

Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade News and Awards Night

By Clair Peers
(OBFB Correspondent)

During the past year, the Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade answered at total of 155 calls, it was revealed at the brigades Annual Meeting and Banquet held on December 5th. Of those 4 were structure fires and 3 vehicles.

The estimated loss due to fires including structures and vehicles for the year 2009 was \$134,500. The highest number of calls was medical at 66. Next are motor vehicle collisions at 35, which have increased steadily over the past few years. Calls from neighboring fire brigades for mutual aid have also increased to 19. Brush and grass fires were down with only 6 calls responded to and as well flue fires were lower with only 8 calls. There were 14 other miscellaneous calls ranging from false calls to poles on fire etc.

The largest fire of the year was a barn at the Swinkles property in Belmont in March, which resulted in a total loss of the structure. Another Garage was a total loss at a property in Onslow Mountain.

In August the brigade purchased a new Zodiac rescue boat and sold the old one at the annual harvest sale. The annual Harvest sale netted over \$18,000. Once again under the expert direction of Captain Leo Morrow the float won first prize in Truro's Annual Christmas Parade of lights. Again we are taking advantage to the Province's Emergency Services Provider grant. Renovations and upgrades are currently being done to the interior of the building including insulation and restoration of the meeting rooms.

The brigade's annual fundraisers, including the Harvest Sale & Auction, & Dances continue to be a success. The support from the community and local businesses for these is tremendous. Money raised helps to offset rising costs and keeps the tax rate stable.

The annual election of officers for The Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade was held at the hall in December. The election saw few changes to the slate of officers for the 2009 year. The following officers elected: Chief - Greg Muise; Deputy Chief 1 - Darrel Currie; Deputy Chief 2 - John Mackay; Captain - Leo Morrow; Captain - Ryan Crowell; Lieutenant, Belmont - Sean Foley; Lieutenant, Lower Onslow - Ron Llewellyn; Lieutenant, Onslow - Tony Baird; Lieutenant, Crowes Mills - Hazen Gamblin and Lieutenant. Masstown - Clint Verhuel.

At the Brigade's annual awards ceremony and Christmas Party, the following members were honored: Firefighter of the Year - Bill MacKinnon. Officer of the Year - John MacKay; Most Improved Firefighter of the Year - Steve Willis; Sportsman of the Year - Leo Morrow and Fellowship Award - Bill MacKinnon & Walter McElhinney

The Onslow-Belmont fire Brigade recognizes each five years of service to the Community by issuing a gold bar to its members. In 2009 the recipients were: Tim Maclellan, 25 years; Clair Peers, 25 years; Sean Foley, 20 years; George Pouliot, 20 years; Brad Fiddes, 20 years; Tony Baird, 15 years; Ryan Crowell, 5 years and Charles Parlee, 5 years.



Awards were presented to Steve Willis, Leo Morrow, Walter McElhinney, and John MacKay.



The Brigade currently has 57 active firefighters, 3 Junior members, 2 support members, 33 honorary members, 7 retired members and 10 new members to be brought in as regular members in 2010. We are always looking for new members. Contact any firefighter for an application or just send an email at obfb@tru.eastlink.ca



Officers Capt Leo Morrow, Deputy 1 Darrell Currie, Chief Greg Muise, Deputy 2 John MacKay, Captain Ryan Crowell



Clair Peers receiving his 25 year pin from Membership Chair Trevor Livingston.



OBFB received a call for assistance at an MVA at 11:00 pm Tuesday evening. OBFB was on scene until approximately 2:45 am. Chief Muise called for a road block set up upon arrival & Eastbound traffic was re-routed to Number 2 Highway. One person is dead as a result of the collision of a minivan with a Tractor Trailer.

Onslow Belmont Notes

by Debbie Weatherby

What an enjoyable day we had today, starting with a family Christmas Party with lots of good food and laughter. Instead of gifts for everyone we all donated \$ 20 of food to the Food Bank but of course there were gifts for the kids. Then I went to see my great niece Lexxie in a puppet performance at the church in Great Village and what an awesome job they did. Had to have taken hours of practice to make the mouths work in perfect harmony with the words and songs. The younger children did an excellent job too. On the way home with my sister Charmaine and two more of our great nieces, Mallory and Michaela, we laughed so hard my stomach was getting sore. What a couple of characters. Very good day and evening indeed.

Church services are held every Sunday at the Belmont Baptist Church at 11:00 a.m. with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. Prayer meeting is held every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Their Christmas Tree looks gorgeous as always.

Not quite sure as yet what the services will be for Belmont, Onslow and Lower Onslow, will try to get in contact with someone to find out more seeing as two of the churches are closing which is unfortunate. I can remember attending the Wesley United in Belmont when I was a kid, sang in the choir, even though i couldn't carry a tune, and taught Sunday School. My husband and I were married in that church and our oldest son was baptized there. Sad to think it is closing.

Congratulations to Jennifer Brown & Wayne Day of Upper Onslow on the arrival of their baby girl on November 14,

weighing in at 6 lbs. 14 ozs.

Condolences to Joanna Currie of Cross roads and the families on the loss of her husband Stuart Currie on November 11; To Richard (Jane) Upham and the families on the loss of his mother Hazel Pearl Upham on November 16; Gordon (Frances), Vaughan (Brenda), Peter (Ann) of Onslow and the families on the loss of brother Stratton James Dickie on November 16; Susan (Joe) Atkinson of Belmont and the families on the loss of her mother Elsie Pauline Tattrie on October 28, and Nancy (Paul) Sulis of Belmont and the families on the loss of her brother on November 21.

Saw the strangest thing one day while doing my route, a porcupine on a customers front lawn, he was still there the next day and when i spoke to Bev she said she thought maybe he was too old to climb trees anymore and didn't seem to have any quills in his tail and his back legs seem to have something wrong with them. I haven't seen him for a few days so not sure if he has moved on or not.

Have also seen lots of geese lately too which kind of surprised me as i figured they would have moved on by now but maybe not. Had a deer come out sideways at me one day which scared me but boy oh boy did she dig her heels in and make the mud fly getting across the road in front of me. Gorgeous to watch.

Well Christmas is very fast approaching and hope all of you out there are extra careful over the holidays and use common sense when it comes to parties and driving home. Hope all the kids out there have a visit from Santa and to all a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New year.


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