

# Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade Annual Awards

Photos by Linda Harrington and Clair Peers.



The 2011 executive for the Onslow-Belmont Fire Brigade was elected at the brigade's annual meeting on Monday, December 13, 2010.

By Clair Peers

The annual election of officers for The Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade was held at the hall on December 13. The election saw a few changes to the slate of officers for the 2009 year.

The following officers were elected & re-elected: Chief, Greg Muise; Deputy Chief 1, John McKay; Deputy Chief 2, Leo Morrow; Captain, Derek Richard; Captain, Ryan Crowell; Lieutenant, Belmont, Sean Foley; Lieutenant, Lower Onslow, Ron Llewellyn; Lieutenant, Onslow, Tony Baird; Lieutenant, Crowes Mills, Hazen Gamblin; Lieutenant, Masstown, Clint Verhuel.

At the Brigade's annual awards ceremony and Christmas Party, the following members were honored: Firefighter of the Year, Derek Richard; Officer of the Year, John MacKay; Most Improved Firefighter of the year, Eric Devanny; Sportsman of the Year, Bill MacKinnon and fellowship Award, Bill MacKinnon.

The Onslow-Belmont Fire Brigade recognizes each five years of service to the Community by issuing a gold bar to its members. In 2010 the following members earned their Gold Bars: Charlie MacKenzie, 40 years; Chester Sabean, 40 years; Cory Barton, 10 years; Rick Johnson, 5 years and Trevor Livingston, 5 years.

O.B.F.B. 2010 RECAP  
In May of 2010, the Brigade lost founding firefighter and Chief, Keith Hamilton. A large funeral was held at the Fire hall with members from all local brigades attending and some from other parts of the Maritime Provinces.

The total number of calls answered by the brigade for the year was 149. Of those 3 were structure fires and 3

vehicles. The estimated loss due to fires including structures and vehicles for the year 2010 was \$327,000. Our highest number of calls was medical at 68.

Next are motor vehicle collisions at 31, which have increased steadily over the past few years. Calls from neighboring fire brigades for mutual aid have dropped to 8. Brush and grass fires doubled

at 12 calls.

Flue fires totaled 6 calls. There were 18 other miscellaneous calls ranging from false calls to poles on fire etc. Our largest fire of the year was a single-family home in Belmont. At 3 am on Monday July 19 a dispatch was received for a structure fire at 100 Onslow Mountain Road.

The bi-level home owned by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Turner

was extensively damaged by the blaze which appeared to start in the kitchen. The estimated loss was \$230,000.

A garage fire at 19 old Tatamagouche Rd. on January 22 resulted in an estimated loss of \$55,000. In August a new medical first response and forest fire response truck was put into service. The old Suburban response unit was sold to Economy Fire brigade for \$1.00. Our annual Harvest sale netted over \$17,000.

Our 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 Brigade currently has 57 active firefighters, 1 junior member, 2 support members, 33 honorary members, 7 retired members and 4 new members to be brought in as



Drivers on their way to work on Monday morning were asked to use caution along Hwy 104. A truck load of hay had caught fire while on route. Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade responded to the early morning call. The hay was unloaded to the ditch before it could cause any damage to the truck.



Eric Devanny (left) presented special awards to the Deputy Fire Chiefs and Chief of the Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade. Pictured are Deputy Chief John McKay, Colleen Muise, Chief Greg Muise, Margaret Currie and Deputy Chief Darrell Currie (right to left).



Bill "Pinky" MacKinnon who has served with Onslow-Belmont Fire Brigade for 44 years is presented with a framed copy of a special resolution from the Nova Scotia Legislature in recognition of his years of service.



Honourary Member Chuckie Whidden, receives a gift from jolly old Santa during the annual Christmas Party at the Onslow Belmont Fire Hall.



The Clifford and Pat MacDougall Fellowship Award, presented by Clarie Sinclair (right), was awarded to Bill MacKinnon. Also pictured is Valerie MacKinnon and Chief Greg Muise.



The Keith Hamilton Fireman of the Year Award was presented by Ellen Hamilton to Derrick Richard. Also pictured is Deputy Chief Darrell Currie, Susan Lewis, and Chief Greg Muise.



Eric Devanny (left) received the John Petrash Most Improved Fire Fighter of the Year Award from Pearl Petrash and Chief Greg Muise. Also pictured is Eric's wife Marion Devanny.



Judy Archibald presented Bill MacKinnon with the Clem MacKinnon Sportsmanship Award. Bill is joined by his wife Valerie MacKinnon (left) and Deputy Chief Darrell Currie (right).



Deputy Chief John McKay (centre) was presented with the Carl King Officer of the Year Award by Deputy Chief Darrell Currie (left) and Chief Greg Muise (right).



Long Term Service Awards were awarded to: Chester Sabean (40 Years), Corey Barton (10 Years), Trevor Livingston (5 Years), Rick Johnson (5 Years), Charlie MacKenzie (40 Years), Sean Foley (20 years), Tim McLellan (25 Years).

**Bruce, Danny and Keith at**  
**ONslow AUTOMOTIVE**  
wish to extend  
**CONGRATULATIONS TO**

**OBFB - Officer of the Year**  
Deputy Chief John MacKay

**OBFB - Most Improved FireFighter**  
Eric Devanny

**OBFB - Long Service Awards**  
Chester Sabean (40 Years), Corey Barton (10 Years),  
Trevor Livingston (5 Years), Rick Johnson (5 Years),  
Charlie MacKenzie (40 Years), Sean Foley (20 years),  
Tim McLellan (25 Years).

**OBFB - Fireman of the Year**  
The Keith Hamilton Fireman of the Year Award was to  
Derrick Richard

**OBFB - The Clifford & Pat MacDougall Fellowship Award**  
Bill MacKinnon.

**OBFB - Clem MacKinnon Sportsmanship Award**  
Bill MacKinnon

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