

# COURAGE



*Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation*

*Volume 2*

## *Firefighter's Prayer*

*When I am called to duty, God  
Wherever flames may rage  
Give me the strength to save a life  
Whatever be its age*

*Help me embrace a little child  
Before it is too late  
Or save an older person from  
The horror of that fate*

*Enable me to be alert  
And hear the weakest shout  
And quickly and efficiently  
To put the fire out*

*I want to fill my calling  
And give the best in me,  
To guard my every neighbour  
And protect his property.*

*And if, according to my fate  
I am to lose my life;  
Bless with your protecting hand  
My children and my wife*

*Traditional version;  
author unknown*



# C O U R A G E

CANADIAN FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION – Volume 2

Publication Mail Agreement No.  
40065059

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:

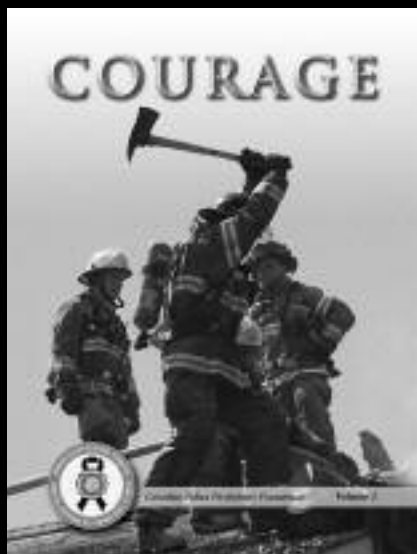
**CANADIAN FALLEN  
FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION**

133 Walnut Court,  
Ottawa, Ontario K1R 7W2  
Tel.: (613) 569-8297  
Email: cfff@sympatico.ca  
www.cfff.ca

**ON THE COVER:  
Canadian Firefighters  
doing the job.**

Photograph by

*Brooks of Canada*



## ***Index...***

President's Message .....	1
Vice-President's Message .....	2
Editor's Message .....	3
Directors of the Foundation .....	4
Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation 2nd Annual Memorial Ceremony .....	7
The Fallen Honoured at the 2005 Ceremony .....	19
Lieut. Rolland Lapointe, Yvon Cyr, Paul Dolbec .....	23
Greater Sudbury Firefighter Choir .....	23
A History of the Toronto Fire Services Pipes and Drums Band .....	25
The Database of Fallen Canadian Firefighters.....	27
History of LeBreton Flats.....	28
Captain Robert Pratt Firefighter William Willette .....	31
Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation Activities in 2005 and 2006 .....	32
Firemen: Chief Raoul Gauthier .....	40
Firefighter: An Evolving Occupation .....	44
Kitchener Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial Dedication .....	45
The Calgary Wellness Centre.....	47
Book Review .....	50
The Story of Critical Incident Stress Management in Nova Scotia .....	51
AVIS Rent a Car Initiative .....	53
A Canadian Airborne Firefighter .....	54
Rapid Intervention Team .....	57
"Attention Canadian Firefighters! Attention Canadians! The Alarm is Now Sounding!" .....	59





# C O U R A G E

CANADIAN FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION – Volume 2

## Directors of the Foundation

### EXECUTIVE

**Dr. Will Brooks**

Lieutenant, Truro Fire Brigade and Psychologist  
(Retired, )President

**Chief Gary Barnes**

Chef aux Opérations, Service de Sécurité  
Incendie de Gatineau  
Vice-President

**LCol Douglas Lock**

Canadian Forces (Retired)  
Treasurer

**Mr. William Williams, Jr.**

Businessman (Retired)  
Secretary

**Mr. Tim Hinds**

Fire Marshal, Department of Community and  
Government Services, Nunavut Territory  
Vice-President North

**Capt. Robert Kirkpatrick**

Mississauga Fire and Emergency Services.  
Author of Their Last Alarm  
Vice-President Ontario

**Vol. Lt. Barry Stewart**

Riverview Fire Department, NB  
Vice-President East

**Chief Pierre Surprenant**

Fire Chief, Ottawa International Airport  
Vice-President Québec

### DIRECTORS

**Air Attack Officer Paul Buxton-Carr**

British Columbia Forest Service -  
Protection Branch

**Mr. Ken Campbell**

Prince Edward Island Deputy Fire Marshal

**Mrs. Diane Dempsey**

Families of the Fallen

**Chief Kenneth Kelly**

Representing the Canadian  
Association of Fire Chiefs, Yarmouth,  
Nova Scotia

**Mrs. Kirsty Leatt**

President & CEO, K.J. Leatt Enterprises  
Sales and Marketing, Winnipeg, MB

**Mr. James Lee**

Assistant to the General President for  
Canadian Operations of the International  
Association of Firefighters

**Capt. Ron MacTavish**

Borden-Carleton Fire Department, PE

**CWO Bruce Paradis**

Office of the Canadian Forces Fire Marshal

**Firefighter Randy Piercey**

Senior Firefighter, Toronto Fire Services

**Capt. David Sheen**

Public Information Officer,  
Toronto Fire Services

**Chief David Smith**

Divisional Chief Training,  
Halifax Regional Fire &  
Emergency Service

**Chief William Stewart**

Fire Chief, Toronto Fire Services

**Mr. Serge Tremblay**

Director of the Service de Sécurité  
Incendie de Montréal

**Mr. Georges Potvin**

Firefighter and Head of Education,  
Ottawa Fire Services (Retired)  
Founder Emeritus

*Designed & Published by  
Mise en page et édition par*

**CBP** *Canadian Badge in Uniform  
Publications Ltd.*

**Richard Robertson**

(E-mail: richrob@allstream.net)  
Art Director

**Heather LaFleur**

Assistant Art Director

**Ina Silva**

Layout/Design & Print Production

### National Office / Bureau national

420 O'Connor St., Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1W4

Tel: (613) 230-0721 • Fax: (613) 230-4964 • Toll Free: 1-800-267-1266

### Québec Office / Bureau de Québec

5646, rue Hochelaga St., Montréal, Québec H1N 3L7

Tel: (514) 257-4306 • Fax: (514) 257-1560 • Toll Free: 1-800-567-5573

The CFFF Vol.2 Yearbook is published for the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation by CBU Publications Ltd. Reproduction, by any means, is strictly prohibited without the prior written consent of the publisher. CBU Publications Ltd. assumes no responsibility for statements of fact or opinion made by any contributor. The publisher does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of advertisers' claims and cannot accept any liability for losses incurred by any person as a result of a default on the part of an advertiser.







## President's Message

Writing a President's opening message should be easy, but it is not. In a brief page, there is so much to be said. How can we at the Foundation say, well enough, "Thank You" to all the Canadian businesses which have continued to support our work? My own sense of pride and excitement at the generous donations and countless hours given to the Foundation by so many people is palpable. The words of thanks seem so much less robust than we would like them to be, but we surely do thank every business, member of the Canadian Fire Service and citizen for their generosity.

We are engaged in the work of remembering and honouring the over 800 known firefighters who have died in the line of duty. This sounds simple enough, but it means that a young Canadian Foundation has worked diligently in all parts of the Nation to discover and list the names of the Fallen. It means we have developed a website which is the official repository of the names of the Fallen and serves as a centre for information about the Foundation. It means that the Foundation works to support every department affected by a line of duty death when that is the desire of those most closely involved. Whenever possible, Foundation representatives are present at the services. It means that an annual Memorial Ceremony is now held on Parliament Hill and firefighters and citizens come to honour those whose lives have been lost in the preceding year.

It is with immense excitement and enthusiasm that we have begun the first stages of creating the Canadian Firefighters Memorial. On land furnished by the National Capital Commission, a dream is beginning to be realized, a dream to build a National memorial to all Canadian firefighters, especially those who have died in the line of duty. Renowned Public Arts Manager, Karen Mills, is heading the project, and by the time you read this, specific requirements for the design competition should have been finalized and circulated.

As we have grown, several Canadian corporations have begun to assist under the Funding Categories spelled out on the website. We are very pleased to have Avis as a sponsor both because it assists us in deriving needed funds for the work of the Foundation and allows every Canadian firefighter to participate in building the Foundation each time an Avis rental car is used. Please see the website [www.cfff.ca](http://www.cfff.ca) for more details.

Families of the Fallen have always been at the forefront of the Foundation's mission. The numerous contacts with the families whose loved ones have been honored in Ottawa continue each day. We also receive many communications from families whose loved ones were lost many years ago. It has been very gratifying to us to exchange information with all the family members we have had the privilege to meet and learn about.

We certainly thank all our business donors. They are our backbone and have made the work we are doing possible. It would be a serious oversight on my part, however, if this letter did not also mention the Foundation Board of Directors. Twenty two members of the Board, including the eight Executive members, work virtually 24/7 to make the Foundation work and advance its goals. It is my personal desire to thank them all publicly for their care and commitment. Without their input from virtually every part of Canada, the Foundation would still be just an idea.

Warmest regards to you all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Brooks".

*Dr. Will Brooks  
President  
Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation*



## Vice-President's Message

**A**nother year has flown by and it has seen the Foundation make great strides forward. Each week that passes moves the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation closer to building the only National monument that will honor all Canadian firefighters who have died in the line of duty. This monument will be a tribute to all Canadian firefighters who risk their lives each day to ensure the safety and well being of their fellow citizens.

An important step has taken place with the hiring of our public arts consultant, Karen Mills. It signals the beginning of phase one, which is the design competition and will determine what the monument will look like. With the great support of the business community, the Foundation has secured the funds to proceed with phase one. However, to take the final model from the design phase to the actual construction and final product will require much additional funding.

The Foundation will continue the fund raising efforts to secure support from large corporate donors, but we will require funding support from individual firefighters from across Canada. I encourage you to donate what you can or have your department or association organize a fund raising activity on behalf of the Foundation. Each dollar raised will make this monument a reality and memorialize our colleagues who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Please visit [www.cfff.ca](http://www.cfff.ca) often to see how the Foundation's work is progressing in general and what is new with our firefighter life safety program. Prevention is the key to reducing firefighter fatalities.

Thank you once again for your support,

*Gary Barnes  
Vice-President  
Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation*



## Editor's Message

I think of them as “my gang.” I justify the possessive nature of this term because I entered each of their names in the list of the fallen. As I entered their names I imagined robust, lively people who liked to drink beer with their pals, who loved their families, who pursued their lives with vigor, and performed their chosen profession with dedication and affection. They may be gone but in the hearts and minds of those who knew them and cared about them they live on. I hope I do not offend for thinking of them as “my gang.” As I typed in their names and thought of their lives that is what came to mind for me. Right at this instant as I write this there are 825 men and one woman in “my gang.” I hope that they will never be forgotten.

Since its articles of incorporation were signed on May 28, 2003, the organization we call the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation (CFFF) has grown exponentially. As organizations grow they become to some degree bureaucratized. Bureaucracy is all about paper. At one time it took a couple of phone calls and an email among two or three people to get something decided. Now it takes an application form and a small committee; same decision but with more authority. This is necessary to maintain the integrity of the organization and to keep it on track with its objectives as the organization grows. I rail against bureaucratization even though I know we need to do it. One of the reasons we need to do it is that it makes us more effective at achieving CFFF's objectives.

You hold in your hand one of the ways that we are moving towards achieving CFFF's objectives. This year book, *Courage*, allows us to communicate to you what we are doing. It allows us to promote some of the objectives we are working on achieving.

Right now the bulk of our attention is focused on building the monument for the men and women of the Canadian Fire Service who have made the ultimate sacrifice. We have taken the first few steps on this journey of a thousand miles. You can keep track of our progress on this by visiting [www.cfff.ca](http://www.cfff.ca) frequently.

The monument will focus on the fallen, “my gang,” but it will go beyond that. The Canadian Firefighters Memorial will also be an acknowledgement of the contribution of everyone involved in the Canadian Fire Service throughout Canada's history. It is my view that this has been very long overdue.

I am proud to have played a small part in initiating this acknowledgement and in moving it forward. I hope that you will enjoy reading this book. I hope you will find it informative. I hope that you will even find it uplifting.

Take care and stay safe,

*Bill Williams,  
Editor, Courage, Secretary  
Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation*

# DIRECTORS OF THE FOUNDATION



**Dr. William Brooks,** *President,*

*Canadian Fallen Firefighters' Foundation*

Dr. Will Brooks' involvement with firefighting began at the age of 9 when he responded to his first working fire. Will's father was a town councillor at the time. The senior Brooks took his young son to the fire hall at every opportunity.

One day Will's Dad was ill and asked his son to go to his workplace to get his pay check. Upon leaving his Dad's factory, Will heard the fire bell ringing in the ladder house across the street. Will choose to answer the call himself. He still remembers arriving at the scene riding on the running board of a 1936 Chevrolet Ladder Truck. The firefighters were surprised as they arrived to see the grass fire was knocked down by a mere lad wielding a broom!

Will recently acquired an impeccably restored 1913 Ford Model T chemical/hose wagon. The machine was built by the O. J. Childs Company, though most of the vehicle's history remains unknown.

Will also owns a 1951 Bickle-Seagrave fire engine, a model that in 1951 earned the distinction of becoming the first fire engine purchased by the Canadian Armed Forces after World War II. Will's engine had its first home at Base Trenton in Ontario before it spent many years in Petawawa as the town's first line pump.

Although the seed was planted early, it would be several years after his childhood experience before Will donned turnouts of his own. This came in 1987 in Truro, Nova Scotia where he served as a firefighter and eventually, Lt. of Rescue and Salvage and Lt. of a Ladder Co. with the Truro Fire Brigade.

As well as an amateur historian, Will is a retired psychologist, counsellor and educator. Before retiring from practice and active fire service in 1995, he received various awards, mostly due to the Critical Incident Stress Management Program (CSIM) he helped develop with the Fire Officers Association of Nova Scotia, implemented and operated for Nova Scotia firefighters.

Will also worked for 15 years as director of student services at the Nova Scotia Teachers' College and two years as an associate dean at Northern Illinois University

Over the past eleven years Will has done numerous tasks among them serving as the lead consultant to the Canadian Forces Member Assistance Program (CFMAP) and President of the Ottawa-Hull Military Family Resource Centre Board. He has also had the rare opportunity to travel with NATO to most of the major cities in the Western World where, you guessed it; he has spent time immersed in the firefighting services each provides.

Will is married to Col Cheryl Lamerson, Ph.D., Chief Psychologist of the Canadian Forces. He is the father of 4 children and 3 grandchildren.



**Gary Barnes,** *Vice-President*

Gary Barnes is an Operations Chief with the Gatineau Fire Department (Québec). He started his career in 1986 as a paid on call firefighter with the

Greenfield Park Fire Department, and moved on to become a career firefighter in 1989 for the City of Gatineau. Gatineau

is the fourth largest city in the province of Québec with a population of 238,000.



**Bill Williams,** *Secretary*



**Douglas A. Lock,** *Treasurer*

Douglas A. Lock served a combination of 37 years on reserve and active duty with the Canadian Army. He retired at the rank of lieutenant colonel in 2000. During his reserve

duty years, he worked in the automotive industry in Windsor, Ontario, and currently labours with the public service, managing human resources policy development. Doug lives in Ottawa with Janet, his bride of 39 years, and spends a lot of his time spoiling three granddaughters.



**Tim Hinds**

Tim is originally from Regina Saskatchewan, and has lived and worked in several very interesting places around the world. After a 19 year career with the Canadian Forces Fire Service Tim moved to the



'Great White North' in October 1997 to join the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM). Tim served in Rankin Inlet with the Northwest Territories OFM until the creation of Nunavut Territory on 1 April 1999, when he transferred to the new OFM staff. Tim has recently been appointed the Territorial Fire Marshal and has moved to the city of Iqaluit, on Baffin Island.



## Robert Kirkpatrick,

*Vice-President Ontario*

Robert Kirkpatrick is a captain with the Mississauga Fire and Emergency Services, which he joined in 1984. He is a recipient of the Ontario Medal for Firefighters Bravery, the 125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada Medal, the Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee Medal and the Federal Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal. Robert is also the author of the book, *Their Last Alarm*, documenting the line of duty deaths of firefighters in Ontario. In 2001 he was recognized by Toronto Fire Services for assisting with verifying the historical accuracy of their Fallen Firefighter Memorial. He is currently serving as the Regional Vice President for Ontario with the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation in Ottawa.



## Barry Stewart,

*Vice-President East*



## Pierre Surprenant,

*Vice-President Québec*



## Paul Buxton-Carr,

*Director*

Paul works for the British Columbia Ministry of Forests-Protection Branch based in Salmon Arm, BC. and has been deployed to fires in BC, Alberta, Yukon, Ontario, Quebec, Washington, Montana and Australia. Paul began his firefighting career as a member of the provincial Rapattack team, rappelling into wildfires from helicopters for eight years. Paul then joined the Provincial Airtanker Centre and has been a nationally-certified Air Attack Officer for the past ten years, responsible for coordinating aerial suppression of fires from groups of water or retardant-dropping aircraft from the aerial bird-dog platform. Paul is an Air Attack trainer for his program and when not active in managing wildfires, Paul flies as a commercial fixed-wing pilot and flight instructor and travels extensively with his wife, Shelley.



## Ken Campbell,

*Director*

Ken Campbell became a member of the Montague Volunteer Fire Brigade in January of 1975. He worked for the Provincial Government as a Building Inspector for 18 years before joining the Fire Marshal's Office in 1993. He has been a member of the PEI Firefighters Association for over 30 years. At

present time he is the Deputy Fire Marshal for the Province of Prince Edward Island.



## Ken Kelly, Director

Ken is the Fire Chief of Yarmouth, NS and has served in the past as President of the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs (CAFC), President of Fire Officers Association of NS, President of the Firefighters' Museum of Nova Scotia and Vice Chair, NS Firefighters School, as well as being Chair and member of numerous board and committees related to the Fire Service. He has 33 years in the fire service and come up through the composite system. He has been appointed by the Board of Directors (BOD) of the CAFC to represent them on the BOD of CFFF.



## Diane Dempsey,

*Director*



## Jim Lee, Director

Jim Lee served as a professional fire fighter in the City of Toronto for 30 years, retiring in April, 2002 with the rank of District Chief. Jim was active in his union throughout his career, and has served as a local executive member, as President of the Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association and President of the Toronto Professional Fire Fighters Association.

In April 2002, Jim Lee was appointed by International General President Harold

Schaitberger to oversee the International Association of Fire Fighters' (IAFF) Canadian Operations as Assistant to the General President for Canadian Operations. Working out of the IAFF Canadian Office in Ottawa, he directs the IAFF's federal legislative program and facilitates the delivery of IAFF services to the union's 20,000 Canadian members.



### **Ron MacTavish**

Ron firmly believes that Canada needs a national monument to honour Fallen Canadian firefighters. He has been a volunteer firefighter on PEI for 10 years. He says, "I got into the

fire service late and wish I had done it 20 years ago."



### **Bruce Paradis,**

*Director*



### **David Sheen,**

*Director*



### **David Smith,**

*Director*

David currently serves as Deputy Chief Director, Halifax Regional Fire Training, Operational Support with Halifax

Regional Fire & Emergency Service. He has served 23 years in the fire service. He was born in Cold Lake, Alberta and claims to have lived everywhere and that he was an Air Force brat. He is married to Sandy with 2 girls, Ages 15, 18. He went to Dalhousie University: B.Sc, Bsc Hon. He joined Halifax Fire in 1984 and has loved every minute since.



### **William A. Stewart,**

*Director*

Chief Stewart is a thirty-three year Fire Service veteran having served in the former City of North York Fire Department

for 26 years prior to the amalgamation of the new City of Toronto on January 1, 1998. He has served as an operations fire fighter, senior officer and the Fire Chief since May 1, 2003.

Bill has been actively involved as a member of the Professional Standards Setting Body, Ontario Fire College, in the review of all standards for fire fighter training in Ontario. He is also the Chairman, Fire Apparatus and Equipment Committee, Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada; President, Institution of Fire Engineers (Ontario Branch) as well as an Advisory Board Member of Humber College, Fire Services Program and Durham College, Fire Services Program.

Bill is a graduate of the Ontario Fire College, Technology Diploma Programs, general and advanced levels, Executive Development Program and the Canadian Emergency Preparedness College. He also holds professional designations from the Institution of Fire Engineers M.I.Fire.E; Ontario Municipal Management Institute, Certified Municipal Manager CMMIII, and the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, Chief Fire Officer, CFO designation. Bill is committed to life long learning, and is currently serving as a Board member

for Public Administration and Governance, Ryerson University.



### **Serge Tremblay,**

*Director*

A career firefighter, Mr. Tremblay has worked for numerous fire departments in the past 26 years, starting as a firefighter and working his way up to officer,

Assistant Chief, and, as of November 2004, Fire Chief of Sécurité Incendie Montréal (SIM). When fire departments across the island of Montreal merged in 2002, Mr. Tremblay was assigned the position of Assistant Chief, Administrative and Technical Support for SIM, and became responsible for human, financial, material and computer resources, training, workplace health and safety and tactical strategy. He was later appointed head of the Laval fire department. Over the years, Mr. Tremblay also taught at the Institut de protection contre les incendies du Québec (Quebec Fire Protection Institute), and he is currently Chairman of the Board of École nationale des pompiers du Québec (Quebec Firefighters Academy). He is also President of the Association des chefs en sécurité incendie du Québec (Quebec Association of Fire Chiefs). He holds a degree in education and three university certificates in fire prevention, workplace accident prevention and human resource management.



### **Georges Potvin,**

*Founder Emeritus*

# *Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation*

## *2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Memorial Ceremony*

*September 11, 2005*



Ceremony photographs by James R. Hay,  
Joseph Glover and Vernon Ikeda

A beautiful early fall weekend set the backdrop for the second annual Canadian Fallen Firefighters Memorial Ceremony.

Members of the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation (CFFF) Board of Directors were on hand in Ottawa in order to conduct the Annual Meeting of the Foundation, and met in the historical West Block of the Parliamentary Precinct. A great amount of progress was made in advancing the work of the Foundation, and continuing to build a firm foundation to advance the objectives of the Foundation - details of the tremendous hard work will be found elsewhere in this review, under the various reports of Directors of the Foundation.

The families of the fallen along with firefighters from across the country were soon arriving, and the weekends' activities soon in full swing. Once again, the acclaimed Ottawa Sheraton Hotel served as the headquarters, but firefighters found lodging all over our wonderful capital city. We soon broke down the initial barriers

of being strangers, and before long the stories were flying - from firefighting stories, to the very touching stories of the fallen, and these, once again proved a very poignant reminder of why we were there, and what we are hoping to ultimately accomplish.

A hospitality room served both as a focal point for the weekend activities, sale of commemorative as well as CFFF goods and a place to meet and greet one another. We would like to add a hearty vote of thanks to the volunteers and family members who not only staffed the room, but looked after sales, co-ordination of events, etc. and were essential in making the event the roaring success it was.

This year, Ottawa Fire Services were the honorary hosts, and what an exemplary job they did! Whether helping with transportation, shuttling families around, aiding in the radio co-ordination, etc. - you name it, and they were there. Ottawa Fire Chief Rick Larabie was on hand for the Saturday Night Dinner with the families, as well as giving the opening remarks for the ceremony.

*This year, Ottawa  
Fire Services  
were the honorary  
hosts, and what  
an exemplary  
job they did!*

During the day Saturday, many took the opportunity to visit the land that has been designated by the National Capital Commission as being set aside for the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Memorial, with one family member leaving flowers as a tribute to their fallen. It is an enticing tract of land near the new War Museum, and if one closes their eyes, it is easy to envision the fitting memorial that will one day stand for all to see - a tribute to all those who exhibit the greatest love - that they would lay down their life for their fellow man. Simultaneously, many were busy on the hill reviewing the logistics, and going through the ceremony that would take place the following day.

Speaking of Saturday night, not only did the night provide the opportunity for the Foundation to spend an intimate dinner with the families of the fallen, but it gave many the opportunity to explore and discover downtown Ottawa. The Toronto Fire Services Pipe Band along with many members of the Ontario Fire Services Memorial Pipes and Drums entertained throughout downtown and the market area, much to the delight and enjoyment of all.

Daybreak Sunday saw the preparations begin in earnest on Parliament Hill. Sound Technicians setup speakers and microphones and performed sound checks. Two shiny new Aerials arrived



On behalf of the Ottawa Fire Service, this years honorary host department, I am very pleased to be able to welcome all of you to the 2005 Canadian Fallen Firefighters' Foundation Memorial Ceremony.

Since the beginning of the recorded history of the OFS, from the 1st in 1877 to date, and including all of the municipalities that were amalgamated in 2001, there have been 21 known line of duty deaths recorded here in the City of Ottawa

I have all of their names here with me. For some, the cause of death has been recorded. For others, it has not.

Each and every single one was very important to our Fire Service and to the citizens of this community.

I would like to believe, that the Personal Protective Equipment, Training and Safety Programs that have been developed and implemented over the decades, would have made the difference in some of these cases.

But it seems that just when we think our firefighters are being better protected against risks such as smoke inhalation, tetanus, hepatitis, vehicle collisions, being trapped in building, etc., we are becoming increasingly threatened by the silent / invisible killers such as job-related cancers.

As fire chief, my highest priority has been the health, safety and survival of our firefighters. Firefighting has always been referred to as one of the most dangerous and noble professions.

But no matter how aware we are of those dangers, which surround us daily, future additions to the Fallen Firefighter list are inevitable!

Knowing that, we gather here today to remember, to recognize and to honour our fallen firefighters.

We close ranks to bring us closer to them and their families and friends.

Fallen firefighters shall be immortalized, honoured and never forgotten.

This is a tribute to them! Our brothers and sisters.

Thank you.

*Chief Rick Larabie  
Ottawa Fire Services*





Ladies and gentlemen, guests, fellow firefighters, and honoured families of the fallen, The Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation came into being to respect and honour the sacrifice the men and women of the Canadian Fire Service have made in the line of duty. Their sacrifice may have been sudden and unexpected or the result of illness from exposure to the hostile environment inherent in firefighting. All have given their lives to their local communities and the Nation. Today, we honour the over 800 men and women who have died and, specifically, the 10 firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2004.

The Foundation also exists to serve as a support to the families of the fallen in ways we are even now discovering can be of help.

One of the ways in which we have been endeavouring to assist families is to promote Motion 153 tabled by M.P. Peter Julian, Burnaby-New Westminster. This Motion seeks a Public Service Officers Award and supports the work of the Foundation. As well, M.P. Françoise Boivin, Gatineau, has been a strong supporter of doing positive things for families surviving a line of duty death. We view the work of Parliament on this Motion as a clear opportunity to show how effective Parliament can be when it adopts a non-partisan stance to do the right thing.

The Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation exists to promote firefighter safety and works in partnership with several other Canadian and U.S. organizations, especially the Canadian Association of Fire

Chiefs ably represented by our good friend, Chief Ken Kelly of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation which is represented by Mr. Gordon Routley.

A central aspect of respecting, honouring and never forgetting our fallen is the creation of a National Monument to be built near the new War Museum on LeBreton Flats. As you can all imagine, the resources needed to accomplish this task are enormous. The Foundation is currently engaged in a National effort to secure funds from all Canadian citizens, businesses, governments and the Canadian Fire Service itself.

One of Canada's icons is a curly-haired, young man, unfortunately no longer with us, who believed that if he could convince every Canadian to contribute a dollar, his mission would be a success. If you look immediately behind you, you can see the Memorial to that hero, Terry Fox.

I would say to you, if every Canadian would give just fifty cents, our goal would be reached. We know that with the support of the people here today and the many, many thousands across Canada who believe in honouring our fallen fighters, we shall succeed.

Some of you may wonder when the Foundation Annual Review is going to arrive. Be patient, it is on the way and should be in your hands by the first week in October. We are deeply grateful for the support of the Canadian business community which has purchased advertising in this publication. Your generosity has enabled us to get as far along with present activities as we have. You will be pleased to learn that many thousands of Canadian business people have given to the Foundation in order to support the creation of the Memorial and assist our families.

Finally, may I say thank you to the special people who have made this ceremony work. To Chief Rick Larabie, of the Ottawa Fire Services, go gratitude and thanks for engaging his office in support of the Foundation. To every firefighter from the Ottawa Fire Services who has participated, thank you. We extend our gratitude to our superb friends in the Gatineau Fire Service. To all firefighters from every part of Canada, thank you for each act of kindness and encouragement for the work of the Foundation.

Many of you who are not from Ottawa have never had the need or opportunity to work with the Parliament Hill staff. We have been completely impressed with their work and commitment. Mike Dunlop, Celine Guerin, Robert Kruikemeijer, and Chares Maier and their staffs stand out.

Saying a personal thanks to each individual who has had a role to play would be impossible if we want to be away by Monday, but know that every helper is known and will derive thanks from their own enormous effort.

You will forgive me, I hope, if I mention one person who has been instrumental in fostering the spirit of cooperation and good will which is the hallmark of the fire service the World over and has resulted in today's event. He would not, himself, wish to be mentioned, but all of us who know him are in his debt. That man is Alan Karkkainen of the Ottawa Fire Services.

Although the words just spoken will be forgotten in a few moments, as we continue today's ceremony, we shall all remember those we have come here to honour. We shall do so all of today, tomorrow, and every day. They will never be forgotten as long as the work of the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation continues to support the Canadian Fire Service and all its members.

*Dr. Will Brooks,  
President  
Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation  
Fondation canadienne des pompiers morts en service  
Parliament Hill, Ottawa, Canada  
September 11, 2005*



between which was hung a large Canadian Flag. Georges Potvin's (Director Emeritus of the Foundation) exquisite antique fire truck was soon present, chairs and tables were setup, programmes put in place for distribution, volunteers briefed, and many other logistical requirements tended to - a beehive of activity all necessary in order to make an event such as this a reality.

Nearby, on the grounds of the Supreme Court, firefighters, dignitaries, Bands and Colour / Honour Guards began to arrive, form up and tune up. Once again Ottawa Fire Services took the lead by having their band lead the parade, and by providing the parade marshal, along with coming out in large numbers. The numbers quickly swelled, and the parade was able to be formed into three platoons - one, as previously stated being lead by the Ottawa Fire Band, one by Toronto Fire Services Pipes and Drums, and the other by the Ontario Fire Service Memorial Pipes and Drums.

The time at hand quickly became a reality, and the silent sentries were posted, followed closely by the helmet and cap bearers - the very real presence of those who had fallen watching over us. Soon the pipes and drums could be heard, and as the Peace Tower clock marked the hour of eleven, the

firefighters, bands and colour guards marched to centre stage and the ceremony began.

The ceremony proved to be a very moving, and a very fitting tribute to those who had fallen:

Captain Ernest Paul Wyndham, Firefighter Chad Jerry Schapansky, Platoon Chief Gerald McNally, District Chief Dale F. Long, Firefighter Dustin Douglas William Engel, Captain/Pilot Kerry J. Walchuk, Captain Robert Campbell, Firefighter Brent Hugh Dempsey, Captain John L. MacFarlane and Firefighter Walter Drake

And one by one, as the names were read out, a representative of each family was presented with the new Canadian Fallen Firefighter Medallion as a token of our undying respect to the ultimate sacrifice paid by their loved ones. The Sudbury Firefighters choir sang the Firefighter's prayer and Bring Him Home from Les Mis, and of course, the ceremony was also marked by the playing of the Last Post, Reveille, a lament on the Pipes, the lowering and raising of the Canadian Flag, Amazing Grace, and the sounding on the Memorial Bell of Return to Quarters. The ceremony ended with a march past of the participants, and was followed by a reception in the main block of the Parliament Building.







Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Guests, Fellow Firemen and Dear Families of the Deceased, the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation has been formed to honour, with all the respect due to them, the ultimate sacrifice made by the Canadian firefighters. These tragedies happen suddenly and unexpectedly or following a disease due to exposure to hazardous products during the work of firefighting. They have given their lives for their communities and for their country. So today we honour the more than 800 men and women who have died in the line of duty, especially the ten firemen who died in service in 2004.

Another goal of the Foundation is to provide support to families of the fallen.

One way is to promote Motion 153 tabled by Peter Julian, MP for Burnaby-New Westminster. This motion was made to secure financial compensation for public service officers and support the work of the Foundation. We should also mention that another MP, Françoise Boivin of Gatineau, firmly supports the positive work we have done for the families of fallen firefighters. We believe that this motion is an opportunity for our elected representatives to show how effective parliament is by adopting a non-partisan position to do what is right.

Another goal of the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation is to promote occupational safety. To that end, we are working jointly with a number of Canadian and American organizations, specifically the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, represented today by our friend and colleague, Chief Ken Kelly of

Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, and for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, represented by Gordon Routley.

One of our primary objectives to honour and immortalize our fallen firefighters is to erect a national monument near the new War Museum on the LeBreton Flats. As you can imagine, the resources required to make this project a reality are immense. The Foundation is currently committed to a national effort along with Canadian citizens and businesses, different levels of government and Canadian Fire Departments in general to raise the funds needed to put up this monument.

One of our Canadian heroes, a young man with curly hair who is unfortunately no longer among us, believed that his mission would be successful if he could convince each Canadian to give a dollar to his cause. If you look directly behind you, you will see the monument erected in honour of Terry Fox.

We would say to you that, if each Canadian donated only 50 cents, our goal would be reached. We know that with the support of the people here today and the thousands of people across Canada who believe in honouring our fallen firefighters, we will succeed.

Perhaps some of you are wondering when the Annual Review of the Foundation will be available. Be patient – we plan to send it out the first week of October. We truly appreciate the support of the Review's sponsors. Their generosity has enabled the Foundation to be where it is today. We would like to point out that several thousand Canadian companies have already contributed toward the creation of the monument and the support of the families affected.

I would like to thank the outstanding people who have made this ceremony possible. I thank Chief Rick Larabie of the Ottawa Fire Department for his commitment to the Foundation. Thanks to all the firefighters at the Ottawa Fire Department. We would also like to show our gratitude to our friends of the Gatineau Fire Department. And thanks to all firefighters throughout Canada for your solidarity and encouragement regarding the Foundation's work.

Thanks to the staff on Parliament Hill for their dedication, namely Mike Dunlop, Celine Guerin, Robert Kruikeмейer and Charles Maier, and their teams. It would be impossible for me to thank each and everyone here individually, but you should know that your help and support are appreciated.

We would like to give a special thanks to Alan Karkkainen of the Ottawa Fire Department who was able to foster cooperation and goodwill, the true trademark of fire departments throughout the world and who helped make this ceremony possible.

In closing, we will remember today, tomorrow and everyday those for whom we have come together this day. They will not be forgotten as long as the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation continues to support all members of Canadian Fire Services.

*Gary Barnes  
Vice-President  
Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation  
Parliament Hill, Ottawa Canada  
September 11, 2005*



I would take this opportunity to thank all those who were involved in any manner in this wonderful Memorial weekend - your efforts in helping to make all of this a reality are greatly appreciated - to try to list everyone would be an injustice, since, most surely, someone would be missed. THANK-YOU ALL.

We encourage everyone to; stay up to date with foundation happenings by visiting our website at [www.cfff.ca](http://www.cfff.ca), consider making a donation to help make monument a reality and to please join us in Ottawa September 10th, 2006.

I, for one know that when I am tired, and the urge to put off Foundation work comes, all one needs to do is recollect the weekend events, and the families' stories and the impetus is soon there to energize your efforts. This monument will become a reality - possibly not as soon as some of us hope, but it will most certainly happen because it is the fitting thing to do, and is the legacy of all firefighters.

*David Sheen  
Public Information Officer  
Toronto Fire Services*

In September of 2005, I attended the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation Ceremony in Ottawa, Ontario. I was very proud to be chosen as a representative for Nunavut to attend this function. I was also very thankful for the opportunity to participate in such an event that I felt so strongly for as I had been a firefighter for the Iqaluit Fire Department in Nunavut for three years. It was a great privilege to partake in the ceremony as an alter guard along with three other chosen firefighters from across Canada. I was so proud to be carrying the Inuit traditional harpoon.

The ceremony was presented well and very respectfully. I met a lot of people and shared a great deal of experiences that I was excited to bring back to Nunavut to share with my family and friends. I am looking forward to attending next year's function in Ottawa and it would be nice to see more people given the opportunity to attend as well.

I would like to personally like to thank the Iqaluit Fire Department, the Iqaluit Firefighters Association, the Nunavut Fire Marshal's Office and the Canadian Fallen Firefighters foundation for letting me attend such an honorable occasion.

Thank-you,

*Jerry Anilniliak  
Iqaluit Fire Department*



photo credit: photographs in this article were taken by James H. Hay, Joseph Glover and Vernon Ikeda



On behalf of the International Association of Fire Fighters and our members in Canada, I express our deepest sympathies to the families and friends of the fire fighters whose memories we are honouring today.

The bravery they showed is an example to all of us, and the sacrifice they made on behalf of all Canadians. To be a fire fighter is to know that every call you answer could be your last or that you could be exposed to deadly toxic materials that will take years off your lifespan.

Every fire fighter across Canada is aware of these dangers and prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of Canadians if called to do so.

To honour those who have died in the line of duty is one of the most important things we can do as fire fighters.

*Jim Lee  
Assistant to the General President for Canadian Operations  
International Association of Fire Fighters*



Ladies and Gentlemen, Invited Guests and Brother and Sister firefighters. Thank-you for taking time to pay respects to our Fallen Brothers. Let me thank Dr. Brooks and the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation for their invitation to speak here today. It is indeed an honor.

The great Italian composer, Puccini, was dying and was aware of his deteriorating health. Faced with his impending death, he decided to write one last great opera as his legacy. However, as time passed, he became increasingly weaker and didn't know if he could finish his work before time ran out; so he decided to call in his friends for a meeting. All his friends were present when Puccini told them of his poor health and that if he should die before he finished writing this last great opera he wanted them to finish it.

As fate would have it, Puccini did not finish his opera before he died and his friends, as they had promised, finished the great composer's work for him.

When the finished opera was to be played for the first time, Arturo Toscanini directed the Milan Philharmonic Orchestra personally. Milan's Music Hall was filled to capacity and when the orchestra came to the exact spot where Puccini finished writing, Toscanini brought the music to a dead stop. The audience went wild with applause. After the shouts of bravo had died down, Toscanini continued until the end of the piece that had been written by Puccini's friends which was greeted by an even greater ovation.

Like Puccini's opera, we are all engaged in finishing the work of those we honor today now that they are gone. That's why we celebrate their lives. It is up to us, the ones left behind, to continue what they started. Their impact on our lives is really their story. And one that has many more chapters to be written - by all of us here.

Now, I'm not so presumptuous to claim I personally knew those we honor today but, I know men like them. Men like pilot Kerry Walchuk, whose devotion to duty led directly to the accident that took his life while fighting forest fires. And while it's true I didn't know Volunteer Firefighters Brent Dempsey, Chad Schapansky, and 19 year-old Dustin 'Dusty' Engel. I do know dedicated firefighters like them who share Brent, Chad, and Dusty's deep passion for the outdoors. And, veteran firefighters Gerry McNally, Dale Long, Walter Drake, John MacFarlane, Paul Wyndham, and Robert 'Blackie' Campbell, all of whom succumbed to job related cancers; but not before all of them gave seminars in courage.

Yes, I know, and work with, men like our honorees, good men; men who are loyal and brave; men who go to work every shift and give one hundred percent of their time and energy making our communities safe. So for all the Brents, Chads, and Dustins who cherish our great outdoors; keep it up. For all the Gerrys, Dales, Walters, Johns, Pauls, and Roberts, who volunteer in Employee Assistance Programs and the Firefighters Association, and at Community events; keep it up. And for all the Kerrys, who always put duty above all; keep it up.

When I was doing research for this eulogy, I couldn't help but notice that in every obituary I reviewed, there were always two dates separated by a dash. The day these men were born, and the day each died. What struck me as odd was the fact that there seemed to be an emphasis on the dates themselves.

I like to look at this a little differently. What most people miss unfortunately is when a loved one is remembered, it's not the dates that are important. It's that little dash between those dates: Because it's that dash that represents their lives. It's what each of these fallen men did with their 'dash', their allotted time, that is important. That's what deserves emphasis. And, from what I learned when I was writing this speech, all of these men lived life to the fullest.

I can only imagine the heartbreak involved in coming here today and recalling your time with these men. All of them left behind scores of friends, family, and colleagues whom they loved deeply. Judging by the esteem in which these men were held by all of those whose lives they touched, I thank them for setting the standard for the rest of us to live up to, and showing us the way.

Thomas Von Essen, the Fire Commissioner of the City of New York when 9-11 occurred, has just finished writing a book about the impact that terrible event had on the men and woman of his department. The book is entitled Strong of Heart, an obvious reference to how he described the firefighters who were killed that day. In my view, these men we remember here today go beyond that phrase. Not only were they strong of heart, more importantly, they made our hearts strong.

Rest easy, fellas.

Terry Brennan  
Ottawa Fire Services















# *The Fallen Honoured at the 2005 Ceremony*

**A**t the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Memorial Ceremony in 2005 we honoured ten firefighters. They served their communities throughout Canada. They ranged in age from late teens to mid sixties. They ranged in experience from a few months on the job to full careers. In every case being a firefighter was more than just a job. Each of those whom we honoured loved their life as a firefighter and served their communities with passionate pride. They will not be forgotten. In a small way we remember them here.



**Captain John Lee MacFarlane**  
Scarborough Fire Department  
Scarborough, Ontario  
January 30, 1935 – August 29, 1996

John, a dedicated firefighter, was, at the same time, a loving husband, an exceptional father and an adoring “Poppy”. John was always busy, “Mr. Fixit”, a handyman’s handyman and was the neighbourhood “quick drive to the hospital.” He enjoyed baseball, golfing, water fights and a firefighter’s mad match of ping-pong.

Family was John’s priority and he considered his crew to be part of his family. He joined the Scarborough Fire Department in 1960 and rose to the rank of Captain. He returned to the job he loved a number of times despite numerous health challenges.

This “country before country was cool” cowboy lived his life to the fullest and treasured those around him. John will never be gone because he lives on in the memory of his family and friends.



**Firefighter Walter Morris Drake**  
York Fire Department  
York, Ontario  
June 23, 1929 – October 07, 2001

Walter was a proud, dedicated and loving husband and father. Born 23 June 1929 in Scotland, Walter served with the British Navy before coming to Canada in 1951.

He joined the Borough of York Fire Department in 1959 and retired in 1989 before amalgamation with the City of

Toronto. He was presented with the John Koci Firefighter of the Year award in 1988 for demonstrating exemplary performance in all aspects of a firefighter’s job. The ever cheerful Walter took great pride passing on his skills to the younger firefighters.

Walter’s love for music was shared with everyone he met. There was not an instrument he could not get a tune from, but he would forever be dedicated to the bagpipes.

Walter loved challenges and was a master of many. His hobbies included woodworking and model ship building. He loved sharing his wisdom with family and friends.

Walter left us with an abundance of glorious memories, and songs in our hearts and will be sadly missed. He leaves his legacy with his wife Nancy, his nine children and their spouses and twenty-six loving grandchildren.



**Captain Brent Hugh Dempsey**  
Youngstown Volunteer  
Fire Department & Special  
Areas Fire Department  
Youngstown, Alberta  
January 01, 1961 – September 08, 2003

As I reflect on the past year, even though it has been one of loss, sorrow, adjustment, and growth, I realized that I have learned many things. I knew that my late husband, Brent, had signed up to be a volunteer fireman in 1989, but I did not fully understand the depth of what that meant. But as I have grieved, reflected, analyzed, and lived since September 7, 2003, I began to put into perspective the concept of volunteerism. As I thought about how to sum up the efforts of a volunteer firefighter, I felt that the word respect was appropriate, so I have built my own definition using the word “respect” as an acronym.



## **RESPECT**

*Real people caring for others in crisis*

*Everything is laid on the line*

*Showing unconditional love*

*Prepared to sacrifice him/herself without reservation*

*Ever praying for safety and protection from harm*

*Caring about the world around them*

*Taking risks and being humble to the needs of anyone*

I feel very fortunate to have had someone with such outstanding qualities as these to love and be loved by. It was a true blessing. This is the exact kind of unconditional love that is written about in the Bible. In John 15:12-13, it says:

*"My command to you is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."*

I believe this verse was written for all people who choose to serve others, whether as a firefighter, a rescuer, a police officer, and the list goes on. I have found comfort in this passage. My thoughts and prayers are with each of you as you continue to dedicate your lives to serving your community in such an honorable manner.

*Diane Dempsey*

## **Captain Ernest Paul Wyndham**

**Edmonton Fire Rescue Services**

**Edmonton, Alberta**

**May 2, 1951 – January 18, 2004**

Paul Wyndham was originally from Carseland, in southern Alberta. He met his future wife, Pat, in high school in Drumheller. He joined the Edmonton Fire Department in 1974. In 1976, he and three other firefighters were caught in a flashover fighting a fire at a discotheque. Two of the men, Ralph Hopp and Murray Clark, died as a result. Captain Wyndham and Captain Dave Riley were burned from the flashover but survived because they were closer to the door. His wife, Pat said, "He was burned very badly on the neck, arms and legs. He spent six weeks in hospital."

Paul was a dedicated firefighter who enjoyed his job and the camaraderie of his brothers. When Paul was diagnosed with leukemia, he looked at it as just another problem to be conquered. When he was able to lend his help to the fight for workers compensation for job-related cancers, he tackled that with his usual enthusiasm and dedication.

Paul was the first firefighter in Alberta to win full compensation from the Workers Compensation Board for

work-related cancer. While undergoing cancer treatments, he was at the legislature with fellow firefighters to see the bill passed that made firefighters automatically eligible for workers compensation for seven different types of cancer. He was very proud to have helped make a difference. Paul was a wonderful father and husband. He was very proud of his boys, Colin and Carson, and they were so very proud of him.

"He didn't like a lot of attention on him," his wife Pat said. She remembers a visit with him on his final day at University Hospital. "He said he loved me and I said I loved him."

Richard Magnus, the Calgary Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, who sponsored the legislation, said of Paul, "You only had to talk to him for a moment and you knew you were doing the right thing. The courage just shone out of this guy." "Paul Wyndham wasn't a hero because he fought for firemen's rights," Magnus said. "He was a hero because he was a fireman."

Paul's wife, Pat, remembers him this way:

"Paul was never idle, he loved to be busy and the boys and I were always right in the middle of it all. One of Paul's favorite past-times was playing around on his tractor, in the summer that meant plowing the fields and in the winter that meant clearing the snow off the driveway; this was his favorite time of year.

"Paul and the boys spent many wonderful hours in the garage creating and building everything from trailers to haul motorbikes to wondrous automotive inventions. Paul loved to be involved in the boys many activities and interests.

"With Colin that was traveling across western Canada and into the U.S. to attend Dirt Bike races. Paul was his mechanic, Pit Boss, and race advisor. With Carson it was traveling to Red Deer and Lethbridge to attend many concerts and shows that Carson was involved in as he worked his way toward his degree in Music. One of Paul's proudest moments was watching Carson receive his Music Degree.

"I know that although Paul is not with us in person he will be the proudest angel in heaven when Colin receives his Business Degree this coming June. Paul was not just a husband and father he was our best friend and we miss him everyday."

## **Chad Jerry Schapansky**

**Clearwater Volunteer Fire Department**

**Clearwater, British Columbia**

**January 21, 1981 – March 29, 2004**

Chad was born in Langley, B.C. on January 21, 1981 and lived in Abbotsford, B.C. during his early years.

At the age of twelve in 1993, Chad, his mother, step-father, brother and sister moved to a ranch in 100 Mile House, B.C. He attended Peter Skeene Ogden Secondary School in 100 Mile House, graduating in 1999. While in high school, Chad had the opportunity of fighting forest fires, and fire fighting became a passion for him.

During the summer of 1999, Chad moved to Clearwater to work for his father, and in the summer of 2000 after graduating, his girlfriend Nicole joined him. He became a member of the Clearwater Volunteer Fire Department. He was always one of the first to arrive at the fire hall for duty when his pager went off and earned the nickname 'The Axe'.

In 2003, Chad along with other members of the Clearwater Volunteer Fire Department helped fight the forest fires that sweep through Barrier and the surrounding area nearly losing his life when a wall of fire came at them. Chad was able to drive them out through the flames to safety.

Chad was a very out-going, kind-hearted, fun-loving soul who made many friends along the way. He was always there with a big smile, willing to lend a helping hand when anyone needed him, expecting nothing in return. Chad loved the outdoors; fishing, hunting, dirt biking and snowmobiling were some of the things he loved to do with great passion.

In the early morning hours on March 29, 2004, Chad made the ultimate sacrifice, losing his life while performing his duty as a firefighter.

Chad, who had a heart of gold, will always be lovingly remembered and greatly missed by all his family and many, many friends.



### **Platoon Chief Gerald McNally**

**Sault Ste. Marie Fire Services  
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario  
April 3, 2004**

35-year veteran Gerry McNally, who began his career as a firefighter in January 1961 and retired as a Platoon Chief in January 1995, was directly involved in the Sault Ste. Marie Professional Firefighters Association for which he served in several positions. He was deeply involved with the Employee Assistance Program for many years and provided a shoulder, an ear and advice to his fellow firefighters,

with any problems they should bring, whether job related traumas or personal troubles.

In July of 2003 he fell ill and in August was diagnosed with a brain tumor that has been recognized by the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board as an occupational illness. Though he was retired when he died his passing is considered the Sault's first line-of-duty death.

Gerry left behind his dear wife Monica and beloved six children, Lori, Sarah, Sean, James, Mike, and Holly.

### **District Chief Dale F. Long**

**London Fire Services  
London, Ontario  
April 16, 2004**

Dale Long became a firefighter for the City of London in 1962. He reportedly sat on the steps of City Hall until they had no choice but to hire him. An extremely diligent firefighter, Dale participated in training programs to advance his abilities and passed all of the tests given to him. The department promoted him based upon his abilities. His wife, Gwen, said, "He loved his job very much. He was proud of his uniform."

Dale was a leader with the Optimist Club of Komoka, Ontario. He would volunteer for anything asked of him. He spent much time helping his father, Walter Charles Long, with construction projects in the area of Horseshoe Lake. Dale was an avid fisherman and hunter and a model citizen.

He leaves behind his wife, Gwen, children, Ruth, Debbie, and Christine, and seven grand children. His family remembers him lovingly. He made friends easily and he is remembered fondly by his brother firefighters and the community he served.



### **Dustin Engel**

**Sahtlam Fire Department  
Sahtlam, British Columbia  
August 23, 1984 – June 20, 2004**

Not just an everyday nineteen year old, Dustin could walk down the road and talk to everyone from the guys at the Esso gas station every night to the ladies down at the bingo hall

to the little kids who looked up to him in the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program. A caring young man, he turned out to be a great role model for the kids at school and around town.

When the word “firefighter” came up in a conversation you had to watch out because Dustin would have everything to say about being one. He loved it. Dustin demonstrated unbelievable dedication to being a firefighter. He proved to everyone that this was his one true passion by showing up in turnout gear, helmet and all for his graduation ceremonies for the class of 2004.

“I recall when this young man first came to me, thinking what am I going to do with him?” said Sahtlam Fire Chief, Mike Lees. Usually the first to the fire hall on training nights, Dustin was eager to learn all there was about firefighting and disappointed that he wasn’t trained to answer first responder calls. “Dustin was a decent, personable young man. So much potential is wasted,” said Lees. “Truly a fine young man has fallen.”

### **Pilot/Captain Kerry James Walchuk**

Canadian Air-Crane  
Clearwater, British Columbia  
August 25, 2004

Kerry Walchuk, a captain with Canadian Air-Crane, was considered among the elite flying sky cranes. He and a French co-pilot were killed fighting forest fires in Corsica. They had just dumped water on the blaze when their aircraft went down in a vineyard.

“All his life, he dreamed of being a helicopter pilot,” said Gina Walchuk, his sister-in-law. “The Corsica news says they died for their country.”

Walchuk and his co-pilot were recognized posthumously in France with medals for bravery and honour at a ceremony that included his father, Joe, and nephew, Dustin, Gina’s son.

Kerry’s skills as a helicopter pilot had taken him from logging to firefighting — and to being made one of the youngest flyers in Canada to be made a captain. Sky crane flyers are a small, tight-knit group who often see each other in many different locales. But sometimes they are needed close to home. Walchuk was the lone sky

crane pilot working on the Kelowna wildfires in the summer of 2003.

Kerry started flying in 1990, first in logging. Then he became recognized as one of the best and was offered a job with Erickson Air-Crane in 1995. Air cranes are dragonfly-like helicopters, with long, spindly “spines” that are used in everything from putting the top on the CN Tower in Toronto to lifting away wreckage from the World Trade Center in New York City.

Kerry loved living in Clearwater, British Columbia. He enjoyed fishing, snowmobiling, his vintage car and spending time with his family and friends. He was well known for his sense of humor, teasing and his practical jokes.

### **Captain Robert A. Campbell**

Toronto Fire Department  
(formerly North York Fire Department)  
Toronto, Ontario  
November 23rd, 2004

Captain Robert (Blackie) Campbell lost his battle with leukemia on Tuesday November, 23rd, 2004.

Bob was the youngest of 18 children and he was the seventh Son of a seventh Son. After serving in the RCAF he applied to the Fire and Police Department and received acceptance from both Departments the same day. His first choice was always the Fire Department. He started with the North York Fire Department on August 13, 1962 and retired on May 31, 1993 at the rank of captain.

Bob was a homebody and his greatest joys in life were his wife, Sharon, his children, Rob, Cathy, Todd, Jennifer and Blair and his grandchildren. Bob was such an animal lover when he saw a picture of a black lab named Shadow in the local paper he decided he would check him out to see if he was a purebred. Shadow was Bob’s shadow and he was such a comfort to him during his illness.

Bob was a joker and he gave back by supporting and making the other patients and staff at the cancer clinic pass the days with laughter.

He is missed every day by those who love him.



# Lieut. Rolland Lapointe Yvon Cyr Paul Dolbec

May 15, 1981  
Montreal Fire Department

**A**t 8 p.m. on Friday May 15, 1981 Montreal firefighters responded to a fire in a seven-storey office building in Old Montreal. The fire was well involved on the top floor of the building at St. Pierre St. and des Recollets St. and required a five-alarm response. As crews battled the fire from defensive positions around 11 p.m. the top three floors suddenly collapsed into the narrow street killing the three firefighters working there.

Lieut. Roland Lapointe was forty-nine years old, married and had three daughters. He had been on the MFD for 28 years.

Yvon Cyr, 44, a twenty-year veteran firefighter was survived by his two sons and wife.

Paul Dolbec was thirty-four years old and survived by his wife and two young children. He had been on the fire department for 13 years.

On May 19, 1981 over three thousand firefighters marched behind the three pumpers carrying the caskets to Notre Dame Church a few blocks from the scene of the tragedy. After the funeral service Yvon Cyr, who had been cremated, and Paul Dolbec were buried in Cote-des-Neiges Cemetery. Rolland Lapointe was buried in Montreal East Cemetery. It was the worst line of duty incident in the Montreal Fire Service since three firefighters died in 1963.



## GREATER SUDBURY FIREFIGHTER CHOIR

**I**n 1988 a group of firefighters with the Greater Sudbury Fire Services started going door-to-door singing Christmas carols to raise money for a local telethon. This was a small informal group doing their bit to help their community once a year.

In 2001 things changed. Leo Frappier, Public Safety Officer with the Greater Sudbury Fire Services, said, "After September 11, I wanted to turn our singing group into a professional choir. We wanted to do more to help more people by becoming more organized, more professional, and getting out there more."

In January, 2002, the choir that had sung carols door-to-door, consisting of twelve men, performed publicly as the Sudbury Firefighter Choir for the first time. Since then the choir has grown. There are about twenty-five members, male and female, who are all firefighters in Greater Sudbury.

"Our only restriction is that you must be an active firefighter to be a member," Frappier said, "We're the only choir in Canada that has only firefighters as members. Only our director, Jeff Wiseman, is not a firefighter. He's a professional music teacher."

The choir travels extensively and performs over forty times a year. It has raised more than \$80,000 in the past few years and all of the money raised goes to charities. The choir has performed for the Fire College, at fire chief's conferences, and for the Governor-General.

The choir has produced a CD is titled *In the Line of Fire*. It features songs relevant to the fire service.

During the 2005 Memorial Ceremony the choir performed "The Canadian National Anthem", "The Firefighter's Prayer" and "Bring Him Home" with a solo performance by choir director, Jeff Wiseman. The choir's performance moved the audience greatly and added tremendously to the ceremony.



Photographs by Joseph Glover

# A HISTORY OF THE TORONTO FIRE SERVICES PIPES AND DRUMS BAND

The history of the Toronto Fire Services (TFS) Pipes and Drums Band is a relatively recent one with the concept of a band being born just after Toronto's amalgamation in 1998. Firefighter Andrew Cunningham initially introduced the idea anticipating that a Celtic style formal 'pipe band' would be a great asset to our organization, especially at official TFS events and ceremonies. Most of the world's larger urban fire departments have a pipes and drums band.

Once the initiative was agreed upon, Firefighter Cunningham distributed flyers throughout all of the fire stations and office locations announcing an intent to form Toronto's first ever pipe band. By July of that year, former Fire Chief Alan Speed authorized a 12-member band and the first of numerous band practices was held at the Toronto Fire Academy. Deputy Chief William Stewart was appointed to oversee the band. Although just a small band in the beginning, they have developed a reputation as a solid pipes and drums band with a quality sound.

On August 7th, 1998 the band was able to provide its first official presence, with Captain John Semple piping, at a department funeral for Acting District Chief Steve Black. Their first official parade did not occur until October 1998 in recognition of Fire Prevention Week. Band members, dressed in borrowed kilts and mismatched tartans, marched in downtown Toronto from City Hall to Metro Hall. Later that month the first new pieces of the band's musical equipment were purchased, including a bass drum and case, a harness and sticks.

On February 23, 1999 the Pipes and Drums Band attended the Toronto Fire Services Rescue & Merit and Long Service Awards Ceremony at Toronto City Hall Council Chambers, another major achievement in the band's development. At this official event, which was attended by the Honourable Hilary Weston, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Piper John Semple piped a very impressive Vice-Regal Salute solo.

As every good pipe band should have one, the TFS Pipes and Drums Band requested an official tartan late in 1999. Through the combined efforts of the band, senior staff, and the staff of Burnett's and Struth Kilts, the tartan was designed within just six weeks and represents many different aspects of the Toronto Fire Services through its varied colours: red represents fire, blue represents water and Firefighters, white represents Senior Officers and the light that finds its way through the smoke, gold represents Staff Officers and ties in with the gold on our shoulder flash, and the black background represents our fallen comrades. By December 1999 the band had received its approval from Headquarters for the final version of the tartan, which was to be made by Lochcarron of Scotland, and fifteen kilts were ordered. Eventually the tartan would be registered with the Scottish Tartan Authority as 'Toronto Fire Services Tartan' Registration #003044. Official cap badges were to be added to the uniform later on, as well as navy blue patrol jackets.



Photograph by Captain Mike Strapko, Toronto Fire Services, Public Information Officer

Always willing to show their support for their brothers and sisters within other emergency services organizations, the Pipes and Drums Band paraded as a part of a mass band for the funeral of Toronto Police Constable Laura Ellis who died in the line of duty in February 2002. Also marching on that day were Toronto Police, Peel Police, York Region Police, O.P.P. and Ottawa Carleton Police.

More accomplishments occurred two years in a row in August 2004 and 2005 at the Canadian National Exhibition where the band won third place in the 83rd Annual Warriors Day Parade, and took 'The Honourable Lincoln Alexander Pipe Band Award' for pipe bands with fewer than 20 members. The Warrior's Day Parade is the longest running veterans' parade in the free world, and has been a part of the CNE tradition for the past 83 years; our band takes great pride in proudly representing the Toronto Fire Services and our courageous veterans.

In August 2005, the band once again took top honours at a parade in Phelps, New York where they won First Place Pipe Band and Best Overall Band.

On September 12, 2004 the Pipes and Drums Band participated in the first Canadian Fallen Firefighters Memorial Ceremony in Ottawa at which Toronto Fire Services stood as the Honourary Host Department. On September 11, 2005 The Band again participated in the national memorial ceremony.

Since 1998, the band has participated in 450 engagements, 65 alone in 2005. Of those 65 engagements, 45 were full band performances, and the rest were solos. They have shown their continued support at TFS Line of Duty Death funerals, seminars, graduations, parades, charities, municipal, provincial and federal Firefighter commemorations, memorials, Canada Day celebrations, and Highland Games events. Currently the band consists of 24 playing members, most of whom are TFS Staff, although we do have quite a few members from other emergency services organizations as well. In addition, the band includes five Learners.

The TFS Pipes and Drums Band is a fully department sponsored band that takes its responsibilities very seriously. In order to further develop the band, they are always looking for new and enthusiastic members to join their team, and band members are always willing to provide instruction for new pipers and drummers. Every Thursday evening the band meets at 1900 hours at the Toronto Fire Academy. If you have a willingness to learn, or if you would like to book the band to perform at your event, please contact them at [torontofire\\_pipesanddrums@hotmail.com](mailto:torontofire_pipesanddrums@hotmail.com) or visit their WebPages at the City of Toronto's website at [www.toronto.ca/fire/pipes/](http://www.toronto.ca/fire/pipes/)

*Marla Friebe*  
*South Command Fire Prevention*



Photograph by Joseph Glover

# The Database of Fallen Canadian Firefighters



*Bill Williams*

The Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation (CFFF) has developed a database with the names of just over eight hundred Canadian firefighters who have fallen in the line of duty. It is my duty to maintain that database.

When we started the Foundation we knew that at some point we would compile such a list. When the time came, we did not go looking to start the list, it came looking for us.

We were in the process of collecting address information for fire departments in anticipation of promoting the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation to the Canadian Fire Service. This was about two years before the incorporation of Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation. I was searching around the Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services' site and found their list of Vancouver firefighters who had died in the line of duty. I put the search for address information on the back burner and started making up the database for the Fallen.

The database software I have is Microsoft Access so that's what I use. This comes with many database templates for many purposes. It does not come with a template for keeping records of those who have died in the line of duty. I started the application, clicked on the File-New button and opened the design view and got busy.

With the basic design completed it was time to enter the information from the list of fallen firefighters I had found on the Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services web site. The first name that went into the database was John Smalley, a driver who died on June 5, 1893. He had fallen from the horse drawn engine he was driving to a fire. He was twenty-five and had joined the department in March the year before. According to my records, Vancouver has lost thirty-five firefighters in line of duty deaths.

A short time after that Robert Kirkpatrick and his book, *Their Last Alarm* came on the radar. Robert, who is now CFFF Vice President for the Ontario region, had done extensive research into collecting the names and the stories of those firefighters in Ontario who have died in the line of duty. It would be well worth your time to read his book.

Their Last Alarm was a major resource for building the list of the fallen. At this time there are over three hundred

Ontario firefighters who have died in the line of duty listed in the database. As I recall I must have spent some thirty hours entering the Ontario names.

After the Ontario records were completed the three names of the members of the Canadian Corps of Fire Fighters were added. Then came four names from New Brunswick after which a list of fallen firefighters from the Province of Québec was found and added. Bit by bit the list grew.

After the CFFF had been incorporated, we started its web site [www.cfff.ca](http://www.cfff.ca). As the web site developed we reached a point where we felt it was time to make the list of the Fallen available on the site. Our Web Manager, James R. Hay of Hay-Net Networks, helped greatly with adapting our existing database so that it could be used on the CFFF web site.

It is not a complete list. I doubt very much we will ever find all the names of all the firefighters in Canada who have died in the line of duty. From doing an analysis of the information we now have, I believe that we are not anywhere close to having all the names.

The CFFF, after extensive consultation with all of the CFFF board members and many members of the fire service have developed a definition for a firefighter line of duty death and an application form to be used to add a firefighter's name to the database. The definition was accepted for CFFF use by the members of the board by an electronic ratification shortly after the annual general meeting in 2005.

Board members are in the process of verifying the names on the list of the fallen according to that definition. The database will be the source of the names that will be used in connection with the Canadian Firefighters Memorial monument. We want to ensure that the list is as accurate as possible.

You can access the definition and the application form for download at the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation web site. As a matter of interest, the list of the fallen is the most visited part of the CFFF web site. Copies of the database are kept on several computers in different locations across Canada. This is our insurance against losing the list.

We encourage everyone to visit [www.cfff.ca](http://www.cfff.ca) and view the list of the Fallen. The list can be accessed in French or English either in order by last name or by the date of death. If you believe you know of a Fallen Firefighter not listed who you think should be listed, please, download and use the form titled "Firefighter Line of Duty Death Application for CFFF Recognition."

# History of LeBreton Flats

*The location of the Canadian Firefighters Memorial*



- 1 - Canadian Firefighters Memorial / Monument commémoratif des pompiers canadiens
- 2 - Proposed Cultural Institution / Établissement culturel proposée
- 3 - Canadian War Museum / Musée Canadien de la Guerre

OSR  
Cirelli

The new Canadian Firefighters Memorial will be built in the LeBreton Flats area of Ottawa in the Nation's Capitol Region. This area has great significance to the fire related history of Ottawa.

The LeBreton Flats lie just to the west of Parliament Hill and were settled in the early 1800s by Europeans who set up businesses including a tavern to serve travellers along the Ottawa River. In 1820, a retired army captain, John LeBreton, bought the land as an investment opportunity. Accused of land speculation, LeBreton alienated authorities, and the community did not take root as quickly as he hoped. His name, however, was attached to the area and is still in use today.



## *History of LeBreton Flats*

By the 1850's, however, it became established as an area of industry due to its proximity to the Chaudiere Falls on the Ottawa River, a source of power. Initial use included lumber and heavy timber production, followed by CPR freight marshaling yards and light industry attracted by E. B. Eddy's hydroelectric plant. While initially treed, the area was cleared and grew quickly into a well-established community including homes of the working class and timber tycoons. The year 1874 saw construction of a pumping station and fire station #1 on Queen St. near Pooley's Bridge, the eastern entrance to the flats from the downtown area.

The Canadian Firefighters Memorial will be located within 100 metres of where Captain John Lowry of the Ottawa Fire Department was killed in the line of duty in 1896. Shortly before 2 o'clock on Wednesday August 12, 1896 the Ottawa Fire Department, including the hose reel from Station 7 on Somerset Street, responded to an alarm from Box 23 for the high risk Bronson and Weston Mill on Chaudiere Island in the Ottawa River.

With the regular driver at home having lunch, Captain John Lowry took the reins of the 2100-pound horse drawn hose reel and headed down Bridge Street (now Booth St.) toward the river. As the hose reel approached Duke Street at about 10 miles per hour it struck a deep hole in the road where the pavement ended. This bump threw Captain Lowry off his seat and into the air. He let go of the reins, landing on the side of the seat for a moment, and then fell forward beside the horse. Before he could move a wheel passed over his chest.

He was carried into the American House Hotel for medical aid but was beyond help and died from severe internal injuries minutes later. The hotel was located across the street from where the new War Museum is today and very close to the spot of the proposed Firefighters Memorial.

The Lebreton Flats area was also the location of one of the country's worst conflagrations. At 10:30 on the morning of April 26, 1900 a chimney fire broke out in the north end of Hull. Fanned by strong winds the fire spread from roof to roof and in no time the entire neighbourhood was burning. The Hull Fire Department was overwhelmed and put in a call to Ottawa for help.

At around noon the fire reached the river near Chaudiere Island and began to consume the mills and large piles of lumber along its bank. Using the bridge linking the two cities as a fuse the fire crossed over and began to consume the great quantities of lumber stored on the island and in the LeBreton Flats area. With the entire City of Ottawa now threatened, the two brigades called for outside help from Montreal, Brockville, Peterborough, Smith's Falls and Toronto. Montreal sent an engine, hose reel and eight men, making the trip in just under two hours. The fire, however, destroyed 1,300 buildings in Hull and levelled most of the buildings in the Flats area before spreading southeast throughout Ottawa towards Dow's Lake destroying 1,400 buildings and killing seven.

A dramatic stand was made by firefighters and militia in the flats area near the exact spot the monument will be located beside the aqueduct. Aided by the natural barrier of the escarpment, located behind today's monument location, firefighters prevented the spread of the fire eastward into the downtown area by protecting the pumping station at Pooley's Bridge, which supplied most of their water for the fight. By



"1880, hose reel in front of Station 1. Rookie firefighter John Lowry is on rear step at far right. He would die in the line of duty 16 years later near the memorial site on the same type of hose reel." PA13104, National Archives of Canada

## History of LeBreton Flats

midnight the fire had died down leaving only the burnt out remains of a large portion of both cities. 15,000 people were left homeless.

The pumping station, located just southeast of the monument location on the aqueduct at Pooley's Bridge, is still in use to this day and is the only reminder of the area once lost to a great fire. Although the area it saved over a century ago is long gone, the pump house has been restored and is now a heritage building only a short walk from the future location of the Canadian Firefighters Memorial.

The first millionaires of Canada lived on the Flats, drawing their wealth from the booming lumber industry, which built Ottawa. But the fire, which destroyed much of this era's architecture, also erased that memory, and the area was rebuilt quickly and cheaply. The rich relocated to other areas of Ottawa while the poor remained behind amongst the empty lots, factories and ruins. The area now contained metal industries, accompanying scrap yards, some workers' housing, and by the 1920's, automotive vehicle service, storage and wrecking. The area continued to deteriorate through the war years and into the 1950's with the decline of the area industries.

In 1962 the land was expropriated by the National Capitol Commission. The last building was torn down by the end of 1965 and the debate for the use of the land continued. Although not carried through, original plans called for the area to contain many new government buildings.

The Flats area appeared to have fallen victim to the beautification of the nation's capitol. Until the new War Museum was built in 2004 the area remained virtually vacant. Soil, contaminated from years of heavy industry, has recently been removed clearing the way for new development. The National Capitol Commission now has plans underway to revitalize the area and include housing, parkland, cultural institutions, open areas for festivals and monuments including The Canadian Firefighters Memorial.

*Robert Kirkpatrick*



Map showing the Great Fire of 1900. Dashed line represents extent of fire. Star represents proposed location of monument.  
CA0489, City of Ottawa Archives



Ottawa's Fire Station #1 on Duke St. survived the fire of 1900 only to burn down in 1948.  
CA2048, City of Ottawa Archives

# CAPTAIN ROBERT PRATT FIREFIGHTER WILLIAM WILLETTE

May 19, 1930 – Ottawa Fire Dept.

*Reprinted from Their Last Alarm with permission, General Store Publishing House.*

Just before lunch on Monday May 19, 1930 firefighters from Ottawa's west-end station 11 on Parkdale Avenue responded to a report of fire at the Favourite Ice Company located at the end of Parkdale near the Ottawa River. On arrival, firefighters reported that the fire had spread to an adjoining icehouse, threatening the entire block of homes, and requested a second alarm.

Firefighters from Station 2 arrived led by Captain Robert Pratt and immediately placed ladders along the east side of the two ice houses to combat the fire from there. The crew from Station 1, which included firefighter William Willette, also attacked the fire at this location from ladders. They had the fire in the icehouse, containing 4000 tons of ice, under control in about half an hour and although there was a strong wind, the neighbourhood houses were saved from destruction.

The fire was almost completely extinguished when a terrific explosion occurred and the east wall flew in all directions. Captain Pratt, who was at the top of a 25-foot ladder, tried to jump onto the roof as the ladder was pushed out backwards by the descending wall. He never let go of the ladder tip and took the full force of the ladder and debris from the wall on top of him. Firefighter Willette was also blown backwards while still on his ladder and crashed across a back yard fence, which prevented the full impact of the ladder landing on him.

Lieutenant Harris of Station 1 escaped death by falling off his ladder down the inside of the falling wall and avoiding the debris that landed on Captain Pratt. The other firefighters working below the ladders managed to escape at the first notice of the wall coming down and suffered minor injuries from flying debris. The firefighters working on the roof were fortunate, as the roof fell a very short distance and rested on the large pile of stacked ice. Firefighters immediately began uncovering their injured comrades while citizens from the area, who had just started to congratulate the firefighters on saving their houses when the collapse occurred, called for an ambulance and doctors. On seeing the seriousness of Captain Pratt's injuries the residents also summoned a priest to the scene, who gave him the last rites. Firefighter Willette was semi-conscious and also seriously injured.

Rather than wait for the ambulance, they placed the two injured firefighters on the hose bed of a pumper and rushed them to the Civic Hospital. The truck, with siren sounding, collided with a car that failed to give way at the intersection of Parkdale and Wellington Streets but the driver was unhurt and the pumper continued without stopping.

Captain Pratt, with many broken bones, was dead on arrival; firefighter Willette was rushed into the operating room, but succumbed to his injuries two hours later.

Captain Robert E. Pratt was 55 years old, married and had 6 children. He joined the Ottawa Fire Department on June 30, 1900 and was promoted to Lieutenant in 1915 and Captain in 1919. Three generations of the Pratt family would serve the Ottawa Fire Department. Captain Pratt's son, John Forrest, joined in 1929 and would serve until 1963. Captain Pratt's son Stanley joined in 1934 and would serve until 1973. Stanley's son, Brian joined in 1971 and is currently a Captain assigned to Station 2, the same company that his grandfather led at his last alarm.

Firefighter William J. Willette joined the Ottawa Fire Department on August 15, 1918. He was 35, married and had three children.

On Thursday May 22 a double civic funeral was held at Fire Station 2 after private funeral services at each man's home. Thousands of citizens of all ages passed by the two coffins as they lay in state in the fire station for four hours before the civic service began. After the service the two caskets were placed on the hose beds of pumper trucks while the fire bell cut through the silence sounding a "six" and "six" again. Sixty-six was the alarm box number that had sounded that Monday morning, calling the two firefighters to their fate. The funeral cortege proceeded through the downtown streets crowded with concerned citizens, past the Parliament buildings where the Carillon in the Peace Tower played sombre music. The cortege separated outside the downtown core with the procession for Captain Pratt going to Merivale Cemetery and that of firefighter Willette to Beechwood Cemetery.

One prominent person seen at the fire station paying his respects that day was the Prime Minister of Canada, W. L. Mackenzie King.

# CANADIAN FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION

## Activities In 2005

*August 30, 2005*

### Association des chefs des services incendie du Québec donated \$5,000 to CFFF

Directeur Serge Tremblay, president of the Association des chefs des services incendie du Québec, and on their behalf, presented CFFF vice president Gary Barnes with a \$5,000 donation for CFFF.



Director Serge Tremblay (left), of Sécurité Incendie de Montréal, presents CFFF Vice President Gary Barnes with a \$5,000 cheque from the Québec Association of Fire Chiefs.

*September 9, 2005*

### The first flowers at the Memorial site, September, 2005

Diane Dempsey laid the first flowers in loving memory of her husband, Brent, at the site designated for the Canadian Firefighters Memorial.



Diane Dempsey, Youngstown, Alberta, stands in front of the first flowers placed at the unfinished Memorial site after saying a prayer for her spouse, Brent, who died in the line of duty.

*September 11, 2005*

### Lunenburg horn official symbol of memorial service

*By Robert Hirtle*

Lunenburg fire department's ceremonial horn gained notoriety as a national symbol, all as a result of an ironic twist of fate. Dating back to the late 1800s, the instrument has been in the department's possession for at least the last 119 years, as it appears in a photo from 1886 depicting members of Relief Co. #2 which hangs in the new fire hall. Up until 1987, however, it had been pretty much neglected. Blackened with tarnish, it had been locked in a case in the old Lunenburg fire hall for longer than anyone could remember.

That was until Fire Captain Doug Greek approached then Chief Dave Beck about bringing it out of mothballs. "The horn was up there in the case... and we were getting ready to have our monument built," Mr. Greek recalls. "I said to Chief Beck that the chief used to carry that horn, why don't you carry it. He said if you want to do it, go ahead."

Mr. Greek removed the horn from its case, took it home and polished it up. He then went from store to store until he was able to find suitable gold and red cords to replace the deteriorated braided hemp that had served as the horn's carrying handle.

"When we dedicated our monument in 1988, that was the first official time I carried it," Mr. Greek said, adding that since then he has taken it to numerous events each year on behalf of the department. "I didn't pay much attention to the horn, other than knowing it was historic, until after September 11."

Mr. Greek said it is his habit to always polish the horn before taking it on parade, and he was doing just that for an event following the attack on the World Trade Centre in New York which occurred on that date in 2001. It was then that he discovered an astounding coincidence that would cast a whole new light on the instrument.

"I happened to look on the horn, and you'll see 'Grand St., New York, September 11, 77,'" he said, referring to the patent date stamped on the front. "It has to be 1877, because we know we had it in 1886." The connection between the date engraved on the instrument and its ties to the City of New York and the Lunenburg fire department became even more significant when Mr. Greek, and a contingent of his fellow firefighters, traveled to the nation's capital last fall to take part in the first Canadian Fallen Firefighters' Foundation memorial service.

Carrying the horn, Mr. Greek was accompanied by a fellow firefighter from British Columbia bearing a ceremonial sword in



Captain Doug Greek proudly displays the Lunenburg fire department's ceremonial horn, which served as the official symbol for this year's Canadian Fallen Firefighters' Foundation Memorial Service held in Ottawa earlier this month. Robert Hirtle photo.

leading the procession to the service on Parliament Hill. They then performed sentry duty at either end of the altar during the hour-and-a-half-long memorial, which honoured Canadian firefighters who were killed in the line of duty, including two from Lunenburg.

Throughout the event, Mr. Greek said he told everybody on Parliament Hill from British Columbia to Newfoundland about the date on this horn. "That being the first ceremony, they didn't really have a lot of time to pay attention to it," he said, adding that shortly after he returned to Lunenburg, that all changed.

"When we got home, we started to get correspondence from [the Foundation] and this year, they're having the horn as their symbol," he explained. So, once again in September of 2005 Mr. Greek and the Lunenburg horn traveled to Ottawa where they were the star attractions at this year's service, which, in another ironic twist, took place on September 11. It is a fitting honour for what Mr. Greek describes as "a wonderful piece of history."

## September 18, 2005

### Memorial Service on Prince Edward Island

On September 18, 2005 a "Service Memorial Fountain" was dedicated in downtown Charlottetown to honour those who serve their communities by placing themselves in harms way on behalf of their fellow citizens.

Those in the Military, Police, and Firefighting Services who risk their lives every day to serve and protect the lives and property of their friends and neighbours both in this province and around the world were singled out for this special honour.

Prince Edward Island is the first province to honour their heroes in this manner, but I am sure it will not be the last to do so!!



Foundation Director and Deputy Fire Marshal for P. E. I., Ken Campbell presenting both Kip Holloway and Bill Minnis with Memorial Pins from the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation as a tribute for their work on behalf of all Firefighters. You can see part of the Memorial Fountain in the background of the photo.

## September 25, 2005

### CFFF assist Ontario Easter Seals Manager in preparing for stage show



Retired firefighter Georges Potvin from Ottawa Fire Services and CFFF Founder Emeritus discusses possible ways to stage an evening's fashion show and entertainment with Julie Gowan, District Manager, Ottawa The Easter Seal Society.

The Foundation assisted with ideas, some artifacts and a fire engine to help the show involving Ottawa Fire Service members.

## September 2005

### Mississauga Mayor's Annual Charity Golf Tournament contributes to Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation

Since her days as the Mayor of Streetsville supporting her volunteers through the 1979 Mississauga train derailment, Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion knows the importance of a well trained and dedicated fire department. The Order of Canada recipient and runner up as Mayor of the World, has always been a strong supporter of the fire service. She recently signified her respect for those who gave their lives in the service of their communities with a donation to the Foundation. Regional Vice-President, Capt. Robert Kirkpatrick had the honour of accepting the donation made with a portion of the proceeds from her annual charity golf tournament.



Prominent Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion presenting Regional Vice-President, Capt. Robert Kirkpatrick with a donation to the Foundation.



*October 2, 2005*

## **Fifth Annual Toronto Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service**

On Sunday, October 2, 2005 members of Toronto Fire Services gathered at the Toronto Fire Academy Auditorium on 895 Eastern Ave. in Toronto to honour 154 Toronto area firefighters who have died in the line of duty since 1848. The fifth annual Toronto Fallen Firefighter memorial service included words of encouragement and laying of wreaths by senior representatives from the Province of Ontario, City of Toronto, Toronto Fire Services, and the Toronto Professional Fire Fighters' Association. Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation Vice-President for Ontario, Captain Robert Kirkpatrick, Mississauga Fire and Emergency Services attended the service on behalf of the Foundation.



CFFF Director and Toronto Fire Chief William Stewart, salutes Toronto's fallen firefighters during the moment of silence. John Riddell Photo

*October 15 - 20, 2005*

## **The Federation of Fire Chaplains annual conference, Vancouver, October 15- 20**

The Federation of Fire Chaplains (FFC) held their annual conference in Vancouver, October 15- 20. Chaplain Bruce Rushton and Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services played a large role in the success of the conference. Chaplain Rushton invited Western V.P., Aaron Feldman to speak on behalf of the Foundation.



The conference had two parts. One was a pre-conference training session for new chaplains that took place Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 15/16. Aaron made a presentation to that group, a number of whom were new Canadian chaplains. Aaron was also asked to return on Thursday morning to do another presentation to the entire delegation. Both presentations were well-received and plans continue for further involvement with the fire chaplains.



From left to right:  
Wendy Norris, Ed  
Stauffer, Aaron Feldman  
and Bruce Rushton.

*October 16, 2005*

## **Annual Maritime Memorial Service Held**

CFFF board members Captain Barry Stewart and Captain Ron MacTavish put a display of CFFF brochures and other items in the Summerside station in connection with the Annual Maritime Memorial Service for Maritime firefighters who have died in the line of duty. Ron's wife, Brenda, pitched in to help and the booth generated a great deal of interest from those participating in the ceremony.



Capt. Barry Stewart,  
Riverview, N.B.,  
Eastern Vice  
President of CFFF  
and CFFF Director,  
Capt. Ron  
MacTavish,  
Borden-Carleton,  
PEI stand in front  
of a display of  
Foundation items.



Marchers in the Annual Maritime Firefighters Memorial parade and ceremony.

*October 26, 2005*

## Government of Canada Supports Creation of Monument to Canadian Firefighters

OTTAWA, October 26, 2005 — Minister of Canadian Heritage and Minister responsible for Status of Women Liza Frulla, today stated that the Government of Canada supports the creation of a monument to honour Canadian firefighters. The Minister also confirmed that the National Capital Commission has reserved a site in the LeBreton Flats area for the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation (CFFF), who will work towards the creation of this memorial. This location has historic significance as a result of the Great Fire of Ottawa, in 1900.

“By supporting this project of national scope, the Government of Canada recognizes the extraordinary contribution of firefighters who make tremendous sacrifices to protect and save the lives of their fellow citizens,” said Minister Frulla. “I am proud that this high profile location has been reserved for a monument to commemorate the invaluable contribution of these brave women and men.”

“I am proud to share in this moment,” said Françoise Boivin, Member of Parliament (Gatineau). “It is wonderful to see that all the time and hard work that has been invested by the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation has resulted in this announcement and recognition for all firefighters and especially those who have given the ultimate sacrifice.”

“We are extremely pleased to have gained recognition of and support for the creation of the Canadian Firefighters Memorial which has been in the planning stages with the National Capital Commission for some time,” said Dr. William Brooks, President of the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

The prestigious location, on the south side of Wellington Street in the LeBreton Flats area, is suitable not only because of its geographic importance as a gateway to Confederation Boulevard, but also for its proximity to the Parliamentary Precinct. The site also has a strong historical link to firefighters as a result of the Great Fire of Ottawa that occurred at LeBreton Flats in 1900. The site will be a suitable and respectful place for remembrance and will accommodate public gatherings. The site will be reserved for a period of three years to provide the CFFF with an opportunity to raise the funds necessary to proceed with the monument project.

The National Capital Commission (NCC), the lead federal agency mandated to approve the location and design of new commemorative projects on federal lands within Canada's Capital Region, will complete their Commemorations Plan by fall 2005. The plan provides a framework for appropriate placement of new commemorations and a site inventory, as well as urban design and thematic frameworks to assist those wishing to propose new commemorations in the Region.

*October 21, 2005*

## CF/DND Firefighters Hold Reunion-CFFF assists

On October 21, 2005, LCol (Retired) Lorne MacLean, OMM, CD, arranged a reunion of many Canadian Forces and DND firefighters. It was held at the RCAF Mess in Ottawa.



LCol (Retired) Lorne MacLean, OMM, CD, and former Canadian Forces Fire Marshal, author of a new book about Canadian military firefighting, *Standing Against Fire*, available through General Store Publishing House.

As part of the festivities, the Foundation made Will Brooks' 1951 Bickle-Seagrave pumper, originally RCAF #1, available for inspection. It was wonderful to see the members who had actually worked with this type of vehicle as they recalled wonderful stories of their days in service.

Will said it was the first time he had heard someone walk down the street and say, “There is a G-9.” G-9 was the original nomenclature used by the CF when referring to the '51 Bickle-Seagrave.



Left to right: Dominic Raina, George Ferguson, and Willie Daigle who served in the Whitehorse Fire Station 1956-1958

*October 28, 2005*

## **Lebreton To Get Another Monument -- This One To 800 Fallen Firefighters**

The federal government has announced its backing for a national monument at LeBreton Flats in honour of the more than 800 Canadian firefighters who have died on the job.

The \$5-million Canadian Firefighters Memorial will be erected south of Wellington Street, near the war museum, on one of two sites the National Capital Commission has set aside for national monuments. It will take at least three years to build.

The announcement by Canadian Heritage Minister Liza Frulla caps a three-year campaign by the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation to seek national recognition for the sacrifices of firefighters across the country. "By supporting this project of national scope, the government of Canada recognizes the extraordinary contribution of firefighters who make tremendous sacrifices to protect and save the lives of their fellow citizens," Ms. Frulla said.

William Brooks, president of the firefighters foundation, said he is delighted to get government recognition, but the foundation now has to turn its attention to raising money for the monument. And he hopes that down the road, federal and provincial governments will help with funding to get the project off the ground. "The government has put itself behind it, and that is positive. But they have not committed any funds to it. But we think ultimately, they will contribute," said Dr. Brooks.

The choice of LeBreton Flats for the memorial is particularly significant because the Great Fire of Ottawa in 1900, which started across the Ottawa River in Hull, devastated the Flats. By the time the fire burned itself out, an estimated seven people had been killed and 8,000 in Ottawa and 6,000 in Hull were left homeless. One of the heroes of the day was a lone firefighter, with a single hose, who stood on a roof, beating down the fire as flames raged behind him.

Commission spokeswoman Kathryn Keyes said discussions with the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation are well advanced and the site will be reserved for three years to allow the foundation to raise the money for the project. Under the plan, the foundation has to raise \$2.5 million, about half the cost of the landmark, to demonstrate its commitment and ability to go ahead with the project.

Dr. Brooks says fundraising for the project has begun in earnest, and already pledges of \$1.5 million from small businesses, out of which the foundation will get a "generous" 20 per cent, have been received. He said the foundation is getting only 20 per cent because such a campaign entails a lot of expenses – everything from staff wages and printing brochures, to manufacturing pins and giving plaques to donors – by the firm organizing it.

Dr. Brooks said the response so far has shown that many Canadian individuals and companies would be happy to contribute to such a memorial and the foundation is now turning its attention to large corporate donors. If the foundation can show that it is capable of raising significant amounts on its own, Dr. Brooks believes federal and provincial governments would join in. "The Ontario government gave \$500,000 for a monument for

Ontario firefighters, and we imagine they and many provinces will contribute," he said.

Dr. Brooks said the exact design of the memorial is unknown, although several artists' concepts have been proposed. The foundation says its goal is to create a "structure so excellent and full of respect" that visitors will "see it as a work of art." Dr. Brooks said the next step in the process is to organize a \$250,000 competition in the next six months from which a final design would be chosen. One concept that will certainly be included in the final design is an electronic book of remembrance that will allow visitors to review the names of firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

*Mohammed Adam  
The Ottawa Citizen*



Georges Potvin is Founder Emeritus of the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation, which has been seeking recognition for the sacrifices of Canadian firefighters.  
CREDIT: Jean Levac, The Ottawa Citizen

*November 12, 2005*

## **Kitchener Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial Monument Dedication**

On an unusually sunny and warm November day firefighters from Kitchener and the surrounding area gathered in a park in downtown Kitchener for the dedication of a memorial to their firefighters. The City of Kitchener and the Kitchener Professional Fire Fighters Association unveiled the large bronze sculpture by artist Timothy Schmalz along with a fire related children's playground nearby. The memorial dedicated to the fallen firefighters of Kitchener was two years in the making and funded by activities of the Kitchener Professional Fire Fighters Association.



Capt. Robert Kirkpatrick, Mississauga Fire, Ontario Regional Vice-President for the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation brings greetings to firefighters and families of the fallen.

# Activities In 2006

*January 2006*

## **New firefighters remember those that have gone before**

The 2005 fall recruit firefighter class from the Mississauga Fire & Emergency Services made a significant donation to the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation. The money was raised entirely by the recruits and goes towards the cost of bringing the families of firefighters killed in the line of duty to Ottawa for the national ceremony.



CFFF Ontario Vice-President, Captain Robert Kirkpatrick accepting the donation from the Mississauga Fire & Emergency Services fall recruit firefighter class on their last day of training.

*January 14 - 15, 2006*

## **Foundation Executive Board Meets in Ottawa January 14-15, 2006**

On January 14-15, 2006, The Foundation Executive Board and invited Board Members with specific responsibilities met in Ottawa. The two day session reviewed several key matters including the hiring of a Public Arts Manager to conduct the first phase of the Canadian Firefighters Memorial construction: the design phase.

The group also considered new financial arrangements to increase overall funding. The Line of Duty Death definition was refined slightly, and reports on planning for the 2006 Memorial Ceremony were received. Robert Kirkpatrick presented a thorough The group had the opportunity to meet Doug Lock who will be serving as both bookkeeper and the Foundation Treasurer. This is a development which reflects the growing size and financial management needs of the Foundation.

*January 30, 2006*

## **Algonquin College Students Learn About the Foundation**

Former Chief Randy Foster, now teaching in the fires services training program at Algonquin College in Ottawa, was kind enough to invite CFFF President, Dr. Will Brooks to speak with one of his classes about the Foundation. On January 30th, Will reviewed the history of the Foundation and introduced the students to the Firefighter Life Safety Program.



Algonquin College Fire Services class prior to CFFF presentation

*February 9, 2006*

## **Foundation meetings advance the Memorial design phase**

The Foundation recently hired Karen Mills to manage the consulting aspects related to the development of the Canadian Firefighters Memorial. Members of the Foundation's Executive met with Mrs. Mills and her colleague, Annalee Adair in Toronto and in Ottawa. The Ottawa meeting involved the National Capital Commission team, laying the groundwork for the design competition, and included a visit to the LeBreton Flats site.

*January 26, 2006*

## **Foundation Present In Montréal For Capt. Marcel Marleau's Funeral**

CFFF President, Dr. Will Brooks and Vice-President, Gary Barnes were in Montréal to be present at the funeral services of Capt. Marcel Marleau killed suddenly in a fire which shocked and saddened all firefighters, especially his colleagues in the Service Sécurité Incendie Montréal (SSIM).

The care shown in every detail of the funeral was highly evident. Chief of the Montréal Department and Foundation Board Member, Serge Tremblay worked, tirelessly with his



Captain Marcel Marleau's flag draped casket at Montreal's City Hall.



The Foundation flag flies for the first time at a line-of-duty-death funeral. The Foundation retired the flag and presented it to the SSIM as a tribute to its leadership and the life of Capt. Marcel Marleau.

department to ensure that honour befitting this decorated firefighter would be shown. Michel Crevier, Président of the Association des Pompiers de Montréal, clearly moved by this event as well, showed every evidence of strength in planning and conducting the week's events.

Every citizen can be proud of the SSIM and its reaction to Capt. Marleau's sudden and profound loss. The Foundation salutes every member and is fortunate to have the SSIM as honorary hosts for this year's Memorial Ceremony.

The condolences of the Foundation go to the entire Marleau family, especially to his spouse, Chantelle and his sons, Patrick and Philippe.

*April 6th, 2006*

## Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation In Petawawa

On April 6th, the Foundation was present in Petawawa to attend a Mutual Aid session hosted by Chief Steve Knot and his Petawawa Fire Department members. Many of the departments attending have already sent participants to the Annual Ceremony in Ottawa. After the presentation, several additional departments indicated they would be present in 2006.

CFFF President, Will Brooks and Vice-President, Gary Barnes were warmly welcomed at the meeting. They enjoyed the hospitality of firefighters and especially renewing several old friendships as they made new ones.



Participants enjoying a fine luncheon at meeting's end.

*February 2006*

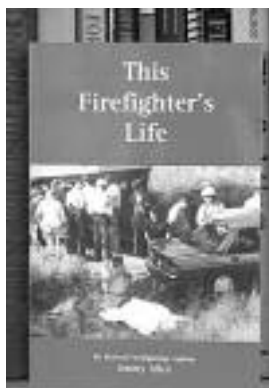
## Foundation Present At Book Signing



Retired Ottawa Fire Department Captain, Jimmy Allen.

Retired Ottawa Fire Department Captain, Jimmy Allen, signed copies of his new book, *This Firefighter's Life* at READ'S Book Shop in Carleton Place, Ontario (home of Seagrave Canada). Foundation President, Will Brooks, Secretary, Bill Williams, and Founder Emeritus, Georges Potvin (one of Capt. Allen's firefighting colleagues), were on hand to chat with Jimmy, receive some signed copies of his book and talk about the accurate glimpses of firefighting life he portrays. Several young firefighters to be were also on hand to hear Jimmy read and talk about the life of a firefighter.

Robynne Eagan, owner of Read's Book Shop, had prepared her shop and excellent staff well for the event. She kindly donated the profits of the day's activity to the Foundation. We thank her for her thoughtfulness and good humour during preparations and the actual signing.



Another good book on firefighting to add to the library.

*April 23, 2006*

## Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia Hosts CFFF

The Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia welcomed CFFF President, Will Brooks, on April 23rd. Will brought information about the Foundation, fund-raising for the Memorial, and the Firefighter Life Safety program to fire officers from entire Province of Nova Scotia.

The meeting was held at the Nova Scotia Fire School. It was an auspicious day given that Hon. Carolyn Bolivar-Getson, Minister of Environment and Labour for Nova Scotia presented the School with a generous grant from the new MacDonald government.

For Will, a graduate of the school, it was a warm home-coming. In addition to explaining the values of the Foundation and its directions, re-connecting with many old friends was a wonderful aspect of the visit.

The group listened to encouragement for the development of a National Centre for Fire Service research and data keeping. The Foundation has called this the Canadian Fire Administration and believes it is essential to allow the federal government to be involved in planning and funding fire service activities, especially in areas where funds are almost non-existent, training levels give way to keeping the department solvent, and firefighter safety may even be compromised simply because adequate gear is not affordable by some departments.

It was heartening to hear the N.S. Fire Marshall, Robert Cormier, echo the need for national data collection and federal help to support the Canadian Fire Service.



*April 2006*



Ms. Gemma Richardson the CFFF's new public relations representative.

## **CFFF gets new public relations representative**

The Foundation is very pleased to have made arrangements with Ms. Gemma Richardson to serve as our public relations representative. She will prepare Board updates, press releases and maintain media contact. Gemma is a graduate of the Journalism program at Carleton University and has a wide range of experience including time working in Africa. We welcome her to the Foundation and look forward to a strong collaboration.

*May 11, 2006*

## **Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation Flag presented to Ottawa Fire Service Honour Guard**

On May 11, 2006, CFFF President, Dr. Will Brooks, presented a Foundation flag to Tom Koch of the Ottawa Fire Services honour guard in memory of Pat Thibodeau and all Ottawa firefighters who have died in the line of duty. Deputy Chief, Bruce Montone, the official sponsor of the OFS Honor Guard, was a co-recipient of the flag with Firefighter Koch.

Ottawa firefighter, Pat Thibodeau, died of a cancer recognized by the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) on April 26, 2006. He is the fifth Canadian firefighter in 2006 who meets CFFF's criteria of having died in the line of duty.

On January 21st 2006, Capitaine Marcel Marleau of Sécurité Incendie de Montréal died from being caught in a rapidly accelerating fire. The Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation retired a flag to the Montréal fire department in memory of Capt. Marleau. Serge Tremblay, the Montréal fire chief, and a Canadian



Dr. Will Brooks, Firefighter Tom Koch, OFS Honour Guard, and Deputy Chief, Bruce Montone  
Photo by Bill Williams

Fallen Firefighters Foundation board member, recommended that CFFF continue the tradition of presenting a flag to a department when a firefighter dies in the line of duty. This is a practice which is now being followed nation wide by the Foundation.

*May 25, 2006*

## **Foundation Takes Part in Vintage Aircraft Collection Opening**

On May 25, 2006, Georges Potvin and Will Brooks represented the CFFF-FCPMS at the opening of Vintage Wings of Canada. This is the largest private collection of vintage warplanes in Canada and is owned by Mr. Michael Potter. The collection is housed in a superb hangar created to look as if it were from the 30's and be fully functional. The collection is housed in Gatineau, Quebec about 20 minutes from the centre of Ottawa.

Georges had suggested some old vehicles would add to the ambience of the event. Will was happy to see his RCAF Pumper near an airfield again. The displays and top notch engineering used to bring back each aircraft so lovingly reminded us of the hours of work devoted to keeping our old fire station running. It also reminded us of the many hours and hard work it takes to keep any fire station running well.



The vintage wings of Canada logo.



Will's 1913 O.J. Childs and Georges' 1927 Sanford (The National Unity truck) sit beside a Canadian icon, the still awe-inspiring Beaver aircraft. Note the floats which have allowed people and goods to get to many remote parts of Canada. Many of our MNR friends will recall the use of the Beaver with great fondness.

# Firemen: *Chief Raoul Gauthier*

The annual inquiry by the survey company Léger Marketing on how much Canadians trust different professions is a reliable indicator. The results for this year were made public on March 21, 2006, with firemen heading the list of most appreciated professionals, with a nearly perfect score of 98%. An analogy can be made with another context,



*By Jules-André Tessier*

**T**he Amazing Person Behind This Association, Raoul Gauthier (1881-1932) was born in Montreal in a working-class neighbourhood, known at the time as Griffintown, south of Notre-Dame Street, between McGill and Guy streets. After being in the Marines, he joined the City's Fire Department in 1904. He quickly demonstrated his courage and coolheadedness during major fires and lifesaving operations, while risking his own life. During his career, he received medals and was decorated, as well as promoted, being appointed captain in 1912, moving up to District Chief in 1921, and then into the position with the highest responsibility in 1923, Montreal Fire Department Director.

## **An Exemplary Man... an Exceptional Friend**

So here is how he met Brother André, became one of his friends and supporters, and thereafter brought many firemen to the Oratory. He and his men mutually valued each other, and he made it his duty to visit those who were sick or had been injured in a fire, whether in the hospital or at home.

Around 1919, a hospitalized fireman said that he wanted to see Brother André, who would visit patients after spending the day at the Oratory welcoming a large number of people. Mr. Gauthier served as go-between, but the request was forwarded on a Friday, and the response was negative, since every Friday, the evening was reserved for the Holy Hour and the Way of the Cross, a practice that Brother André never missed. "But if you would let me," said Raoul Gauthier, "I could go do the Holy Hour and Way of the Cross with you." As you can well imagine, the suggestion was immediately accepted, and

since it if there's one profession that was well represented and held in high esteem among the friends of Brother André, it would indeed be the firefighters who have done so much for the Oratory and its founder, not only during his lifetime but also in the years after his passing, with some variation, but nevertheless without interruption up to this very date.

that is how Brother André got to know the man who would become a great friend. From then on, Raoul Gauthier made it special point of taking part in these Friday evening meetings, even it meant giving lectures with another fireman, Oscar Marin, and Judge Arthur Laramée. The example provided by Raoul Gauthier and the influence that he had over his men resulted in more and more firemen coming to the Oratory when they were not working. They soon made themselves indispensable during gatherings of pilgrims, especially to manage the crowds when they moved, and to drive sick people. With their caps and smart-looking black uniform with its double row of silver buttons, while ensuring order and security, they lent pomp and circumstance to the liturgical services as P. Alfred Roy, CSC, Rector of the Oratory, took the time to describe it in a long thank-you letter the day after the solemn ceremonies of St. Joseph's Day in 1925. His letter started with the salutation "My Dear Mr. Gauthier", which in itself shows us how, within a space of only five or six years, close and warm the relationship had developed between the firemen, Brother André and his work.

## **A Chief Who Died in the Line of Duty**

On June 16, 1932, Mr. Gauthier presided over the annual ceremony held at the Côte-des-Neiges Cemetery in memory of deceased firemen, a tradition still carried out today. He had no idea that 24 hours later, at the age of 51, his name would be added to this list, because June 17 would be a day marked by a tragedy. During the repair of an American oil tanker, The Cymbeline, on dry dock on the site of the



Firemen played an important role at the Oratory, helping, among other things, to assure order and security during large events. At the side of Brother André, we see his friend, Chief Raoul Gauthier (to the right on the photo), who initiated this exceptional partnership. This photo was taken during a celebration of Saint Joseph in March 1920.

Archives of St. Joseph's Oratory



The firemen were also valuable as volunteers during the pilgrimages of the sick, helping to move stretchers and people who could not manage the stairs up to the main entrance of the crypt. Keep in mind that the sloped entrance from the votive chapel was not officially opened until 1949.

## FIRE IN THE CHAPEL

One of the most remarkable events ever witnessed at the Oratory was unquestionably when the firemen of Station 27 arrived on February 10, 1951, all decked out in uniform in their fire truck to put out the fire that threatened to destroy the Primitive Chapel built in 1904. These firemen prevented what would have been an irreparable loss, as P. Émile Deguire notes in the April's *The Oratory*: "The fire bypassed Brother André's cell. All objects found in the room were kept intact. All ex-voto adorning the walls, the crutches dating back to the beginnings of the Oratory and the carpet of the sanctuary were not touched by the flames. The walls obviously have to be redone. They however will remain covered with the same metal sheets, which have since been repaired."



The evening of February 10, 1951, everyone feared the worst – After several attempts, the firemen successfully put out the fire that threatened the chapel and pilgrims' pavilion.



Although in a mess, the room of Brother André was not directly affected by the flames, and valuable mementos were spared.

Henri Bernard, c.s.c. Archives de l'Oratoire Saint-Joseph



In the days following Brother André's death, when the faithful wanted to see him for the last time, the firemen had the difficult task of controlling the large ardent crowds. They also had the honour of acting as pallbearers during the funeral service, held in the Cathedral on Saturday, January 9, 1937.

Archives de l'Oratoire Saint-Joseph



Many firemen in the 1950s were ready to help out on during the Festival of St. Joseph. Lieutenant Marcel Gravel is one of the many who answered the call of Brother Pierre, CSC, as seen in the centre of this souvenir photo taken in the vestry of the crypt.

Canadian Vickers in Montreal, a fire started on board, and while the firemen were working, an explosion occurred, instantly killing Chief Gauthier and three of his men who were thrown into the port's waters.

After four days of fruitless searching, the firemen went to ask Brother André to intervene so that the body of their captain could be found. After being brought to the site, Brother André prayed a few minutes, and then threw two medals into the water. It was approximately 5:00 p.m. The next day, around 6:00 a.m., according to eyewitnesses, the body rose to the surface between the two points where the medals had been thrown in the water. The funerals were held the next day at the Cathedral. A few decades later, once the inside of the Basilica had been finished, the Oratory authorities named one of the sections of the large room, under the Basilica, after Raoul-Gauthier.

The Fire Chief of the Cote-des-Neiges Fire Department, Léopold Lussier, in a way took over from Chief Gauthier at the Oratory and also became a sincere, devoted friend. Every Friday while working at Fire Station 27, he would sit at a window overlooking the Oratory and through his thoughts he took part in the Holy Hour and Way of the Cross presided over by Brother André. At the funeral of Brother André in January 1937, Mr. Lussier and five officers from the Fire Department were pallbearers and that was how the procession from Mont-Royal was led until his final resting place by his friends, the firemen, an honour and privilege that they returned.



After the death of Brother André, for about 50 years, the firemen collectively continued their volunteer work at the Oratory. Thus, on March 26, 1962, the sanctuary chronicler provided statistics that showed the important role the firemen played during the novena of Saint Joseph that year: "96 firemen from Montreal voluntarily came to fill the positions of keepers of the peace, stretcher carriers for the sick, jacks of all trades; the day of the novena, on the 19th, 109 of them were there without having slept or rested at home."

## A commendable tradition of service

Around the mid-eighties, the firemen's presence at the Oratory was more discrete, but nevertheless continued uninterrupted through individual initiatives, through the dedication demonstrated as part of Pilgrim Work with Patients specifically. Thus, on March 19, 2002, the 50th time of Marcel Lamonde and Guy Hogue, today, retired firemen, participating in the novena as volunteers. On this occasion, they received a special tribute from the Rector, P. Jean-Pierre Aumont, CSC, and Mr. Pierre Gravel, Head of Operations for Division 13 of the Montreal Fire Department.

Mr. Gravel, for his part, followed in the footsteps of his father Marcel, also a fireman and volunteer at the Oratory between 1940 and 1972. It was around the age of 15 that the young Pierre started coming with his father to the Mont-Royal Sanctuary where he ended up with his first summer jobs, in the canteen kitchens, for example. Becoming, in turn, a fireman in 1971 in the City of Outremont, not only did he take over the reins of his father Marcel as a volunteer, but, recently, he brought groups of firemen in uniform to the Oratory, especially to ceremonies marking the

start of 100 year anniversary celebrations in October 2004, and during the preparatory novena at the Festival of Saint Joseph, in particular on the very day of the celebration on March 19.

## September 11, 2005: An Opportunity to See Clearly

It is from this perspective of going back to the source, of a renaissance, that the firemen of Montreal officially returned to the Oratory on September 12, 2004, for the annual mass in memory of firemen who had died. Abbé Claude Forest, their chaplain in his homely, predicted that the presence of the firemen at the Oratory would be a “tradition, which existed for a long time, would be reborn.”

This ceremony was, in a way, a pre-premiere, since the firemen of the Montreal Fire Department went to the Saint-Joseph Oratory for a special ceremony on Sunday, September 11, 2005. A mass was then celebrated at 9:30 a.m. in memory of their colleagues who died in the line of duty over the year.

This September 11 also led to thoughts for the firemen who heroically perished in the terrorist attacks in New York City, which was marking its fourth anniversary in 2005.



The B-3 team of Fire Department 27 participated in the solemn celebration of the Festival of St. Joseph on March 19. Captain Alain Grenier and his team members François Houle, Stéphane Morin and Nicolas Jean even took part in the protocol procession during evening mass. Pierre Gravel is carrying the flag of the Oratory Basilica.

André Fortin



The B-4 team of Fire Department 27 was present and very active on March 13, 2005, to help transport people in wheelchairs. Here we have Marco Bottari, Captain, Yvan Joyal, Martin Laliberté, Stéphane Rochon, Luc Tremblay, Yves Bertrand and Serge Gaudet, along with Chief Pierre Gravel.

Jean-Louis Cardin

According to Saint Augustine, “in the house of God, the celebration is endless, the joy boundless”. For the hundredth anniversary, without a doubt, the celebration will be at its best when Brother André and his firemen friends who joined him will see their successors return to the Oratory. We must hope that the current firemen take advantage of this highly favourable situation to come under the protection of Saint Joseph, the blessed Brother André, and formulate their wishes and requests for them and those close to them, knowing that they will never leave the Oratory empty-handed, even if they do not always get what they want. The invitation could be simply stated as “So come and see... just to see. You’ll see... maybe it will be an opportunity to see clearly.”





# FIREFIGHTER:

## An Evolving Occupation

---



*Bernard A. Moyle*  
*Ontario Fire Marshal*

In June 2005, the Ontario Firefighters Memorial was unveiled at Queen's Park. The memorial marks the sacrifices made by Ontario firefighters in the course of performing their duties. It also provides a place where the community can honour them and their families can mourn and remember them.

The Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation, in cooperation with its stakeholders and the fire service across Canada, is working hard to make the Canadian Firefighters Memorial a reality. This worthy goal deserves our full support. The memorial, which will be located in our nation's capital, will be a fitting tribute to all Canadian firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

Being a firefighter is a noble and respected profession. It is also sometimes a hazardous one. It is most definitely an evolving one.

As the terms "firefighter" and "fire department" imply, at the beginning, fighting fires was the main mission. Fires occupied most if not all of the firefighters' time, which is not surprising given the preponderance of wood and combustible materials used in the construction of buildings at the time. However, as time progressed, as science and technology changed the way we live, the role of the firefighter changed as well. Although it may have started with just fighting fires, firefighters today are called upon to respond to a variety of other emergencies, such as vehicle accidents and medical emergencies to name a few.

Firefighters must be prepared to deal with many different situations. Vehicle extrication, high angle rescue, confined space rescue, water rescue, ice rescue, hazardous material spill cleanup, hybrid car accidents...and the list continues to grow as we, as a society, continue to change. Today's firefighters face threats that would have been unimaginable 25 years ago. Who could have foreseen acts of terrorism, blackouts, SARS, or the ice storm? In addition, it is now more common for firefighters to come face to face with volatile social situations, which are becoming increasingly dangerous.

Injuries, occupational diseases, death are all potential consequences that are part of the job. In order to protect

themselves as much as possible, firefighters must arm themselves with skills, knowledge, and the latest equipment and technology. The importance of training and firefighter safety cannot be overstated.

The government, the fire service and the community must have as a goal the creation of a safe environment where no more names need be inscribed on firefighter memorials across the country. All levels of government have a role to play in creating this environment.

Although fire departments are a municipal responsibility, the federal government contributes to the safety of firefighters in many ways. By passing appropriate legislation, the federal government can affect directly and indirectly a firefighter's work environment. For example, regulating the use and storage of hazardous substances and passing laws to protect our natural environment means fewer environmental emergencies and less exposure to harmful substances.

Provincial governments also administer legislation that is relevant to firefighter safety. In Ontario, there is the Occupational Health and Safety Act, its main purpose being to protect workers against health and safety hazards on the job.

There is also the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997, administered by the Office of the Fire Marshal. This Act lists as duties of the Fire Marshal "to develop training programs and evaluations systems for persons involved in the provision of fire protection services and to provide programs to improve practices relating to fire protection services" and "to maintain and operate a central fire college." The Office of the Fire Marshal fulfills these duties by providing training courses and programs at the Ontario Fire College and locally in communities across Ontario, and by administering a certification program for firefighters.

Municipalities, as employers, have the obligation of providing members of the fire service with the tools and training they need to carry out their tasks in safe conditions. Firefighters have the personal responsibility of knowing and following the proper operations and safety procedures and of keeping their knowledge and expertise up to date.

Safety is everyone's responsibility. We all play a part in giving firefighters the knowledge, skills and tools they need to do their job and prevent injury and harm. It is only by being prepared that the fire service will be able to face the challenges of today...and the unknown challenges of tomorrow.

# *Kitchener Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial Dedication*

On an unusually sunny and warm November 12, 2005 firefighters from Kitchener and the surrounding area gathered in Civic Centre Park in downtown Kitchener for the dedication of a memorial to their firefighters. The City of Kitchener and the Kitchener Professional Fire Fighters Association unveiled the Kitchener Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial by artist Timothy Schmalz along with a fire related children's playground nearby.

The Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation Ontario Vice President Robert Kirkpatrick was honoured with the privilege of speaking at the ceremony and commented, "Well before the Confederation of Canada, firefighters in the Province of Ontario have risked their lives for the safety of their communities. The large modern fire departments we see today evolved from small bands of volunteers dedicated to the protection of their communities' citizens. The values and traditions they started – compassion, duty, honour, courage – have been passed on to this ceremony and can be found in any fire station... As we gather here today we pause to remember those firefighters who have paid the supreme sacrifice in duty for the community of Kitchener... whose names unveiled today will never be forgotten." Other dignitaries giving remarks at the ceremony included Mayor Carl Zehr, Fire Chief Rob Browning, OPFFA President Fred LeBlanc, M.P. Karen Redman and Kitchener's Firefighter Memorial Committee chairman Kevin Schmalz.

After the speeches, the large bronze sculpture and surrounding bronze helmets were revealed to the resounding applause of all those present. The ten bronze helmets located on large rocks surrounding the main statue represent the 10 members of the department who have died as a result of fighting fires: Robert Bezeau, Marvin Derbecker, John Divo, David Ferrede, Henry Lecreux, Charles Kieswetter, William Misselbrook, Lloyd MacLennan, John Edward Stahley and Robert Teply. Each helmet bears the name, date and truck number of the fallen.

The ceremony continued with the reading of the ten names of the fallen and a presentation to





each family. After the Last Post by Toronto Platoon Chief Nigel Soper the memorial was blessed by Bishop Matthew Ustrzycki and Kitchener Fire Dept. Chaplain Fr. Don Wilhelm. The ceremony concluded with Amazing Grace by the Toronto Fire Services Pipes and Drums followed by a reception. The artist, Timothy P. Schmalz, who worked for over a year sculpting the 5000 pounds of clay into the impressive work, is known worldwide for his

religious works. Viewed from the front, the sculpture features two weeping angels, kneeling over a single fire helmet. The angels' wings swoop together four metres in the air, encircling a collage of working firefighters, trucks and local fire stations.

From the back, the sculpture rises from a base formed by a single kneeling angel to a view of the Kitchener cityscape between her wings. Schmalz, who also created a similar monument to Sudbury's miners, had the four-metre-high by three-metre-wide work cast in bronze in Thailand and returned to Kitchener just in time for the ceremony.

The base of the monument includes the firefighter's prayer and a tribute to the FDNY 343 firefighters who were killed on 9/11. The impressive monument stands in Civic Centre Park and ensures the names of Kitchener's fallen will never be forgotten.





# THE CALGARY WELLNESS CENTRE



If you walk into any fire station in Canada one point holds true wherever you go; a Firefighter is a Firefighter. It doesn't matter if you work for a large department or a small one, whether you work on the East or West coast or somewhere in between;

*The personalities are the same.*

*We are affected by many of the same issues.*

*Without hesitation we are always there to help.*

Unfortunately, in our willingness to help others we sometimes neglect our own personal wellbeing. This attitude is apparent by our unwillingness to participate in annual medical check-ups. Many firefighters only visit a physician if they are really hurting. Unfortunately this reactive approach reduces the effectiveness of early detection and disease prevention. It seems obvious that because of the inherent risks of our job we should do what we can to protect ourselves not only for the fulfillment of our career but also capitalize on the pension we've earned. Its interesting that so many firefighters take so much care to prepare themselves



financially for retirement, but fail to consider their health into the equation. One firefighter I know had calculated his pension down to the last penny and even prepared himself for a winter retreat to his warm recreational property in the Southern States, only to realize the difficulty in getting medical insurance after having a medical procedure for a cardiac condition.

Recognizing the fire service is not known for embracing change it's not surprising that many wellness initiatives have failed to permeate the culture. The Calgary Fire Department was no different. Since the earlier 90's we've had peer fitness trainers and department supplied fitness equipment. Our program looked good on paper but in reality it wasn't accomplishing much. However, that all started to change in 1997 when Calgary was invited to participate in the IAFF/IAFC Joint Labour Management Wellness Fitness Initiative. As the sole Canadian department in the 10 department initiative, Wellness finally became a priority. Even with a commitment from our administration and local union executive, change did not happen overnight. In fact it took 8 years from the beginning of this initiative to achieve our current level of success. First we had to gain the confidence of our membership. We had to ensure that the program remain non punitive and all personal information be kept confidential. Despite all our efforts we still have members who are reluctant as "they do not want to admit that there may be a chink in the armour."

In 2000 Calgary began offering its firefighters Wellness Medicals through a privately contracted medical facility. The medicals were conducted off-duty and firefighters were compensated with two hours of paid overtime. Initially the response was good approximately 64% of our members

participated in the program. However despite all the benefits participation began to steadily decline to only 17% in 2004. Many of our members believed that they only required a one-time medical and didn't fully comprehend the advantage of an annual preventative approach. Another factor that contributed to the decline in participation was the restricted diet regimen required by the comprehensive lab work.

Without strong participation in the program the future of Calgary's involvement seemed bleak. Upon a comprehensive review, a change in the delivery model was determined as the best solution.

We realized that firefighters needed to be able to integrate the medicals on-duty. Working together with our Union President and our Fire Chief, we started making plans for our own medical clinic, dedicated to the needs of firefighters. We had no direct Canadian model to compare ourselves to, so we strategized about what we really needed. We converted an abandoned fire station into a clinic that is tailored to the specific needs of firefighters.

All results are confidential and non-punitive

- *The wellness medical is not a fit for duty medical.*
- *There is no pass or fail standard, but instead findings will be used to promote a healthy lifestyle.*

The Wellness Centre includes an occupational doctor, occupational nurse, office administrator, two kinesiologists (kinesiology is the science of human movement) and a technician for the cholesterol screening and mask fit evaluation. In addition to all the staff the facility is managed by the department's Wellness and Fitness Officer. With the staff's primary focus on occupational needs of firefighters, they are able to understand and interpret test results in ways that family physicians are not trained to, as well as take the time to discuss the details with each firefighter one-on-one.



The centre is organized into five sections:

- \* *Physician (physical exam and review of health history and lab results (including heavy metal screening, X-rays etc.)*
- \* *Occupational Nurse (sound booth, lung capacity, vision (including depth perception, colour blindness, vital signs, anthropometric measurements, etc.)*
- \* *Metabolic Testing (treadmill, heart – 12 lead ECG, cardiovascular – VO2 Max )*
- \* *Fitness Assessment (muscle strength, muscle endurance, flexibility, body composition and functional movement screening)*
- \* *Technician (cholesterol screening, mask fit and cardiovascular disease risk profile)*

The family history and Lab work is completed prior to the firefighter's arrival which enables more time for the actual assessments and discussion of results. One of the unique aspects of this centre is the time given to each firefighter. In addition to explaining why tests are taken, the staff also interprets the results achieved for each firefighter. Everything is tied back to the fire service. We strive to ensure that firefighters realize the relevance between being healthy and doing well on the job.

Like most other fire departments in the initiative, it is mandatory for all our firefighters to report for a physical each year. However, it is not mandatory that they complete all aspects of the test. We have demonstrated with proper education and available on-shift time that the program can sell its self. This program is about promoting positive lifestyle changes coupled with early detection techniques that can positively impact the health of our members.

Another key benefit of the centre is its ability to establish baselines. The initial medicals of our firefighters helped us to establish baseline data on various health aspects. By first establishing a baseline and then by conducting ongoing medicals over the years, it will enable us to establish trends. This is critical and will go a long way in terms of providing our members with protection like presumptive legislation.

In addition to conducting comprehensive medicals for incumbent firefighters, the centre also serves as the starting point for all recruit firefighters. We also allow our retired members access to the facility.

This is a unique program illustrating that the department is committed to its firefighter's health and wellness by providing the dollars to create and maintain the centre. It's also been beneficial in terms of educating firefighters about the importance of being healthy. The impact of this program has reaped immeasurable benefits. In our first year alone we had six cancer cases detected in our facility and several cardiac conditions that resulted in lifesaving medical procedures. It is my hope that all fire departments will endorse programs such as this that strive to keep their members healthy.

*Ian Crosby  
Wellness & Fitness Officer  
Calgary Fire Department*



# This Firefighter's Life



## BOOK REVIEW

*By Bill Williams*

*This Firefighter's Life by Retired  
Firefighting Captain Jimmy Allen*

There are two kinds of people who should read this book: those who are firefighters and those who are not firefighters. When you read it, do not expect a literary masterpiece. Jimmy puts it this way, "If you picked up this book expecting great writing and million dollar words, put the book back on the rack and buy something else."

Jimmy Allen served 39 years with the Ottawa Fire Department and retired in 1999 with the rank of Captain. Though Jimmy loved his job and his life as a firefighter many of the experiences of his service had a strong negative effect on him. In part, writing this book was his post traumatic therapy. Jimmy tells his story in self contained stories that are presented in a non-linear fashion. The effect is more like that of a mosaic than a painting. In McLuhanistic terms the book is very cool.

*By Retired Firefighting Captain  
Jimmy Allen*

This book tells Jimmy's story with, in his words, "a firefighter's voice." He tells it straight from the heart. He doesn't hold back. He doesn't sidestep the curse words. If you want "politically correct" you won't find it here. You will find one firefighter's story told in simple language. Parts of this book repulsed me. Parts of it made me laugh out loud. Parts of it brought me to tears. For me, this book is a very special gift from Jimmy.

If you haven't read it yet, consider yourself lucky. You have a very special treat to look forward to.

Copies of this book may be purchased direct from the author, Jimmy Allen, by contacting him at his email address psallen1@rogers.com or visit his web site at [www.jimmyallen.ca](http://www.jimmyallen.ca).

# THE STORY OF CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT IN NOVA SCOTIA



The beginnings of Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) in Nova Scotia go back to 1989. Dr. William C. (Will) Brooks, a psychologist in private practice in Truro and volunteer firefighter, had been presenting numerous workshops on general stress management in the Maritimes and New England beginning in 1976.

In 1989, Will was approached by Carl Shaw, President of Colchester County Firefighters Association, to prepare a proposal for dealing with the critical incidents experienced by volunteer firefighters in the county. At about the same time, Dr. Brooks was contacted by Mr. Ed Bowdridge, a Halifax Platoon Chief, to develop a similar proposal for the Halifax Fire Department.

These two developments led Will to approach the Provincial Fire Marshal, Mr. Thomas Makin to see how best to move forward with these initiatives. Chief Lorne Carter, Chair of the Fire Officer's Association of Nova Scotia, quickly extended an invitation to Dr. Brooks to make a presentation to the executive of the Association. This presentation was received positively, and it was decided to offer it to the full membership at its meeting which, as it happened, was taking place the next weekend.

Following the presentation, the Association established a small team in 1990 to explore the needs for a CISM program under the auspices of the Fire Marshal's Office. This led the Fire Officer's Association of Nova Scotia to create a Critical Incident Stress Management Committee under the chairmanship of Chief Murray Elliott, Cole Harbour, within a month of the initial meeting with

the fire officers. The committee, which continues today, was charged with developing and maintaining a CISM program for the fire service in Nova Scotia.

The task then became one of identifying and training suitable personnel with a view to establishing CISM teams throughout the province. This process was slow. Dr. Brooks who had by this time been trained in both the Basic and Advanced CISM courses became the Clinical director of the team which was registered with the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation (ICISF). Several Halifax firefighters, Mr. Ed Bowdridge, Mr. Larry Landry and Mr. Tony Garber also received training, and a team based largely in Halifax was established.

The Canadian Forces (CF) at Maritime Command (MAR-COM) headquartered in Halifax was also developing a team to deal with issues military personnel faced both in domestic service and during deployment. Major Cheryl Lamerson, a psychologist, was responsible for developing the military team which included Capt Debra March, a social worker, and other CF members. The CF brought Drs. Jeff Mitchell and George Everly to Halifax for intensive training. Despite growing evidence of the need for CISM, the number of trained personnel grew slowly.

Dr. Brooks had assumed the Chair of the Post Trauma Services Committee of the Association of Psychologists of Nova Scotia on May 8, 1992. He recalls that much of the first meeting centered on what defined a disaster. On May 9, 1992 the Westray mine exploded. He remembers saying to his spouse, Theresa, as they were about five miles from the mine when first reports came over the radio, "I think we have found the definition of disaster!"

This tragic event drew together the few people trained in CISM in the Province and many valuable lessons were learned. Dr. Brooks and Major Cheryl Lamerson were on the team which was the first to debrief firefighters. Will's wife, Theresa, was seconded by the Pictou School Board to assist in setting up a tragic events response, something she had already developed in a neighboring school board where she worked.

As a consequence of the Westray disaster, the need for CISM services in the Province was highlighted, and the Department of Social Services undertook an extensive training program, under the auspices of the ICISF, which was open to anybody in the Province interested in CISM. This major initiative allowed a number of firefighters and mental health professionals to receive basic CISM training.



Dr. Sandy Fraser and Dr. Will Brooks examine Will's 1951 Bickle Seagrave.

One of these individuals was Dr. Sandy Fraser, a professor in the counsellor education program at Acadia University, volunteer firefighter in Wolfville and colleague of Dr. Brooks. With Mr. Warren Clement, another Wolfville firefighter, and Ms. Peggy Duncan, a mental health professional in the Wolfville area, both of whom had received training, Dr. Brooks had the nucleus of a team to supplement the Halifax based team.

For a period of time, members of the Halifax and Wolfville teams provided all CISM interventions for the fire service in Nova Scotia and personnel from these teams traveled all over the Province. In one memorable instance, team members were transported from Stewiacke to Cape Breton via a Department of Lands and Forests' helicopter in order to provide a timely response. Will recalls the surprise and embarrassment he felt when the trip which he had been told would be \$800.00 turned out to be \$800.00 per hour! The trip was almost 2 hours. It was an indication of the high level of support from the Nova Scotia government that the extra cost was covered.

Responding to all CIS events in the Province was a strain on personnel. Over time more team members were trained in both Baltimore and by ICISF personnel who came to Halifax, and the load was reduced. By 1993 the province was divided into six zones with a team in each able to provide service as needed.

Dr. Brooks moved to Ottawa in 1995 as a result of the death of his first wife and his later marriage to then LCol Cheryl Lamerson who had a new Ph.D. from Guelph University and a posting in the Nation's capital. Dr. Fraser took Dr. Brooks' place as clinical director and remains so today.

There are a number of interesting characteristics to the Fire Association of Nova Scotia's CISM team. From the outset, fire departments in the Province were asked to contribute \$25 annually, later raised to \$50, to cover the operating costs of the service which is, of course, free of charge. These annual contributions have continued steadily over the years, especially as more and more departments have directly experienced the benefits of the program.

In 1994, Ms. Phyllis Veinot of Veinot Insurance Brokers in Kentville, who provide coverage for many departments in Nova Scotia, recognized the value of CISM. She developed special coverage for any firefighter who had experienced a critical incident and who had attended a debriefing but needed further mental health support. Additionally, she persuaded her carrier to contribute \$500 to the professional development fund of CISM committee of the First Officers Association of Nova Scotia for every debriefing conducted for a department her company covers. This latter provision has contributed enormously to the team's ability to send members to Baltimore for the ICISF conference held

every other year and to other professional development/training opportunities in Canada.

Another feature of the team has been its ability to conduct research. In 1993, Ms. Mary Hanneman, a graduate student working with Dr. Fraser at Acadia University, conducted a study into the efficacy of CISM. She conducted open ended interviews with randomly selected firefighters who had undergone a debriefing. With the firefighters' permission the interviews were tape recorded and later transcribed. Using appropriate ethnographic research techniques she analyzed the content of the interviews and found firefighters experienced significant benefits from debriefings. Ms. Hanneman's work was presented at an ICISF conference in Baltimore and has since been cited in other studies.

Members of the fire service CISM team have provided support to agencies other than the fire service. Dr. Brooks led a team that assisted survivors of the Cape Aspy fishing vessel which sank off Lunenburg with the loss of lives in January, 1993. He was also asked by the ICIF to head a team in Kentucky to debrief the entire group of miners affected by the death of a young colleague. The team was composed of local mental health workers and firefighters who were experienced in confined space rescue.

During the Swissair disaster of 1995 members of the fire service CISM team were heavily involved. Ms. Wendy Rafuse, zone coordinator for the South Shore team played a key administrative role. Dr. Fraser and his team from the Annapolis Valley were seconded by the Canadian military and provided service in the morgue, aboard ships and to medical personnel involved in the DNA identification operation. One of the interesting aspects of the Swissair incident was that by 1995, enough ICISF trained, experienced personnel existed in eastern Canada that the CISM component could be managed without the need to call

in help from the ICISF or other Canadian sources.

When refugees from Kosovo came to Nova Scotia, Dr. Fraser was part of a team of mental health professionals providing mental health/CISM services for those refugees based at Camp Aldershot.

Both Dr. Brooks and Dr. Fraser are founding members of the Canadian Traumatic Stress Network and Dr. Fraser served as Secretary to the network for some time. He is also a founding member of the Nova Scotia Critical Incident Stress Network.

Although the history of CISM in the fire service in Nova Scotia covers less than 20 years, a lot has been accomplished. No doubt there are other organizations in Canada with similar experiences and it would be interesting to hear from them.

*From recollections provided by Dr. Will Brooks and Dr. Sandy Fraser, May, 2006*





## Rent A Car Initiative

---

Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation is very pleased to have completed an arrangement with AVIS Rent A Car which will both benefit the Canadian Fire Service (CFS) and the Foundation. It has been our good fortune to work with Chantal Tourangeau of AVIS to build a Canadian Fire Service program which will provide discounted car rental rates to all Canadian firefighters.

At the same time the firefighter uses AVIS, he or she is helping the Foundation because a percentage of the total income to AVIS will be rebated to the Foundation at year's end.

This program has many possibilities and few limitations. It is important that departments, associations, fire service organizations, locals, in short, bona fide members of the Canadian Fire Service be included on the AVIS master list.

As well, any CFS group can connect with the program for their conference plans, departmental travel needs, and special programs and events. The possibilities are substantial, and given the ingenious capabilities of Canadian firefighters, many new ways to utilize this arrangement will emerge.

### Fire Chiefs/Authorized Officers - How to Sign Up Your Group:

In order to sign up your group (Department, Association, Organization) with your own Avis Worldwide Discount (AWD) number; please have an authorized officer of your organization call Chantal

Tourangeau at (613) 232-4788 or Hossam Azar at (800) 525-0390.

- \* Signing up your group cannot be done on line, you must contact Chantal Tourangeau or Hossam Azar.
- \* No credit card information is required to sign up a group; only the organization name, contact name, telephone number and address.
- \* For your convenience you may also send your request by fax or e-mail at the following:

Facsimile #: (613) 232-4346

E-mail: [Chantal.tourangeau@avis.com](mailto:Chantal.tourangeau@avis.com)

Canadian Fire Service members - How you can benefit from Avis' discounted rates through CFFF:

- \* The firefighter must identify herself/himself to the AVIS agent at the time of rental and indicate the group to which they belong. Please ensure to quote your group's own AWD#; providing your group has signed up.
- \* If a group has not signed on yet, every Firefighter can still benefit from the AVIS-CFFF program. Until a group has signed up, please quote the following Avis Worldwide Discount number (AWD#) C163200 at the time of reservation.

Please be sure to quote AWD# C163200 or your group's own AWD# to access the CFS discounted rates.



# A Canadian Airborne Firefighter



**I**magine for a moment a firefighter who doesn't wear a typical firefighter's helmet or other protective clothing or who may have never climbed a ladder, used an axe or held onto a hose nozzle. Such firefighters exist. They are pilots who fly the Bombardier Canadair CL-415 and its predecessors.

In the 1960s Bombardier developed an aircraft designated the CL-215 in response to criteria established by forestry officials who were looking for a more effective way of delivering water to suppress forest fires. This aircraft had an internal water tank system capable of delivering 5,346 litres (1,410 US gallons) of water onto a fire site. It could reload its tanks by skimming the surface of almost any body of water in a matter of seconds using two low-drag water scoops. Two Pratt & Whitney R2800 radial engines powered the aircraft.

The first customer for the CL-215 took delivery in 1969. Until 1989, 125 of these aircraft were built in five production runs. In 1987 Canadair undertook refitting a number of CL-215 airframes with Pratt & Whitney Canada Corp. PW123AF turboprop engines. This aircraft took the designation of CL-215T. It featured many aerodynamic and systems improvements along with a 15% power increase. Canadair incorporated powered flight controls, cockpit air conditioning, and upgraded electrical and avionics systems into this retrofit.

In October 1991 Canadair initiated the production program of the CL-415. This aircraft first flew in 1993 and the first delivery took place in 1994. The CL-415 is a multi role amphibious aircraft. In addition to firefighting it can be used for maritime surveillance, coastal patrol, search and rescue, utility transport, personnel transport, and resource protection.

The CL-415 is powered with two Pratt & Whitney Canada Corp. PW123AF turboprop engines that deliver 2,380 hp on take off. The aircraft is 19.82 m (65 ft. 0.5in.) in length overall and has a span of 28.6 m (93 ft. 11 in.) Its operating weight empty is 12,882 kg (28,400 lb.) Its maximum take off and land weight is 19,890 kg. (43, 850 lb.) and its fully loaded weight after scooping is 21,319 kg (47,000 lb.) Its maximum cruise speed at 10,000 ft. is 203 knots (375 mph.)

In its firefighting configuration, the CL-415 can carry a total of 6,137 litres (1,621 US gallons) of water in four tanks. Depending on requirements this load can be delivered all at once or sequentially from each individual tank.

The CL-415 also has the capability of adding class "A" foam to its water load. Concentrated foam chemical is carried in one or two 300 litre (80 gallon) reservoirs. The foam is injected into the water in the tanks in a ratio from 0.3% to 0.6% by volume. Typically a 0.4% mix is usual. A 6,000-litre load requires only 25 litres of foam concentrate.

A CL-145 with its two-man crew on alert can take off within five minutes of a fire call. Normally, the aircraft takes off loaded and makes its first attack within minutes. It can achieve six to ten drops an hour and twenty to forty drops before refueling. This corresponds to about four hours of endurance.

A body of water 1,220 m (4,000 ft.) long, 90 m (300 ft.) wide and 2 m (6 ft.) deep and free of surface obstructions is considered scoopable. Speed for scooping is about 75 knots (138 mph.) It takes between ten to twelve seconds from touchdown to lift off to fill the aircraft's water tanks. If ideal conditions are not available for scooping water, the aircraft can take on partial loads. It does not need a straight stretch of water, and can scoop while turning.

The CL-415 has been used extensively to fight fires in populated areas. It has demonstrated an ability to control fires without damaging property or injuring fire crews or others on the ground. Foam has often been used on structural fires with good effect. Foam expands on release from the aircraft and can reach the ground as 90% air and 10% water/foam. The foam used with this aircraft is biodegradable within four days of release.

Fresh or salt-water can be used with this aircraft, making it extremely versatile. In Europe, 75% of water scoops from this aircraft are from salt-water sources and no damage to vegetation or the environment from this has been noted. Typical drop height is 30 to 35 meters (100 to 130 ft.) above treetop level at speeds of about 110

knots (203 mph.) Experienced pilots can drop water from this aircraft with extreme accuracy.

The aircraft is ideal for working in less than ideal conditions. It can scoop into a head wind of 90 km/h (50 mph). It can drop while flying in winds of 80 to 100 km/h (45 to 55 mph). It can scoop water in seas with wave heights up to 1.2 m (four feet.) Experienced pilots can handle wave heights up to 2 m (6 ft.) Extensive experience in the mountainous regions of Mediterranean Europe and Southern California has proven the aircraft's capabilities to perform low drops in steep canyons and among sharp canyon peaks.

At this writing there are seventy-three CL-215, seventeen CL-215T and forty-six CL-415 aircraft in service in France, Greece, Italy, Spain, Croatia, Thailand, the United States and Canada. Another nine CL-415s are on order. Up to December 31, 1999 these aircraft have served a total of 504,447 fleet hours of operation and have delivered 1,572,290 loads of water to fight fires.

The CL-415 is externally similar in size and appearance to the 215, but has more than the turbine engine conversion. The 415 has a completely redesigned bomb tank. Some firefighters say they prefer the original version of the tank in the 215 due to the manner in which the bomb doors deliver the water load. The 415 also differs in that it has a new wing with winglets and vanes for added control and a glass cockpit (electronic vs. round-dial gauges).



The big difference between the CL-215 and the CL-215T/CL-415 is the performance improvement. The turbine machines will easily outpace the piston CL-215 in a level circuit over a given distance and where they really shine is when flying in terrain requiring a significant gain in elevation. The climb difference between the two is phenomenal to the point where firefighters in mountainous terrain wouldn't consider using the piston versions when they request water scoopers during periods of high fire activity. Only the CL-215T or CL-415 will do.

Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and Quebec's Société de protection des forêts contre le feu (SOPFEU) own their own CL-415 fleets and employ the aircrew and mechanics. Newfoundland, Saskatchewan and Alberta also use the CL-215 & CL-215T. Alberta contracts the aircrew and engineers from private aerial firefighting firms. Manitoba owns and operates 6 or 8 CL-215's. The Northwest Territories own four CL-215's (ex-SOPFEU planes) and contracts out the aircrew and maintenance. Saskatchewan is in the process of converting all their 215 fleet into the 215T version. This should be completed in a couple of years.

British Columbia Yukon, and New Brunswick use strictly land-based (retardant carrying rather than water-scooping) aircraft. The reason for this is a lack of suitable lakes from which to scoop. In addition British Columbia and Yukon summers tend to have lower relative humidities resulting in increased water evaporation between rounds. A high elevation difference between water sources

and fires in the mountains results in inefficient turnaround times for water-scooping aircraft in most areas of the west.

Canada's wildland firefighting agencies (through the coordination of the Canadian Interagency Fire Fighting Centre (CIFFC) in Winnipeg operate under mutual aid agreements in which ground and aerial resources can be loaned to other provinces and territories in times of need. That's why you may see, in busy fire seasons, CL-415's operating in the Okanagan valley or other parts of British Columbia.

Water scoopers operate using the 'litres per hour' concept, which simply defined, is delivering the most volume of water per given time to a fire to cool the flames and enable ground crews to assume a direct attack. No aircraft, regardless of technological features or carrying capacity, can extinguish a fire. That job depends on the ground firefighter with the shovels and hoses.

All water scooping aircraft in Canada operate under the direction of a birddog aircraft in which a pilot and forestry officer aboard formulate an action plan to combat the fire, coordinate with the ground crews below, serve as air traffic control over the incident, locate and define water sources and ensure the safety of the scoopers by confirming terrain and obstacle clearance. The birddog team also decides what target priorities exist at a given fire and when to cease aerial suppression efforts as conditions change.

The Canadair CL-415 offers unparalleled firefighting productivity. This made-in-Canada aircraft is the only kind of its type in service in the world. It is truly, one impressive firefighter!



# RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM

**A rapid intervention team (RIT) is a group of designated firefighters whose sole purpose is to rescue other firefighters that become trapped or injured while at a fire or other incident. In different regions a rapid intervention team may also be known as a rapid intervention crew (RIC) or a firefighter assist and search team (FAST).**

Firefighters rescuing other firefighters in trouble is nothing new. What is new is having a dedicated team of firefighters at fire scenes standing by to do little or nothing else but rescue their fellow firefighters. Past incidents involving firefighter deaths have shown that organizing a search and rescue party for their own firefighters has been too time consuming. Firefighters were pulled from other, often critical, tasks and reassigned sometimes near exhaustion to conduct a search mission. This put enormous strain on immediately available incident resources.

Rapid intervention teams have become a new part of the fire service deployment standards especially in the ongoing development of progressive incident management. The rationale behind RIT is to train firefighters to rescue themselves, then their partners and then as a team to be able to go in and rescue other firefighters. It has been shown through case studies of fire ground emergencies that the use of a rapid intervention team is the most effective way of facilitating the rescue of a firefighter who is trapped, missing or has sustained a life threatening injury.

The rescue techniques and maneuvers developed for rapid intervention are designed to give firefighters a response to emergency and life-threatening situations on the fire ground. They are to be used to save themselves or to save the life of another firefighter. Rapid intervention techniques often involve going into an extremely dangerous fire ground environment where there is no room for error. They should not be used to advance fire

*The rescue  
techniques and  
maneuvers  
developed for rapid  
intervention are  
designed to give  
firefighters a  
response to  
emergency and  
life-threatening  
situations on the  
fire ground.*

suppression activities or to save time on the fire ground.

The advent of rapid intervention teams means the deployment of more personnel at fires and this of course means a higher financial burden on departments especially smaller ones. Having an extra crew at a scene may lower the minimal resources left to the rest of a municipality. However it is well worth the greater expense required to put RIT into effect. Designating firefighters specifically for the rescue of other firefighters and equipping them adequately to do that job relieves stress on fire scene command and builds the morale of those firefighters concentrating on their firefighting duties.

Although the time and cost of conducting proper RIT training procedures is relatively high a department that does not have RIT incorporated into their incident management system could face serious liability. It may be a case of "pay me now or pay me later". The later being with a life! Those firefighters standing around seeming to be doing nothing are a firefighter's insurance policy against having another name added to the monument. The public calls the fire service when they are in need of help. RIT answers the question; who does the fire service call when something goes bad for them?

Without exception every firefighter must be trained in basic rapid intervention procedures. It must be incorporated into all departments as part of their current and recruit training. All firefighters need to be ready to do it at any time... You never know when it will be needed!



## *Dear Brother*

*The beep went off,  
You headed out  
You made a choice  
Without a doubt.*

*One day you're here  
The next you're not  
Gone in a flash  
But not forgot*

*When I heard what happened  
Dear brother I knew,  
You never doubted  
You wouldn't come thru.*

*It all happened so fast  
That jeep didn't last  
Dear brother my love for you  
Is never in the past.*

*One day you're here  
The next you're not  
Gone in a flash  
But not forgot*

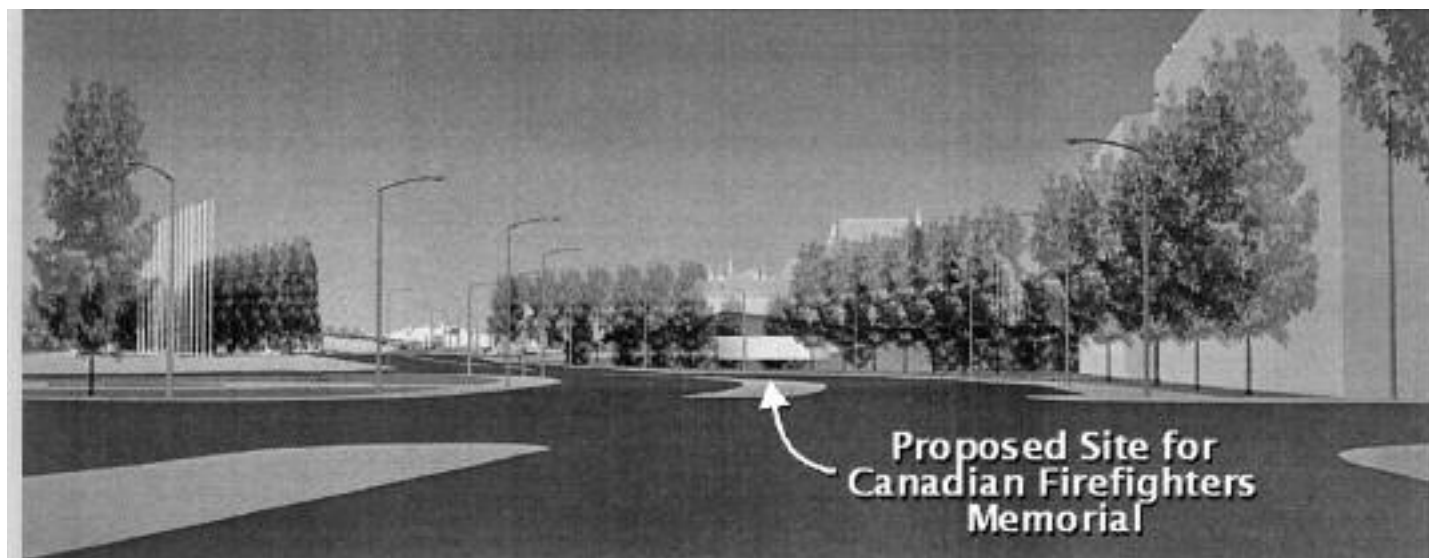
*You will always hold  
The biggest place  
In my heart, Dust,  
Forever and always*

*Your little sis,  
Brittany McDonald*

*In memory of  
DUSTIN ENGEL  
August 23, 1984 – June 20, 2004*



# **“Attention Canadian Firefighters! Attention Canadians! The Alarm is Now Sounding!”**



From the Booth/Wellington Intersection

In the days and nights during which I was honored to be an active firefighter, whenever there was an alarm, after a few tones, our pagers belted out the words, “Attention Truro firefighters, the alarm is now sounding! Attention Truro firefighters, the alarm is now sounding!” Shortly after that, details of the alarm and the response designations were broadcast. When we got that message, we knew there was something happening and what the response to it would be.

Thinking about this article forced me to recall those alarms and made me see how relevant they are to the present state of the Foundation. We are closing in on several goals which were spelled out in objectives written to help form the Foundation. One of the key objectives has been to design and build a memorial to Canada’s firefighters, a memorial to be called the Canadian Firefighters Memorial.



The setting for the memorial is LeBreton Flats. It is a setting you can visit via your computer or visit in reality by taking a short stroll west from Parliament Hill. We have taken the first steps to create a design for this entirely new, National piece of art. We have hired Mrs. Karen Mills, well-known and highly regarded Canadian Public Arts Consultant, to guide us through the labour of transforming the land into a place of reflection and remembrance.

Canadians have been generous with the Foundation, but in order to reach the goal and actually start building, the National Capital Commission requires evidence of a solid financial plan and sufficient cash flow. All the Canadian Fire Service players want



this work to go ahead with adequate funding. It is difficult, however, to develop enthusiasm for giving when people have not heard about the project or what the response must be. That is where the ALARM comes in.

Imagine you are eating, or watching television, perhaps sleeping in the middle of the night. You hear, "Attention, the alarm is now sounding! The alarm is now sounding! The Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation is responding already, but you are needed to help with funds to aid in the effort to create the Memorial." Can you do it? Will you do it? Will you help in any way possible to organize others to help so that we can get the work completed?

When the fire service in your area gets called, does it respond by saying, "We have an appointment open two months from now. Could you bring your garage which is engulfed in flames over then?" Of course not! When you call the fire service, it responds right away, and it works as hard as possible to help. Now, the Canadian Fire Service, through the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation, is asking for your help. Will you let it down? Will you say, "No, I cannot respond now?"

In my heart and from my experience, I believe Canadians will respond with the help for which we are well-known. I believe that when Canadians, no matter where they are, hear the words, "Attention, the alarm is now sounding. Help is needed!" they will try in every way they can to help in building our only National monument to the over 800 Canadian firefighters who have died in the line of duty. Please respond now to the alarm and know you have done your part so that they shall never be forgotten.

For more information see [www.cfff.ca](http://www.cfff.ca). All donations over \$20.00 are tax deductible.

*Dr. Will Brooks  
President*





**CANADIAN FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION**

P.O. Box 4818, Station E  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1S 5H9

PM40065059

