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A View from Dwane Mellish's Perspective

By Debbie Brown

Dwane Mellish has been associated with fire brigade's for 35 years and has been chief of the Bible Hill Fire Brigade for nine years. He sees the most pressing problem for his brigade is to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters who are able to make the commitment to this very important emergency service.



Dwayne Mellish

He notes, "training requirements have increased both in level of required training (complexity) as well as the time required by volunteers. The risks that emergency responders face now can be significantly more complex currently compared to when I joined the fire service."

New home construction and furniture within new houses is much more flammable and will flashover and/or collapse in a much shorter time. These type of fires are much more dangerous to the residents and the responding firefighters".

When asked for his perspective what is the number one concern you have with respect to homeowners/ businesses and their ability to be proactive in regards to fire prevention, Mellish responded, "Residential fires are by far the most common. Kitchen fires, many times caused by unattended cooking, are the leading cause of these residential fires".

I asked Chief Mellish in five years from now, what do you think will be a concern of Fire Departments and their ability to help communities be safe?

His response was "Availability and retention of trained volunteer emergency responders will continue to be a challenge for the volunteer fire service. As demographics change, with our aging population, the fire service membership is also aging. The younger generation is more mobile and tend to be less committed to a community for the long term. The volunteer fire service must change to make it attractive to the next generation to provide this essential emergency service to our communities".

The Bible Hill Fire Brigade has a total of thirty member, three Mutual Aid members, who are members in good

standing in other Brigades/Departments within the County of Colchester, who work in Bible Hill. They are available to the Bible Hill Brigade during day time hours when normally there is a shortage of members to respond to emergencies.

Brigade members are recognized with a dinner in December as well as the annual Awards banquet in April of each year.

Near the end of the interview I asked Chief Mellish, What are you particularly proud of, as your time spent as a Chief of the Department? His response was, "I am proud of the progress in our Brigade

during my time as Fire Chief. Progress in infrastructure including a major expansion of the station (2008) as well as new equipment including a pumper truck as well as a new utility vehicle equipped for RIT (Rapid Intervention team) to assist and protect fellow firefighters at major fires. I am most proud of the joint efforts by all our members to improve their level of skills through training and practical experience".

Anyone wishing to join or assist the Bible Hill Fire Brigade can do so by contacting: Bible Hill Fire Brigade, 69 Pictou Road, Bible Hill, NS B2N 2R9; Ph: 902-893-8083 (Village Office), or E-mail: bhfire@biblehill.ca, Twitter @BHFF

When there were two
(our forever friends)

*I think not of when they were young at heart
I think not of how they grew old
I think not of how they would depart
I think not of their lives I would hold*

When there were two

*I remember their bond together
I remember their constant play
I remember their touch like a feather
I remember them to this day*

When there were two

*I think not of the day I found her
I think not of her confusing stare
I think not of how her demise was sure
I think not of how much I would care*

When there were two

*I remember how he looked around
I remember how much he would search
I remember how their lives were bound
I remember them often in church*

When there were two

*I think not of the day he too grew ill
I think not of the day he would die
I think not of the empty window sill
I think not of how much I would cry*

When there were two

*I remember they were my closest pets
I remember they were my friends
I remember love often comes in sets
I remembered them right till their ends!*

When there were two

God bless and thank-you. Thomas A. Marshall (Ex-Navy)

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