

House Fire in the Early Hours of Sunday, Dec. 20



OBFB Chief Greg Muise and Walter McElhinney present Ian Crowe with the Keith Hamilton Firefighter of the Year Award.



Kevin Crowell receives the John Petrash Most Improved Fire Fighter of the Year Award from OBFB Chief Greg Muise and Walter McElhinney.



OBFB Chief Greg Muise presents Walter McElhinney with the Cliff MacDougall Fellowship Award.



OBFB Chief Greg Muise and Walter McElhinney present Kevin Crowell with the Clem MacKinnon Sportsmanship Award.



OBFB is all lit up for Christmas.



OBFB Chief Greg Muise and Walter McElhinney present Darrell Currie with the Carl King Officer of the Year Award.

This is the first Christmas in 27 years, Heather Leggate will not be spending the holidays at her home on Carrobie Road, East Village surrounded by her family. A house fire in the early hours of Sunday, Dec. 20th resulted in sufficient damage to the farmhouse the family has had to move into a hotel.

The fire burned from the first floor, through to the second and into the attic. The cause of the fire has not yet been determined but the entire house suffered extensive smoke damage.

"I am heart broken," says Heather adding, "But at the same time I so happy and thankful we all are safe."

Heather, her partner Kevin Bushey, sons William and Noah and a friend 16-year-old Keegan Riemersma were all in the home asleep when the fire broke out. Two sons Trait and Angus were not home at the time.

Around 4:30AM, Keegan woke up and smelled smoke and thought someone must be having a campfire nearby and got up to close the window. It was then he realized there was smoke in the second-floor bedroom he shared with William. He tried to turn on the light but there was no power and so he ran outside to see what was going on.

"It was then Keegan saw the flames shooting up the side of our house," says Heather. "We are so thankful he sprang into action and woke up the rest of the household."

Great Village and Onslow Belmont Fire Brigades responded to the emergency call, with Debert Fire Brigade on stand-by. "The older part of house is not structurally salvageable," says an emotional Heather, they will not know the full extent of the loss until the insurance company views the property this week. "I range between tears of sadness and tears of joy, knowing how lucky we were to all get out safely. Keegan is a real hero. If he hadn't woken us all up, the outcome would have been terrible. He just moved in with us in September and it appears he was meant to be

here to save our family."

Christmas will certainly be different for Heather and her family this year, but she is determined they will all still be together. "We will put down sleeping bags at my mom and dad's house on Christmas Eve and have our dinner there instead of the usual meal at our house."

Heather would like to extend sincere thanks to the fire fighters and also to their neighbours. "It is amazing to live in such a wonderful community where people reach out to help one another,"



William watches in shock as fire consumes his childhood home in East Village on Dec. 20th.





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Thank you to all our customers and staff. May your heart and home be filled with joy and happiness this holiday season. Merry Christmas. From The Jennings Family

HOLIDAY HOURS
 Dec 24th - 9AM - 5PM
 Dec. 25th to 27th - Closed
 Dec. 28th to 30th - 9AM- 9PM
 Dec. 31st - 9AM - 5PM
 Jan. 1st & 2nd - Closed

