

# Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade Annual Christmas Dinner and Awards Banquet

Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade held their annual Christmas dinner and Awards Banquet at the Debert Hospitality Centre on Dec. 2nd, 2023.

A moment of silence was held to honor those who have passed away.

Awards for 2023 were presented as follows: Keith Hamilton Memorial Award for Fire Fighter of the Year- Marty Woodworth; Carl King Memorial Award for Officer of the Year- Greg Muise; John Petrash Memorial Award for Most Improved Firefighter- Derek Richard; Stan Groves Memorial Award for Junior Firefighter of the Year- Doug White; Clem MacKinnon Memorial Award for Sportsman of the Year- Kevin Crowell, and the Cliff MacDougall Memorial Fellowship Award- Leo Morrow. A new award was presented in memory of Walter McElhinney. The Walter McElhinney Memorial 3D Award (for Dedication, Desire and Determination) was presented for the first time to John McKay.

In 2023, there were 9 new members joined the Brigade, with 5 members leaving or moving out of the area. One member retired and one passed away.

Eight members were added to the Honorary Member list, with over 25 Years of Service, and these include: Eric Devaney, Kevin Crowell, Steve Willis, Clair Peers, Ron Urqhart, Deputy Darrell Currie, Captain Clint Verheul and Randy Currie

OBFB Service Awards are recognized every five years of service to the community and this year the following received awards: Jonathan Debay- 5 Years; Pastor Scott Penner- 20 Years, Captain Clint Verheul- 20 Years, Deputy Chief Darrell Currie- 25 years, Randy Currie- 25 Years and Marty Woodward- 40 Years.

The Brigade answered a total of 228 calls (a record for the Brigade) and members put in 1421 training hours, 2341 incident hours, 9260 administrative, meetings, weekend duty hours for a total of



Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade members present for the 2023 Annual Meeting at the firehall on Dec. 12th.

13,022 hours recorded. The Brigade answered 96 Medical calls, 55 Motor Vehicle Calls, 21 Mutual Aid Calls, 10 Brush/Grass Fires, 4 Chimney Fires, 3 Structure Fires, 5 Vehicle Fires and 34 Misc. Calls. The estimated value of fire loss for 2023 was \$840,300.

Chief Greg Muise mentioned in his report the number of MVA calls goes up and up each year and these are some of the most dangerous calls. He hopes the word will get out for people to slow down when they come upon an accident scene and help ensure the safety of those trying to assist.

The 2023 Budget approval kept the tax rate at 11 cents/\$100 assessment value.

OBFB assisted with Mutual-aid water rescues this fall, rescuing over 80 people in Nine Mile River and then on to Brooklyn.

Four new Seek FirePRO 300 Thermal Imaging Cameras were purchased.

Chief Muise thanked the community for the donations to the weekly 50/50 draw. These funds have assisted with the purchase of 12 new sets of bunker gear, 15 pairs of boots and 10 helmets totally over \$50,000.

MP Stephen Ellis thanked members of the Brigade saying they have been the "heart of the community for a very long time" and everyone knows they can count on the fire department. He mentioned the need to raise awareness for motorists to slow down to 60km/hr and move to another lane at an accident scene and

the other serious issue of the toxicity of being a fire fighter and dealing with toxic fumes.

MLA Tom Taggart thanked fire fighters, EMS and Ground Search and Rescue for everything they do. "In rural communities volunteer fire fighters are the back bone of the community during emergencies, floods and hurricanes," and he added, "The community and government are very appreciative for what the volunteer members do to make the residents safe."

Mayor Christine Blair brought greetings and best wishes on behalf of the Municipality of Colchester and added, "The County appreciates and respects all you do."

Councillor Victoria Lomond noted how everyone relies on the volunteer fire fighters and said "you go above and beyond." She thanked all members and wished them a safe holiday season.

The OBFB Officers for 2023 include: Chief - Greg Muise, Deputy Chief # 1 - Darrell Currie, Deputy Chief # 2 - Leo Morrow, Captains - Derek Richard & Clint Verheul.



The 2023 OBFB Chief Officers are (left to right): Captain- Derek Richard, Deputy Chief 1- Darrell Currie, Chief- Greg Muise, Deputy Chief 2- Leo Morrow and Captain- Clint Verheul



OBFB Chief Greg Muise and Membership Committee Chair Randy Currie present Clint Verheul (centre) with his 25 Year Service Award.



Chief Greg Muise and Deputy Chief Darrell Currie present Doug White (centre) with the 2023 Stan Groves Memorial Junior Firefighter Award.



OBFB Chief Greg Muise and Deputy Chief Darrell Currie present Derek Richard (centre) with the 2023 John Petrash Most Improved Award.

**Conservative**  
HAPPY  
*New Year's*  
2024

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