

COURAGE



CANADIAN FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION

Vol. 3



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CANADIAN FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION – Volume 3

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ON THE COVER:

**Lieutenant Guy Desrosiers from the
Gatineau Fire Department (Québec)
taking a break after fighting a
structure fire in a commercial building.**

Photograph by

Brooks of Canada



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C O U R A G E

CANADIAN FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION – Volume 3

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Mississauga Fire and Emergency Services. Author of Their Last Alarm

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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*





President's Message

There are two main groups of people who read **COURAGE**. The first group is the advertisers who are helping so vitally to sustain and grow the Foundation. We attempt to make the material in this review of interest, therefore, to a wide cross-section of Canadians in businesses that support the Canadian Fire Service.

The other group is members of the Canadian Fire Service itself whose bravery and courage we honour so deeply. For this group we try to present material which is not only of interest but use as well. Given that this is only the third issue of our annual review, we know we are still growing and welcome all the suggestions readers have for change and improvements.

To both groups must always go our heartfelt thanks. You support and encourage us to continue our tasks of completing the Canadian Firefighters Memorial, caring for families of the fallen, maintaining the Roll of the Fallen, and fostering the development of a Canadian-focused firefighter life safety program in conjunction with our partners. We continue to work with all the Canadian Fire Service organizations which exist to benefit the safety and welfare of our firefighters. Thus, we have supported the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs as has the Canadian branch of the International Association of Fire Fighters in encouraging the Canadian government to create the office of National Fire Advisor.

What will the next year bring for the Foundation? Many readers will know that there has been consistent effort to create the National monument in Ottawa. Support for this has been truly overwhelming. Visible action began with the passage of Motion 153 by the House of Commons in 2004. The multitude of letters from M.P.'s and Senators who support the Canadian Firefighters Memorial has been both impressive and heart-warming. Again, we say thank you without reservation.

Finally, to the CFFF-FCPMS Board of Directors all of whom work diligently and without any pay it must be said again that none of the progress we have made could have been done without the entire team. It has been the Foundation's consistent goal to be present when asked at every Line of Duty Death ceremony. In some instance that has meant taking on a major role; in others it has meant just being present to pay tribute to courageous firefighters.

To all who read this remember that firefighters are our first responders across Canada. They have for centuries saved lives, protected property and reduced losses often at extreme cost to themselves and their families. Please continue to honour them by supporting the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation. Please visit www.cfff.ca to see our work in more depth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William Brooks'.

Dr. William Brooks, President



Vice-President's Message

Another 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 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

In the letters, emails and comments that the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation (CFFF) gets there is one thing that comes through. The Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation and what the Foundation does have become very important to a great many people. One of the things that makes this apparent is the questions people ask.

I'm going to deal with two of the things people have asked about in letters and emails that CFFF has received. The two questions I have answered most in the last year or two have been, "How do I get a fallen firefighter added to the list of the fallen?" and "What can I do to participate in what CFFF is doing?"

The first question isn't always phrased exactly that way, but the answer is the same no matter how the question is asked. If you know of a firefighter who died in the line of duty who you think should be on the list of the fallen and he or she isn't on the list here is what you can do to apply to have that person added to the list.

There are three web pages that you need to visit:

How to Submit a Name - http://www.cfff.ca/fallen/submit-name_e.php

Line of Duty Death Definition - http://www.cfff.ca/fallen/lodd_e.php

Application Form - http://www.cfff.ca/fallen/lodd-form_e.pdf

The application form should be filled out fully with copies of supporting documents attached. The mailing instructions are on the form. The application will go to the Line of Duty Death Verification Committee for review, where the name submitted on the application will be considered for addition to the list.

The second question, about participation, is more difficult to answer. CFFF does not yet have anything organized to deal with people who wish to act as volunteers. This is being discussed and I hope that there will be something set up soon for this. In the meantime there are a number of ways people can get involved.

CFFF recently set up a group on Facebook - <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=6737981245> – where members can get news about CFFF, view photos and slide shows, make comments and enter into discussion. Anyone who registers with Facebook may join the CFFF group. People who join the group on Facebook will then be kept informed of any programs for participation that will be set up by CFFF.

Another way people can participate that will be extremely helpful is to write letters and emails to their government representatives at the national, provincial and territorial levels. Right now, letters that specifically support the creation of a monument to fallen firefighters are very much needed.

To find your provincial or territorial representative the internet addresses to start with are from west to east and then territories: www.gov.bc.ca, www.gov.ab.ca, www.gov.sk.ca, www.gov.mb.ca, www.gov.on.ca, www.gouv.qc.ca, www.gov.nb.ca, www.gov.pe.ca, www.gov.ns.ca, www.gov.nl.ca, www.gov.yk.ca, www.gov.nt.ca, www.gov.nu.ca. The provinces and territories all use different formats for their webs sites but if you do some searching you will find a list of government members, most of whom will have email addresses.

Finding your Member of Parliament in the House of Commons is a little easier. The address for Parliament is www.parl.gc.ca. This will return a portal page where you can select your language preference for the home page. Find the box on the page with the title: Current Parliamentarians. In that box there is a place where you can enter your postal code. Then click on the Find button to be shown your Member of Parliament.

In addition to sending emails or letters to your own members, letters to the Prime Minister, The Minister of Public Safety and The Minister of Canadian Heritage, Status of Women and Official Languages would be very helpful. At this time the people holding these offices and their contact information follows:

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper

Prime Minister

House of Commons

Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Harper.S@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Stockwell Day

Minister of Public Safety

House of Commons

Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Day.S@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Josée Verner

Minister of Canadian Heritage, Status of Women and Official Languages

House of Commons

Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Verner.J@parl.gc.ca

Remember, letters sent to the House of Commons do not require a stamp.

During the time CFFF has been in existence there have been a great many individuals that have contributed in some way to achieving the things the Foundation has been set up to achieve. I want to thank everyone who has helped. In the letters, emails and comments that CFFF gets there is one thing that comes through although it isn't expressed as a question. The Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation and what the Foundation does have become very important to a great many people.

CFFF BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Dr. Will Brooks, President

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 chose 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.



Vice-President Chief Gary Barnes, Gatineau Fire Department

Gary Barnes is a District 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 246,000.



Treasurer Mr. Douglas Lock, CD, CHRP HR Manager

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.



Secretary Mr. William Williams, Jr., Businessman (Retired)

Bill Williams worked in retail management in the hobby industry for Hobbyland in Ottawa. He was a member of Bytown Fire Brigade and editor of that organization's newsletter, The Bytown Trumpet. His hobbies include playing guitar, portrait painting, writing and movies. Five members of his family are firefighters.



Vice-President West Division Chief Douglas Wylie, Vancouver Fire and Rescue (Retired)

Doug Wylie moved out from Saskatchewan to Vancouver in 1965 and joined the Vancouver Fire Dept. in September 1973. After writing his Officer's exam he achieved the rank of Lieutenant.

In 2000 Doug was promoted to Captain and stationed at the second busiest Firehall in Canada, which also had the number one Fireboat. Later he successfully passed his Battalion Chief lectures. In 2004 he competed for the position of Division Chief for Safety and Logistics and was successful in winning the competition. Doug held that position until he retired at the end of February 2007.

Doug served thirty-three and a half years with the Vancouver Fire Department (now Vancouver Fire and Rescue) and never felt a desire to be with any other department due to Vancouver's history. During his service Doug was awarded the Exemplary Service Medal with thirty year bar and the British Columbia Fire Services medal.

Doug raced motocross for most of his late teens and early twenties, even gaining a Honda sponsorship at one point. Today he rides a Honda Goldwing Aspencade, a 1965 BMW 500 cc and a Honda dirt bike. Doug is a recreational golfer, playing most often when he is on vacation. He started playing hockey as a kid in Saskatchewan and upon joining the Vancouver Fire Department, he has played with them for all of his career. Doug now plays left defense with the Vancouver Firefighters Old-timers Team, called the Legends.



Vice-President North Mr. Tim Hinds, Fire Marshal, Department of Community and Government Services, Nunavut Territory

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.



Vice-President Prairies Firefighter Alex Forrest, President, United Fire Fighters Winnipeg, Winnipeg Fire Department

Alex Forrest has been President of the United Fire Fighters of Winnipeg, Local 867, International Association of Fire Fighters since 1998. He is also a full time Senior Fire Fighter with the Winnipeg Fire Department. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Winnipeg and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Manitoba, was called to the Manitoba Bar and is licensed to practice law in the Province of Manitoba. He sits on numerous Boards, including the Centre for Disease Control, Animal and Human Health, the Manitoba Hazardous Materials Corporation, the Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial Committee and the Medical First Response Committee. The International Association of Fire Fighters has appointed him Policy Committee Member, representing Ontario and Manitoba, EMS Representative for Ontario and Manitoba and Provincial District Service Representative for the Province of Manitoba.

Alex Forrest was instrumental in bringing Presumptive Legislation for Fire Fighters to Manitoba and throughout Canada and he has been actively involved in the Political Drafting of relevant laws applicable to Fire Fighters.



Vice-President Ontario Capt. Robert Kirkpatrick, Mississauga Fire and Emergency Services. Author of Their Last Alarm

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.

DIRECTORS



Director Air Attack Officer Paul Buxton-Carr, British Columbia Forest Service - Protection Branch

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 birddog 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.



Director Mr. Jean Carr, President and Co-Founder, Guardian Mobility Corporation

Jean Carr is a founder and President of Guardian Mobility Corporation, which is a supplier to forest fire industry. Mr. Carr has many years of sales, marketing and executive experience with high technology products, including multiyear expatriate assignments in California and Europe. Mr. Carr believes strongly that firefighters, who regularly give their lives in the service of others, are under recognized in our society. Mr. Carr has degrees in mathematics and in business administration.



Director Mrs. Diane Dempsey, Families of the Fallen

Diane Dempsey is Liaison for the Families of the Fallen for the CFFF. After losing her husband in the Line of Duty in 2003 and having him honored at the 2005 Memorial Ceremony, she had an opportunity to join the CFFF as an active force to support the organizations objectives. She feels her efforts are only a small contribution to society in honor of those who have given the ultimate sacrifice of their lives in efforts to help people in crisis.



Director Chief Kenneth Kelly, Representing the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia

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.



Director Mr. James Lee, Assistant to the General President for Canadian Operations of the International Association of Firefighters

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.



Director CWO Bruce Paradis, Office of the Canadian Forces Fire Marshal

Chief Warrant Officer Bruce Paradis enrolled in the Canadian Armed Forces in 1979 completing basic training at Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Cornwallis, and then on to CFB Borden ON to complete the 651 Firefighter trades training at the Canadian Forces Fire Academy.

On completion of trades training CWO Paradis was posted to CFB Chatham NB in 1980 as a Firefighter where he served for eight years, obtaining the rank of Master Corporal. In January 1988 he was posted to the Halifax NS area where he served as a Firefighter on Her Majesty's Canadian Ships Iroquois and Athabaskan, which included a NATO tour. In 1991 CWO Paradis was posted across the harbour to 12 Wing Shearwater as a Sergeant serving as a Fire Inspector, Chief Fire Inspector and finally as a Deputy Platoon Chief. Upon promotion to Warrant Officer in 1996, CWO Paradis was posted to 4 Wing Cold Lake as a Platoon Chief and during his tour at 4 Wing, he was deployed to Kosovo where he served as the Task Force Fire Marshal from December 1999 to Jun 2000.

In July 2000 CWO Paradis was promoted to the rank of Master Warrant Officer and posted to ASU Edmonton AB Fire

Service as the Deputy Fire Chief. In 2003, he was posted from Edmonton to 17 Wing Winnipeg MB as the Fire Chief where he had the honour of working with the only Dalmatian in the Canadian Forces Fire Service.

In 2004 CWO Paradis was promoted to his current rank and posted to National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa to conduct the Firefighter Functional Analysis with the MOSART project. During that time, he completed a systematic review of the entire firefighting occupation and with assistance from the occupational members, made recommendations as to the way ahead. In 2005, he was posted to his current position with the office of the Canadian Forces Fire Marshal as Operations and Senior Trade Advisor to the occupation. As part of his responsibilities, he was appointed to the CFFF Board of Directors in 2005.

CWO Paradis is a recipient of the Canadian Forces Decoration (1st Clasp), NATO Medal for Kosovo and the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal.



Director Division Chief David Sheen, Public Information Officer, Toronto Fire Services

David Sheen is a 17 year veteran with Toronto Fire Services, having started his career with the Toronto Fire Department in 1991. He has worked as a frontline firefighter in the downtown core, as a Public Information Officer, and is currently the Division Chief of Staff Services with responsibilities for Recruitment and Community Outreach, Public Information, Quartermaster, Medical Office and as the liaison with Payroll and Finance. Dave also served a number of years as a volunteer firefighter in the Town of Caledon.



Director Chief David Smith, Divisional Chief Training, Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency Service

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.



Director Chief William Stewart, Fire Chief, Toronto Fire Services

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.

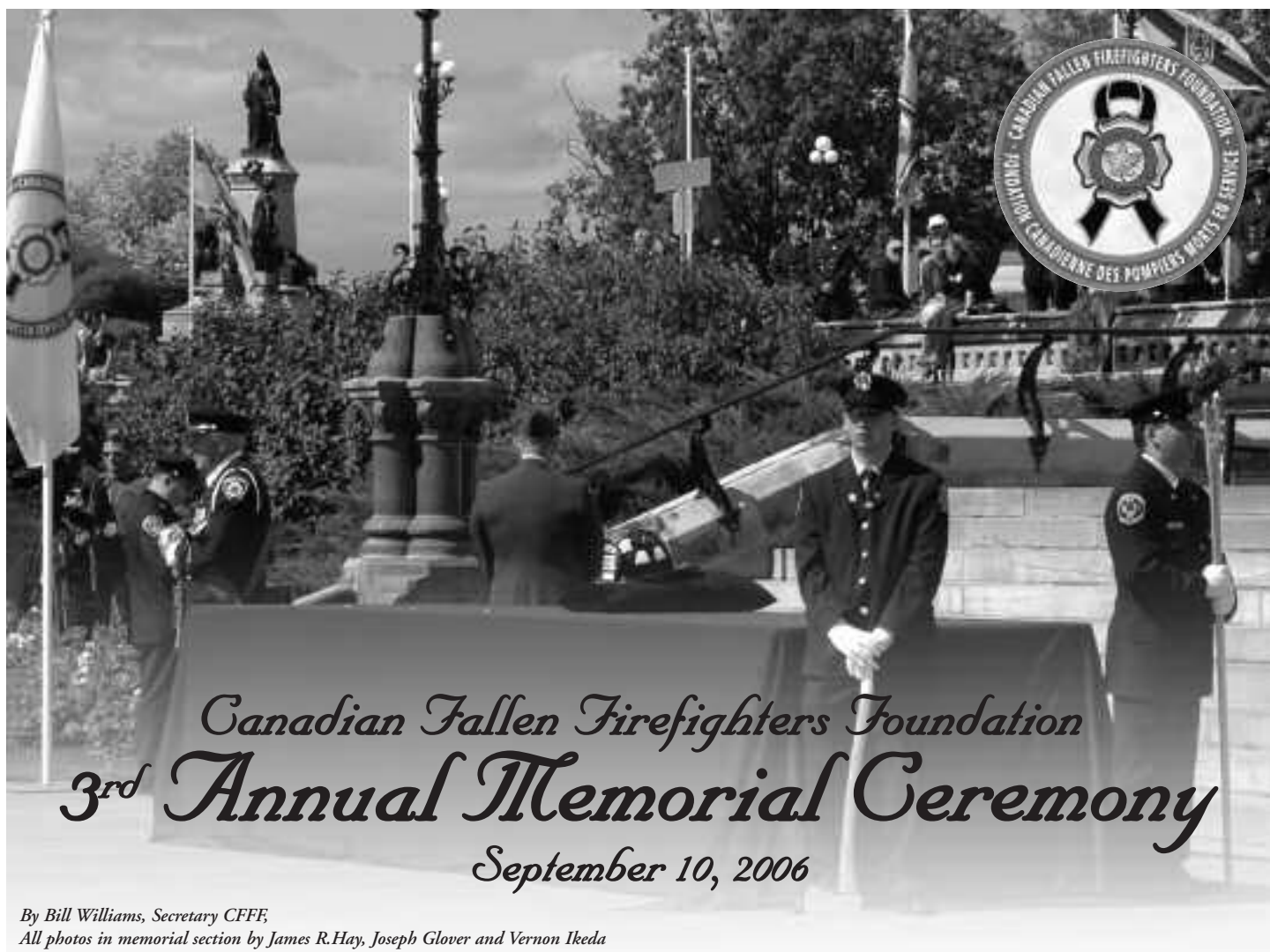


Director Mr. Serge Tremblay, Director of the Service de Sécurité Incendie de Montréal

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.



**To make a donation to the
Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation**
Go to the web site: www.cfff.ca and Click on the helmet.



By Bill Williams, Secretary CFFE

All photos in memorial section by James R.Hay, Joseph Glover and Vernon Ikeda

Sunday morning, the day of the ceremony, I got up at five a.m. I left at six-thirty and arrived at Parliament hill at seven a.m. I was not the first one there, not by a long shot. The military sound unit was there and running wires. People from Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) were busily placing provincial and territorial flag sets. For the first time since we began doing the ceremony, the flag on the Peace Tower was at half mast.

PWGSC had already set up the altar at the base of the stairs. The altar is the main focal point of the ceremony. PWGSC had very kindly had an altar cloth made for use on the altar.

I carried my brief case with the ceremony script, a hundred firefighter memorial pins, a roll of clear packing tape, and printed lists of information people might want. One of our contacts from House of Commons Fire Prevention took me into the Peace Tower and introduced me to the security guards. I handed out memorial pins.

On this day key participants need to be wearing the memorial pin. Normally the Foundation sells the pin in exchange for a ten dollar donation. The donation goes toward building the monument for Canada's fallen firefighters, or it goes toward

helping family members who have lost a firefighter in the line of duty. On the day of the ceremony I make sure the key participants wear a memorial pin and hope that they may make a donation later.

When I left the Peace Tower Georges Potvin's 1927 pumper was arriving and parked at the top of the stairs. The stairs go up from the path that cuts across Parliament's lawn. Halfway up the stairs there is a landing. For the ceremony this becomes a stage. Retired firefighter, and co-founder of the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation, Georges Potvin, drove his antique fire truck, Josephine, from Gander, Newfoundland to Victoria, British Columbia in 2000. We fondly refer to it as the National Unity Truck.

About half way between Georges' truck and the top of the stairs, PWGSC placed a flag on a pole that allows the flag to be lowered to half mast. Over to the east side a table was set up and covered with a black cloth. On the table was placed the bell that was commissioned for the ceremony that recognized members of the Canadian Corps of Firefighters who died in the line of duty during World War II. Near the bell was placed a small replica of a sculpture that commemorates the firefighters killed in the line of duty in what has become to be known as 9-11.



The Sudbury Firefighters Choir performs *Bring Him Home*.

Someone arrived and put a Tim Horton's coffee in my hand – cream and sugar and I normally drink my coffee black. On this day I did not complain. I thankfully sipped the thoughtful gift. A cube van arrived with seven hundred and fifty chairs. At about the same time cadets from all of the local corps arrived and began setting up the chairs.

The cadets began helping with the second ceremony. Their assistance has proved to be extremely valuable. They make a very large contribution to the success of the ceremony and we cannot thank them enough for their help.

Rain or shine, the ceremony will happen. As the morning of that day warmed up it looked like it would be shine and it was. More people had arrived and more activity was going on. Stage manager, Randy Piercy arrived and began to talk to John Sobey, Parade Marshal. Firefighters, bands, and honour guards had begun to arrive at the staging area for the march. I arranged to send a cadet over to the Supreme Court grounds to assist John.

It is really a walk but we call it a march. Most firefighters do not get trained to march nor do they drill. They have enough to do with protecting us and our property. They train for that and they do it very well. Some firefighters, like John Sobey, have had time in the military before they came to the fire service. At the Saturday run through firefighters with military training were identified and put in charge of different units.

A ladder truck was driven up in front of the House of Commons. A while later another one arrived. The crews located the trucks, and deployed the ladders with the large Canadian flag. This is a flag made for this purpose. It has special rigging built into it. It has scallops cut all over its surface to allow any breeze to pass through it. Even so it acts like the sail on a ship

and exerts tremendous force on the ladders that support it.

The water arrived. Nestlé donated bottles of water for the ceremony. Distributing the water and retrieving the used bottles is another task the cadets carried out most capably.

At the bottom of the stairs to the east of the altar, Robert Kirkpatrick arranged the medallions on a table. The medallions were specially made for the ceremony. There is one for each firefighter honoured at the ceremony. Nettleton Jewellers very kindly donate their services in engraving each of the medallions with the fallen firefighter's name, rank, department and dates of birth and death.

The silent sentries arrived. The silent sentries are four firefighters who stand on each of the corners of the altar. Each carries a different implement: a speaking trumpet, a fire axe, a pulaski and a kakivak. The pulaski is a wildland firefighting tool that is half axe and half mattock. The kakivak is an Inuit fishing spear that was specially built for the ceremony by an Inuit elder to represent the firefighters from Canada's territories. The pulaski was donated for the ceremony by the British Columbia Forest Service. Doug Greek brings the speaking trumpet to the ceremony each year from Halifax. The fire axe was provided by Ottawa Fire Services. The four implements used by the silent sentries come from east, west, north and central Canada. This just happened without any planning on the part of the organizers.

Service de sécurité incendie de Montréal was the honorary host fire department for the 2006 ceremony. They sent two of their antique fire trucks and they arrived and were placed. Montréal made their presence felt throughout the ceremony.

The masters of ceremony, Firefighter Michel Amesse and Lieutenant Martin Corriveau of Service de sécurité incendie de Montréal greeted the speakers and dignitaries on stage. In the distance, the cadence of drums indicated the start of the parade. As the first flourish of flags could be seen coming onto the field the masters of ceremony asked those in attendance to take their seats.

A small contingent of firefighters carrying helmets came to the altar, the focal point of the ceremony. This group was led by a flag bearer carrying the Newfoundland flag and followed by another flag bearer with British Columbia's flag. Six firefighter's helmets were lined up on the altar representing the six firefighters who had died in the line of duty in 2005 along with a helmet representing all of Canada's firefighters that we know of and don't know of who have died while in the performance of their duty.



Captain Doug Greek, Lumburg Fire Department with silent entry restored speaking trumpet.

Brian Hutchinson has been a member of Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services (VF&RS) since October 1, 2000. Brian became involved with the Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services Honour Guard in 2001. He currently serves on the Honour Guard Executive as the Secretary/Treasurer.

Brian spent his youth involved with the Canadian Army Cadet Corps and later moved onto serving with the Canadian Forces Army Reserves.

Prior to becoming a structural firefighter Brian spent seven seasons as a wildland firefighter assigned to a helicopter rappel crew. As a member of the Canadian Parks Service Initial Attack Program, Brian was based out of Kootenay National Park for several seasons, spending his final year based out of Mount Revelstoke/Glacier National Park. He had the opportunity to participate in wildfire suppression in all of the Rocky Mountain National Parks, Wood Buffalo National Park in the Northwest Territories, and various parts of BC and Alberta.

Brian mentions two pivotal events that have taken place during the course of his involvement with fire suppression that have solidified his passion for recognizing the fallen. The first incident took place in the summer of 1994, a very busy wildfire season throughout western Canada and the United States. While assigned to a fire base responsible for numerous active fires, Brian, his crew and all the other firefighters on scene were made aware of the fourteen wildland firefighters, smoke jumpers, hotshots, and helitack that had perished in the tragedy that was the South Canyon Fire (Storm King Mountain). Most recently Brian travelled to Storm King Mountain in Colorado and hiked the fire line where the fourteen fell, paying tribute at each marker along that steep and rugged trail. The second incident took place while Brian was finishing a night shift stationed in Vancouver's downtown core. The events of 9/11 unfolding as the entire night shift and day shift crews sat dumbfounded by what was happening in New York. Watching New York's bravest entering the towers, and later hearing of the 343 fallen had a significant impact. Both of these events have struck a lasting cord.

In 2004 the VF&RS Honour Guard sent a detail of twenty-two members to Ottawa for the first Fallen Firefighters Memorial Ceremony. The following year, Brian and one other member attended the ceremony and both offered their services to the event organizers and were asked to participate in the Headdress Party. During the course of practicing for this event, Brian was asked to lead the detail, an honour which he gratefully accepted. In 2006 Brian again returned to Ottawa and was encouraged by members of the Headdress Party to lead the detail once again. Prior to the 2007 ceremony, Brian was contacted by the event organizers and asked if he would be interested in once again leading the Headdress detail. Honoured to play any role in the event, the offer was accepted. Brian mentions that leading the Headdress Party has been both an honour and a privilege, and he is most impressed with the level of professionalism and dedication that the members of this detail have shown year after year. In the short time they have to practice the procedures and sharpen their foot drill, every single member has risen to the challenge. Standing at the front of the detail and watching each member carry out their assigned task of presenting the helmet and medallion to waiting family members of the fallen, Brian takes great pride in being able to stand alongside these members from various fire departments.





The Honourable Stockwell Day Minister of Public Safety gives the key note address for the ceremony.

Soon after the helmets were placed the main contingent of firefighters entered the field, led by the Ottawa Fire Service Band. Other bands featured in the ceremony were the Governor General's Foot Guards Band, the Ontario Fire Services Pipes and Drums, The Toronto Fire Services Pipes and Drums and the Band for Service de sécurité incendie de Montréal, which did a slow march onto the field playing a march of remembrance.

With all the firefighters, colour parties and bands arrayed on the field the Peace Tower Clock struck the hour and the large bell rang eleven times. The ceremony began with remarks from Directeur Serge Tremblay of Service de sécurité incendie de Montréal. Gary Barnes, Vice President of the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation spoke next followed by Dr. Will Brooks, President of the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

The Honourable Stockwell Day, Minister of Public Safety gave the keynote address. His words were caring, sympathetic to the families of fallen firefighters and full of compassion.

The masters of ceremony read the names of the six firefighters who had died in 2005. As each name was read, firefighters presented the members of their family with a helmet and a medallion that has been specially struck for the ceremony, on the back of which the name of the fallen firefighter is engraved.

This ceremony honoured these firefighters: Captain Claude Albert Levesque, Ottawa Fire Service, Ontario; Firefighter Kevin Brent Olson, Yellowknife Fire Division, Yukon; Lieutenant Cyril R. Fyfe, Yellowknife Fire Division, Yukon; Firefighter James Peter Radcliffe, Hudson Fire Department, Québec; Firefighter Paul Tell, Fort Nelson Fire Rescue, British Columbia; and Firefighter Christopher Sullivan, La Scie Fire Department, Newfoundland.

James Blondeau then performed *Courage*, a song he had written specially for use in this ceremony. He was accompanied by Pompiere Isabelle Flansburry of Service de sécurité incendie de Gatineau and the Sudbury Firefighter Choir. "From the fifties through two thousand a million voices strong when a family needed courage they were there and today the firefighters

are still bonded into one Stand ready to show how much they care. Cause there's a sign and it's called courage with the names and on it every firefighter's bravery from each and every one of them they gave to the spirit of a firefighter's bravery."

As the song ended a trumpet sounded the opening notes to *The Last Post* from the rooftop of the East Block of the Parliament Buildings. The distant sound of this simple mournful melody always moves those who hear it and this time was no exception.

A reflective moment of silence followed the trumpet's sad song at which time a lone piper playing the lament broke the silence. The piper, firefighter Brendan Stewart, Ottawa Fire Service, chose to play *No More to Return* for the lament. This song was written by Pipe Major Archie M. Cairns MMM, CD. This song is becoming a unique lament for fire service related ceremonies. I always find the lament to be sympathetic with people's grief and uplifting at the same time. Finally as the last notes of the lament faded away the trumpeter played *Reveille*.

The Sudbury Firefighters Choir sang *The 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." The choir followed this with *Bring Him Home* from *Les Misérables*, a song that has proved to be very appropriate in the context of remembering a firefighter who has fallen in the line of duty. "He is young he's afraid let him rest Heaven blessed. Bring him home."

Monseigneur Len Lunny, representing Chaplain Claude Forrest of Service de sécurité incendie de Montréal, gave the Unifying Prayer and Benediction for the Fallen. Following that the Toronto Fire Services Pipes and Drums massed with the Ontario Fire Services Pipes and drums played the hymn, *Amazing Grace*.

Finally all the firefighters, colour parties and bands marched past the altar saluting all of Canada's fallen firefighters represented by the helmet on the altar. As they passed by the people attending the ceremony gave them heartfelt applause. The ceremony came to a close followed by a reception in the Centre Block under the Peace Tower.



Chaplain delivers the unifying prayer and benediction.



The Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation Commemorative Medallion

An important part of the ceremony involves reading the names of the firefighters who have died in the previous year. As the masters of ceremony read the names, firefighters from the Ceremonial Headdress Party presented the family members with a firefighter's helmet and the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation Commemorative Medallion. The bronze Medallion measures 7.6 cm (3") in diameter by .7 cm (.275") thick. The Medallion is presented in its display case.

Two versions of the Medallion have been struck. The Medallion has the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation logo on its face. On the other side there are two olive branches and the words, "GRAVÉ DANS NOS MÉMOIRES" or "NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN." The fallen firefighter's name, rank, department, and dates of birth and death are engraved on the back. Nettleton's Jewellery Ltd., in Ottawa, has kindly donated the engraving of the medallions.

The members of the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation hope that the medallions presented at the ceremony will be a comforting keepsake for each of the families that receives them.



Gentlemen, ladies,

Last September, I received an invitation to participate in the commemorative ceremony of firefighters killed on duty. Surprised, but at the same time proud to be part of it, I agreed without hesitation. What I did at the ceremony was to say on behalf of all firefighters: "I am a firefighter and I am proud to honour all those who have died in the line of duty in an act of unforgettable bravery." I would say that this phrase means a lot to me.

Every day we work, we do not believe that this will be the last time. We do not stop to ask the question! This was probably the case with those firefighters who died during a practice, on a fire scene or after an illness. Throughout a career, every firefighter works to save lives, property, etc., but sometimes at the expense of their own.

I think the importance of the Foundation is that it honors firefighters killed in the course of their work every year, but it also tries to change things, including situations that could have been avoided. Among other things, with its "Life Safety" posters, the Foundation aims to educate firefighters on the leading causes of death for them. There is a poster that encourages firefighters to concentrate while driving; one that encourages them to get a medical examination regularly given that the heart attack is the leading cause of death among firefighters; finally, a third that mentions that equipment is expensive, but that life has no price!

In short, I must say that my involvement with the Foundation was especially rewarding at the ceremony and when I participated with the photography for one of the previously mentioned posters. I thank the Foundation, which contributes greatly to keep our firefighters living and to keep those who died, living in our memories!

*Isabelle Flansberry
Firefighter, Gatineau Fire Department*



Photograph by
Brooks of Canada











Honouring The Fallen of 2005

Captain Claude Albert Levesque
Ottawa Fire Services
2005 – 02 – 26

Firefighter Kevin Brent Olson
Yellowknife Fire Division
2005 – 03 – 17

Lieutenant Cyril R. Fyfe
Yellowknife Fire Division
2005 – 03 – 21

Firefighter James Peter Ratcliffe
Hudson Fire Department
2005 – 06 – 11

Firefighter Paul Tell
Fort Nelson Fire Rescue
2005 – 08 – 20

Firefighter Christopher Sullivan
La Scie Fire Department
2005 – 09 – 02

Firefighter Christopher Sullivan **La Scie Fire Department** **July 9, 1972 – September 2, 2005**

Chris was born July 9, 1972 to the late Ronald & Elizabeth Sullivan. He was the youngest of nine children. He lived in Brent's Cove, Newfoundland for thirty-three years – his entire life.

He graduated from La Rochelle High school in his home town and then attended college in Corner Brook where he studied forestry. He was employed by Abitibi Price as a forestry technician at the time of his death. He worked there for twelve years.

Chris was a member of the Brent's Cove volunteer fire dept. for twelve years. As members declined the department joined with LaScie's department to become a regional unit. Chris was instrumental in the joining of these departments. He was a regional member for three years. He got along well with all members. He was always willing to help in any way. He believed in treating people fairly and with respect. He was also a volunteer with the Brent's Cove community council for thirteen years, nine years as councilor and four years as Mayor.

Chris was not a married man with any children of his own, but he was dearly loved and cherished by his sixteen nieces and nephews. They always called him "Uncle Buck". Family meant a lot to Chris. He spent a lot of time with his brothers Paul and Terry who are also both members of the volunteer fire department. He enjoyed moose hunting with his brothers and friends.

Chris was a very knowledgeable man who knew something about everything. He could talk about anything, from cooking to nuclear medicine. Although Chris was a quiet man he could always make you laugh with some sort of funny joke or just a few words. Chris was a "deep thinker" who always sorted things in his mind before doing anything. He always believed in doing things to his full potential. He really enjoyed cooking and having family and friends in to share it with. He loved to sing songs when sitting around with them.

The day of Chris' funeral in Brent's Cove had a very deep sense of loss but there was a deeper sense of respect for a young man who will be dearly missed. Many people attended the funeral. Joining Chris' family and friends were people from neighboring communities, fellow firefighters, people from work both management and crew.

As the bells rang from the fire truck and the Last Post was played a well respected young man who touched the lives of many was laid to rest.



Firefighter James Ratcliffe

Hudson Fire Department

March 22, 1985 - June 6, 2005

*By: Peter H. Ratcliffe, Father
Delivered at Civic Funeral for James
Hudson, Quebec Saturday June 11, 2005*

Pulling onto Selkirk after midnight Monday, I wondered if it would be easier to live in a place where you knew no one and could crawl into a hole to lick your wounds alone. But Hudson is so much better than letting us do that. Friends who shared our loss immediately surrounded us and haven't stopped. A never-ending stream of help, friendship, food, love, hugs and support has flowed into this gaping wound. This compassionate loving way that Hudson has about it is just one of the reasons why Hudson is a great place to live and raise families.

James Ratcliffe was ripped from our hearts in an instant, as he died suddenly in the noble service of others. He was surrounded by firefighters he loved as his best and most trusted friends. He was in a place he loved and served. He was doing the thing he most loved doing, being a firefighter. Accidents happen for no apparent reason, but James lived his life with and for reason and died as a hero in the service of the public good.

Speaking for my family, there is deep sadness and hurt in our hearts, but no anger or regret. When James went into the water Monday night his fate was sealed by a tragic accident. Moving faster, getting him to shore and hospital sooner would not have changed anything. The noble men and women of the Hudson Firefighters did everything they could to save one of their own, but from first impact it was already impossible. I want us all to help the firefighters, ambulance staff, and community patrol find peace soon and remove the weight of James' death from their shoulders and hearts. It is not their fault. They bear no responsibility, accidents happen for unexplainable reasons and this was simply a tragic accident. James would want you to learn and become better, taking whatever you can learn from this. But James knew he was at risk and accepted that there might be grave consequences while he was helping serve and protect the community. That's what makes firefighters great and noble people, ignoring risk to help others. Hudson firefighters are great and noble people who are hurting and deserve our support and respect.

James was a gifted student, with great hair, who excelled in everything he did. Always aiming high, he achieved excellence at many things. He worked hard daily to develop his unlimited potential for greatness, so it is fitting that today we celebrate and honor a hero's life.

James' academic achievements and awards are well documented, his sports and committee work, his Avon Scholarship, his straight A's were always the example other parents used for their children. He expected those of himself and amazed Diane and me at how high he reached and how hard he pushed. He had his own vision of excellence for himself and worked daily towards it, always happy, positive and smiling.

James had a huge capacity for love and compassion throughout his short life. He loved his parents and sister and girlfriend without limit, but with his energy and compassion he loved and touched thousands of others as well. Our family said "I Love You" to each other constantly and meant it, but more importantly we showed it in actions every day of our lives. It's not enough to just say it, you need to earn that right, and James loved us every day as we loved him.

James was extremely moral and ethical, holding himself and his friends to the highest standards. I believe that three things drew James to firefighting. The desire to serve and protect was foremost in his mind, it was a way to give back to his community. Secondly, he found a great group of like-minded every day heroes to work with and got to play with the big-boy toys, drive around on fire trucks and use the Chateau as the un-official clubhouse. The third reason is of course that chicks find firefighters hot. From what I've heard, chicks found James hot before he became a firefighter. An informal poll of the young women I've talked to this week shows 90% with "I Love James Ratcliffe" somewhere in their diary and 10% to shy to admit it.

Hundreds of us have a gaping wound from the loss of James. We will never completely heal this terrible loss. We should understand that we will never forget the pain we feel now, only learn to live with it and slowly accept it as a new normal. We will bandage the wound so we don't see it, but we'll always feel it. From time to time it will become infected and fester causing greater pain, and we will have to work again to heal it over and over, again and again. We should chose to let the pain of that wound remind us that we can be better at our own lives. We will need to work for better like James worked and that pain will make us stronger.

James felt he would change the world for the better, and perhaps he has already. His death has allowed a community to show boundless love in a time of darkness and confusion. We can honour James every day of our futures by being more like him in every way. If each of you improves some small weakness in the name of James each day, the world will rapidly become an even more special place that James would have loved even more.

James loved Hudson. James has showed the world that Hudson is a better place now, so perhaps he did achieve his dream of changing the world. Through the media, the rest of the world has seen how model communities should act in a crisis. Compassion, strength and help have poured from every corner of this small community, which is exactly what should happen everywhere, but often doesn't. We have been surrounded by love, hugs and kisses with our every need and want provided to help us heal. We do it better here in Hudson because we love our community and each and every soul here, and we're not too shy to say it or show it. This wonderful community makes great kids into great citizens, and James Ratcliffe was a great citizen of a great community.

James wanted to live forever here and he will in our hearts, our minds, and as a shining example of what youth and ambition combined with hard work can accomplish when planted and nurtured in the right garden. James loved Hudson for all the good he found here, for all he accomplished he was one of the good guys you find here.

My message to all parents and children is important. James, Jessica, Diane and I always communicate openly. Issues are resolved without anger. Anger gets in the way of growth, so decide which fights are important. We try to resolve differences by the end of the conversation. We talk about anything as equals with respect and reason. Every subject is open for discussion. We don't leave things unsaid or hanging. We hug each other and most of all say "I Love You" as often as we can. We mean those words and feel each other's love constantly.

The single greatest comfort I can find in James' sudden death is that everything was said and we had no anger or arguments in process. There were no outstanding or unresolved issues, nothing left unsaid. We resolved arguments before leaving the room. We knew we loved and respected each other absolutely. When James smiled and left for practice the only things in our relationship were the great love and respect we shared for each other.

I urge every parent and child to constantly find the middle ground and accept and love each other unconditionally. Never slam the door and leave with an argument unfinished, don't hang up the phone suddenly. A sudden tragedy could make that argument your last memory.

We learned this week that an instant can take a great life away, and our memories of James are all happy and positive. Make sure in your families, that each day's issues are fairly resolved, hug your children and parents and speak of your love. Treat this and every day as if it might be your last and you will never go wrong.

Live like James lived and each of you change the world for the better. James loved you all and we all loved James. We will remember James forever.



Lieutenant Cyril Robert Fyfe
Yellowknife Fire Division
July 10, 1963 - March 21, 2005

Lieutenant Cyril Fyfe was injured while fighting a fire at the Home Building Centre on Old Airport Road on March 17th. He was inside the building when the roof collapsed on top of him and another Fire Fighter. He died four days later from his injuries.

Cyril was the third child born to Robert and Ethel Fyfe in Nipawin, Saskatchewan. At the age of four he came to Yellowknife. Cyril joined the Yukon Fire Division as a volunteer in November 1987 and began his full time career in April of 1989. He accepted a promotion to Senior Fire Fighter on July 1, 1997 and was promoted to Lieutenant, Platoon C on September 6, 2002.

He loved to camp, and fishing was his main recreation.

Yellowknife Fire Chief Mick Beauchamp said, "I've known Cyril since he was a little guy. He's a wonderful father and is well respected in our department."

Lieutenant Mike Lowing said in his eulogy to Fyfe, "One of his greatest strengths was being a behind the scenes kind of guy who always got things done." He added, "Even after his death, people benefited from his donated organs." Lowing went on to emphasize that Fyfe was not perfect: "the inside of his truck looked like a rocket propelled grenade had been shot into a dumpster."

Daughter Jolene said her dad was "the kind of guy you want to brag about."

His partner Andrea said it "is truly an honour to love and be loved by this man."

Cyril was well respected by all his colleagues and peers and will be sorely missed by his friends, family, colleagues, City of Yellowknife residents, respective community and volunteer fire fighters and all the Brothers and Sisters of the IAFF. His brother firefighters wish him, "Godspeed, Cyril good buddy."

Captain Claude Albert Levesque **Ottawa Fire Department** **July 10, 1940 - February 26, 2005**

Captain Claude Albert Levesque passed away on February 26, 2005 at the age of 64 from work related causes. He spent much of his life at Ottawa Fire Station No. 57 – his second home. It's where he worked for most of his 37-year career. He was husband and best friend of Claire and loving father of Johanne, Hélène, Richard and Daniel.

Levesque's daughter Johanne said her father was a man who was devoted to his family, his hobbies and his career. She greatly admired her father and the job he dedicated his life to, and remembered how often she bragged about him in the schoolyard. "I loved telling the other kids my dad was a firefighter," she said. "He was not only committed to his job, but committed to his men. He would be the first to enter a burning building and would never ask his men to do anything he wouldn't do."

Outside of the fire department, Levesque couldn't get enough of the Montreal Canadiens, hitting the golf course and listening to music. Racquetball also played a big role in Levesque's life and he often boasted about his victories over some of the younger players at the Ottawa Athletic Club.

Aaron Wiszniak, one of Levesque's racquetball opponents remembered, "As competitive as he was, it was always about having fun and putting a smile on your face at the beginning of each day. Even toward the end he tried to muster up enough strength to swim and visit with his buddies."

"He was always happy and always laughing," said Ottawa Fire Services Deputy Chief Jim Ullett. Claude is dearly missed by his family and brother firefighters.



Firefighter Kevin Brent Olson **Yellowknife Fire Division** **January 27, 1981 - March 17, 2005**

Kevin Brent Olson was born in Calgary, the only son to Brent and Susan and little brother to Christina and Teri.

Kevin graduated from fire etc. in Vermilion, Alberta in 2003. While there he received the Jason Lang Scholarship and a Lakeland College Academic Excellence Award.

He joined the Yellowknife Fire Division in March 2005. Eleven days later he died when a roof collapsed as he battled a fire in a shed attached to a Home Hardware store.

Debbie Euchner, a City of Yellowknife spokeswoman, said Olson's death was the first in the line of duty in the Yellowknife fire department's history. "Firefighters are grieving," she said. "The city of Yellowknife is very sad. The mood is very somber and our hearts and prayers go out to the families."

Olson, and his wife, Erica Olson, 18, married that year on January 28. Erica was planning to move from Calgary to Yellowknife in a month having already bought an apartment with Kevin. "He was so excited to start his life with me," Erica said tearfully from her husband's family home. "I was looking forward to starting a family." She said that she and Kevin planned to fly to Russia that summer to meet Erica's family and tell them they were happily married. "I'm just glad that I got to know him, that I got to have him as my husband and that I got to be his wife," said Erica, adding she spoke with Kevin the night before his death.

Olson was also an emergency medical technician and he told his wife that he was considering applying with Calgary Emergency Medical Services. "I thought, 'Yes, the risk is gone,'" said Erica. "But he loved fire, he always had this crazy passion for it so I guess it almost makes sense he died in a fire, but I just don't understand why now? He was so young."

Kevin loved his family more than anything. He was a caring and generous person that left a lasting impression on all he met. "I'm so proud of you," said Kevin's wife, Erica. "I love you – I will be missing you, and I will never forget you. You are my hero."



Firefighter Paul Tell
Fort Wilson Fire Rescue
June 28, 1953 – August 7, 2005

Paul Tell was born in Port Alberni and lived with his parents Joe and Phyllis Tell and three siblings for most of his young life. In his first year he was fostered by the Stephens family due to his mother's illness with T.B. Tip and Doris Stephens remained dear to him throughout his life.

Paul played ball as a youngster and attended school in Port Alberni until when in grade eleven the lure of independence and the need to fund his craving for hot cars led him to Alply, a plywood mill in Port Alberni. He worked at the mill for 17 years, where he shared very strong and special camaraderie with many coworkers who stayed very dear to him for the rest of his life. When forced to reconsider his working options due to a mill closure, Paul followed his very dear friend Norman to the north, Fort Nelson. There he stayed. Robin, Norman, and Crouteau remained dear friends for Paul. They truly shared and cared unconditionally for Paul, and became his Fort Nelson family.

Paul worked hard for the fire department and for the community of Fort Nelson for over 10 years. He was a paid-on-call Firefighter (POC) and he did that while maintaining a full-time job at a local mill, Canfor. On top of all that, he was readily self-giving to his colleagues, to activities within the department, and to events within the community. It has often been said that the measure of a fire fighter is the confidence his team members demonstrate by their willingness to enter a burning building with him. Paul Tell was one of those. There was not a fire fighter who would not enter a burning building with Paul. He was courageous and exemplified what fire fighting is all about.

This was the most fulfilling experience of his life. Fellow firefighters have shared their stories, as is the case with the following excerpt from a speech provided by Chief Lutsiak at Paul's funeral in Port Alberni.

"Paul's dedication to the department and the community was second to none. Reliable, honest, committed, loyal, yes Paul was all of these. When asked to speak on behalf of the IAFF local 2782, at first I thought exactly what my first sentence stated. Paul's dedication to the department and the community was second to none. Reliable, honest, committed, loyal, yes Paul was all of these. Paul didn't perform his duties as a part timer but he committed himself to any tasks as if it was his career, and in a sense it was. Whenever our local had a task to perform Paul would quietly show up and lend a hand. Oft times he would come to the fire hall on a Saturday or Sunday and help the firefighter on duty even though he was told no, Paul, that's our job. He would look you square in the eye and say no, it's everyone's job. He took as much pride in the appearance of the hall and apparatus as any of us. Paul was also not afraid to ask questions, like why we took a certain approach to a fire attack or extrication. When explained to him he'd say "oh yeah that makes sense". Or he'd make a suggestion that we would eventually put to test at practice. He was also not afraid to, shall I say, motivate a fellow POC into getting busy during clean up after a fire call, or to take a rookie inside with him regardless of their experience.

He believed a person deserved a chance to prove himself capable of performing his job of fighting fires. His volunteer service to the community was exemplary, more than a few times he showed up to an event with little or no sleep.

If Paul was to leave a message to us I believe it would be this: To all fire fighters, strive to be the best, live to learn and learn to live. Don't be afraid to ask when in doubt and what you've learned from others along the way."

Deputy Chief Dennis Muise Shared similar sentiments regarding Paul when he said, "Paul was a role model for us all. So to all firefighters look no further than right here if

you want to excel in this profession, full timers and POC's, for you will find no better model than Paul to inspire you to be the best that you can be both professionally and personally."

Paul was honored with the reward of Firefighter of the year, and he received recognition for the most volunteer hours worked in 2004. The work and knowledge gained provided Paul with a strong sense of community, pride and personal accomplishment. Chris Morley, Mayor of Fort Nelson provided a picture of the kind of person Paul was in her description of presenting the award to him.

"In February of this year, I had the honor of announcing and presenting that particular award to Paul Tell. Although no one could foresee the events that would occur seven months later, that moment in time will be etched in my memory for a very long time.

"If you could have seen the look in Paul's face when I announced his name! I will never forget it. He was utterly and completely surprised!

"Many people may not know the means by which a fire fighter is selected for that award. I'd like to share a bit of that with you so that you will have further insight into Paul's abilities. The award is not given based on who can campaign the best or lobby the hardest! It is given to the individual voted by their peers, as most representative of the dedication and commitment required by all to perform the role of Firefighter for the Town of Fort Nelson Fire Rescue Department. That is not an easy feat for anyone to achieve; firstly, because it needs the vote of a very tough audience... your peer group. Secondly, the person must exceed the standards of excellence required of all fire fighters. Paul did both, and his surprise at receiving such high esteem was a surprise to no one but him. That speaks to Paul's humility as a person and as a highly gifted professional."

He was very proud of being a firefighter, yet extremely modest. Family and friends in Port Alberni truly did not know of his dedication and the respect his fellow fire fighters held for him during his life. These incredible gifts came to them from speeches and stories and the incredibly generous support following his death.

Paul left behind very dear friends Norman, Robin and Connor Crouteu as well many other friends in Fort Nelson. In Port Alberni Paul left his life-long friend Bob Kraneveldt and Rosie, Paul's oldest friends. He is survived and deeply missed by his parents Phyllis and Joe Tell; two brothers, John and Nicholas Tell; sister, Jody Vos and brother-in law, Fred. He had four nephews Daniel Tell, Adam Tell, Sheldon Vos, and Kyler Vos, as well as one niece Amelia Vos.

Some remember Paul for his love of the outdoors, and the for many, it was the fishing trips they shared; others his love of community and partying with friends; while still some will recall his commitment, courage and dedication to being the best he could be in his role as a firefighter. Many close friends and family remember his dedication to their friendship and the unconditional love he share with them. Whatever the quality or memory recalled, there is no doubt that remembered he will always be.



Fallen Firefighters Added to the List of the Fallen

September 10 2006 – September 8 2007

These are the names of those fallen firefighters who were added to the List of the Fallen in the year following the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation Memorial Ceremony of 2006.

Deputy Chief Aurele J. Allain
Deputy Chief William Beattie
Firefighter Clayton William Bollong
Helicopter Pilot Jacques-Henri Boulet
Firefighter Gary William Bryant
Captain/Water Bomber Pilot Roy Clark
Lieutenant Desmond Dubroy
Captain Alan Edwards
Captain Jack W. Elgar
District Chief William J. Farrington
Deputy Chief Ross Forfar
Extra Firefighter Jean-Claude Fraser
Captain Ian Gatehouse
Pompier Charles Goulet Jr.
Firefighter Svend Henriksen
Firefighter Roy M. Humes
Firefighter Mark Johnston
Captain Mel Jones
Captain John Krahn
Firefighter Denis Lafrenière
Firefighter Jeff Laishes
Captain Dean Larivee
Captain Harold Lessard
Firefighter Osborne M. Lowe
Firefighter Shawn Thomas MacLeod
Capitaine Marcel Marleau
Captain William A. Martin
Lieutenant Doug G. H. McAdam
Firefighter Ronald Meilleur
Firefighter John Miller

Fire Chief Thomas Minhinnett
Air Crewman Darcy Antoine Moses
Pilot David John Naar
Captain Thomas William Nichols
Detection Aircraft Pilot André Paquet
Captain John Douglas Patterson
Crew Chief Jacob William Penner
Extra Firefighter Jocelyn Pomerleau
Captain Robert L. Richardson
Director of Training Dave C. Rivers
Captain Donald A. Robertson
Senior Firefighter Norbert C. Sabourin
Canso Commander Benoit Samson
Pompier Rosaire M. Sergerie
Firefighter Clarke Stevens
Firefighter 1st Class Charles Stroud
EMO Coordinator Bernard McKenzie Swan
Fire Captain James Symon
Firefighter Patrick G. Thibodeau
Fire Chief Robert Timms
Captain Rick Tymchuk
Lieutenant Thomas Upton
Fire Inspector Philippe Vaillancourt
Fire Inspector Bertrand Vandal
CL-215 First Officer John Watson
Firefighter Paul J. Whalen
Firefighter Joseph Whiteduck
Captain Gary Allen Wilson
Captain James R. Woodman

At War with FIRE

*By Robert Kirkpatrick,
Vice President-Ontario, C.F.F.F*

During the early part of the Second World War, British firefighters had their hands full with an overwhelming number of fires caused by enemy attack in Southern England. In a 60-day period beginning Sept 1, 1940 British firefighters responded to over 17,000 fires. 110 of these required over 11 pumpers and crews while an astounding 14 more were classed as conflagrations requiring over 30 pumpers and hundreds of firefighters. Most fires and rescue work in the rubble lasted for days and firefighters left one incident to go to another without rest. If the task wasn't dangerous enough, with falling buildings and enormous fires, the crews often came under enemy attack. Needless to say British firefighters were tired and having a hard time keeping up with the workload.

In Canada, the British ordeal did not go unnoticed and in 1940 the Fire Chief of Vancouver proposed to the Canadian Government that a group of 500 firefighters be sent to help. The idea stalled until Canadian Prime Minister Mackenzie King visited London in the summer of 1941 and after seeing the destruction first hand, offered the help of firefighters to Britain.

The Canadian Corps of (Civilian) Firefighters was born on Sept 10, 1941 in a Cabinet War Committee meeting. It was at first the intention to have the Corps as a branch of the Canadian Army, but since the Fire Service in Great Britain was operating as a civilian organization the Canadian contingent would also do so and was classed as a civil defense organization. They were placed under the jurisdiction of the Canadian Department of National War Services and operated as a civilian body with the same rank structure as the British Fire Service. Although promised the same benefits as the Canadian Army, their designation would create discontent among the firefighters until long after the war.

In January 1942, the Canadian Cabinet Council appointed Flight-lieutenant Gordon E. Huff, Royal Canadian Air Force, who was at the time fire prevention officer No. 2 Training Command, Winnipeg, as commanding officer of the new Corps. The veteran of World War 1 in peacetime was the Fire Chief of Brantford, Ontario, where he began his firefighting career in 1919. At the outbreak of war he was granted a leave of absence, like so many other firefighters, to enlist in the armed forces for the duration of hostilities.

The call for volunteers to join the newly formed Corps went out across Canada to fire departments and the media. Those meeting medical and other qualifications were sent to Ottawa for training. The over 400 enlistments came from across Canada, with

over half from Ontario, and were from mixed backgrounds. 36% came from urban departments, 27% from volunteer rural departments and another 36% had no firefighting experience at all.

One of those to sign up was 22 year-old Robert Draper from Clinton, Ontario. Draper, who had been a firefighter for three years, joined with his friends Eddie Elliott, Timmer McEwan and Bill Chambers from neighbouring Exeter.



Left to right in photo: Robert Draper, Harold Doherty, Keith Affleck and Joe Dale standing in front of their pumper. Photo courtesy Robert Draper

In Winnipeg, 20 year-old firefighter Jack Coulter heard the need was urgent and signed up. Jack had been a firefighter with the Winnipeg department for just under two years when he left for the adventure overseas. John Coull, age 33, also from Winnipeg was not a firefighter. He was a caretaker but heard the call for volunteers in the media and also joined up.

The men left their families from all parts of Canada and arrived in Ottawa in May 1942 for three weeks of intensive training in a converted Ottawa fire hall. Along with the basic firefighting skills topics included gas masks, types of gas and how to deal with unexploded bombs. After training the 422 man Corps headed for England in several groups with the last arriving in December. After four weeks of training on the equipment they would use from their British counterparts, they took over as an independent unit under the control of the National Fire Service.

The Canadian Corps was completely independent and responsible for 6 stations in southern England: Portsmouth (2- Clarence Hotel & Chessington Flats), Southampton (2- Anchorage Hotel and Alliance

Hotel), Bristol (1- Stoke House) and Plymouth (1- Torr House). The Corps headquarters with 22 staff members was in Wimbledon. Each station consisted of 60-70 firefighters and after familiarization of their local areas the British firefighters left and were redistributed. The Canadian firefighting corps was organized and operating in British stations within one year of the appointment of Chief Huff.

Robert Draper and his group were assigned to the makeshift Portsmouth station known as Chesington Flats, a large house with sheds to house four pumpers. Jack Coulter and fellow Winnipegger John Coull were assigned to the Alliance Hotel station on Oxford St. in Southampton.

The Canadian firefighters became well acquainted with the trailer pumps developed for the war and other pieces of British equipment unfamiliar to them before the war. The Canadians were dressed a little differently than their British counterparts wearing their home town familiar three quarter length coats with rubber boots that could be pulled up to the thigh. The Canadians also became accustomed to firefighting during wartime which involved exterior operations only, as bomb damaged buildings were too dangerous to enter due to weakened structures and possible delayed bomb fuses. Other duties included standby duty on docks where shiploads of fuel and ammunition were unloaded. The Canadians became very proficient in relaying water over great distances to supply other brigades due to bombed out water mains.



Southampton: Alliance Hotel station crew 1943. Jack Coulter is fifth from left in second row. John Coull is fourth from right in the third row. Kirby Burns is second from left top row. Photo courtesy Jack Coulter.

The Canadians were part of the National (British) Fire Service and were an important part of the overall strategy. On several occasions they would be called up to assemble with other stations many miles away to form a task force for a large operation such as a conflagration in a bombed city. This was practiced several times and on June 16, 1944 Section Leader Lawrence Woodhead from Saskatoon was killed when he fell from a truck while being redeployed. "Curley" Woodhead, as he was known, had been a firefighter with the Saskatoon Fire Department for seven years when he volunteered to join in October 1942. Woodhead was only 33 and a section leader assigned to Southampton's Anchorage Hotel station on Hulse

Road. His coffin was placed at the Testwood Fire Centre, a converted school which still stands today, for local citizens to pay their respects. Lawrence Woodhead now rests in Brookwood Military Cemetery in the country he was born- England.

Canadian firefighters were in constant peril and had many close calls. When an air raid sounded crews would take the equipment out of the station and spread out while civilians headed for the bomb shelters. Crews would wait in the deserted streets for word of any resulting fire or rescue work needed and proceed even before the raid was over. On one occasion while out of the Plymouth station a bomb fell through its roof, fortunately not exploding.

On July 3, 1944 a V-1 rocket attack near Wimbledon, London killed Canadian firefighter John Coull, from Winnipeg, and another British firefighter. Firefighter Coull had been transferred from the Southampton station to Corps Headquarters just before the attack. Firefighters Joseph Cassidy from Moncton and John Leguee also from Winnipeg were seriously injured in the same attack but would survive the war. Jack 'Scotty' Coull was buried in Lossiemouth, Scotland, his place of birth, where his parents still resided.

The third member of the Canadian Corps who did not return was Alfred Lapierre, from Montreal who was hit and killed by an automobile. Alfred Lapierre had been a firefighter with the Montreal Fire Department, since 1911. Alfred was one of the oldest to join up at age 49 as he wanted to be close to his son, Roger, who was overseas with the Canadian Army. His brother Leon, a veteran of the First World War, was also a Montreal firefighter retiring in 1948. Alfred Lapierre is buried with Lawrence Woodhead in the Canadian section of Brookwood Military Cemetery near London.

After D-Day and the success of the Allied forces to eliminate the threat of air attack by Germany, it was decided the Corps could be released from service. On November 2, 1944 a farewell ceremony in London marked the end of their services to England and they began to come home over several months.



The grave of A. Lapierre in England. Courtesy Montreal Fire Dept.

Robert Draper arrived home in February 1945 with \$420 in his pocket for his services. Like so many others he returned to firefighting with an enormous amount of experience, later becoming Chief of his home town. Jack Coulter returned to his position with the Winnipeg Fire Department and became Chief before retiring in 1981.

Commanding Officer, Gordon Huff was awarded the Order of the British Empire for his leadership of the Corps. He returned to his position as Fire Chief in Brantford, Ontario and died while still in office in 1954. Other veterans of the Corps also became leaders of the Canadian Fire Service. Martin Hurst, who had worked at Corps Headquarters, became the Fire Marshal for Ontario. Kirby Burns, who had worked alongside Jack Coulter at Southampton, became the Chief of Streetsville, Ontario which later became part of Mississauga where Southampton Corps veteran Joseph Miller was Fire Chief, just to name a few.

Firefighter Duncan Doan of Welland, Ontario returned home safe but died in the line of duty in 1969 while serving his community. Most firefighters returned to their places in the fire halls of Canada and went right back to fighting fires. Fortunately they did not find themselves under enemy attack.

Contrary to the promises of Government at the time, the Canadian Corps of Overseas Firefighters were originally denied the same recognition as those in the Canadian military serving overseas during the war. With the exception of awarding the Memorial Cross to the widows of those killed overseas nothing changed until recently. After years of lobbying, in 1992 Canadian Merchant Navy veterans received full veterans' benefits. In March 2000 the government extended this to include groups such as the Canadian Corps of Overseas Firefighters. Unfortunately many had already passed away.

Although there is no official memorial in Canada for those that served and died in the Canadian Corps of Overseas Firefighters, Britain has included them in their memorial. The Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation is working to correct that. The proposed Canadian Firefighters Memorial in Ottawa will include all types of firefighters including those from the Corps who died while overseas.

The United Kingdom Fire Service Memorial, aptly named "Blitz", was unveiled in 1991 and is opposite St. Paul's Cathedral; a symbol of hope and defiance for the whole nation during the blitz years. The memorial honours the over 1300 men and women of the United Kingdom Fire and Police Services who were killed or died from injuries received either by enemy action or fire related incidents during World War II. 997 British firefighters were killed on duty during the Blitz.

On September 16, 2003 a new plinth was added to the monument containing the names of a further 1173 UK firefighters who died on or off duty as a result of injuries received during enemy action and peacetime. At that ceremony the names of the three Canadian firefighters killed during the war were added to the base.

The North American Firefighter Veterans Network commissioned a bell, symbolic of the sacrifices Canadian civilian firefighters made



Robert Kirkpatrick with Robert Draper in 2006

during World War II, and carried it to the United Kingdom for the September 2003 rededication with Corps veteran Jack Coulter and now C.F.F.F. member Alex Forest. The Bell was officially handed over in trust to the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation in Ottawa on September 12, 2004 and currently plays a significant role in the annual ceremony.

On July 7, 2006 C.F.F.F. Ontario Vice President Robert Kirkpatrick carried the Memorial Bell to Clinton, Ontario to visit with retired firefighter Robert Draper and show the bell honouring his time spent defending British towns from the perils of fire brought on by enemy attack in a time that seems so far away. His service and that of his colleagues, for Canada and the citizens of England will never be forgotten at home and overseas. At the 2007 Canadian Firefighters Memorial Ceremony a special fly past of vintage World War Two aircraft honoured the 422 members of the Corps for the first time on Canadian soil. Robert Draper was in attendance with his family as a special guest of the Foundation to accept the honour on behalf of all his fellow Corps members.

Footnote: John Leete, author and historian from England, is just completing a book about the British Fire Service during the War. It will contain a section on the Corps of Canadian Firefighters. For information contact the Author, at Southampton.1@btinternet.com.



British Columbia Forestry Service Protection

Canada has a long-held reputation throughout the world for its natural forests. Providing vast natural beauty and one of the nation's leading exports, forests have and continue to be a strong part of the Canadian heritage. Canada is the world's second largest landmass consisting of approximately 10 million square kilometres divided into ten provinces and 3 federal territories, all of which are unique in their landscape, bio-diversity and climate. However, one thing that all the Canadian provinces and territories share is the annual battle against forest fires.



Rapid industrialization, increased population and cyclic climatic changes have contributed greatly to the impact of forest fires in Canada throughout the last millennium. In order to protect viable economic resources such as rangeland, farmland, livestock, mines and populated settlements, Canadians have had to respond to manage wildfires. Certainly forest fires occurred throughout the history of the aboriginal peoples of Canada and the settlement of European colonies, however little data is available to support evidence of any organized forest fire suppression efforts. The earliest reported forest fires occurred prior to the end of the 19th Century. In western Canada, in the Province of British Columbia, the first Provincial Fire Law was created in 1910, and formed the foundation for present day fire prevention and management legislation.

Canadian wildland firefighting has come a long way since the early days of horseback suppression. Having close to a century of forest firefighting experience, Canada has developed many strategies,

techniques and technologies to mitigate damage caused by wildfire. So what are the fire suppression innovations that Canada utilizes to ameliorate the deleterious effects of wildfire each year?

Presently, every province and federal territory in Canada has its own independent fire control agency that has evolved to meet the fire suppression challenges presented by their local topography, weather and fuels. The provinces and territories typically work independently within their jurisdictions, but occasionally rely on each other for cooperation and assistance from time to time when the fire suppression demands exceed the available provincial and territorial resources. Each province and territory differs slightly from the next, and as a result their respective innovations and technologies reflect the independent requirements for safe and effective fire prevention and control strategies and techniques. Despite the subtle differences from region to region throughout Canada, all provinces and territories have recognized the importance of wildfire suppression. In addition, there is a nationwide commitment to preventing and controlling unwanted wildfires that threaten human and wildlife populations, risk the loss of valuable natural resources and negatively affect both the local and global environment.

Fire prevention is conducted in Canada throughout the year but the majority of the efforts in fire prevention and control occur between April and September during the fire season. The fire control efforts are often most likely to be challenged between June and September when the hottest and driest periods occur. The forested areas and adjacent fuels in Canada remain very moist throughout the year due to annual precipitation and snow pack from the winter season. Drought takes place very rapidly in Canada relative to other global climates; a two-week summer 'hot spell' can leave the forests extremely dry and susceptible to easy ignition by lightning or careless people.

Due to the great size of the Canadian wilderness, the response times to fires were traditionally reduced by arduous transport through rugged terrain. A Canadian innovation that allows wildfire suppression agencies to be better prepared to combat wildfires is the Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System. This technology uses information from hourly weather networks to calculate the Fire Weather Index which, when utilized in conjunction with the Fire Behavior Prediction System, enables fire management staff to predict where new fires are likely to occur and to predict fire behavior on both new and existing fires. The advantage to this early warning system is that it can allow fire control agencies to prepare for fires by positioning fire crews and

fire suppression resources in areas that fires are expected. Knowing the predicted fire behavior not only allows for more effective fire control efforts on wildfires but can also be a useful tool in land management strategies such as prescribed burning to reduce the build up of potentially hazardous fuel loading in a given area.

The Internet application of this fire management tool makes it accessible throughout the global fire suppression community. The Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System (FWI/FBP) has been adapted to the local fuel types and conditions in New Zealand, Argentina and Mexico and at present are being modified for application throughout the ASEAN Region (specifically Malaysia and Indonesia). The worldwide increase in the use of computer technology can be beneficial, but wildfires have been around longer than computers. How did Canada put out wildfires before there were computers?

Canada maintains a long-held tradition of recognizing that the human firefighters are the key element to extinguishing wildfires. As a result, the majority of the fire suppression innovations utilized in Canada have been a product of local private manufacturers responding to feedback from those that actually work on the ground and physically put out the fires. Some examples of this are the specialized high-pressure, low-volume 'Wajax' water pumps. These tough, light-weight, high-output pumps have helped Canadian firefighters put out more fires than any other pump in Canada. To augment the 'initial attack' efforts, local Canadian companies developed lightweight durable fire hose that can be readily dispersed throughout the forest to contain wildfires. Further feedback from firefighters resulted in the production of fire hose with 'quick-connect' hose couplings that allow

thousands of metres of hose to be connected quickly with little effort.

The Canadian multi-purpose fire hand-tool known as the 'Macleod' is a hybrid production of a fire rake and grub hoe all-in-one that has proved useful in not only Canada but throughout the world. The application of World War II-era handheld radios to foster enhanced communication and safety on the fireline was first introduced by

firefighters in British Columbia. British Columbia also introduced the use of explosives to construct fire-breaks and remove hazardous trees in burnt areas. These fire suppression tools have proven to be effective throughout the decades. More and more products have emerged on the fireline, some are effective, some are not, but

ultimately the firefighters know which tool is worth carrying up the hillside to fight the fire. Despite every best effort the firefighters make to suppress fires, the immense size of Canada's forested areas, difficult topography and volatile fuel types have presented numerous challenges throughout the years. To overcome these challenges Canada has had to go to the air to help fight the fires from above.

Two of Canada's most successful aerial fire suppression innovations have been the Bombardier CL-215 and CL-415 amphibious water bombers and the helicopter utilization of the world famous 'Bambi-bucket'. The Canadair CL-215 followed by its successor turbine (415) version was developed out of the eastern Canadian shield where the relatively flat landmass is surrounded by large bodies of water. Rapid response to fires in these aircraft realizes the goals of minimizing the cost and damage these fires may create. The 'super-scoopers' load by skimming local lakes with retractable probes and are able to fly low level over the forest dropping thousands of litres of water per hour that penetrates the forest canopy and assists firefighters in extinguishing the blazes.

In areas of Canada where the local terrain is not so forgiving, the application of British Columbia's 'Bambi-bucket', slung underneath a helicopter has proved to be one of the most effective aerial fire suppression tools known in the industry. Portable, readily-attached and easy to use, the 'Bambi-bucket' can deliver significant amounts of water onto fires burning on virtually any mountain terrain. The name 'Bambi-bucket', according to the manufacturer, SEI Industries in Delta, BC, originated from the need to provide a product to the market that would be associated with saving the forest and have a name that is unique to the industry. The name Bambi came from Walt Disney's famous deer fawn that was separated from her mother as a result of a forest fire. The 'Bambi-bucket' name is certainly unique and well known throughout the global fire suppression community and likely has saved many deer from the destruction of wildfire.

Nowhere in Canada has the application of helicopters and their ancillary equipment proved more successful than in British Columbia.





The province of British Columbia has twelve biogeoclimatic zones ranging from boreal highlands in the north, to coastal rainforest and desert-like valleys in the south. British Columbia is approximately one million square kilometres in size, 50% of which is commercial forest. The forest industry contributes approximately CAD\$16 Billion to the economy each year in timber and value-added forest product exports. The British Columbia Forest Service's Protection Program is tasked with providing a 'bottom-up' fire control organization that can aggressively suppress the approximately 3,000 forest fires that occur each year. Despite having Canada's largest forest reserves, the largest number of forest fires, and the most challenging topography, British Columbia is still able to maintain a 94% initial attack success rate (keeping the area burned per fire to under 4 hectares) and achieves the lowest area lost due to wildfire in Canada. In order to achieve this success, British Columbia has had to utilize the helicopter as a multi-faceted fire suppression tool capable of a variety of roles.

In the late 1970s, the British Columbia Forest Service began utilizing the helicopter for the delivery of personnel and equipment to remote and otherwise inaccessible forest fires throughout British Columbia by means of helicopter rappelling. The British Columbia Forest Service, 'Rapattack' program has gained notoriety worldwide for its safe, effective approach to initial attack forest fire fighting in British Columbia. The 'Rapattack' firefighters are able to gain access to remote forest fires by rappelling down a nylon-cordura rope from a helicopter by means of an approved descent device. The fire fighting equipment is later deployed to the crew when they arrive on the ground. However, the need to provide water to fires in remote areas that did not have a natural water source challenged both initial attack success and firefighter safety. In order to overcome this challenge, the British Columbia Forest Service worked together with local manufacturers to develop a removable water tank that remains fixed to the helicopter's fuselage. This later came to be known as the widely utilized helicopter 'belly tank' and has proven to be

a very effective tool in aerial fire suppression. The advantage to the tank over other conventional aerial water bombing devices, is the ability to 'off-load' or transfer water from the helicopter's tank to a ground reservoir when the helicopter is in a hover. The 'belly-tank' is also capable of 'probe-loading' by means of a 2.5

metre suction hose that can be lowered into a wide range of water sources. The tank has a capacity of approximately 1,300 litres and is capable of dropping both water (foam injection capable) and fire retardant, making it a very versatile fire fighting tool.

Another application of the helicopter that has been developed by the Rapattack Program is the utilization of a retractable cable hoist that facilitates the ability for these firefighters to do more than just put out fires. The BCFS Protection Program currently own three hoists affixed to contract helicopters available to the program. The purpose of having the hoist capability is to promote safety by providing quick response and extraction in the event of an accident either on the fireline or as a cost-recovery service to BC Ambulance, assisting members of the general public that are injured in forest recreation activities throughout British Columbia.



Canada's success in forest fire management is a result of close to one hundred years of development. The key to its success has always been, and continues to be the firefighter. The recognition that the firefighters are the number one resource in any fire control operation is the first step to having a 'world-class' fire control organization. Industrialization, population growth and the recurrence of climatic changes such as "El Niño" and the subsequent drought effects are felt worldwide. The global fire suppression community is beginning to realize that although wildfire research is important, it does not put out the fires that are destroying billions of hectares of natural areas throughout the world every year. Perhaps through an increasing awareness of global wildfire situations, Canada can continue to assist other countries in developing their fire control abilities by sharing Canadian knowledge and expertise in forest fire management that has been gained throughout our long history of successes and failures in forest fire suppression in Canada.





Canadian Firefighters and Heart Attack

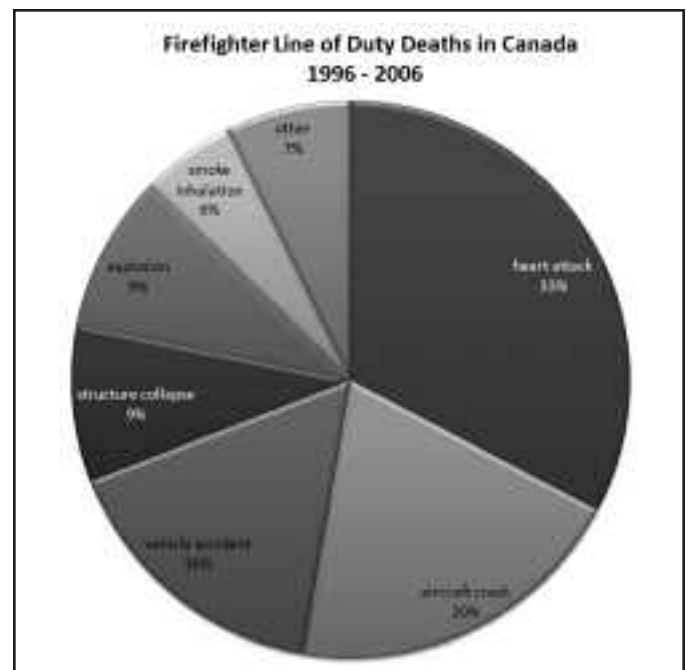
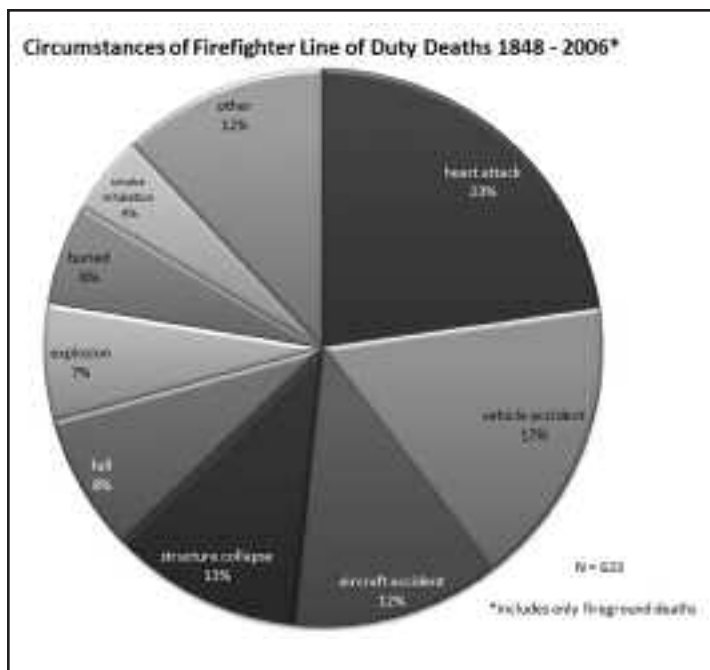
Dr. William Brooks, President, Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation

In 1998, former Ottawa Fire Chief, Gary Richardson, Joy Nicota and I wrote an article for Firehouse magazine which took aim at the issue of firefighters and heart attacks. The title of the piece was: Heart Attack! "Kicking in the Door" On the Leading Cause of Fireground Deaths. Quick as a flash, nothing happened. What we were commenting on was the fact that close to 50% of fireground deaths could be placed at the door of myocardial infarcts (MI). The data we used was based on U.S. data. Canada did not have a central organization similar to the USFA or FEMA from which we could gather data. A sobering U.S. statistic indicated that "Over 40% of heart attack deaths occurred among firefighters 26-50 years old".

We imagined that firefighters, other chiefs, and organizations would either challenge the data or at least some of our proposed remedies. There was no reaction. The issue although real, was not on the radar screen. There had not yet been the development of the Everyone Goes Home program and the visible upsurge in interest in firefighter safety that is now so prevalent.

I pondered doing a follow up piece using the idea of forcing the door to the issue with more than a kick. (Maybe It's Time for a Haligan Tool: Still Trying to Break Down the Door to Heart Attack on the Fireground unpublished) We also looked at including figures which focused on female firefighters, but the time was not right.

Nine years have passed, and much has changed. Rates of fireground deaths have dropped in many categories, but the remaining fact is that rates of fireground MI have not dropped significantly. The positive programs initiated by North American fire service organizations have begun to look more carefully at heart issues in the firefighting community. The data still indicate that the





Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation Safety Poster #3

number one cause of fireground death is heart attack. For a recent U.S. study of firefighters and heart attack see both FIRE CHIEF April 2007, page II and the full study results at <http://content.nejm.org/>.

Since 1998, the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation was formed (2003). This made data collection imperative to develop the roll of the Fallen. In the course of that work, it became easier to see Canadian data and make a few tentative steps towards defining the issue here at home.

Both the historical data from 1848, the date of the first known line of duty death in Canada, and more recent data indicate that heart attack comes first on the list of the nature of death. At first glance the graphs below suggest Canadian firefighters have a lower rate of MI than our U.S. counterparts, but that conclusion is premature given the difference in U.S. and Canadian data collection and reporting.

The message for all of us is heart attacks still kill firefighters on the fireground all too frequently. The poster below is part of a series of firefighter life safety posters available in English and French at: www.cfff.ca/programs/safety/life-safety-posters_e.php. Both English and French sections also include a Canadian Heart and Stroke Association Risk Assessment link. A health risk assessment was one of the tools we mentioned in 1998. It can now be used as one tool in assisting in prevention. Though not a substitute for very thorough medical checkups, risk assessments have a valuable place in educating people about what their personal risks are and what can be done to mitigate them.

Data from 1996-2006 were examined. The total number of known fireground deaths is not high, but the incidence of heart attack still outranks all other circumstances. Graph Two reflects this reality.

We are well into a new phase of activity directed at preventing firefighter loss in all areas that are known and can be affected by changes suggested through the Everyone Goes Home program, the CAFC, IAFC, IAFF and all concerned and committed fire service organizations.

Worldwide attention has been paid to building facilities which firefighters can access easily to stay in physical shape. The following four photos were taken on a recent trip to Finland. They show the modern facilities in the main fire station in Helsinki. My host, Deputy Chief Villë Esterlander, indicated that firefighters have a national standard which must be met in order to maintain one's job.

In Canada, Calgary, to name only one Department, has a state-of-the-art training centre and focus on wellness and fitness programs. See Volume 2 of *COURAGE* (On www.cfff.ca) page 47 for a complete write up on the Calgary program.

Most departments know of and use stress management approaches when needed, especially critical incident stress management after unusually troubling calls. Despite the effective programs, however, we all recognize there is still much to be done to help prevent heart attacks and all other conditions which lead to premature firefighter death.

This recent communication from Chief Billy Goldfeder underlines the need for more vigilance and knowledge. It is ironic that even in a fit testing situation, a loss can take place. This report left me wanting to know much more about what exactly happened, the history and if the loss could have been prevented. There is still so much we need to know.

"A Fire Captain with the Birmingham (Alabama) Fire & Rescue Service passed away on duty today, apparently from a heart attack while completing their annual fit check.

Captain Billy A. Gafford collapsed today during the fit check and was immediately treated by other members who were on the scene. Unfortunately, their efforts were not successful.

Captain Gafford began his career as a Firefighter/Paramedic with Birmingham Fire & Rescue on April 30, 1984, he was 56 years old and he leaves behind a wife and two sons. Arrangements for Captain Gafford will be posted when they become available.



Stress Testing laboratory staffed by a physician on a weekly basis.



Workout room

As always, our deepest condolences go out to all the members of B F & R and especially the family of Captain Gafford.”

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. BillyG The Secret List 4-25-07 / 2340 hour, www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com

Even with the best will available, issues of firefighter well-being sometimes get overlooked. Even with the higher profile on safety and wellness, there is work to do to make information and services available to all firefighters. The need for Canadian-based research has perhaps never been higher.

OBSTACLES:

- *Lack of clear recognition of the heart attack problem to the extent it exists*
- *The belief that heart health is the sole responsibility of the firefighter*
- *Lack of knowledge about effective monitoring and prevention programs*
- *Fear in some quarters that to become involved will increase liability for loss*
- *Beliefs that “heart attack will not happen here or to me”*
- *Inertia which lives in organizations*
- *Fear among some ff’s at risk that recognize the issue may mean job loss*
- *Inattention by internal and external media to this issue*
- *New fire service culture crossing over the old*

SOLUTIONS:

- *National task force developed to expand what is already working and discover where change is needed*
- *Development of regional pilot programs to determine if more frequent monitoring using health risk appraisals and intensive medical checks uncover “at risk” firefighters*
- *Use of newer, high-tech diagnostic procedures in cases of risk*
- *Introduction of dental/periodontal screen for risk impact-a regional pilot program*
- *Development and implementation of plans to free all firefighters from fear of the consequences of job loss if heart risks are discovered*

The boxes above contain some potential obstacles and possible solutions to reaching our shared goals. Let me encourage you to think inside these boxes and add to these lists. Think about and discuss your own and your organization’s needs. Whenever possible, add your voice to discussion and action. Remember that when all is said and done It remains for all the key Canadian fire service organizations to join forces and actually continue their work essential to firefighter health and safety.



Finnish firefighters are keen for hockey, too.



Imagine a sauna after being at a call when -30 degrees is the outdoor temperature!



To complete the picture in Helsinki’s main fire station, a swimming pool.



Cost to Outfit a Firefighter

...Helmet - \$300

Breathing...
Apparatus
- \$4000

...PASS device

...Coat - \$800

Pants ...
- \$600

...Gloves - \$90

Boots ...
- \$250

Life of a Firefighter ...Priceless!



"The Sacred Fire. A history of the
Montréal firefighters (1642 – 2005)".



Heroism marred by loss of life for old furniture

The Woodhouse fire drama made city and fire department authorities realize how certain aspects of fire fighting could unnecessarily threaten the lives of firefighters. In this case it was the desire to save material belongings. The lesson was learned the hard way, however, because people perished. On April 6, 1963, 200 firefighters were on the scene after the third alarm on Sainte-Catherine street west, near Saint-Urbain. Fire broke out around 3:40 in the afternoon following an explosion in the repair shop on the second floor of the Woodhouse furniture store sales annex located right across the street from the main store. The second alarm sounded only three minutes after the first—a record at the time—because the fire had spread so quickly. Within minutes, thick black smoke pervaded and engulfed the four-storey building.

When the fire was almost under control and cleanup had begun, the roof and the third and fourth-storey floors came crashing down due to the weight of the furniture, the electric appliances, and the water that had collected. At least fifteen firefighters were on the second floor trying to recuperate the furniture and prevent it from being damaged. Several of them were able to escape or were rescued, but four were trapped under the debris. The ambulance sirens screamed throughout the city for half an hour after a general ambulance alarm had sounded, the first since the tragedy at the Hospice Sainte-Cunégonde in 1951. Twenty-five firemen were taken to hospital. Two of the four entrapped firefighters, firemen Leggett and Gingras, were conscious and were able to talk to the officers, including Director Armand Durette, who kept coming back to encourage them to hold on. The firemen advanced slowly in the ruins so as to avoid provoking another collapse that would jeopardize their chances of rescuing the victims.

Shortly after eight o'clock in the evening, Doctor Geneviève deGroot, an intern at Notre-Dame Hospital, donned firefighting clothes and followed an officer into the smoking ruins. According to a reporter from La Presse, several doctors had been called to the scene of

the fire to provide care to the entrapped firefighters, but all of them had refused to go in. Dr. de Groot did not want to give reporters her name, saying that she was just doing her duty. She crawled on the floor over to fireman Gingras, whose legs had been trapped for two hours, and was able to give him a shot of morphine. She could not reach Leggett, however, who was caught between two refrigerators under a pile of rubble. Adrien Gingras, who remained trapped for more than five hours, was the only one of the four firefighters to survive. His vital signs were critical and he was rushed to the Sainte-Jeanne-d'Arc hospital by ambulance accompanied by Director Durette and Father Morin. Efforts to reach fireman Leggett, who seemed to be alive, continued. The body of a third victim was believed to be seen a little farther. Patrick McManus from Station No. 10 and Marcel Rémillard from Station No. 1, both thirty-seven years old, perished in the fire. Robert William Leggett, 34, from Station No. 10, was eventually freed from the Woodhouse rubble, but he died of a heart attack the next day on the operating table at Notre-Dame hospital. Several hours before, he said that he was lucky to have been saved and he thought that he might never see his wife and two children again.

Cardinal Léger himself presided over the civic funeral ceremony at the Marie-Reine-du-Monde cathedral so as to offer his condolences personally to the suffering families and to bear public witness to his admiration for the firefighters. Five firemen who were part of the American delegation at the funeral service declared that of all the cities in which they had attended similar ceremonies, Montreal was the city that exhibited the greatest sense of civic responsibility towards its firemen. The public however was scandalized the fathers of families should lose their lives "just to save some old furniture in a decrepit building that was just waiting for the demolition ball."

*by Jean-François Courtemanche, Pierre-Yves Marcoux et Francesco Bellomo.
Produced and published by Les Éditions Stromboli
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Firefighter Life Safety Program



It was a wonderfully warm March in Tampa, Florida in 2004. In that month, most of the key United States Fire Service players and a few of us Canadian cousins attended the first Firefighter Life Safety Summit. The Summit was sponsored by our counterpart in the United States, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

It was an intense two days at the end of which sixteen safety initiatives had been developed. Many of the sixteen were what you might call common sense, but many were also routinely overlooked to the detriment of the fire service and, especially, individual firefighters whose lives had been taken by events which could have been prevented.

The spirit of collaboration was strong at the first summit, and most participants agreed that they would carry the safety message forward. To maintain interest and action, several follow up mini-summits were held, typically in conjunction with other major U.S. fire service gatherings. The Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation (CFFF) was represented by former Board Member, Aaron Feldman at each mini-summit.

After the Tampa experience, Foundation President, Will Brooks returned to Canada with one concern. Would what came out of a predominately U.S.-focused session fit Canadian needs? To both allay his concern and stimulate interest, he travelled from Vancouver to Halifax meeting along the way with senior firefighters who could add a Canadian perspective. All agreed that the basics were right but needed some refinement and possible additions to fit our special needs. Will recalls the amazing difference in temperature between Tampa and Winnipeg; the temperature variance seemed to underscore possible safety issues in operations from one country to the next.

Working with the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, a session was developed for the 2006 Chief's conference in Halifax. A panel composed of Aaron Feldman, Mike Eddy, Terry Allen and Jim Lee looked at the issues related to the sixteen initiatives in a Canadian context.

The CFFF continued to promote the concepts of firefighter life safety both in print and through its main source of information www.cfff.ca. A series of Canadian posters related to safety was initiated and is still growing. The Foundation answered numerous calls for information and connections to many of the U.S. leaders such as the

International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF.) Planning to support fire safety activities as part of the Foundation's goals continues, and support for Canadian initiatives and activities will grow.

In January, 2007, the Foundation was again included in a Summit, the last major one, held in Novato, California the home of Fireman's Fund Insurance. The CFFF facilitated participation by a member of the Canadian Public Safety Ministry, the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, and Retired Vancouver Division Chief, Doug Wylie, Western V.P. for the Foundation.

Chief Wylie reports:

"I was very pleased to represent the CFFF at this summit and sadly as it turns out the only one able to attend from the Foundation due to severe weather conditions back east. This second summit was hosted at The Fireman's Fund Insurance Corporate office in Novato California. The Fireman's Fund Campus rivals many University campuses for the beauty of its setting. Inside are perfectly restored vintage fire trucks and photos of firefighting years long past, a true fire buff's must see. After all the opening remarks were made we were put into groups, my group was assigned the first four of the sixteen initiatives put together at the first summit in Florida 2004. I was immediately awed by the work and obvious effort put forward at the first summit to put forward the sixteen Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives as presented to me. All of the Life Safety Initiatives can be reviewed by going to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation web site.

"All sixteen of the initiatives were discussed with recommendations summaries and conclusions presented on the final morning as each group representative stood on stage and presented to all the assembled attendees their final summation with regards to the four initiatives each group had to work with.

"Final thoughts: I was proud to be a part of this Summit, as I saw a concentrated concern from Fire Departments all over the United States to incorporate the initiatives brought forward. I believe that as their efforts move forward they will achieve their goal of reducing Firefighter fatalities by 25% in the next five years, and a further reduction of 50% in the five years following that.

"In closing I look forward to being a part of the Canadian Life Safety program through the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation's efforts, and the efforts of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to affect immediate and long term reduction of fatalities in the Fire Service."

The FIRE SERVICE of CANADA'S MILITARY FORCES

by Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Lorne MacLean, OMM, CD

The role of the Fire Service of Canada's Military; (FSCM) as executed by our firefighters, be they military or paramilitary civilians, may be described as follows. "To minimize the adverse effects of fires, accidents and aircraft crashes which occur as a result of peacetime activities or overt or covert actions by an enemy on the capability of the Canadian Armed Forces to conduct military operations."

Inherent in this role are multiple spheres of responsibility, in that it requires the Fire Service to be one of the very few fire service organizations that covers all four factors of fire protection. Namely: fire loss-limiting engineering; fire-safety education; enforcement of fire-safety regulations and standards; and fire fighting and associated rescue operations.

It has been difficult to pinpoint the inaugural formation of a professional fire service for Canada's military. However an event that is known to have had a pivotal effect on the development of a fire service occurred on a wintry day in 1917, when Lieutenant Colonel (later Brigadier General) Cuthbert G. Hoare of the Royal Flying Corps selected Camp Borden, Ontario, as the site for flying operations in Canada. The first phase of the history of the military firefighter has a direct association with this event. This site was eventually to become the senior station of the RCAF. The camps isolated location and the need to be self-reliant with regard to fire protection may have been instrumental in stimulating the beginnings of a Canadian military fire service that, initially, comprised two distinct and separate functions: aircraft crash responses and structural firefighting.

Although written records of fire services during the First World War are scarce, documentation confirms the existence of an organized military fire brigade. A photograph (circa 1918) of uniformed military firefighters illustrates personnel on duty at Camp Borden.

From its humble beginnings that featured poor equipment, poorly trained personnel, and meagre resources the Fire Service evolved and upgraded itself to the point where, for well in excess of half a century, it has been a truly professional entity, a fact that has been vividly and repeatedly documented over many years.

It goes without saying that the highs and lows of the Fire Service have, quite obviously been in lock-step with the level of activity of the Military as a whole. World War II, which also gave rise to the Canadian Corps of Firefighters, resulted in a major expansion of the FSCM. When WWII came to successful conclusion, demobilization, not surprisingly, had an unprecedented impact on all things military including the FSCM. During the period that followed WWII a general sense of euphoria prevailed based on the feeling of ? "Who needs a Military?" ?, since there did not appear to be any identifiable threat.

The Berlin Blockade (June 24, 1948 to May 11, 1949) became one of the first major crises of the new Cold War when the Soviets blocked American, British, and French railroad and street access to those sections of western Berlin they occupied and administered. It was a harsh dose of reality to the Western Nations including Canada. For Canada, sandwiched between the United States and the Soviet Union, the two main protagonists in the clash between capitalism and socialism, it was especially threatening. Some of the key events and agreements that followed, that were more or less a spin-off from the Blockade, placed additional demands and commitments on a now rapidly expanding FSCM.

The first of these being Canada participating in the development of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and becoming a member in 1949, the second being the Korean War in 1950 and the third being the North American Aerospace Defence Agreement (NORAD) between Canada and the United States in 1958. As things turned out NATO and NORAD was to have far reaching impact on the FSCM. Imposing a wide range of commitments in Europe as well as in Canada, heretofore never experienced.

Perhaps primary amongst the new commitments that arose as the result of Canada taking up the critical challenge of storing and handling nuclear munitions at four airports and two missile sites in Canada and at four airports in Germany. The need to subscribe to stringent safety standards and to achieve excellence in fire department operations were mandatory requirements. Beginning in 1963 these commitments continued for some twenty years. At any given point during this period there was something in the order of 400 firefighters serving in this environment, of which 150 to 200 were in Germany. Overall, the number of firefighters in FSCM varied in keeping with the level of activity of the military was pursuing as a whole in response to the Government of Canada's assessment of the country's vital security interests.

The foundation on which the professional development of firefighters is based is the Canadian Forces Fire Academy located at Canadian Forces Base Borden, Ontario. Formal teaching organizations, Fire Schools as they were commonly referred to, have been in existence since early 1940. In 1985 the more independent CFFA came into being. It was a significant step forward. The CFFA is accredited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress to certify 23 of a possible 27 firefighter professional qualifications, including HAZMAT.

For many years firefighter strength was in the order of 1500 to 2000. Even though its strength is somewhat less at this time, the FSCM is well equipped, has strong leadership at key positions, and continues to maintain high professional standards.

Smoking rubble and frozen bodies



"The Sacred Fire.
A history of the
Montréal firefighters
(1642 – 2005)".

One of the most renowned fires in Montreal's recent history for both young and old firemen is the one known as the "American Spaghetti House Fire" that occurred on February 24, 1959. Four businesses were operating on the ground floor of a sixty-year-old building on Sainte-Catherine street just east of Saint-Laurent. The American Spaghetti House buffet was located on the second floor. Fire broke out around eight o'clock in the evening in one of the stores. Two hundred customers and employees were in the restaurant when the alarm was sounded and everybody managed to get out of the building unscathed. The flames had not yet appeared outside the building when eight firemen climbed onto the roof following Interim Assistant Director Edward Normoyle. At 9 o'clock in the evening, part of the roof suddenly collapsed and formed a large funnel into which Normoyle and fireman Hubert Daudelin slid. Normoyle was fifty-three years old and had worked as a fireman for 28 years. Daudelin was twenty-six years old and had been working for the Fire Department since 1955. That night he was replacing another fireman at Station No. 14. The other seven firemen on the roof managed to escape by hanging on to the metal on the ledge, to debris from the roof, and to the restaurant's neon sign until they were rescued by their companions who had raced up the ladders.

The firemen did everything that was humanly possible to save the lives of the two men trapped in the building. The crowd anxiously waited after seeing them disappear. They watched as the other firemen threw hooks and cables again and again,

trying to get them through the funnel-like opening in the roof, just as fishermen try to cast a line to a specific spot. Several times, they thought that they could bring a man out, but each time the cable broke. The lightest fireman was also lowered into the funnel on a cable hanging from an extension ladder. He was only able to observe that when the roof collapsed it left an opening that was impossible to get through because cross-beam edges simply cut the cables. Shortly after midnight, one fireman was sure he heard one of his trapped companions shouting for help. That was the last sign of life. Normoyle and Daudelin were slowly asphyxiated and then they froze to death. Their bodies could not be removed from the rubble until four o'clock the next morning. They were found with several cables around their waists, stuck in the ice up to their midriff. Edward Normoyle was Director Paré's brother-in-law. Paré called his wife on the telephone from the scene of the fire to inform her of her brother's death. That same night, three other serious fires broke out and the whole fire department was mobilized. That night was described as the worst in the city in the past twenty years. The following Saturday, a very impressive civil funeral was held at the Notre-Dame Church and Cardinal Léger celebrated Mass. For several days the newspapers wrote about the possibility of the fire being the work of arsonists, but that hypothesis was ruled out.

by Jean-François Courtemanche, Pierre-Yves Marcoux et Francesco Bellomo.
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CANADIAN FORCES FLEET SCHOOL ESQUIMALT DAMAGE CONTROL DIVISION

Damage Control Training Facility Galiano



Fully engulfed helo during night fires.

The Canadian Forces Fleet School Esquimalt Damage Control Division is the place of employment for air force fire fighters and numerous other Naval tradesmen. The school is a state of the art training facility and is in conformity with today's standards of environmental responsibility. All aspects of Damage Control including Naval Firefighting, Flood Control, Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear defence as well as First Aid are taught.

Firefighting training is conducted in a safe and realistic environment. Safety is paramount, as fire does not know we are training.

The Damage Control Training Facility (DCTF) Galiano has 15 propane burn rooms where fires of all sizes can be simulated. Temperatures in these rooms can be in excess of 350F and is all managed by computers controlled by an operator. The trainer is laid out as a ship with offices, galley's, messes and engine rooms. The Facility also has a liquid propane SeaKing helicopter prop that can simulate fully engulfed crash on deck scenarios.

The Firefighters' top priority at the school is to teach shipboard helicopter crash rescue firefighting to Navy personnel as well as to the airforce detachment that would be deployed with a SeaKing on board ship. On top of that they teach shipboard firefighting, Naval firefighting refresher and they conduct respiratory personal protection fit testing. They also test and maintain a wide variety of firefighting equipment used at the school such as: Thermal imaging cameras, self contained breathing apparatus, fire extinguishers, fire hoses, Power Hawks, and firefighting turnout gear.



Students of a QL5 Hull Tech course advancing on the cockpit of a fully engulfed helicopter to perform a rescue.



SeaKing helicopter prop burning liquid propane.

MONT-THABOR Monument

Honouring a Fallen Firefighter February 19, 1917 MONT-THABOR

Captain Edmond Lamontagne, 57, Station 10

***Firefighter Jean-Baptiste Saint-Hilaire, 30,
Station 11***

Firefighter Charles L'Heureux, 29, Station 11

It was 12:38 a.m. on Tuesday February 19, 1917, when the first alarm sounded for a fire in the rooms of the Victoria Athletic Club and the Simard & Carmichael store on Saint-Joseph Street. Almost at once a general alarm followed. The store was already a blazing inferno whose flames threatened the occupied nearby buildings: M. Pollack's fabric store, the Gardner family residence – which failed to perish in the flames – M. N. Simard's tailor shop, and the Lebon dentists. The fire took a tragic turn with the collapse of the Pollack store's front wall, which buried four firemen under its debris. Only one was rescued. The collapse happened so suddenly that the four firefighters working on the pavement could not make it to the street where several of their luckier companions had already taken refuge. Several witnesses said they heard a sinister cracking and an explosion. The wall fell on the unfortunate four who worked under it. Hundreds of curious onlookers let out an audible gasp, fearing for the lives of the trapped firefighters. The violence of the explosion launched the firefighters on the ladder into the air. Three were wounded seriously. As the shock passed, firefighters hastened to help the four firefighters under the debris. Many members of the brigade got busy with the rescue, but in spite of their prompt action, they could see that three had already been killed. Their heads were smashed by the falling stones, or they were asphyxiated under an enormous amount of debris.

The mortal remains of the three firefighters were taken to their homes. They then lay in state on Wednesday in the chapel of station number 3 on Dorchester Street until the day of the funeral the following day. From the late hours of the day and into the early morning the people of Quebec City came to view the firefighters. All night firefighters continued to keep a vigil for their

deceased brothers. People were still coming to view the fallen the next morning of the funeral, before the start of the procession to St-Roch Church.

The funeral took place on Thursday February 22. On view at 9 a.m. in the Saint-Roch Church, they were indisputably the most imposing sight the people of Quebec had ever seen. At the station the three caskets were placed in a hearse drawn by four black horses. The procession was led by several policemen, accompanied by firefighters in full dress uniforms and more than twenty-five fire trucks with their chrome parts draped in black. All the streets from Notre-Dame-des-Anges, through Couronne, Saint-Roch and Saint-Joseph Streets there were so many people that it was almost impossible to cross them. As the procession moved along the alarm bell sounded and the church bells rang. It was the same alarm, which called the firefighters during the night of the disaster, the alarm from call box number 73. It was nearly 10 a.m. when the procession reached the Saint-Roch Church where a large crowd waited. Among those present at the church were Mayor Lavigueur, several aldermen and senators, the Police Chief, the Fire Chief and the Fire Chiefs from Montreal and Three Rivers and many others. The funeral service was given by Abbot Grenier, chaplain Quebec Fire Department.

Edmond Lamontagne had been promoted to captain at the time Limoilou had been annexed by Quebec City. He was married, father of several children and resided at Limoilou. Firefighter Saint-Hilaire joined the department in November 1910 and Firefighter L'Heureux, in December 1915. Both were married and had children; they lived in Stadacona.



Last rest for three fellow firefighters.
Unknown photographer, 1917. Files of the Town of Quebec, No 12877.

Honouring a Fallen Firefighter January 22, 1930

Gérard McCallum, 23, Station 7



The fireman G. McCallum.
Unknown photographer.
Image taken from
The Sun newspaper,
January 25, 1930

Fire burst out so suddenly at a quarter past noon on January 22, 1930, that the employees and the customers of the Simard store on Saint-Joseph Street, had just time to leave. The speed with which the flames spread required the rescue of a young lady cashier by one of the clerks. The origin of the fire was in the cellar and, contrary to the assumptions made at the beginning; the furnaces did not explode and did not cause the fire, because they were found intact afterward.

While engaged in fighting the fire, Gerard McCallum and three other firefighters were ordered to go up on ladders to more effectively get water on the

burning building. They were working on the fire when, suddenly, the roof, which had seemed sound, collapsed. The firefighters disappeared from the view of the spectators who could not hold back a cry of fear. The other firefighter immediately went to help. McCallum was buried under the debris with the three other firefighters, who were saved while he remained trapped as the fire raged horribly. The department's chaplain, Abbot Eugene Delisle, was on the scene of the fire since it started. He gave the last rights to McCallum and then went to tell the sad news to McCallum's family. Firefighter McCallum had three children. This was not the first time that Simard was tested by fire. In 1917, a violent fire destroyed his establishment when he was associated with Mr. Carmichael. Three firefighters lost their lives in that fire.

Honouring a Fallen Firefighter October 3, 1911

Firefighter Joseph Labarre, 37, Station 4



On October 3, 1911 there was a fully involved fire on Dalhousie St. at Saint-Andrew St. Joseph Labarre was trapped on the second floor with three other firefighters when the ceiling above collapsed. The impact from the falling ceiling caused the floor beneath to give way. The four men were buried

under shards of wood, pieces of iron, bricks, stone and other debris. Fire raged all around them making it impossible for other firefighters to rescue them. Firefighters worked diligently but the flames kept pushing them back.

Joseph Labarre's lifeless body was found after the fire. His funeral took place on Friday morning, October 6, 1911, at 9 a.m., in the Saint-Roch Church. A procession of many policemen and firefighters followed the procession carrying Labarre's body from his home on Arago St. to the church.

Dedication of the Mont-Thabor Monument



"The monument of the firefighters explodes", reads the text of The Sun in its September 10, 1985 edition. Gilles Lafond, photographer. Picture from The Sun, September 10, 1985.

A dedication ceremony for the fallen firefighters monument took place on November 4, 1962. It rained heavily on that day. The monument is located near the intersection of Henri Bourassa Boulevard and Mont-Thabor Ave. in the Limoilou district. Well before that date the planting of rose trees started to commemorate the memory of firefighters who died on this site. In 1958, firefighter Georges Édouard Émond had the idea to set up a monument at this place. A plaque dedicated to the fallen firefighters had already been displayed inside the Town Hall, in 1924, but it was not prominently visible or accessible.

According to the Quebec City's Files, it is impossible to tell if the monument belongs to Quebec City or to the Retired Firefighters Association of Quebec City, whose members contributed \$1700 of the \$4000 required to build the monument. However Quebec City now maintains the monument in collaboration with the Association.

For a time the monument suffered from neglect. In July 1985 a Quebec citizen restored the monument by cleaning it. Since then firefighters return annually to the Mont-Thabor monument to honour the memory of their fallen brothers.

However according to records in the Gold Book of, Soeurs Servantes du Très-Saint-Sacrement, a nearby convent there have been some years when there was no ceremony, but there has been one every year since 1992.

The monument was designed by Albert Dion, on November 16, 1961, and was approved by Quebec City's Chief Engineer. It is composed of four parts. A bronze vase, supported by four columns of rough cut gray granite, which rest on a round basis out of polished red granite carrying the inscription "To the memory of the firefighters who died in action". On the ground, all around the monument are 15 plaques of black polished granite. On eight of these plates are engraved the name, rank and date of death of the firefighter who died in service. Seven of these plaques remain blank.



Dedication of the monument.
Unknown photographer. Quebec City Archives.



Honouring a Fallen Firefighter November 14, 1952

Roger Thivierge, 28, Station 9



Firefighter Roger Thivierge.
Unknown photographer. Taken from L'Action
catholique, 17 novembre 1952.

Fire broke out on November 14, 1952, at about 8:30 a.m. in the refrigerators of the Quebec Seminary under the students' refectory in the cellar. The fire was put out but there was much water damage to the building. The basement continued to smoke. Firefighters had to dismantle most of the floor of the refectory to extinguish the fire.

Soon after achieving first water, a group of firefighters entered the cellar, but they had to come out almost at once because of the large amount of smoke. One of them missed the call to evacuate. It was Firefighter Roger Thivierge. Chief Rosaire Beaulieu, in charge of the fire scene called for the third alarm. While firefighters laid on more hose to control the fire, another group tried to rescue Firefighter Thivierge. His cries for help could be heard through a ventilator.

Lieutenant Heureux risked entry three times but had to turn back. Finally, L. P. Jeffrey, from station 5, was provided with a mask and went in with two others, Napoleon Saint-Hillaire and Georges Garneau. They searched until they found Thivierge lying face down in some two feet of water. They carried Thivierge to the ambulance. At 10:30 a.m. He was taken to the Hospital where he died around midnight, despite the efforts of several doctors to save his life.

Firefighter Roger Thivierge died from asphyxiation because he was trapped in the basement behind a window with bars in it. He lived alone on Mont Martre St, in the Saint-Saveur district. He left in mourning his father, mother, seven brothers and two sisters. A civic funeral was held on Tuesday morning, November 18 and the funeral service was held in the Sacré-Coeur Church. Fire department chaplain, Abbot Aurèle Ouellet, performed a service at the funeral home.

Canadian Forces Firefighting Academy History

The history of Canadian Forces Fire Training begins as early as WW II with Canada's commitment to the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan. The Royal Canadian Air Force identified the need for a distinct military trade to provide Fire Protection to large WW II aircraft and their enormous fuel supplies. Naval and Army supply depots containing large quantities of munitions and vital war material warehouses also demanded on-site Fire Protection.

Recruiting of Fire Fighters became one of many priorities, the first course of nine fire fighters was given training under the guidance of the Ontario Fire Marshals Office, Toronto Fire Department and the University of Toronto in 1940. Graduates were posted to fire halls to organize the fire piquet system until such time that recruited fire fighters could receive their official training. The course duration was two weeks with the last course graduating at Toronto in February 1941.

The closing out of the Fire Fighting Training in Toronto identified that it was essential to open a military Fire Fighting School. The first military school was opened in Trenton in 1941 with a basic course capacity of 50 - 60 Airmen. At war's end, 1946, the fire fighting population consisted of a wartime establishment of 1500 - 1700 fire fighters. The peacetime solution was to reduce the fire fighting establishment to a nucleus of approximately 200 personnel to perform fire prevention services. The reduction was below requirement to maintain this service and therefore a call for mandatory recruiting was ordered. Training Systems developed a training program to accommodate peacetime fire protection needs.

The basic course was developed under the Wing of Composite Training System (KTS) - this is not a typo, at RCAF Station Mountainview. In 1947 the whole school from Mountainview moved to RCAF Trenton for better and bigger accommodations. From 1948 to 1950 the trade again was reduced and in 1951 the Trenton fire fighting school moved to RCAF Station Aylmer, Ontario and continued to operate until 1955 when it moved to RCAF Camp Borden. Fire Fighting training had grown to the magnitude where it was too large to be carried under the wing of another school and therefore became its own entity and given the title Fire Fighting School (FFS). The course duration was increased; techniques and advanced training were incorporated to meet required expertise. The development of a training film was promoted and in 1964 and the shooting of Three Minutes to Live took place.

With Unification, in 1965-1966, came the restructuring of the new empire called Canadian Forces Base Borden (CFB). The training Wing was reorganized as the Canadian Forces School of Aerospace Ordinance and Engineering. CFSAOE and, the Fire Fighting School (FFS) became the Fire Fighting Training Company (FFTC) in 1966.

On September 1st 1985 the Canadian Forces Fire Academy (CFFA) was formed. At that time, our fire fighters were canvassed

for their suggestions and artistic abilities to develop a desirable crest that would represent the fire fighting trade. This crest is now displayed at the main entrance of the headquarters building A-256 and the original oil painting of the crest was hand signed by her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II in July 1986.



Our MOTTO is displayed on the bottom of the crest **"IGNI OBSTARE"** which translates as **"Standing Against Fire"**

After creation of CFFA a modernization program was initiated for the training area including a state of the art environmental drainage system. In 1993 the Base Construction Engineering Section initiated a building project for our new CFFA headquarters. In early September 1995 Base Commander Colonel I.A. Nicholls turned the first sod during the breaking ground ceremony. The new building was completed on July 18, 1996 and was inaugurated on September 13, 1996.



The mission of the Academy is to train Fire Service personnel for the Department of National Defence given a progressive curriculum beginning with Apprentice, Journeyperson, Supervisor and Manager courses concentrating on firemanship knowledge and skills in Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting, Structural Fire Fighting, Auto Extrication and Confined Space Rescue with specialty curriculum involving Fire Prevention and Life Safety Inspector, Fire Investigator, Hazardous Materials, and Respiratory Protection Programs. In 1991 the Academy's quest was to certify the curriculum through Oklahoma State University. After the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) site team visit in 1992, the Academy was credited with 17 of 21 certificate levels. Four Hazardous Materials credits were granted in 1997. The certificates in 1999 increased the Academy's certification to 23 levels of a possible 27 levels.

2006 – 2007 Activities

July 4, 2006

CFFF Joins in U.S. Ambassador's 4th of July Celebration

On the invitation of United States Ambassador David H. Wilkins and his wife, Joan, the Foundation was present at the annual 4th of July celebration. This was a fine opportunity to indicate the partnership the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation has with the U.S.-based National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. In order to make the experience a bit clearer to all the cheerful party goers, President, Will Brooks took his 1913 Model T rig decked out with both the CFFF and NFFF flags.

Nearly 3000 visitors to the official residence and temporary lawn of tents and great food walked by the old rig, many stopping to take a CFFF brochure, have their photo taken on its seat, or just talk about the issues related to the growth of the Foundation and construction of the Canadian Firefighters Memorial. Many had not heard about the LeBreton Flats site and our work with Karen Mills and the National Capital Commission.

The day was beautiful for the most part. Occasionally, umbrellas were needed or folks ducked into the tents during a shower, but sun was usually out and warm. In fact, the day was really fine until Will and spouse, Cheryl began the drive home. Then the sky opened and torrents of water deluged the rig and its passengers. Being the great fire engine it is, Ratcliffe managed well though the humans were drenched.

It was a wonderful sound to hear the anthems of Canada and the United States sung beautifully by John McDermott whose presence added a fine Canadian touch to the proceedings. Just before Ambassador Wilkins welcomed the crowd, a Marine honour guard trooped the colours which gave the entire moment a splash of patriotic colour. The 4th of July party definitely reminded friends of their friendship.



July 7, 2006

Memorial Bell visits Clinton, Ontario

On July 7, 2006 C.F.F.F. Ontario Vice President Robert Kirkpatrick carried the Memorial Bell to Clinton, Ontario to visit with retired firefighter Robert Draper. The Memorial Bell is symbolic of the sacrifices made by Canadian firefighters during the Second World War and travelled to England in 2003 for the ceremony honouring three Canadian firefighters who died during the War. The Bell was handed over in trust to the C.F.F.F. in 2004 to be used at the annual Canadian Firefighters Memorial Ceremony held in Ottawa.

Robert Draper was one of the 422 Canadian firefighters who volunteered to be part of the Corps of Canadian Overseas Firefighters headed up by Brantford Fire Chief George Huff. The contingent travelled overseas in October 1942 to help weary British firefighters battle fires caused by bombing raids. The Corps returned home to Canada in February 1945 having lost three members. Section Leader A. Lapierre from Montreal, Senior Firefighter J. Coull from Winnipeg





and Section Leader Lawrence Woodhead from Saskatoon, who Mr. Draper knew, were all killed in the line of duty during the war.

Robert Draper now 86 years old was a volunteer firefighter for a couple years before going overseas. He returned to the Clinton Fire Department afterwards and for a short time was Fire Chief. Mr. Draper, who was stationed in Portsmouth with 50 other Corps firefighters during the war, was pleased to see the Bell honouring his fellow firefighters and pleased to know that they have not been forgotten.



Ontario Fire Marshal,
Bernie Moyle



B.C. Fire Commissioner, David Hodgins, New Brunswick Acting Fire Marshal, Benoit Laroche, and Nunavut Fire Marshal and Foundation Board Member, Tim Hinds

July 26, 2006

Foundation Updates Canadian Fire Marshals and Fire Commissioners: Foundation Flag Presented

The Council of Canadian Fire Marshals and Fire Commissioners recently met in Halifax. In addition to presenting an update on the work of the Foundation with special emphasis on the Canadian Firefighters Memorial and funding, President Will Brooks participated in the Council's Memorial Ceremony and presented the Council a Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation flag.

The Memorial Ceremony preceded the working sessions and provided an impressive and moving tribute to fallen firefighters both in Canada and the United States given the guests and friends from New England and New York. The staff of Nova Scotia Fire Marshall Bob Cormier did an exemplary job of preparing the ceremony which pulled together the many services encompassed by the Province of Nova Scotia. The memorial was ably supported by the fine Honour Guard from the HRM Fire Service. Deputy Fire Marshall Frank Savage was point person in developing the event which was an excellent example of local and national sensitivity and the rituals of the fire service.



Council President Rick McCullough, Fire Commissioner from Saskatchewan receives the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation flag from Foundation President, Dr. Will Brooks

August 28, 2006

Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs Receives Foundation Flag



Foundation Board Member, Division Chief David Smith presents our partners the Canadian Association of Fire Chief President, Chief Mike Eddy with the Foundation flag at the recent CAFC Annual Meeting in Halifax.

August 30, 2006

Cfff Visits Milton Fire Department

Ontario Regional Vice President Robert Kirkpatrick recently visited with Fire Chief Larry Brassard to applaud the Milton Fire Department's efforts to reduce firefighter injuries and deaths. The Town of Milton, Ontario is located on the western tip of the Greater Toronto Area with an expanding population currently at 60,000 residents and has been protected by the Milton Fire Department since 1857.

The three station department consisting of 20 full-time and 66 part-time firefighters, under the direction of Chief Brassard, wanted to do something special for the Stand Down for Safety Day on June 21 and the firefighter life safety initiatives from the “Everyone Goes Home” program endorsed by the Foundation. Chief Brassard had the “Everyone Goes Home” slogan put on the inside of every apparatus bay door in every one of their fire stations. Every time Milton firefighters respond to an alarm they are reminded to be safe as the bay door goes up just before driving away. This is a simple cost effective way to remind firefighters at the critical time to remember firefighter safety and that we want everyone to return home after an incident.

The Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation encourages all the Fire Services to be proactive in reducing firefighting injuries and deaths. If your Department has done a similar initiative we would like to know and circulate your idea. Please drop us a note at info@cfff.ca. Let’s reduce injuries and deaths everywhere.



The “Fire Bug” demonstrated the many ways fire can be unleashed even when people are aware of possible negative consequences.



Minister Blackburn addresses the group



Chief Frank Albert representing Fire Prevention Canada

October 5, 2006 CFFF Participates in launch of Fire Prevention Week



October 5th marked the annual launch of Fire Prevention Week under the auspices of fire Prevention Canada and the Proclamation issued by the Governor General, Madame Jean.

Children’s entertainer Mary Lambert teaching the audience of 270 school children many of the basic safety facts regarding fire. Young and older audience members were delighted by the vivacious entertainer and the message she energetically brought to all.



Ms. Shirley Gallant of Fire Prevention Canada speaks with Minister Blackburn



CFFF-FCPMS Vice President, Chef Gary Barnes presented the Minister of Labour Hon. Jean-Pierre Blackburn with Courage the Foundation’s annual publication.

October 29, 2006

CFFF Participates in Kitchener Memorial Ceremony

On a cold and then snowy Sunday, October 29th 2006, Foundation President Dr. Will Brooks and Ontario Vice President, Capt. Robert Kirkpatrick motored to Kitchener to participate in the annual ceremony honouring Kitchener's Fallen. Will said he felt extremely honoured to be asked to give the keynote address. The Kitchener firefighters have done an amazing job raising funds for their monument of which they are justly proud.

Given the weather, it was wonderful to see a large group of first responders and families of the fallen attending. If you look carefully, you will see Chief Bill Stewart of the Toronto Fire Service and CFFF Board Member leading the TFS Pipes and Drums. Everyone dodged snow at one point in the event.

The Foundation gives thanks to the Kitchener firefighters who have been keen supporters of the Canadian Firefighters Memorial. If each Canadian Fire Department were able to contribute as much as Kitchener has, the National monument would now be completed.

All photographs courtesy of SUSAN UMBACH, PERSPECTIVES, Kitchener, Ontario



November 21, 2006

CFFF-FCPMS present for Port Alberni Firefighters

CFFF-FCPMS Western V.P., Division Chief, Doug Wylie, left, presents Port Alberni Chief Larry McGifford the Foundation flag just prior to the Line of Duty Death Funeral for Firefighter Robert Beaudoin. In keeping with Foundation tradition, a flag is retired to the department when a LODD takes place.

The service was a moving one, especially given the additional stresses of major weather problems. The Port Alberni firefighters appreciated the assistance from the Foundation and the experienced Vancouver Fire and Rescue personnel who assisted when needed.



November 22, 2006

Conestoga College Students Donate

Students in the pre-service firefighter program recently expressed their support for the Foundation and the Canadian Firefighters Memorial to be built in Ottawa. Funds they raised will go to the Memorial.

The Class wrote:

"On behalf of the graduating class of 2006 of Conestoga College, Continued Education Pre-Service Firefighter program, please accept this donation to the Foundation."

These funds were raised in conjunction with our graduation banquet and awards ceremony. We are happy to say we exceeded our goal, and felt that this would be an appropriate use of our funds for the Foundation to assist in achieving the Canadian Fire Service goal of a National monument in Ottawa.

On behalf of the class of 2006, we wish the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation the best of luck in seeking to reach its goal."

Jamie Lopes for the Class of 2006:

"It is always heart warming to receive donations from a new group of firefighters. That they understand the importance of remembering their brothers and sisters who have gone before is important to the history and strength, not only of the Canadian Fire Service, but Canada as a Nation."

"One day soon, members of this group will be first responders to scenes only imagined a few years ago. We must remember them as the protectors they are."



Front row (left to right): James Inacio, Travis McDonald, Ralph Schmidt, Lee Strauss, Kevin Wood, Dustin Ferguson, Andrew Kieswetter. Back row (left to right): Marcus Beu, Shawn O'Connell, Jamie Lopes, Rob Strickland, Ryan Groh, Kirk Lajeunesse, Dan Arseneau, Kevin Scheifele.
Camera Shy: Ed Scheer and Sam Murray

December 12, 2006

Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation part of new Huron County Mutual Fire Aid Association's Fire Safety Trailer

Chief Marty Bedard sent along photos of the new Fire Safety Trailer developed for Huron County. The Foundation is pleased to be part of this development which seeks to teach fire safety and draw attention as well to the safety of firefighters in their work.



Chief Paul Josling Huron County Mutual Aid Fire Coordinator, left, and Barry McKinnon of the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office look over the Safety Trailer



Areas served are shown on the new rig.



Sponsors and supporters of the Safety House



Note the smoke alarm reminder.

December 15, 2006

Members of the Mississauga Fire & Emergency Services Contribute to CFFF-FCPMS

On Friday December 15, 2006 members of the Mississauga Fire & Emergency Services held a boot drive at a neighbourhood shopping mall in support of the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation and the building of the Canadian Firefighters Memorial to be built in Ottawa. Recruits, on their off duty time, set up an information booth at Square One shopping mall and spread out around the mall to accept donations from the public.

Sparky the fire dog was also on hand to pose for photos with kids of all ages. Accepting the cheque on behalf of the Foundation was Mississauga Fire Captain Robert Kirkpatrick, Ontario Regional Vice President for the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation. Vice President Kirkpatrick was very proud of the donation made by his newly graduated brothers and sisters. "The recruits were eager to support those firefighters that have gone before to ensure they will never be forgotten and should be commended on their initiative and effort".



Accepting the donation from MFES 2006 fall recruit class president Brian Ertel is Regional VP Robert Kirkpatrick.

January 27, 2007

CFFF executive board meeting, January 2007



Gary Barnes, Alex Forrest, Robert Kirkpatrick and Pierre Surprenant discuss several governance issues.

December 29, 2006

Hanover, Ontario Fire Chief Assists Foundation

Over the Christmas holiday, Chief Ken Roseborough of Hanover met with President, Will Brooks. Ken will distribute copies of *Courage* to the January meeting of the mutual aid association. Discussions with the Chief were informative and indicated both support for the work of CFFF-FCPMS and the Canadian Firefighters Memorial.



Doug Wylie and Doug Lock consider the fiscal issues of the Foundation.



Chief Roseborough stays connected to new developments via computer in addition to the usual learning channels.



Dave Smith gives Will Brooks some information related to the 2007 Ceremony which Halifax will host.



Chief Roseborough showing off the first response unit, a recent Saulsbury rig.



The Executive Board discussing *COURAGE* and information from Bill Williams on publications.

January 14, 2007

Foundation Meets with Canadian Heritage

After the September 2006 Memorial Ceremony, Minister Stockwell Day arranged meetings with his staff to see what possibilities there are to assist in building the Canadian Firefighters Memorial. Discussions have lead to meetings with the Heritage Ministry under which some precedents exist to support commemorations.

The first meetings were held to look at possibilities for all concerned. Plans were generated for continued contact on the part of the Foundation. Anne-Sophie Lawless, A/Director Celebration, Commemoration and Learning Directorate, part of Heritage Canada was a supportive host for the first meeting.

Will Brooks and Gary Barnes came away with the feeling that Minister Day desires to help the Foundation reach its goals as he indicated in his speech in September. However, the actual route to government funding any part of the project is inevitably tied to meeting the complexities of Ministerial realities. Before further steps can be taken, meetings with the Minister of Heritage, Hon. Bev Oda, must be arranged.



Foundation Vice-President, Chief Gary Barnes meets with Anne-Sophie Lawless.

January 14, 2007

Fire Services Journal Visits Foundation

Dan Haden, Publisher of Fire Services Journal and a supporter of the Foundation, spent several hours at the CFFF office brainstorming additional ways he and his publication could continue to effectively communicate the work of CFFF-FCPMS and the role the Canadian Fire Service can play in helping reach beneficial goals. Thanks to Dan for all his hard work on behalf of Canadian firefighters. As the photos show, Dan is well- connected at all times.



March 3-4, 2007

Foundation Attends 2nd Firefighter Life Safety Summit and Presents Flag



Chief Doug Wylie (Ret.), Western Vice President of CFFF, presents Chief Ron Siarnicki (Ret.), Executive Director of our partner, National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, a CFFF-FCPMS flag. The presentation was part of the 2nd Firefighter Life Safety Summit held March 3-4, 2007. The Foundation has been present at all of the safety summits and is shaping results to reflect needs of the Canadian Fire Service members.



Chiefs Siarnicki and Wylie displaying the Foundation flag to the Summit audience in Novato, California.

May 2, 2006

The Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation attends the Annual Red Shield Breakfast honouring Firefighters



The Foundation thanks Carstar for its gracious support.

The collages on this page show just a bit of the Ottawa Red Shield Event which is put on the thank the firefighters and volunteers Salvation Army workers who supply emergency support. Ottawa has an extremely fine relationship with the Salvation Army which runs an emergency response team for firefighters and victims of fire. It is an extremely active group, the most active in Canada, in fact.

Host Sandra Blaikie of A Channel and former Mayor, Jim Durrell welcomed the supporters and introduced Retired Ottawa Deputy Fire Chief, David Smith who explained the development of many superb programs initiated by the Ottawa Fire Service and Salvation Army as well as the Ottawa Police and OC Transpo. Deputy Smith showed how with good will and effort, a wonderful community service was born and now thrives.

May 6, 2007

Foundation Hits CFRA Airwaves

Nick Vandergragt of the popular Nick at Night talk show on Ottawa's CFRA hosted Will Brooks and Gary Barnes in a discussion of the Canadian Firefighters Memorial and the progress being made toward its creation. The one hour show ranged among many fire service topics, but the focus fell on both the annual ceremony (September 9, 2007) and the initiation of the design phase of the National monument to fire fighters.



Gary Barnes CFFF-FCPMS Vice President chats with Nick prior to beginning the show.



Nick speaking with President, Will Brooks, about the Canadian Firefighters Memorial and the ways in which people can donate to help in its construction.

Will always encourages listeners to visit www.cfff.ca frequently so they can keep up with developments in all the areas the Foundation manages.

May 14, 2007

Foundation Assists Ileitis and Colitis Association

Each year the M and M stores in the Ottawa area support the work of the Ileitis and Colitis Association by sponsoring a day long barbeque. This year, the Foundation Fire Department helped out by turning out in force. The rigs are always a draw for young and old and spark many nostalgic discussions of the "good old days."





Dan was recently visited by Captain Robert Kirkpatrick, Ontario Vice President for the C.F.F.F., at their new training facilities for the G.T.A.A. Fire Services at Pearson Airport in Mississauga. The G.T.A.A. Fire Service is a big supporter of the Foundation and its goals.



June 3, 2007

The Toronto Fire Services Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service, Sunday June 3, 2007

The Toronto Fire Services held their Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service on Sunday June 3, 2007. After a display by the Toronto Fire Boat, William Lyon Mackenzie, the ceremony commenced with the reading of the roll of the over 150 Toronto firefighters who have made the supreme sacrifice for the citizens of Toronto and the communities that recently became part of the city. The memorial is located beside the Harbour Front Station. The rain stayed off just long enough to recognize 24 Toronto firefighters who died from work related illnesses that were recently granted WSIB benefits. Toronto Fire Chief and Foundation Director William Stewart spoke of the sacrifice made by these firefighters and their families. Ontario Regional Vice President Robert Kirkpatrick laid a wreath on behalf of the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation at the memorial service. The Toronto Pies & Drums, a regular participant at the national ceremony, added to the prestigious event. Friend of the Foundation, photographer John Riddell, whose father is a retired firefighter, provided the Foundation with some shots of the ceremony.

May 15, 2007

G.T.A.A. Fire Service

Captain Daniel Beaudoin, CD, CFSI, from the Greater Toronto Airports Authority, Fire & Emergency Services Training Institute, has found a unique way to honour our fallen firefighters and armed forces on his pick-up truck. Along with the yellow ribbon to support our troops overseas he has made a decal of the Canadian Fire Service Memorial pin as shown in the photo on the left.

June 9, 10 2007

Foundation Annual General Meeting, Ottawa, June 9-10, 2007

It was decided to hold the Annual General Meeting at a time which did not conflict with the Annual memorial Weekend. Given that this was the first time the new

arrangement was attempted, it went quite well. Board Members take their work seriously, and the Foundation is extremely fortunate to have such a widely representative group work to ensure the objectives of the organization are being met.



Board Members consider Foundation issues and life safety posters.



Ken Kelly, Doug Wylie and Gary Barnes add their thoughts to the discussion.



Board Members Jim Lee and Alex Forrest review the Foundation annual review, COURAGE.



Board Members, Jean Carr and Paul Buxton-Carr.



Tim Hinds, David Sheen, and Randy Piercy consider the new Governance Booklet.



David Smith, Bruce Paradis, and Robert Kirkpatrick considering a point related to the Annual Memorial Ceremony to be held on September 9, 2007.



Will Brooks' laptop showing one of the life safety posters developed by the Foundation. The Chair is empty because President Brooks also acts as photographer. Bill Williams, Gary Barnes, Doug Wylie and Ken Kelly get set to have some food after the morning's work!

August 12, 2007

Foundation visits Addington-Highlands Fire Department

Ontario Regional Vice President Robert Kirkpatrick recently visited with Addington-Highlands Fire Chief Casey Cuddy at the Northbrook, Ontario fire station located 2 hours west of Ottawa. Chief Casey accepted the Foundation flag in memory of Deputy Chief William Salmond who was killed responding to a vehicle accident on August 5, 2007. Deputy Salmond was a 33 year veteran of the Kalar/Barrie Fire Department and was indicative of the dedicated people serving as volunteer firefighters across Canada.

Bill, who wore badge number 2, will never be forgotten by his fellow firefighters and the community he protected. Firefighters recently had a tribute added to the trucks in the department. The 2008 Canadian Firefighters Memorial Ceremony will honour William Salmond Jr.



2006 Kitchener Memorial CEREMONY

Keynote to Kitchener Firefighters at Memorial Oct 29, 2006



"Honoured Guests, Fellow Firefighters, and Ladies and Gentlemen:

I'm Dr. Will Brooks, President of the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation, a relatively new Canadian organization which exists to honour all Canadian Firefighters who have died in the Line of Duty.

As we grow, the feedback and help from all firefighters is vital and useful. The Foundation is not the voice of the Canadian Fire Service. It is the embodiment of the Fire Service and its tradition of respect for those dying in service.

It is always an honour to speak on an occasion like this, and I wish to say thank you to Kevin

Schmalz for the invitation and the Kitchener Firefighters for their assistance in fund-raising for the Foundation.

We salute Kitchener in developing this memorial and the spirit of loving remembrance upon which it stands.

In addition to remembering all known fallen firefighters named on our website, the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation seeks to assist the families of the fallen, and support a firefighter safety program called Everyone Goes Home.

One of the main ways we are striving to recognize the Fallen is by creating a fitting National monument, the Canadian Firefighters Memorial, to be built in Ottawa on a site selected by the NCC.

We have been given an excellent site which will, when completed, allow the Nation to honour the nearly 900 known firefighters who have died in the line of duty, firefighters like the 30 who have been honoured since 2004 on the second Sunday in September on the lawn of Parliament Hill.

Each year since 2004 we have been able to pay for both the travel and accommodation costs of the immediate families bearing the burden of losing a loved firefighter, perhaps a spouse, brother, son, friend but always a Canadian firefighter.

These firefighters have come from cities and towns of nearly every Province and Territory in this amazingly diverse Country.

These are firefighters like:

Kevin Olson • April Hopkin • Ian McKay • Marcel Marleau • Charles Kieswetter

None asked if they should fight the fight before them, they simply did their duty, sometimes going beyond it, and did not return to the station or ever land their aircraft again. Their families were left to find solace. Some did and others still carry the yoke of a grief which seems as if will not end.

All of the firefighters I know and have spoken with over the years did not use the word hero to describe this sacrifice. They have simply said, "This is part of the job."

And it still is part of the job. However, the way death comes has changed so we now lose firefighters to causes unseen and unavoidable just as changes in technology are unavoidable. "Progress" has with it pitfalls.



The Canadian Fire Service is always challenged to find new ways of keeping our firefighters safe so they can all come home.

Please know that many organizations like the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs and the IAFF have long supported firefighter safety.

All departments work to care for their firefighters, but the task is hard and complicated by too many factors to name here.

We are currently hard at work gaining sufficient funds to accomplish our objectives noted above and at www.CFFFC.A

You might wonder what you as a single citizen could do to help. Last year the Parliament passed Motion 153 which came into being to support the Foundation in creating the Canadian Firefighters Memorial.

It was a private members motion initiated by Peter Julian NDP from British Columbia and was passed by the House indicating massive support for this project. Unfortunately, being a private members bill, it did not have funding attached to it.

Since then, we have been working closely with Minister of Public Safety, the Hon. Stockwell Day and his staff to see how some funding might be developed to assist in this task.

Finally, to those very special firefighters who have gone to another home safe from flame, loss of air, wall collapse, flashovers and falling from the sky, we say, you will never be forgotten by a caring Nation whose firefighters are united in remembering that you gave your lives in the service of your community and your country, Canada."



Forsaken Dreams

By Randy Piercey

Years past I've busied myself preparing for the ceremony, ensuring that all the last-minute details are taken care of for my responsibilities as stage manager. It's not until hours or days later that we get to reflect on how the ceremony went and how it affected those involved. This year will be different. Two friends will be honored this year, Jeff Laishes, and Ian Gatehouse.

Ian, I've known since first coming on the fire department. We work closely on a number of occasions. Although some people perceived Ian as a rather gruff individual, he really was a compassionate man of the highest integrity. His pastime pleasure was sailing. Many times we discussed, sharing a day sailing on Lake Ontario.

The last time I talked to Ian he had recently come out of surgery. We were sharing a beverage in his living room and discussing those things we would like to do that summer. The subject of sailing came up and Ian promised that this year, this summer, we would enjoy a day together. Sailing the Lake and

basking in the sun with Ian commanding us like Captain Bly. Two weeks later, I was shocked when I heard that Ian had passed away.

Jeff and I had worked together for short periods of time on the same truck but in the same district for over a decade. Jeff had a wicked sense of humor. He was fanatical about what he ate and drink. We shared a common bond in our interest of aircraft. I had worked on aircraft in the military before becoming a firefighter. Jeff, he built his own airplane. This accomplishment, took him over 10 years.

One of the last conversations I had with Jeff was in regards to the final completion and certification of his aircraft. We discussed the trials and tribulations of such a long and arduous undertaking. He had promised that if I was willing to pay for the fuel he would take me for trip over the city and around Lake Ontario. Jeff passed away not long after.

This year, this year will be different. I will be thinking of Jeff and Ian and those forsaken dreams.

Letter from Wendy

Hello, I visit your website on a regular basis, but not until today did I notice the video for "Courage". I sit here in tears as I type.

This is absolutely beautiful. I lost my sweet brother in 1995. He was a fireman, 41, and had just came out of a burning house, still with his gear on, when he collapsed of a massive heart attack. The fire was arson which made it even more traumatic in the sense that it was at someone's foolish and careless act. He did die however, doing the one thing he loved most, being a fireman. He had full departmental honors and that was more comforting than you will ever know. He was buried in his uniform and took with him his most valued clothing.

Watching the video brought to mind a flutter of emotions, my brother Joey, all the other firefighter's who have lost their lives and all the one's who still give so graciously of their lives to protect all others in the world. They truly are hero's indeed. Men and women alike.

I have a very precious and tender place in my heart for all firefighter's and hope that the one's who are still with us know how much they are truly appreciated and honored by so many of us in the world.

Ladder 49, the movie, was very emotional for me to watch. I hope that it caused people however, to see just what risks our firefighter's take for us every time the bell rings and off they go to save lives and property.

I would also like to say that I will most likely never get to a ceremony on the hill but keep up the great work, I think this is a great foundation and one that I am so willing to support in any way I can. I live in Halifax, NS and wanted to volunteer to help in some small way, but that did not work out. If there is ever anything I can do for such a great foundation.

I would dedicate a lot of time for this cause.

Again thank you to you all, and of course James Blondeau for such a great masterpiece.

Take Care,

- Wendy -

Courage

By James Blondeau

*I once heard a story 'bout a firefighter man
Sometimes he couldn't sleep the nights away
From the cities to the country to the water bomber's land
As he takes his life in his hands once again*

*'Cause there's a sign and it's called Courage with the names
And on it every firefighter's bravery
From each and every one of them they gave
To the spirit of a firefighter's bravery*

*Pumper wagons, horses, the great wood fire roared
And the big old bell then burned on down
The twenties, the depression, the blitz of London nights
The fire in the harbour forty-nine*

*'Cause there's a sign and it's called Courage with the names
And on it every firefighter's bravery
From each and every one of them they gave
To the spirit of a firefighter's bravery*

*From the fifties through two-thousand a million voices called
When a family needed courage they were there
And today the firefighters are still bonded into one
Stand ready to show how much they care*

*'Cause there's a sign and it's called Courage with the names
And on it every firefighter's bravery
From each and every one of them they gave
To the spirit of a firefighter's bravery*

*There's a sign and it's called Courage with the names
And on it every firefighter's bravery
From each and every one of them they gave
To the spirit of a firefighter's bravery*



**For my loving father,
Peter Kuryluk, whose
everlasting love of life
and nature touches
me every day. You are
forever in my heart.**

Love, Patricia

How To BEAR SORROW

I believe that the wisest plan is sometimes not to try to bear sorrow – as long as one is not crippled for one's everyday duties – but to give way to it utterly and freely.

Perhaps sorrow is sent that we may give way to it, and in drinking the cup to the dregs, find some medicine in itself, which we should not find if we began doctoring ourselves or letting others doctor us.

If we say simply, "I am wretched – I ought to be wretched"; then we shall perhaps hear a voice:

"Who made thee wretched but God? Then what can He mean by thy good?"

And if thy heart answers impatiently, "My good? I don't want it; I want my love," perhaps the voice may answer, "Then thou shalt have both in time."

*Adapted from Charles Kingsley,
in Letters and Memories*





CANADIAN FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION

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PM40065059

**REAL firefighters
wear seatbelts!**

