



North River's fleet of vehicles on display at the fire hall. The Brigade is hosting an open house on October 15th. (Submitted)

## Tatamagouche Fire – Three Trucks in Six Years

By Debbie Brown

"I have had an involvement with Fire Brigades for over thirty years and have been Chief of the Tatamagouche Fire Department for 4 years", indicated Ian MacDonald, Fire Chief Tatamagouche Fire Department.

One of the challenges we deal with is the amount of time we have, and the tasks before us. So many more things are required of our volunteers, it makes it hard. Fire fighters are also First Responders. A third of our calls are related to this task.

As a Chief, it is something you have to be aware of, your volunteer has just witnessed perhaps, a cardiac arrest. Things at the scene did not

go well. They know the family. The volunteer returns to work with emotion and grief on their shoulders.

The demands for our involvement as First Responders have increased significantly over time. In past a CPR call may have happened once a year, now it's once a month.

Our volunteers receive excellent training. We have regular opportunities in the County and Provincially at the Fire Fighters School in Waverly.

Over time, the needs have changed within communities. A truck passing through could be hauling something toxic. You need to assess the situation and react quickly.

This means that the types

of hazard materials, regulations and training requirements of the volunteers change.

In the future, I think for many Departments the ability to recruit and keep volunteers will be a major challenge.

In Tatamagouche we are so fortunate to have a large number of young volunteers with a very high commitment and dedication level.

There are 35 volunteers and they are very keen. Sometimes, I find myself trying to slow them down. E

ach year we salute with a banquet in February. It's just a little something for the job they do, caring for their community.

For me personally, it is

very difficult to point to few things and say that's what makes me proud to be part of this job. I will be driving along and thoughts will pop into my head, such as, we purchased three new trucks in the span of six years, we are very lucky to have a great team, and a community that is outstanding in its support.

I wanted to obtain recognition from the Province, for one of our fire fighters who recently pulled a girl from a burning car. He wouldn't let me do it.

The challenges are greater than ever before but I feel proud and lucky to part of this Fire Department."

## 245<sup>TH</sup> Celebrations Delayed Until Next Year

By Christine Urquhart

This is the 245th Anniversary year of the Upper Londonderry Pastoral Charge. Celebrations were planned for this coming October but due to illnesses of those on the planning committee it has been decided to hold off on our celebrations until next year.

This is a very important anniversary as this Pastoral Charge is the oldest protestant pastoral charge in Canada! The Upper Londonderry Pastoral Charge had a settled Minister in 1771. Many of the Ministers have stayed long years, including the second Minister on the Charge who was there for 53 years!

Let us hope that those on the planning committee get healthy and can plan a very spectacular celebration for the 246th Anniversary!



Earlier this summer the North River Fire Brigade took possession of a new 2016 Dodge Walk-around Rescue Truck. Pictured above is Treasurer, Ralph Hamilton (far left) passing the cheque to Brian Kearsley and taking possession of the new vehicle from Kevin Christopher is Chief Leroy Hansen. (Submitted)

## Greg Muise

### CHIEF OF ONSLOW BELMONT FOR 10 YEARS

34 Years as a member- Zone Lieutenant for 5 years, Driver Lieutenant for 5 years, Captain for 5 years, Assistant Deputy for 4 years, Deputy Chief for 3 years.

OBFB recently purchased a GMC ¾ tonne truck for medical response/traffic control and a Polaris 900 Ranger Crew rescue unit. The brigade has been looking at getting a new set of jaws and new

breathing apparatus in the next few years, with the possibility of a new truck in the future.

Training of members last year saw a total in-house training of 548 man hours combined plus 312 hours outside training.

OBFB has 39 active members and new members are welcome.

## Lawrence R. Nicoll

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