

Onslow-Belmont Fire Brigade - 50 Years of Service

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In 1975, a new three bay, two deep truck bay, 50ft by 70ft was added.

The Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade has been involved in many community projects over its 50 year history. Some of these include the Walk-A-Thon for the West Colchester United Arena, Training Exercises, CPR and First-Aid courses, Fire Prevention in the schools, floats in local parades, Baby-Sitting Courses, Defensive Driving Course, Derelict Vehicle program, annual Colchester Firefighters truck parade and many more.

Keith Hamilton retired as Fire Chief in 2000 after 39

years. Walter McElhinney was elected Chief and continued in this position until 2002, when Rollie Hayman was elected. Current Chief Greg Muise has been in the position since 2006.

In 2007 Deputy Chief and Assistant Deputy Chief titles were changed to Deputy Chief #1 and Deputy Chief #2.

The latest building addition was a 14 x70' extension along the side of the hall. This addition houses two smaller trucks, a boat and other equipment.

In 2008, Chief Greg Muise was awarded the Tim Horton's Community Volunteer of the Year Award.

Chief Muise donated the \$5000.00 award money toward a memorial for deceased members, which was erected near the front entrance of the Fire Hall. A Nova Scotia Flag and pole were dedicated to retired Chief Hamilton and a Canadian Flag and pole were dedicated to Chief Rollie Hayman who had passed away in office.

Onslow Belmont has had a long history of sports participation. As early as 1962, the Brigade was sponsoring a hockey team and bowling league.

The Brigade has always participated in the Maritime Fire Fighters Association organized sporting events including bowling, curling, ball, darts, golf and Summer Games. The Brigade has also hosted several of these major events.

There have been a total of 428 members since the



A group photo of members of the Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade present at the Annual Meeting in 1985.

Brigade was founded in 1961, some families have had multi-generations of members serving at one time.

In 2010, the Brigade had assets totally over \$1.7 million dollars, including a total of 6 trucks, with an annual operating budget of close to \$218,000.00. This is a long way from the estimated \$2500.00 in assets back in 1962 and an operating budget of just over \$4600.00.



A representative group of people present at the first meeting of the Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade reenacted the minutes of the meeting held on Jan. 28th, 1961.



OBFB 50 Year Long Term Service Awards were presented by MLA Karen Casey to Vaughan Dickie, Lee Higgins, Ellen Hamilton and Russell Jennings. Pictured left to right: Vaughan Dickie, Assistant Deputy Leo Morrow, Lee Higgins, Ellen Hamilton, Deputy Chief John McKay, MLA Karen Casey, Russell Jennings and Chief Greg Muise.



Chuck Whidden looks over one of the historical scrap books on display at the OBFB 50th Anniversary Open House.



Gloria Smith looks over one of the many photo albums on display during the OBFB 50th Anniversary Open House on January 29th.

Lantz Truck Body 32 years of Quality and Pride

By Linda Harrington

Building trucks for Atlantic Canadian fire departments for over 32 years, Lantz Truck Body Ltd. takes pride when they deliver a new truck to their customers.

"We do not employ a large staff of sales persons. We see each of our rescue units as advertisement and a true representation of our abilities. We count on the lasting quality of our trucks to sell themselves for us," says Allister Lantz, President of Lantz Truck Body Ltd.

Each unit is custom built to individual needs, starting with a customized body style and proceeding with a layout to give enough room for necessary gear.

"We work closely with representatives and listen to their ideas. We are continually impressed with the ingenuity of the firefighters we serve and try hard to bring their ideas to life for them," says Mr. Lantz.

Lantz Truck Body ensures their techniques, building process, and materials continue to evolve and stay current with today's requirements for rescue units. Their welding operations are certified with the Canadian Welding Bureau and they are currently working towards becoming ULC listed.

Lantz Truck Body was ULC listed back in the late 1990's when they built what is to their knowledge one of the first ULC tested pumpers to have been constructed in Nova Scotia, for Pugwash volunteer fire department.

Since then strong demand for Lantz's rescue units has kept them busy, but lately more and more of their customers have inquired about pumpers with the hopes that Lantz's high commitment to quality could be incorporated into pumpers again. The answer was, "yes they can!"

Strong competition on the rescue side of things has made Lantz think twice about building pumpers and they have begun, with the hope that more fire departments will opt for the quality job that can be done right here in Nova Scotia, keeping more of Nova Scotian's hard earned tax dollars closer to home.

Lantz Truck Body is pleased to have supplied a walk around rescue truck to Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade last year and they are currently in the early stages of construction on a new pumper for Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade, with an anticipated deliver date sometime in May.

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