up to support Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade and their community. We are fortunate to have such wonderful emergency resources available when required.

*(see also photos on page 1)*  
**(Thank you to Steve Currie, Facebook's Truro & Colchester Code 1 for the information and photos)**



Blayne Turner of OBFB put his construction experience to work knocking down the fire.



Tankers from several brigades on the Mutual Aid call kept the water flowing by dumping into portable tanks.

The Chiganois Elementary School Concert was held in the AV room at CEC on Wednesday, Dec. 11th. (Harrington Photos) More on pages 11 and 15 in January's Shoreline Journal.



Chiganois Elementary Grade 5 Girls sang and acted out the 12 Days of Christmas.



Chiganois Elementary Grade 1/2 and 2/3 Classes sang Rock & Roll Santa.



Chiganois Elementary Grade One class sang Penquin Polka.



Chiganois Elementary Grade Primary Class sang Little Snowflake.



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