

# COURAGE

The Official Publication of the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation

Vol.4



## *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*

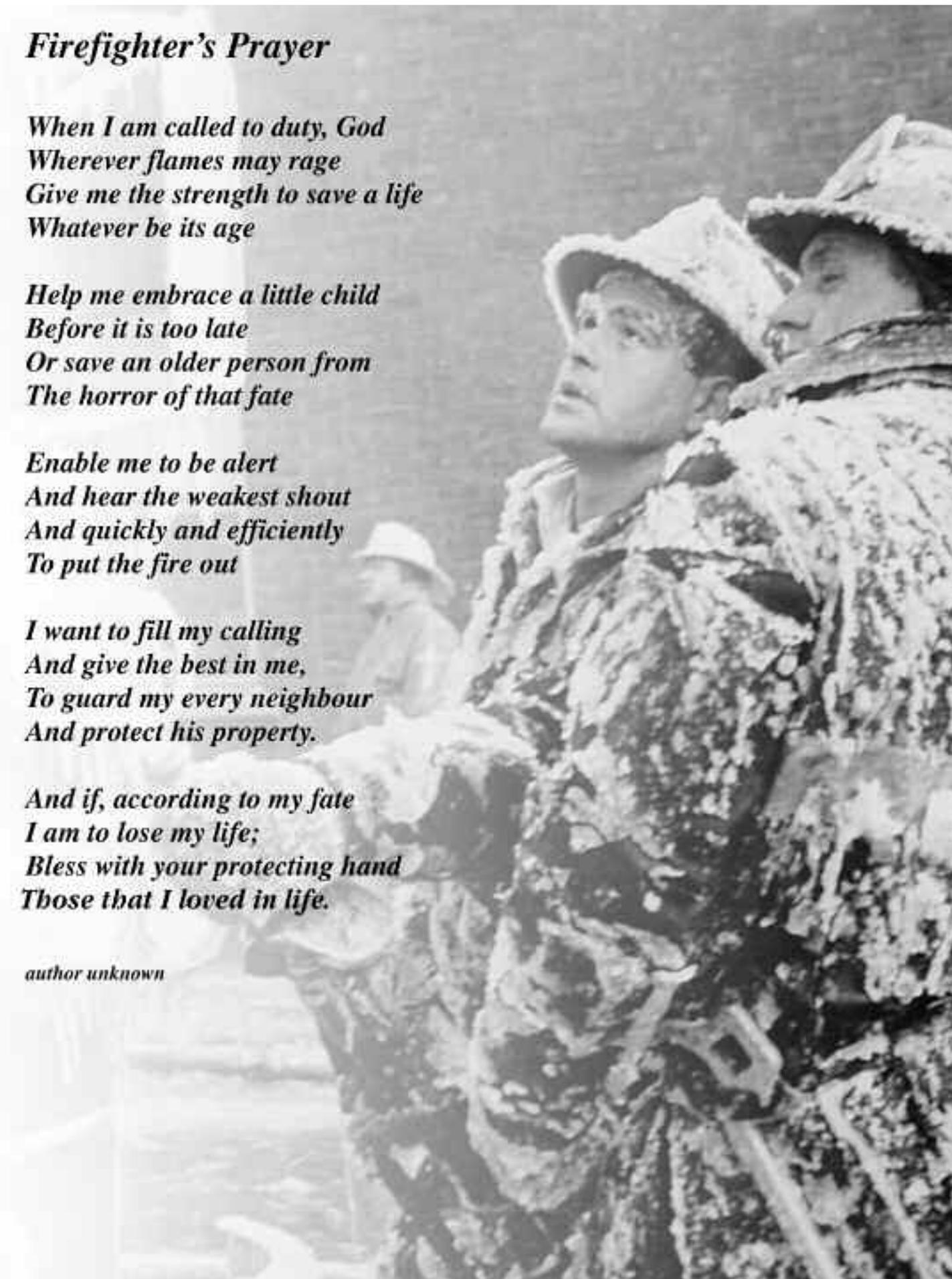
*Help me embrace a little child  
Before it is too late  
Or save an older person from  
The horror of that fate*

*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  
Those that I loved in life.*

*author unknown*





# C O U R A G E

CANADIAN FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION – Volume 4

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### ON THE COVER:

2008 Canadian Firefighters Annual Memorial Ceremony. *See page 6*



Waken Photography: Linda LeBrun Matta

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*Sunrise Propane Explosion*

*See page 26*

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# C O U R A G E

CANADIAN FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION – Volume 4

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## President's Message

As I begin this message, I must express my appreciation to the businesses and organizations that have contributed to the creation of this, the 5th annual edition of *Courage*, the yearbook of the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation. On behalf of the Foundation and firefighters across the country, a sincere- thank you! Without your support, we would not be able to get our message out and continue on the long road to complete our goals. For five years, the business community has shown its support for firefighters and the work they do by contributing to the Foundation in its journey to honour fallen firefighters and support the families of those killed in the line of duty.

Although the Foundation has been in existence for five years and has accomplished a lot, our main goal is not yet reached. Sadly, as the number of firefighter line of duty deaths approaches 1000, this country still does not have a national monument for them, in the country they died serving. In order to have a place of remembrance for the families, the colleagues of these Canadian firefighters and the grateful citizens of their communities, the Foundation is working hard on its primary goal to build the Canadian Firefighter's Memorial. Although the Foundation has been constantly fundraising, we are still working with the Government of Canada through the Heritage Ministry to secure the funding needed to complete the project on land graciously allocated by the National Capital Commission across from the National War Museum. We encourage all those who feel strongly about having a Canadian Firefighter's Memorial to write their Member of Parliament and voice their support. This is a major commemorative project and only with the help of you and your government can this be achieved.

I must also take this opportunity to thank all those in the fire service that have contributed to the goals of the Foundation as well. As the "new kid on the block" in the fire service world, the Foundation is striving to gain 100% support in all areas of the fire service. The Foundation takes great care in seeing that the Board of Directors represents all types of firefighters and geographical areas as well as having representation from the focus of our activities; families of fallen firefighters. The Board, which volunteer their time completely, must be thanked for their dedication to the cause.

This year's Canadian Firefighters Annual Memorial Ceremony held on Parliament Hill in Ottawa was another great success and the Foundation thanks all those that attended and helped with its organization and success. The Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services was a great Honourary host for this year's event and the helmet has been passed on to Brampton (ON) Fire & Emergency Services to keep up the high standard at next year's ceremony.

As the Foundation strives to honour all categories of Canadian firefighters, whether full-time, volunteer, airport, wildland, or military from the past and present, who have died serving their communities, we cannot help but think of that Canadian spirit that first organized fire brigades. Their courage and sense of duty to their communities has been passed on to those ready to answer the call, whether from their homes or working this very moment in fire stations, on military bases, on the ground and in the air in our nation's forests or airports across the country.

With the help of those businesses, advertising in this magazine the Foundation can continue on its journey to reach its many goals including the construction of the Canadian Firefighter's Memorial, which will contain the names of the fallen. It has been 160 years since the first known Canadian firefighter was killed in the line of duty. We believe this memorial is long overdue.

Sincerely,

*Bob Kirkpatrick, President*



## Editor's Message

Welcome to the 2008 edition of *Courage*. It is with a great deal of pride and pleasure that this issue is produced as the Foundation celebrates its fifth year of working with the firefighting community to construct a national memorial in Ottawa that will finally give formal recognition to friends and colleagues, past, present, and unfortunately but inevitable future, who have died in the line of duty. I trust that the following words will bring you up to date on the efforts of the Foundation to achieve this and other goals.

Through the advertisers that grace these pages, as well as small and large donations from many people and businesses, the Foundation has an established fund for the Canadian Firefighter's Memorial that, at the end of November 2008 held over \$840,000. The Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs has pledged \$5000 per month that at the end of 2008 comes to a very impressive \$120,000. The Canadian Council of Fire Marshals and Fire Commissioners at their annual meeting earlier this year pledged \$10,000. Another \$30,000 and we have achieved the \$1 million point! Thank you all!

The Foundation continues to lobby the Federal government to provide some funding. I hope that we will have good news from this effort at this time next year.

The National Capital Commission has set aside a site for the Canadian Firefighter's Memorial at the western edge of the Parliamentary Precinct opposite the magnificent edifice of the Canadian War Museum. A prestigious site indeed!

The estimated cost of the memorial at about \$4 million seems high, but given the site (the first sight after the War Museum that visitors and residents will see on entering the Parliamentary Precinct from the west), it is most understandable why the National Capital Commission would like an appropriate showpiece. And do not for a moment forget this is our tribute to fallen friends and colleagues so the Foundation concurs with the need for a splendid memorial.

The other area where a fair amount of resources are spent, both money and voluntary people power, is the annual Canadian Firefighter's Memorial Ceremony held the second Sunday in September on Parliament Hill. The Foundation financially helps the families and hosts both the memorial dinner and the post-ceremony reception in the Centre Block. The cost for the 2008 ceremony was about \$90,000 and donations large and small provide the financing. Without those donations, and the host of volunteers too numerous to mention by name or department, the ceremony would not be possible. Having said that, we do owe a real debt of gratitude to the Ottawa Fire Service for their continuing excellent support of the ceremony.

The 2008 program and the day in pictures are found in this issue.

The 2008 Honorary Host Fire Service was Vancouver and our thanks and appreciation is sent out to them. Without a host city, the production would be made all the more difficult. The Brampton Ontario fire service, under the leadership of Chief Andy MacDonald, will have the honour of being the 2009 host city. We at the Foundation look forward to working with them and extend a sincere thank you for their efforts.

If there are departments out there that are interested in the Ceremony host duties in 2010, 2011, and 2012, let us know at [info@cfff.ca](mailto:info@cfff.ca) or [president@cfff.ca](mailto:president@cfff.ca). We will be happy to talk.

Our final priority is the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation Education Program endowment fund, and on this one, we have a long road to travel. With your help, though, we will also achieve this goal. The fund will eventually provide bursaries and scholarships to the children of Canadian firefighters, but it is only a little over \$10,000 at this time. The fund needs to be self-sustaining so that we can provide the awards, but as you can see we are a long way from the seven-figure investment portfolio that is needed. This fund also will be built on donations. We have applied to the Motorola Foundation for a grant and expect a positive response in the not-too-distant future.

We would like to thank the current Board of Directors for their continuing efforts on your behalf. We especially thank all the Board members that have left the Foundation, and in particular, the three founding members without whose vision and perseverance we would not be close to achieving the goal of a Canadian Firefighter's Memorial, and perhaps even the Foundation itself would not exist. So it is with deepest appreciation we continue to recognize the efforts of Georges Potvin, Will Brooks, and Bill Williams.

Keep the donations flowing. You can do that at [cfff.ca](http://cfff.ca) and click on the helmet on the left side of your screen that will take you to our partner [CanadaHelps.org](http://CanadaHelps.org). Or you can donate through your United Way campaign. How? It is in this issue. Or you can send a cheque to 440 Laurier Ave W, Suite 200, Ottawa ON, K1R 7X6. Or just write and say hi.

Enjoy!

*Douglas A. Lock, CD, CHRP*

# 2009 Canadian Firefighters Annual Memorial Ceremony™



September 13, 2009 • 11:00 am

Parliament Hill • Ottawa, Ontario

The 2009 ceremony honorary host is the Brampton Fire & Emergency Services, under the command of Fire Chief Andy MacDonald. Brampton is located northwest of Toronto, Ontario. See their website at [www.brampton.ca/fire/index.html](http://www.brampton.ca/fire/index.html).

The ceremony will pay tribute to the over 940 Canadian firefighters who have lost their lives serving Canada since organized fire services began in the 1820s. The names of all firefighters added to the honour roll since the last ceremony will be read at the ceremony. In addition, special presentations will be made to the families of those firefighters who were actively employed at their time of death.

## Memorial Service in the North

*Submitted by Tim Hinds, Fire Marshall, Nunavut (Retired), CFFF Director*

### Rankin Inlet, Nunavut – 11 September 2008

A group of firefighters from across Canada's newest territory, Nunavut, took time from a firefighter training course to pay their respects to the memory of those firefighters who have made the ultimate sacrifice in previous years and especially to those who died in the past year. Nineteen firefighters and their instructional staff held a brief ceremony in front of the Rankin Inlet Fire Hall to show their esteem for their fallen comrades, to commemorate the past and to reflect on the changes in our modern work world, especially for emergency responders.

The ceremony was lead by Douglas Moeckl, the lead instructor from fire etc. (Lakeland College). Even though these young men and women did not know any of last year's fallen comrades, and many of them were only teenagers on the most dreadful day known to firefighters in most recent history (11 September 2001), they displayed a clear understanding of the knowledge that we are all



brothers and sisters. They willingly gave up valuable training time to remember all those from emergency services who have been taken before their time.

Following a short summary of historic events, a prayer was offered, followed by a moment of silence. The flags at the Hamlet Administration Office and the Rankin Inlet Fire Hall were lowered to half-mast for the rest of the day in recognition of firefighters lost throughout Canada.

# REPORT FROM THE 2008 Canadian Firefighters Annual Memorial Ceremony Committee

*by John Sobey, Firefighter, Ottawa Fire Services, CFFF Director & National Parade Commander*

With the September 13th National Memorial a slight distance behind us and pausing for a break from the efforts of another moving event, the committee will reflect on the work that went into producing an honourable ceremony that pays respect to those who have fallen in the performance of or due to the effects of their fire fighting duties.

It is through the families, friends and fellow brother and sister fire fighters that this particular Sunday in September each year for the last five has paid tribute to those that have paid the ultimate sacrifice in all branches of the fire service in Canada.

Each year, the CFFF designates a city that represents all municipalities, big or small that are protected by fire fighters, as the honorary host fire service. This year, brother fire fighters from Vancouver dutifully fulfilled that role. Vancouver fire and rescue are a proud professional service and it was clearly demonstrated through their honour guard and band. It should be noted that Vancouver fire fighter, Brian Hutchinson has performed the duties of Head Dress Party Commander with distinction since the CFFF began these ceremonies. We are grateful for his dedication and commitment. Fire Chief, Ray Holdgate is, I know, very proud of their role at this year's memorial.

As the Foundation is becoming seasoned in the national ceremony, it is clearly recognized that the preparation both in logistics and script must begin early on so that lessons learned from each experience is reflected into the next ceremony. Once the committee has reviewed comments, notes and e-mails, then the process starts to layout the next national memorial.

With all the preparation that goes into the ceremony, there are always unforeseen changes that occur. We have anticipated scenarios when certain components are replaced, removed or deferred for a variety of reasons. Nevertheless, we strive to ensure that those changes can be addressed in such a way as to not take away the spirit of the event for all participants. One of the reasons for this is due in fact to the commitment of the Foundation members.

The Committee wishes to thank the staff from Public Works Canada, Ottawa Fire Services, Royal Canadian Air Cadets and St. John Ambulance for their ongoing support of this event.

*Ed. Note: Chief Warrant Officer Bruce Paradis and Ms. Sandy Lethbridge, both Foundation Directors, are the other 2/3 of the Committee. Our thanks go to them, to John, and indeed to everyone who helps pull this together every year.*



Waken Photography by Linda Matta

# **Line of Duty Death (LODD) Applications**

**Applications for 2008 LODD must be received by March 15, 2009 in order for those families who are qualified to be invited to attend the Canadian Firefighters Annual Memorial Ceremony on September 13, 2009.**



**Applications for LODD for any other time do not have a deadline but must be submitted for approval in order to be put on the national LODD list.**

**Details at [cfff.ca](http://cfff.ca)**

# HONOURING THE FALLEN 2008

CANADIAN FIREFIGHTERS ANNUAL MEMORIAL CEREMONY

SEPTEMBER 14, 2008 • 11:00

PARLIAMENT HILL

OTTAWA

*Honourary host city*



**VANCOUVER  
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES**



# HONOURING THE FALLEN 2008

## ADDED NAMES

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

*Firefighter Alan Campbell*  
*Fire Chief Robert Corrigan*

### ALBERTA

*Firefighter Richard Beaulieu*  
*Captain Barry Dancy*  
*Firefighter Robert Elder*  
*District Chief Sidney Gilbert*  
*Fire Chief Harold Harrison*  
*Chief Training Officer George Heming*  
*Division Chief Maurice Simonin*  
*Captain Olaf Wilson*

### MANITOBA

*Firefighter Eric Basarowich*  
*Captain Barry Chipka*  
*Firefighter Harris Diack*  
*Firefighter Nestor Dudar*  
*Firefighter Glenn Lucas*  
*Captain George Olmstead*

### QUEBEC

*Fire Chief William Black*

### ONTARIO

*Director of Training Glen Bassett*  
*Captain Donald Booth*

*Captain Ken Charlebois*

*Captain Kevin Conlon*

*Captain Patrick Dineen*

*Fire Chief William Elliott*

*Firefighter Greg Fecteau*

*Firefighter Vernon Kempffer*

*District Chief Gary Lang*

*Platoon Chief Bernard Leach*

*Firefighter Barry Ley*

*Training Officer Joe Shaw*

*Platoon Chief Harry Sorley*

*Captain Robert Tourangeau*

*Captain Fred Wenechuk*

*Captain Brian Whitehead*

### NOVA SCOTIA

*Firefighter George Branch*

*Lieutenant Edward Frederick*

*Firefighter William Gorman*

*Firefighter Hamilton Johnston*

*Firefighter William Knapman Jr*

*Firefighter William Knapman Sr.*

*Lieutenant William Lewin*

*Lieutenant James O'Regan*

*Firefighter Michael Sullivan*

*Firefighter Richard Supple*

*Firefighter James Tynan*

# HONOURING THE FALLEN 2008



## **FIREFIGHTER RICHARD MANN**

**Toronto (North York) Fire Services  
April 1, 2004**

Firefighter Richard Mann, age 39, died from a work related illness on April 1, 2004. He joined the fire service in 1985.

Rick was a dedicated member of the Toronto fire Services (originally with North York) for 19 years. He loved being a firefighter and bravely served his public with compassion and professionalism. Rick put his skilled handyman talents to work in building and renovating a beautiful home for his wife and new daughter. He was a cherished husband, father, son, uncle and friend. Rick was a man full of spirit, honour, love and a sense of humour that he will be remembered for, by all who were blessed to have him in their lives.



## **CAPTAIN HAROLD LESSARD**

**Winnipeg Fire Department  
February 4, 2007**

Captain Harold Lessard, age 55, died with Captain Thomas Nichols at a house fire on February 4, 2007. He joined the fire service in 1975.

Captain Harold Lessard was extremely proud to wear the uniform of a firefighter and represent the City of Winnipeg in all aspects of his life. Becoming a Captain at the busiest station in Winnipeg fulfilled his ultimate goal. He made good friends and earned the respect of his co-workers. Harold believed in treating everyone with dignity whether they were rich or poor and despite their personal circumstances. Harold would never hesitate to help anyone who needed assistance. He was admired by all who knew him. On February 4th, 2007, the world lost a great Canadian citizen, firefighter, husband of Lynn for 33-years and father to Bryan and Christine.



## **FIREFIGHTER CLARKE STEVENS**

**Edmonton Fire Rescue Services  
August 19, 2006**

Firefighter Clarke Stevens, age 48, died from a work related illness. He joined the fire service in 1989.

Clarke Donald Stevens grew up in Edmonton with four older sisters. At a young age his family knew he was destined to become a firefighter as he rode around in a little car wearing a plastic fireman's hat and a pair of oversized boots. He married Shannon in 1984 and they had two sons' Matthew and Spencer, who he coached in hockey and soccer, and miss him greatly. Clarke took pride in being a good firefighter and helped save the life of a rookie firefighter in 2003. In 2004 he helped with legislation to give compensation to firefighters developing recognized types of cancer, which he succumbed to. Clarke enjoyed his children, family, friends, fishing and a passion for hockey.



## **CAPTAIN THOMAS NICHOLS**

**Winnipeg Fire Department  
February 4, 2007**

Captain Thomas Nicols, age 56, died with Captain Harold Lessard at a house fire on February 4, 2007. He joined the fire service in 1974.

Captain Thomas William Nichols joined the Winnipeg Fire Department on November 25th, 1974. He was a very proud, passionate firefighter throughout his 32 year career. Tom was dedicated to the job he loved, to the men and women that he led and the citizens that he served. He had the respect of everyone that he worked with from the newest recruit to his lieutenant and all levels of Chief Officers. Tom was a devoted family man to his wife of 34 years Linda and their children Kelly, wife Cara and Kimberly, husband Matthew.

# HONOURING THE FALLEN 2008



## **CAPTAIN GARY WILSON**

**Toronto (East York) Fire Services  
March 16, 2007**

Captain Gary Wilson, age 48, died from a work related illness. He joined the fire service in 1983.

Gary's lifelong dream was to become a firefighter. He was a man of the people and would go out of his way

to help someone in need or danger on and off the job. Gary was there for everybody and he would never stop giving. Whether dropping gifts at Sick Kid's hospital, rewiring an elderly woman's house or bringing in the neighbour's recycling bins while they were at work. Gary was also a comedian and the most optimistic guy you ever met. He could turn tragedy into a positive energy in life and at calls. He was very unique that way. His family, friends and firefighters will remember Gary as an enormous, giving, kind; loving man and we will celebrate his life in a memory of love with a big warm smile.



## **FIREFIGHTER CHARLES STROUD**

**Niagara Falls Fire Services  
May 2, 2007**

Firefighter Charles Stroud, age 55, died from a work related illness. He joined the fire service in 1975.

Charlie lived his whole life in Niagara Falls and one of the proudest days of his life was when

he became a member of the fire dept. in Oct 1975. He was a 31yr member at the time of his death on May 2, 2007. He was married for 35yrs to his devoted wife Julia and a very proud father to Jonathan (Jen) & Robert (Colette). He cherished his three beautiful grandchildren Sebastian, Gabriel & Evelyn. Charlie was always quick to make people laugh with his great sense of humour & infectious smile. Even through all his pain he sought to make others happy. Charlie thoroughly enjoyed the beauty of life and made the most of every moment. His three greatest passions were: Family, Fire Fighting & Fishing.



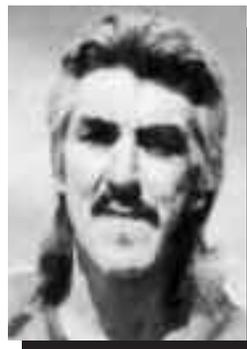
## **FIREFIGHTER MICHAEL KAATZ**

**Burlington Fire Department  
April 25, 2007**

Firefighter Michael Kaatz, age 47, died from a work related illness. He joined the fire service in 1988.

Michael Kaatz was born on Sept 13, 1960. He was married to his wife Christine for 25 years and they have

four children, Victoria, Michelle, Patrick, and Hannah. He was a Certified Industrial Millwright by trade and achieved extensive certification in the areas of leadership, instruction and safety throughout his lifetime. He started his firefighting career as a volunteer for the City of Burlington in 1988 and was hired on full time in 1996. He was a gifted mentor and a natural leader in the department. His commitment to his job was rivalled only by his devotion to his family. He was a man of integrity, honesty and courage matched only by his sense of humour and intelligence. Michael will forever be remembered, honoured and loved by his family and friends and will continue to set a high standard for others to aspire to.



## **FIREFIGHTER WILLIE PATCHINOSE**

**Manitoba Conservation  
May 8, 2007**

Wildland firefighter Willie Patchinose, age 46, died during training. He joined the fire service in 1991.

Willie Joseph Ronald Patchinose was born Saturday, Feb.18, 1961 at the Pas Manitoba. He was

originally from Moose Lake, MB where received his education. When he was 18, he moved to Grand Rapids, MB, where he met his wife Terri Turner .They were married there on July 30, 1995. Willie was also a fisherman, trapper and a carpenter .He also published a Cree dictionary. Willie was a Firetac Ranger , since May 1991. He enjoyed his job and was very proud of it. Willie has four children; 26 year old son Vernon Turner , 20 year old Bonnie Patchinose , 18 year old Lester Turner , and 8 year old Gaylene Patchinose.

# HONOURING THE FALLEN 2008

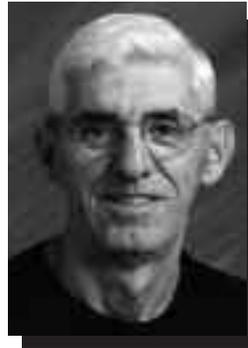


## **FIREFIGHTER RON DYSART**

**Manitoba Conservation  
June 6, 2007**

Wildland firefighter Ron Dysart, age 60, died during firefighting operations. He joined the fire service in 1962.

Ronald Bill Dysart was born on May 21/1947 in South Indian Lake, Northern Manitoba. He was a commercial fisherman by trade and a firefighter by choice. His love for the land prepared him for the dangers ahead, but no matter what the situation his quick wit would assure everyone all was under control. As a firefighter his strong leadership and knowledge will always be carried on through all those he worked with. We give thanks to the creator for sharing with us this courageous and loving spirit.

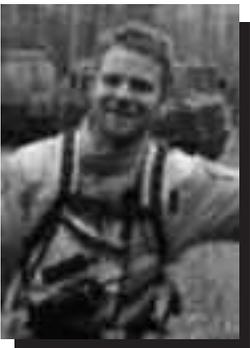


## **DEPUTY CHIEF WILLIAM SALMOND**

**Addington Township Fire Dept.  
August 5, 2007**

Deputy Chief Bill Salmond, age 65, of the Addington Highland/Kaladar Barrie Fire Department, died in a tanker truck accident responding to a fire call.

William Perry Salmond was born October 25, 1941 in the small Eastern Ontario village of Fernleigh. Bill was a licensed auto mechanic and later became an industrial millwright. His life was complimented with a loving wife Gail, three children and eight grandchildren. Bill had many passions including hunting, fishing, sports, and family. Bill's fire department career began in 1974 with the Kaladar-Barrie Fire Department, with his most recent position being that of Deputy Chief. He was a tireless servant to the community and asked for nothing in return. Bill lived and died a hero.



## **FIREFIGHTER PATRICK WATTERS- MICHAUD**

**Alberta Sustainable  
Resource Development  
July 22, 2007**

Patrick Watters Michaud, age 22, died in a helicopter crash near Fort McMurray, Alberta. He was a seasonal wildland firefighter from Quebec City since April 2007.

An old Indian said: Warriors hope for a good death to find them. Patrick loved to fight the forces of nature. He said we could not control them, only help the forest which he loved very much. The forest loved him too and wanted him. He could not resist its call. So, we gave him back to the forest. He is part of nature now and he will help his team mates, the brothers he never had, to save this green part of Canada. Patrick was a warrior, a fighter, a fire fighter who loved every minute of his work. He left this message for us all. **BE ON YOUR GUARD; STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH; BE MEN OF COURAGE; BE STRONG.** 1 corinthians 16 : 13. We are so proud of you Patrick.



## **FIREFIGHTER GORDON PAUL**

**Calgary Fire Department  
August 7, 2007**

Firefighter Gordon Lee "Spike" Paul, age 54, died from a work related illness. He joined the fire service in 1990.

Gord received various certifications and participated in many organizations. He was a member of Canada Lodge #165, Calgary Rams Rugby Club, assistant coach of the Ram's Women's Rugby Team, Royal Canadian Legion #264, CFD Aquatic Rescue Team, Red Knights CFD Motorcycle Club, and The Alberta Society of Engineering. Throughout Gord's life he tried many things both in his professional and private life. He had an ability to draw people in with his anecdotes and stories. It is unfortunate that Gord's love for being a firefighter also led to his death. Gord was diagnosed with a brain tumour in May 2003, which was reportedly caused by unexpected events causing exposure to many carcinogens while performing his duties as a firefighter.

# HONOURING THE FALLEN 2008



## **FIREFIGHTER WAYNE TOPPING**

**Burlington Fire Department  
August 24, 2007**

Firefighter Wayne Topping, age 48, died while training at an international auto extrication competition in Indiana, USA. He joined the fire service in 1996.

Wayne began his career with the Burlington Fire Department in 1996 as a volunteer and in May of 2000 he was hired fulltime. Wayne dedicated much his time to one of his greatest passions, Auto Extrication and an award winning auto extrication medic. As a first class firefighter Wayne was a leader, he not only provided guidance to young firefighters but he also assisted the firefighters association as a community leader. He always kept the Association in mind when he had free time, dedicating numerous hours to Local 1552's community projects.



## **CAPTAIN JOHN CHAPPELLE**

**Toronto (Etobicoke) Fire Services  
September 5, 2007**

Captain John Chappelle, age 53, died from a work related illness. He joined the fire service in 1980.

John Arthur Chappelle, chose the Fire Department at age 26.

This rewarded John with challenges, camaraderie and advancement, leading to Captain. How ironic that the career which gave him so much, stole his life to brain cancer. For twenty years we were never apart. From visiting galleries or cathedrals in Europe, to all our sports [curling, swimming, skiing, biking, golf], we shared absolute pride in each others accomplishments. I offered John the world; he offered me love and understanding. I was his inhale and he was my exhale.



## **LIEUTENANT ROBERT HALL**

**Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services  
August 27, 2007**

Lieutenant Robert Eric Hall, age 51, died from a work related illness. He joined the fire service in 1981.

Lieutenant Robert Hall, as a member of the British Columbia Firefighters Union, led the lobbying

to have colorectal cancer one of seven types of cancer listed as occupational hazards for firefighters in legislation introduced by the B.C. government in October 2005. Ironically he became one of the first recipients of the benefits of his work. He was a kind and loving father of Michael, Andrea, Yasmine, Leila and Spencer and husband Katty Chaichian, whose passion for his work and helping his Union brothers was only preceded by his love for his family. Robert also loved travelling and riding his Motorcycle, but his greatest passion was his Guitar and his music. He was a singer and a songwriter. We painfully miss Robert but are so proud of his gentle demeanor and fiercely strong convictions for justice.



## **CAPTAIN PAUL DONAHOE**

**Markham Fire &  
Emergency Services  
October 9, 2007**

Captain Paul Donahoe, age 51, died from a work related illness. He joined the fire service in 1983.

Paul was a Captain in Markham who was extremely proud of his crew. He was a strong leader who always tried to lead by example. He was an extremely grounded person who was ethical, loyal, fair and believed in speaking the truth. Paul was consistent and dependable and was the "go to" person for family, friends and colleagues. He lived his life to the fullest and will forever be a larger than life role model for his 10 year-old son.

# THE FALLEN

WE TAKE A MOMENT TO REMEMBER  
THOSE WHO HAVE ANSWERED THEIR LAST ALARM.

Harry Adams 6/19/1914  
Kenneth Aikenhead 5/13/1987  
Alexander Aitchison 4/5/1905  
Edgar Aitchison 8/22/1950  
Paul Alain 10/24/1945  
Jean-Charles Alarie 3/27/1984  
Alfred Albert 1/1/1928  
David Allan 8/25/1976  
James Anderson 3/9/1966  
Thomas Andrews 2/2/1949  
Alan Anketell 3/10/1999  
Richard Ardagh 1/27/1895  
Jesse Armitage 1/19/1980  
Jack Armstrong 3/6/1974  
William Ashfield 10/5/1880  
Les Ashton 12/23/2002  
Denis Asselin 8/2/1992  
Jasper Assman 10/6/1956  
Alan Auger 1/16/1985  
Moise Aumond 9/27/1890  
Raymond Ayotte 3/3/1971  
Joseph Babineau 9/9/1987  
Theophilus Ballinger 6/2/1962  
Elton Bannon 3/9/1965  
E. Barnett 9/14/1945  
Bill Barrett 9/30/1961  
Michael Barry 4/29/1877  
Donald Barwell 4/29/1975  
Percival Barwick 2/9/1967  
Eric Basarowich 2/22/1985  
Glen Bassett 2/13/1994  
Lionel Beaton 5/14/1975  
Robert Beatson 11/28/1955  
William Beattie 5/9/2005  
Simon Beauchamp 7/1/1982  
Léon Beaudoin 12/11/1958  
Richard Beaulieu 8/30/1971  
Denis Beauregard 3/3/1981  
Robert Belyea 12/27/1983  
Wayne Bench 7/10/1997  
Phillip Bennett 9/20/1975  
George Bennett 6/14/1907  
John Bertram 12/13/1896  
Alphonse Bertrand 5/12/1930  
Rolland Bérubé 6/1/1961  
Sampson Best 1/13/1926  
Jack Beuving 3/18/2001  
Robert Bezeau 10/24/1997  
Omer Billings 3/19/1981  
Arthur Bisson 11/27/1967  
Paul Bjerg 6/23/1965  
William Black 4/28/1998  
Léonard Blain 5/23/1940  
Jean-Marie Boivin 7/27/1954  
Clayton Bollong 10/30/1956  
Leonard Bondy 2/27/1971  
Leslie Booth 6/30/1967  
Donald Booth 10/14/2007  
Leslie Booth 8/28/1953  
George Booth 10/11/1975  
Randy Borecki 11/23/2003  
Leonard Borrow 8/24/1973  
Raymond Boulanger 1/29/1976  
Jacques-Henri Boulet 6/21/1986  
Ralph Boulton 9/4/1989  
Edmond Boutin 7/21/1929  
W. Bowen 4/22/1951  
Robert Bowery 1/6/1895  
Ray Brackenbury 12/3/1964  
George Branch 11/24/1980  
Édouard Brazeau 8/20/1919  
George Bremner 7/19/1947  
Edward Briggs 1/23/2004  
William Brindle 1/25/1901  
Armand Brisebois 3/1/1942  
William Broderick 12/6/1917  
William Brown 9/20/1929  
William Bruce 1/13/1940  
William Brunt 12/6/1917  
Gary Bryant 4/19/2006  
James Bryant 6/29/1914  
Harvey Buckley 9/9/1949  
Alexander Budd 11/21/1957  
Victor Budz 5/31/1980  
Murray Bulmer 8/28/1953  
Stanley Burnett 3/1/1961  
Fred Burr 5/4/1960  
Randy Bush 3/25/1981  
Tim Butland 11/16/1988  
Arthur Cade 7/1/1984  
Robert Calhoun 6/7/1933  
John Calhoun 7/7/1957  
William Cameron 5/15/1918  
Fred Cameron 6/30/1934  
Phillipe Camiré 6/6/1910  
Alan Campbell 11/23/1960  
Robert Campbell 11/23/2004  
David Campbell 8/3/1997  
Ross Campbell 1/29/1962  
Doug Cantelon 7/15/1999  
Guy Cantin 4/15/1997  
Auguste Cardinal 10/31/1913  
Joseph Careau 5/15/1920  
Patrick Carey 4/30/2001  
Sylvain Carpentier 10/16/1896  
William Carson 12/7/1999  
Billy Carter 12/3/1973  
John Case 6/18/1916  
Edward Caskie 7/13/1946  
Norman Caskie 7/9/1960  
Albert Cayen 12/8/1947  
Thomas Chambers 3/12/1956  
John Chappelle 9/5/2007  
Jean-Claude Charbonneau  
9/17/1977  
Ken Charlebois 5/3/2007  
William Charlton 7/10/1866  
Thomas Charters 4/14/1881  
Louis Chartier 5/17/1935  
Raymond Chatten 8/20/1979  
Joseph Cheeseman 11/30/1996  
Harry Chevalier 7/4/1990  
Normand Chiasson 6/19/1991  
Lucien Chicoine 11/24/1941  
Barry Chipka 4/22/2006  
Hormidas Choquette 3/28/1927  
Richard Choules 4/29/1877  
Thomas Christie 11/24/1905  
Frank Christie 2/18/1952  
Phillip Clack 8/2/1974  
Roy Clark 5/14/2006  
Lawrence Clark 8/18/1908  
Murray Clark 8/15/1976  
John Clark 12/4/1978  
William Clarke 7/10/1902  
Roy Clarkson 2/11/1980  
Yvon Clément 8/5/1971  
Patrick Cleveland 7/13/1989  
Richard Cline 6/27/1992  
John Cloran 8/3/1884  
George Clynic 3/19/1927  
Norman Cocks 5/8/1962  
William Coe 9/26/1920  
Walter Collard 7/10/1902  
Jérémié Collin 8/21/1934  
James Collins 7/13/1980  
Clarence Collins 10/16/1954  
Joe Comeau 5/17/1999  
Edward Condon 12/6/1917  
Kevin Conlon 6/6/2005  
William Cooke 11/30/1998  
James Copeland 6/25/2000  
William Cormier 4/24/1930  
Aurèle Cormier 6/22/1982  
Robert Corrigan 7/1/1958  
Edward Cosgrave 6/24/1947  
James Cote 7/18/1969  
Léopold Coté 10/13/1951  
Lucien Cotnoir 2/8/1976  
John Coull 7/3/1944  
Donald Coulter 10/24/1983  
Rémi Couturier 6/2/1940  
Roy Creen 1/20/1908  
James Crowley 11/3/2001  
William Culling 1/20/1953  
Ken Currie 2/1/2000  
Ernest Cyr 3/13/1948  
Yvon Cyr 5/15/1981  
Stan Dabrowski 5/18/1981  
Georges Dagenais 4/22/1893  
Ted Daher 12/5/1999  
Ken Daigneau 5/5/1998  
Jacques Daigneault 12/24/2002  
Raymond-Lomer D'amours  
12/12/1948  
John Dance 9/7/1977  
Barry Dancy 8/31/2006  
Michel Daragon 6/29/1998  
Hubert Daudelin 2/24/1959  
George Dauphinee 12/1/1933  
Alexander Davidson 7/16/1967  
James Davidson 12/2/1947  
Tom Davidson 7/13/1984  
Alexander Davidson 6/4/1937  
John Davis 7/11/1884  
Charles Dawson 1/21/1896  
Charles Dawson 12/29/1977  
Louis De Brienne 6/17/1932  
Thomas Deacon 4/1/1898  
Grover Deck 5/19/1951  
Fernand Defoy 8/25/1957  
Fred Deinhardt 10/31/1968

# THE FALLEN

WE TAKE A MOMENT TO REMEMBER  
THOSE WHO HAVE ANSWERED THEIR LAST ALARM.

Willard Delano 12/16/1959  
Charles Delano 12/16/1959  
Napoléon Deloge 1/22/1922  
Brent Dempsey 9/8/2003  
Paul Denesuk 12/9/1982  
Louis Deschamps 6/16/1927  
René Desharnais 6/27/1993  
Wilbrod Desjardins 2/1/1925  
Lionel Desjardins 4/24/1968  
Marc DesLauriers 6/3/1992  
Martin Desrochers 6/27/1993  
Pierre Déziel 3/19/1990  
Harris Diack 6/18/2006  
Clarence Dibble 8/15/1964  
Patrick Dineen 5/18/2006  
Raynald Dion 6/27/1993  
James Dixon 7/23/1934  
Paul Dixon 10/16/1988  
Duncan Doan 8/6/1969  
Paul Dolbec 5/15/1981  
Frederick Dolding 8/12/1929  
Paul Donahoe 10/9/2007  
Gaston Dorval 3/12/1961  
William Douglas 8/16/1849  
Robert Douglas 2/18/1941  
William Downey 9/25/1967  
Roy Downing 8/28/1953  
Walter Drake 10/7/2001  
Roland Drolet 3/12/1961  
Jean-Roch Dubreuil 1/7/1987  
Desmond Dubroy 4/1/1959  
Jean Ducharme 9/9/1965  
Peter Duchnicki 6/12/1957  
Nestor Dudar 4/10/2007  
Jacques Dufort 10/28/2002  
Denis Dufour 8/1/1978  
Pierre-Alexandre Dufour  
6/8/1893  
Napoléon Dugal 10/22/1937  
John Duggan 12/6/1917  
Amédée Dumas 3/16/1901  
Murray Duncan 4/7/2003  
William Dundas 11/15/1949  
Ray Dunning 6/1/1977  
Robert Dupont 8/1/1978  
Laurent Dupont 1/8/1994  
Gilbert Dupuis 2/16/1962  
Hugh Durkin 5/13/1913  
J. Dusablon 6/4/1976  
Yannick Dutin 7/12/1967  
Lloyd Dutnall 9/6/1970  
Pierre Duval 12/31/1883  
Ron Dysart 6/6/2007  
Donald Dyson 1/21/2000  
W. Ebert 7/16/2003  
James Edwards 12/15/1985  
Alan Edwards 5/12/2005  
Jack Edwards 6/23/1961  
Donald Eichenberger 8/11/1984  
Robert Elder 9/9/2005  
Jack Elgar 6/27/1998  
Wilfrid Elliott 4/29/1947  
William Elliott 7/3/2007  
Fred Ellis 11/29/2002  
Herbert Ellis 4/17/1930  
Robert Ellis 10/6/1993  
Mathieu Émond 3/4/2008  
Dustin Engel 6/20/2004  
John Enright 1/22/1904  
John Eskdale 12/17/1855  
Arthur Etter 1/23/1885  
Robert Evans 11/29/2002  
Thomas Everist 4/24/1890  
Theo Farquharson 9/1/1890  
William Farrington 12/23/2002  
Greg Fecteau 2/14/2007  
Peter Ferguson 4/9/1955  
William Ferguson 5/2/1877  
Léonard Ferland 5/17/1935  
James Fewell 8/2/1974  
Ray Fiddler 5/9/1980  
Michael Fikis 3/5/1979  
Guy Filiatrault 5/14/1974  
Alexandre Filion 10/18/1927  
David Findlay 3/13/1944  
Arthur Fiset 11/24/1930  
Dennis Fisher 3/19/1981  
Frederick Fisher 6/21/1982  
Richard Fofonove 7/16/1984  
Hector Forest 7/15/1933  
Ross Forfar 9/1/2005  
James Forrest 4/25/1878  
J. Forsyth 6/22/1913  
Jérémie Fortin 9/22/1930  
Jérémie Fortin 10/16/1909  
Earl Fox 1/15/1956  
John Fraser 11/13/1962  
Jean-Claude Fraser 5/29/1984  
William Fraser 11/6/1967  
Earl Fraser 2/1/1953  
James Frederick 7/31/1962  
Edward Frederick 4/14/1878  
Frank Freemantle 3/31/1973  
Alvin French 2/12/1973  
Roy Friesen 6/29/1985  
Richard Frost 5/10/1918  
Otis Fulton 5/10/1918  
Cyril Fyfe 3/21/2005  
Napoléon Gagnon 1/12/1908  
Gary Galipeau 8/10/2001  
Anthony Gallagher 8/14/1914  
Lawrence Gant 5/21/1978  
Gilbert Garand 7/15/1892  
Lionel Gariépy 3/2/1960  
Ernest Garrett 10/14/1966  
Ron Garringer 11/16/1992  
Robert Gaston 4/17/1952  
Robert Gaston 12/18/1967  
Ian Gatehouse 4/11/2004  
Thomas Gauthier 3/29/1911  
Raoul Gauthier 6/17/1932  
Viateur Gauthier 12/16/1938  
Albert Gauthier 10/11/1917  
William Geddes 8/30/1950  
Yvon Gendron 8/18/1981  
David Gerow 3/27/1923  
James Getty 8/5/1972  
Leonard Gibbons 2/5/1955  
Austin Gibson 8/9/1971  
Phillip Gibson 1/16/1900  
Gary Giffin 6/11/2002  
Howard Gilbert 9/6/1974  
Sidney Gilbert 3/15/2007  
Albert Gilbert 7/16/1884  
Russell Gilchrist 6/29/1985  
Russ Gledhill 12/31/1958  
Tom Gorden 3/24/1997  
William Gorman 2/14/1926  
Charles Jr. Goulet 11/29/1984  
Paul Goulet 5/13/1993  
Stanley Gower 10/4/1943  
Murray Graham 6/29/1994  
John Graham 11/10/1979  
Francis Graham 7/25/1877  
John Graham 5/25/2001  
Gary Graham 4/13/1998  
Andrew Grant 10/16/1933  
William Gratton 8/21/1952  
Ian Gray 8/26/2000  
Robert Greer 5/24/1874  
Jacques Grenier 3/1/1991  
André Grenier 2/23/1988  
Bertrand Grenier 2/5/1962  
Maurice Grenon 9/13/1982  
Dale Griffin 8/1/1985  
John Groves 5/25/2000  
Dennis Guenter 5/31/1980  
Albert Guérin 8/17/1936  
Adolph Guterson 12/15/1951  
Frederick Haines 3/10/1886  
Edward Hains 2/20/1923  
Gordon Hales 9/1/1971  
Robert Hall 8/27/2007  
Reginald Hamblin 4/17/1973  
Lucien Hamelin 6/17/1932  
Alphonse Hamelin 3/13/1948  
Patrick Hamill 6/22/1913  
Leslie Hamilton 8/20/1962  
John Hamilton 1/3/1965  
Harold Harrison 5/6/1995  
John Harrison 3/6/1969  
Lawrence Hart 8/12/1990  
Érik Hart 11/30/1979  
Arthur Hartop 3/3/1934  
Myron Harvey 9/15/1992  
Albert Hatch 4/14/1904  
William Hauber 7/16/1985  
Hawley 1/1/1950  
William Haynes 2/1/1955  
L. Hayward 10/22/1958  
Steven Heatherington 7/18/1969  
Andrew Heberton 1/22/1955  
Georges Hébert 4/10/1952  
Elmer Helm 12/29/1977  
George Heming 6/26/2003  
Walter Hennessey 12/6/1917  
Napoléon Henrichon 6/17/1932  
Svend Henriksen 7/15/1999  
James Henry 7/23/1934  
Douglas Herbers 9/30/2003  
Thomas Higgins 4/29/1877  
Herbert Hill 2/20/1979

# THE FALLEN

WE TAKE A MOMENT TO REMEMBER  
THOSE WHO HAVE ANSWERED THEIR LAST ALARM.

Reg Hill 9/14/1945  
Donald Hill 8/8/1967  
George Hill 12/27/1948  
William Holdbrook 11/8/1909  
Frederick Holmes 8/1/1983  
Allen Holmes 3/19/1981  
Harry Hook 4/8/1948  
April Hopkin 10/20/2002  
Ralph Hopp 8/15/1976  
Jacques Houle 6/29/1998  
Reginald House 3/18/1967  
M. Howell 6/14/1952  
John Howlett 11/2/1874  
Nick Hughes 7/8/1988  
Ernie Hughes 10/26/1993  
Robert Hughes 9/13/1979  
Roy Humes 2/16/1940  
James Hunt 9/14/1945  
Murray Huntley 9/15/1992  
Milford Hurlbert 2/7/1962  
Sydney Hutnick 8/30/1950  
George Hutt 1/5/1904  
Victor Jackson 7/22/1960  
Robert Jacobs 9/24/1948  
J. James 7/13/1992  
Lloyd Janes 12/4/1978  
Frederick Jenkins 1/1/1928  
William Jenner 9/25/1957  
Donald Jeyes 1/24/1987  
Vic Johnson 1/1/1960  
William Johnson 10/5/1928  
Robert Johnson 2/7/1978  
Hamilton Johnston 8/24/1932  
James Johnston 5/25/1922  
Mark Johnston 4/7/2006  
Roger Joly 8/1/1975  
Jacques Joncas 3/12/1961  
Arthur Jones 1/12/1941  
Mel Jones 6/25/2005  
Michael Kaatz 4/25/2007  
Roger Kane 9/2/1978  
Gerald Karl 2/15/1987  
Kevin Kavanagh 9/23/2002  
Rufus Keating 1/19/1894  
Elmer Kelly 1/14/1945  
Patrick Kelly 9/18/1873  
Thomas Kelly 9/28/1973  
Vernon Kempffer 5/26/1947  
William Kennard 11/30/1957  
Gary Kennedy 3/9/1989  
Joseph Kennedy 8/29/1960  
David Kennedy 1/22/1948  
David Kennedy 10/5/2003  
Walter Kent 2/3/1950  
Melville Kerfoot 5/17/1947  
James Kerr 9/30/1913  
Adam Kerr 7/10/1902  
Donald Kerr 12/4/1978  
Alex Kerrigan 3/3/1947  
Benjamin Kerton 1/27/1976  
Reino Keski-Salmi 6/29/1985  
James Kidd 9/18/1869  
Charles Kieswetter 12/27/1988  
Jan Kikals 8/3/1997  
Frank Kileen 12/6/1917  
Richard Kiley 12/12/1960  
Henry King 10/16/1896  
Ernie Kingston 8/1/1991  
Peter Kirk 5/20/1967  
Charles Kirkaldy 9/2/1952  
Teras Kitzul 4/24/1980  
Raymond Kline 12/23/1981  
William Sr. Knapman 1/25/1939  
William Jr. Knapman 4/21/1915  
Palmer Knight 7/18/2003  
Patrick Knowles 8/6/1984  
Elford Knox 1/25/1956  
John Kohlier 12/27/1933  
William Koshylanyk 9/1/1971  
John Krahn 4/27/2005  
Edward Kurtz 3/1/2004  
Peter Kuryluk 9/1/1971  
Joseph Labarre 10/3/1911  
Louis Labrie 12/9/1932  
Joseph Lacey 10/22/1975  
Denis Lachance 11/12/1988  
Ovila Lachance 8/16/1898  
André Lacoste 2/17/2003  
Normand Lafrance 8/5/1990  
Denis Lafrenière 6/21/1986  
Jeff Laishes 2/3/2006  
William Lake 11/15/1978  
Don Lalonde 6/29/1988  
Edmond Lamontagne 2/19/1917  
Wilfrid Lamoureux 9/29/1901  
Maurice Landriault 3/9/1978  
Gary Lang 3/12/2006  
Elmer Langdon 12/8/1986  
Rolland Lapointe 5/15/1981  
Edmond Laporte 10/16/1896  
Rolland Larin 5/10/1961  
Dean Larivee 7/10/2006  
Rolland Larochelle 3/2/1964  
Maurice Latour 3/30/1966  
Charles Law 6/27/1950  
George Layfield 5/24/1959  
Bernard Leach 6/25/1986  
Frank Leahy 12/31/1917  
Emery Lebeau 3/1/1942  
Gaston Leblanc 11/22/1981  
Eugene Lecomte 4/10/1930  
Henry Lecreux 2/24/1993  
William Leeson 1/21/1991  
Harry Lefebvre 2/2/1937  
Claude Lefebvre 3/19/1990  
Robert Legget 4/6/1963  
Émile Lelièvre 12/6/1928  
Joseph Lepage 6/25/1937  
Frederick Lepper 4/8/1858  
Léodel Leprohon 3/10/1927  
Jules Leroux 6/3/1940  
Charles Leslie 5/17/1947  
Harold Lessard 2/4/2007  
Pierre Létonneau 5/25/1987  
Marius Létonneau 3/2/1960  
Jacques Levert 3/28/1927  
Claude Levesque 2/26/2005  
John Levingstone 5/1/1877  
William Lewin 1/1/1898  
Harvey Lewis 2/3/1982  
Barry Ley 12/23/2001  
Charles L'Heureux 2/19/1917  
Alexander Lindsay 3/25/1926  
Andrew Lipsett 3/5/1905  
Alexander Lockhart 2/4/1969  
Eusèbe Loiseau 3/2/1960  
Dale Long 4/16/2004  
Jean-Pierre Longpré 5/25/1987  
Frederick Longstaff 7/25/1950  
George Look 1/1/1981  
Stanley Lough 6/13/1941  
T. Loughery 10/25/1975  
W. Love 9/23/1970  
M. Lovel 4/16/1986  
Osborne Lowe 1/15/1971  
Cecil Lowry 2/13/1952  
John Lowry 8/12/1896  
Glenn Lucas 10/6/2001  
Robert Ludlow 11/7/1960  
Frank Lunny 2/26/1915  
George Lynch 4/29/1877  
William MacDiarmid 5/26/1931  
Ron MacDonald 11/2/1997  
John MacFarlane 8/29/1996  
Mick MacFarlane 1/20/1980  
Archibald MacIntyre 6/25/1919  
Ian Mackay 7/16/2003  
David MacLean 1/1/1997  
Shawn MacLeod 12/23/2006  
Wilfrid Magnan 6/8/1966  
George Maltus 12/6/1917  
Richard Mann 4/1/2004  
Lucien Manning 2/9/1987  
André Manseau 3/9/2008  
Thomas Marks 11/2/1943  
Marcel Marleau 1/21/2006  
Jim Marshall  
Kirk Martin 2/23/1976  
William Martin 1/15/2006  
Ernest Martin 6/2/1940  
Irénee Martin 6/25/1937  
Alfred Mason 3/2/1955  
John Mason 3/19/1981  
René Massé 12/20/1990  
Ronald Masson 6/27/1975  
Arthur Matte 2/6/1968  
Robin May 8/21/1973  
Doug McAdam 12/19/2003  
E. McAllister 9/15/1942  
Gerald McCabe 12/4/1974  
Joseph McCabe 4/13/1948  
Leo McCallum 4/12/1972  
Gérard McCallum 1/22/1930  
Donald McCavour 3/15/1966  
James McConnell 4/9/1952  
James Mcdermoth 6/22/1913  
Joseph McDonnell 10/24/1913  
John McEwen 5/24/1956  
John McEwen 11/16/1940  
Neil McFadyen 9/26/2001  
Francis McGovern 11/8/1984  
George McGowan 2/23/1941

# THE FALLEN

WE TAKE A MOMENT TO REMEMBER  
THOSE WHO HAVE ANSWERED THEIR LAST ALARM.

William McIlhagga 2/2/1921  
Harvey McKay 3/14/2003  
Colin McKenzie 5/10/1918  
John McKenzie 4/12/1912  
W. McKenzie 7/30/1977  
Frederick McLean 3/24/1972  
Patrick Mcmanus 4/6/1963  
Gerald McNally 4/3/2004  
Joseph McNulty 12/1/1938  
Malcolm McPhatter 4/7/1949  
Charles McPherson 3/9/1912  
Peter McRae 6/9/1915  
Hugh McShane 11/23/1923  
William Mearns 11/16/1929  
Terrance Meehan 4/9/1858  
Hartley Megill 6/6/1971  
Ronald Meilleur 4/30/1974  
Donald Melville 12/23/1926  
William Mercer 10/16/1954  
Théophile Michaud 6/2/1940  
Raymond Michaud 6/27/1993  
Archie Mignault 6/2/1940  
John Miller 10/2/1890  
George Miller 10/20/1860  
Charles Milne 5/2/1915  
Donald Milne 2/3/1974  
Cyrus Miner 10/24/1892  
Thomas Minhinnett 6/28/2005  
Edward Mitchell 4/3/1944  
David Moffitt 11/14/1960  
Thomas Molloy 11/8/1909  
Webster Molson 6/22/1913  
Edward Molyneux 3/9/1912  
Aimé Montmarquette 4/26/1929  
François-d'Assise Montpellier Dit  
Beaulieu 8/17/1936  
Elzéar Montpellier Dit Beaulieu  
3/1/1942  
Paul Montreuil 2/3/1976  
Robert Moore 7/16/1967  
Fred Moose Sr. 6/28/1995  
Siméon Morand 11/15/1919  
Edwin Morette 4/23/1966  
Robert Morin 6/23/1961  
Daniel Morin 3/22/1986  
Wilfred Morin 1/20/1941  
Alexander Morrison 8/12/1929  
Donald Morrison 5/10/1918  
Darcy Moses 7/3/2006  
Victor Mowat 8/31/1987  
Matthew Mroczek 9/28/2002  
Leo Mulleray 1/26/1960  
Jack Mulligan 5/7/1967  
James Munro 8/24/1976  
Sandy Munroe 7/31/1962  
John Murdoch 6/10/1922  
Harley Murphy 3/31/1962  
Wayne Murray 8/11/1978  
James Murray 3/31/1940  
Gord Myles 2/13/1978  
David Naar 7/4/2006  
Willie Nadeau 6/2/1940  
Paul-Émile Naud 10/13/1951  
Wilbur Newell 1/1/1970  
Robert Nicholls 5/18/1937  
Thomas Nichols 2/4/2007  
Frank Nicholson 5/27/1961  
Thomas Nigro 11/24/1997  
Thomas Nobles 11/6/2002  
Yvon Noël 1/18/1968  
Dennis Nolan 6/8/1902  
Edward Normoyle 2/24/1959  
Melvin Northway 10/9/1984  
James O'Regan 2/3/1901  
Richard O'Brien 7/29/1943  
F. O'Brien 3/15/1970  
Larry O'Brien 8/12/1974  
Terrance O'Keefe 4/9/1988  
Roy Oliver 10/16/1954  
Harry Oliver 11/8/1966  
George Olmstead 10/1/2007  
Kevin Olson 3/17/2005  
John O'Rourke 5/11/1893  
Clarence Orser 9/18/1958  
Maurice Ostiguy 10/31/1959  
Oliver Ough 7/22/1918  
Pierre Paiement 2/20/1986  
David Palmateer 10/16/1954  
Larry Palmer 11/26/1977  
Henry Panacheese 8/12/1991  
André Paquet 6/17/1995  
Andrew Park 9/12/1944  
Terry Parker 7/2/1980  
George Parks 11/4/1924  
Orest Parsey 9/17/1979  
Norm Partington 2/4/1981  
Willie Patchinose 5/4/2007  
Robert Paterson 12/18/1997  
Robert Patten 12/19/1975  
Charles Patterson 4/25/1878  
John Patterson 3/2/2006  
Gordon Paul 8/7/2007  
Cyril Peacher 8/12/1990  
Wilfrid Pelletier 3/9/1925  
Norman Penfound 1/24/1966  
Jacob Penner 1/26/1969  
Ronald Penney 7/12/1967  
Dennis Percival 6/27/1992  
C. Perkins 8/30/1950  
Jeannot Perreault 1/13/1990  
William Perry 4/29/1877  
Clifford Phillips 11/3/1982  
R. Phillips 8/30/1950  
James Phillips 9/15/1879  
George Phillips 1/25/1901  
Albert Picotte 1/31/1919  
John Pitolay 2/12/1973  
Pierre-Jérôme Plouffe 8/17/1936  
Serge Poirier 2/28/2003  
Nelson Poirier 1/29/1921  
Édouard Poitras 5/25/1968  
Jocelyn Pomerleau 5/29/1984  
Herman Ponsford 7/16/1887  
Albert Popadick 2/13/1970  
Vince Porter 10/4/1974  
William Potter 5/18/1975  
Alfred Potter 2/19/1904  
Laurence Powers 9/13/1854  
Robert Pratt 5/19/1930  
Paul Pousseau 1/22/1922  
Charles Price 5/22/1964  
William Quanstrom 8/9/1979  
Lawrence Quinn 6/14/1990  
Allan Rae 2/23/1972  
Seward Rankin 8/21/1973  
James Ratcliffe 6/6/2005  
Vianney Ratté 5/15/1993  
Lloyd Rauw 8/7/1974  
Dennis Redman 1/5/2001  
William Reeks 12/25/1870  
Oscar Regimbald 5/11/1992  
William Reid 12/18/1959  
Keith Reid 12/12/2001  
Marcel Rémillard 4/6/1963  
Omer Renaud 1/4/1924  
Harold Revell 10/24/1958  
George Reynolds 5/19/1951  
Frank Reynolds 11/28/1964  
Alexandre Rhéaume 3/20/1928  
David Richard 10/23/2003  
Robert Richardson 7/11/2001  
Grenville Richert 5/25/2001  
William Richmond 6/23/1961  
Brian Ritchie 2/28/2003  
Bruce Ritchie 8/18/1998  
Dave Rivers 10/26/2003  
Mario Rivest 8/2/1992  
Elzéar Robert 9/27/1938  
John Roberts 11/14/1970  
Alfred Roberts 7/31/1963  
James Robertson 5/21/1978  
Donald Robertson 1/18/1993  
Henri Robichaud 3/2/1960  
R. Robinson 10/7/1948  
John Robinson 12/31/1937  
Eric Robinson 6/26/1947  
Roger Rochon 1/3/1968  
John Roe 1/6/1904  
Richard Roman 4/30/1979  
Orville Rome 5/19/1951  
Robert Roshard 7/16/1984  
Thomas Ross 11/16/1940  
Joseph Ross 8/16/1944  
Kenneth Ross 10/7/1954  
Léopold Roussin 5/23/1923  
Howard Rowe 7/2/1975  
Frederick Russell 7/10/1902  
Matthew Rydings 1/22/1923  
Norbert Sabourin 3/14/1997  
Derrick Saliken 7/26/1994  
William Salmond 8/5/2007  
Wesley Salter 6/7/1949  
William Sameluk 8/2/1974  
Benoit Samson 7/18/1987  
William Sanders 1/2/1965  
Frank Sandison 3/24/1945  
Wilfrid Sansoucy 8/28/1921  
Wilfrid Sarazin 2/22/1928  
James Saunders 2/4/1978  
Edward Savage 10/9/1966  
Chad Schapansky 3/29/2004  
Ernie Schmidt 7/9/1974

# THE FALLEN

WE TAKE A MOMENT TO REMEMBER  
THOSE WHO HAVE ANSWERED THEIR LAST ALARM.

Carl Schultz 1/16/1921  
M. Scott 3/21/1868  
Harold Scott 10/18/1959  
Stanley Scruby 3/3/1934  
Arthur Searle 10/9/1977  
William Seccombe 5/31/1908  
Clarence Sedwick 1/13/1965  
David See 7/10/1902  
Albert Seguss 12/20/1951  
Armand Sénécal 6/25/1937  
Rosaire Sergerie 2/22/2006  
Albert Shackleton 9/9/1940  
John Shapton 4/22/1955  
William Sharpe 9/17/1867  
Joe Shaw 1/1/1989  
Robert Shearer 12/23/1926  
Michael Sherrod 6/29/1985  
Arthur Simmons 12/30/1948  
Maurice Simonin 3/21/2000  
William Simpson 4/29/1966  
Ken Skwark 6/28/1995  
Angus Small 10/16/1954  
John Smalley 6/5/1893  
Harold Smith 5/27/1971  
James Smith 3/24/1945  
David Smith 7/14/1985  
Edward Smith 2/12/1899  
Alfred Smith 9/12/1962  
Gordon Smith 5/16/1974  
George Smith 12/26/1914  
Arthur Smith 12/23/1926  
Bill Smith 2/5/2005  
Robert Smith 7/25/1978  
Theodore Smith 12/19/1901  
Allan Snider 3/6/1968  
Harry Sorley 5/21/2005  
Erban Soucy 3/2/1960  
Jimmy Spence 6/28/1995  
Jeffrey Spencer 2/6/2001  
John Spruin Sr. 12/6/1917  
Helmut Stadel 5/27/1965  
Thomas Starmer 1/31/1913  
Robert Starnes 10/23/1909  
Kevin Stenfert 6/28/1996  
George Stephenson 4/25/1878  
John Sterenberg 10/25/2004  
Clarke Stevens 8/19/2006  
George Stevens 2/24/1966  
William Stevenson 10/25/1937  
John Stewart 9/6/1954  
Robert Stewart 12/23/1926  
Russell Stewart 5/31/1955  
John Stewart 1/16/1908  
Albert Stewart 9/11/1914  
William St-George 9/4/1894  
Joseph St-Hilaire 2/19/1917  
Douglas Storey 5/15/2001  
R. Stoyko 2/22/2003  
Charles Stroud 5/2/2007  
Michael Sullivan 3/1/1903  
Christopher Sullivan 9/2/2005  
Richard Supple 3/21/1903  
Gervais Sutherland 10/4/1922  
Ronald Sutherland 7/25/1997  
Harold Sutton 3/4/1941  
Gerald Sutton 3/19/1983  
Bernard Swan 12/16/1993  
Thomas Swanson 8/8/1968  
O. Swanson 7/11/1990  
William Swire 7/23/1934  
James Sym 4/26/1976  
James Symon 11/24/2005  
Samuel Tardif 1/26/1949  
Hervé Tassé 10/28/1977  
Royden Taylor 1/18/2008  
Lewis Taylor 10/20/1942  
Geoff Teeple 7/26/1969  
Paul Tell 8/7/2005  
Robert Tepley 3/20/1994  
John Theis 7/27/1988  
Joseph Thibeau 3/1/1995  
Patrick Thibodeau 4/26/2006  
Jean-Claude Thivierge 6/22/1955  
Roger Thivierge 11/14/1952  
Jeremiah Thomas 2/23/1891  
Bernard Thomas 9/14/1914  
Moses Thompson 2/5/1919  
Donald Thompson 3/19/1981  
William Thomson 8/15/1986  
George Thomson 7/8/1948  
William Thornton 11/24/1848  
Grant Thorpe 6/29/1985  
Robert Thurlow 6/30/1915  
Walter Tilson 2/21/1960  
Robert Timms 1/31/2007  
John Timney 12/23/1941  
Wayne Topping 8/24/2007  
Robert Tourangeau 6/28/2007  
Joseph Towers 7/10/1881  
Gerald Trecartin 5/28/1975  
Robert Tremblay 12/13/1984  
Edmour Tremblay 6/4/1941  
Joe Truax 7/15/1997  
Reynald Trudel 2/15/1975  
Horace Trudel 11/22/1913  
Lawrence Turner 7/13/1980  
Edward Turner 6/1/1985  
Rick Tymchuk 10/28/2005  
James Tynan 6/9/1909  
Jim Tyrell 8/30/1950  
Carl Umphrey 8/30/1978  
Thomas Upton 4/8/2006  
Frank Urquhart 9/22/1899  
Philippe Vaillancourt 6/29/1977  
Harro van Bockel 6/2/1995  
Bertrand Vandal 5/29/1986  
Gérald Vendette 6/17/2001  
R. Vint 6/14/1963  
Xavier Volpé 6/2/1940  
Behrnard von Hardenberg  
8/17/2003  
Kerry Walchuk 8/25/2004  
Joseph Walker 5/17/1947  
Wayne Walker 4/30/1975  
Jerry Walters 4/19/1972  
James Wardle 8/3/1950  
George Watkins 6/3/1955  
John Watson 6/19/1991  
Gordon Watson 1/1/1964  
John Watson 6/19/1991  
Clarence Watson 9/21/1946  
Patrick Watters-Michaud  
7/22/2007  
Henry Wein 8/18/1908  
Edwin Wellwood 11/26/1929  
Donald Welsh 11/8/1969  
Fred Wenechuk 1/24/2005  
Al Wenig 6/29/1988  
Paul Whalen 2/28/1972  
Patrick Whelan 10/16/1958  
Grahame White 8/20/1981  
Joseph Whiteduck 7/28/1974  
Brian Whitehead 6/15/2005  
Walter Wiggins 6/23/1961  
John Wilde 8/29/1960  
Arthur Wilkins 5/19/1946  
Bill Wilkins 5/27/2002  
William Willette 5/19/1930  
William Williams 1/11/1974  
Daniel Williams 6/18/1985  
Victor Willison 2/10/1956  
Peter Willms 9/1/1971  
John Wilson 2/18/1955  
Robert Wilson 6/26/1914  
E. Wilson 12/16/1922  
Thomas Wilson 5/28/1897  
Scott Wilson 6/14/2001  
Olaf Wilson 10/17/2007  
Gary Wilson 3/16/2007  
Albini Wistaff 5/12/1961  
Donald Wood 4/17/1973  
Leo Wood 5/12/1965  
Lawrence Woodhead 6/16/1944  
George Woodhouse 9/22/1986  
James Woodman 4/22/2004  
William Woods 9/13/1854  
William Woodvine 12/22/1924  
Steven Woodworth 12/26/1998  
William Woolley 7/25/1964  
William Wooton 11/13/1943  
Thomas Worley 8/8/1968  
Thomas Worrell 9/19/1905  
Ian Wright 4/17/1973  
Gordon Wyatt 5/29/1983  
Ernest Wyndham 1/18/2004  
George Wyse 11/8/1975  
Al Yates 11/2/1996  
Eric Yuill 8/11/1974  
Ray Zents 2/8/2003

# HONOURING THE FALLEN 2008

In the memorial ceremony much attention is focused on the red ceremonial table, which holds the helmets representing each of the fallen being honoured today. These helmets, whether black for structural, yellow for wildland firefighters or caps for wildland pilots, are presented to the families of the fallen during the ceremony. At the corners of the ceremonial table are silent sentries, who carry an item that has some symbolic and spiritual significance.



The sentry representing the host fire service carries the traditional fire axe, one of the most recognizable symbols of the fire service. A second sentry holds a speaking trumpet, symbolic of the command structure in the fire service. The third sentry, representing wildland forest firefighters, carries a Pulaski, symbolic of the wildland forest fire service. The fourth sentry, representing northern Canada, carries a kakivak. This is not a firefighting tool. The kakivak is a traditional fishing tool used in Nunavut. It represents those firefighters of the Northern Territories in Canada and was donated to the C.F.F.F. for use in the ceremony.

The pre-ceremony begins with the posting of the silent sentries at the ceremonial table. Once in place, the Headdress Party carrying the helmets or caps, begins its march toward the ceremonial table. The Headdress Party is randomly made up of firefighters from all parts of the country and does the presentation to the family of the fallen. The fallen firefighter's own fire service and Foundation members are purposely excluded from presenting as the presentation is symbolically from the entire Canadian Fire Service. Honouring the Fallen includes a medal and helmet presentation to the family of those firefighters who were killed

on duty or died from a work related illness while still actively employed. An extra helmet is placed on a raised pedestal to represent all Canadian line of duty deaths since 1848. This helmet remains from year to year with the hopes that no other helmet or cap will accompany it at the annual ceremony.

The fire service of today is ever changing, but is steeped in traditions 200 years old. The ringing of the bell and the Firefighter's Prayer are two traditions of the fire service which reflect respect and honour to those who gave their lives to their duty. In the past each alarm was sounded by a bell, which summoned these brave souls to fight fires and to place their lives in jeopardy for the good of their fellow citizens. And when the fire was out and the alarm had come to an end, it was the bell that signalled to all the completion of that call. When a fire fighter had died in the line of duty, paying the supreme sacrifice, it was the toll of the bell that solemnly announced a comrades passing and is usually three rings of the bell, three times.



# HONOURING THE FALLEN 2008

As spelled out in the objectives of the C.F.F.F., one of its goals is to build a memorial to all Canadian firefighters who have died in the line of duty. The Canadian Firefighters Memorial will honour the Canadian Fire Service, especially those who have died in the line of duty. This Memorial will be the only National memorial to Canada's fallen firefighters. The site for the Canadian Firefighters Memorial was recently allocated by the N.C.C. in the LeBreton Flats area of Ottawa close to the new War Museum. The funding for this creation must come from many sources. The C.F.F.F. is seeking help from across Canada to raise funds for the design and construction of the monument. With your help the dream can become a reality so that those firefighters will....NEVER BE FORGOTTEN.



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



# HONOURING THE FALLEN 2008

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## MUSIC / MUSIQUE

**Bob Rainboth**

*CFFF Music & Stage Manager  
Ottawa Fire Services*

**Vancouver Firefighters Band**

**Sudbury Firefighters Choir**

**Ontario Fire Services Pipes and Drums**

**Toronto Fire Services Pipes and Drums**

**Ottawa Fire Department Band**

**Brian Cooke RPA, FMA**

**Bob Kruikemeijer**

*Public Works and Government Services Canada / Travaux  
publics et Services gouvernementaux Canada*

**Captain Luigi Davoli**

*Vigil Commander,  
Mississauga Fire & Emergency Services*

**Michael Dunlop C.F.E.I**

*Manager Fire Systems and Prevention House of  
Commons / Gestionnaire Réseaux d'incendie et  
Prévention Chambre des Communes*

**Cpt. Douglas Greek**

*(Vigil) Lunenburg & District FD.*

**Céline Guérin**

*Fire Systems and Prevention Officer House of  
Commons / Agente, Réseaux d'incendie et  
Prévention Chambre des Communes*

**James R. Hay – Hay-Net Networks**

**Hulse, Playfair and McGarry**

**Brian Hutchinson**

*CFFF Headdress Commander  
Vancouver Fire & Rescue*

**Tom Koch – CFFF Colour Guards**

*Ottawa Fire Services*

**Marketeks**

**Karen Moxley - Nestlé Inc.**

**Nettleton's Jewellery Ltd**

**John Riddell - TorontoFirePhotos.ca**

**Sheraton Hotel - Ottawa**

**Dave Western – All-Signs**

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**Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services**

**B.C. Forest Service, Protection Branch**

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**Bruce Armstrong**

*Ceremonial Services/ Services de cérémonial Public Works  
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Services gouvernementaux Canada*

**Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs / Association  
canadienne des chefs de pompiers**

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# HONOURING THE FALLEN 2008

# THE DAY IN PICTURES

Photographs courtesy of Waken Photography, Linda Lebrun Matta, Ottawa

With the heartfelt gratitude of the Foundation. For a beautiful gallery please visit [http://www.pbase.com/wakenphotography/cfff\\_2008](http://www.pbase.com/wakenphotography/cfff_2008)



Waken Photography by Linda Matta

# HONOURING THE FALLEN 2008



# HONOURING THE FALLEN 2008



Woken Photography by: Linda Matta

# The 2008 Canadian Firefighters Annual Memorial Service – Key-Note Presentation

*Presented by Ontario Fire Marshal Pat Burke, who was President of CAFC at the time.*



***Editor's Note:*** *Mr. Burke was a very-last-minute stand-in for the Honourable Stockwell Day, Minister of Public Safety, who was called back to BC for a family emergency very late the evening before the Ceremony. It speaks to Mr. Burke's compassion for the firefighter that he was able to render such a moving tribute in such a short time. Thank you.*

***Good Morning, Distinguished Guest, Ladies, gentlemen, boys and girls, brothers and sisters, firefighters. It is an honour for me to be asked to speak to all of you here this morning. Our thoughts are with Minister Stockwell Day and his family.***

We are here this morning to honour our fallen brothers and sisters; to honour those whose names are to be added to the growing list of dedicated men and women who sacrificed their lives in service to their communities; to pay honour and respect to the families of those fathers, mothers, sons, daughter, grandparents, uncles, partners and friends of those whose names we add this year.

All of us gathered here express to you our sympathy and our gratitude.

Those of us from the fire service here today are also here as family, a very large and close knit family whose bond is not traced to bloodlines but to hose lines – to the respect and trust that binds those who day in and day out entrust their lives to one another. This fire service in which your loved ones worked and protected their communities is a trusted and noble calling.

I have had the opportunity to visit the IAFF Firefighter memorial 4 times since 9/11, but never for the annual memorial service. I was there after 9/11 when citizens were stopping, reflecting and placing flowers.

The sense you get is that you are on sacred ground, it is quiet and serene, it is an easy place to pause and reflect, just to sit and close your eyes and remember your friends whose names you see on the wall, whose names you have rubbed onto paper and brought home.

There is a sense of peace and of calm and of respect and of honour.

People who have no ties to the fire service stop for a moment to read the names, to silently say than you to the fallen heroes.

And, so it is in many communities and provinces across this country.

I know in Ontario, next month a large group of firefighters will be gathered at the monument in front of the Provincial Legislature at Queens Park build by the Province to honour its fallen firefighters. – Fire College.

One day, in the very near future I hope, we will have our national monument here in Ottawa and it will be a place of peaceful solitude, a visible memory of sacrifice by Canadian Firefighters in the service of Canadian citizens.

When asked last night to speak this morning, I wasn't quite sure what to say. I thought about it into the night and decided that I would try to give you a firefighter's perspective.

I began my career as a firefighter in Windsor, Ontario, on January 29, 1968. I was 21 years old. After a week I was assigned to my working shift, Group 5 at Station 2 in the old Walkerville area of Windsor and was assigned to firefighter Leonard Bondy to show me the ropes.

Len was one of the true characters of the department and he was an extremely competent firefighter in every respect, so he had a little fun at my expense while showing me the ropes.

On Saturday, February 27, 1971, I was still on Group 5 but stationed no at HQ. Group 5 was off duty and a call came in for a fire at a large industrial building in the downtown Windsor area. J.T. Wing. The fire grew quickly and additional resources were required. Len Bondy responded from his 33rd birthday party with his family and never returned, tragically falling at the scene of the fire.

I remember coming into work the next day, feeling helpless, feeling angry, feeling confused, the same emotions of every member of the department.

As the weeks and months passed after the funeral, a photo of Len's smiling face appeared on the station wall and stories began to resonate about Len and his antics and all that endeared him to his colleagues.

In every fire station and fire department in Canada where the job has taken the life of a firefighter, there are constant memorials, they are the picture on the wall and the tales being told about the memories of a firefighter's life, a friend's life.

While it is important to build our monuments of stone and bronze and granite and inscribe the names of those to whom we owe so much.

The real memories are in the hearts and minds of family members and colleagues.

"The heart hath its own memory, like the mind. And in it are enshrined the precious keepsakes, into which is wrought the giver's loving thoughts"

So as we leave here today, let us open our hearts and ponder the keepsakes, which are our legacy of love, of friendship and of camaraderie. Let us remember their lives.

Thank you.

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Photo courtesy of Sara Caverley [sarasea20@hotmail.com]

# INTERNATIONAL FIRE SERVICE SEAT BELT PLEDGE CHALLENGE

On November 25, 2008 C.F.F.F. President Robert Kirkpatrick was a guest speaker at the Rama Fire Rescue Service Seat Belt Pledge Challenge announcement. The Rama Fire Rescue Service, near Orillia, Ontario, is challenging fire services throughout Ontario and Canada to join them in taking an International Seat Belt Pledge, an initiative that will bring more firefighters home to their loved ones every day. Rama is the only fire service in Ontario registered as 100% compliant by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation in taking this pledge. Currently the only other fire service in Canada registered with the Seat Belt Pledge as being 100% compliant is the Parkland County Fire Services in Parkland County, Alberta.

One of the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation's goals is to decrease firefighter fatalities and encourage safety practices among firefighters. As a supporter of the U.S. based National Fallen Firefighter Foundation's goals, the CFFF also supports the National Fire Service Seat Belt Pledge. Dr. Burton A. Clark, EFO, CFO, an instructor at the National Fire Academy in the United States, in honor of 2005 fallen firefighter Brian Hunton, created the Pledge. Firefighter Christopher Brian Hunton, age 27, was a member of the Amarillo (Texas) Fire Department for one year. On April 23, 2005 he fell out of his fire truck responding to an alarm. He died two days later from his injuries. Brian was not wearing his seatbelt.

The Ontario Office of the Fire Marshal, the U.S. Fire Administration, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the U.S. National Volunteer Fire Council and the U.S. National Fire Protection Association all support this initiative.

"A real safety culture has been developed and embraced by our members over the past few years," said Rama Fire Chief Mark Pankhurst. "Statistics prove that seat belts save lives and prevent serious injuries. Every person within our service has signed the pledge including our service technicians from outside of the department. Our goal is to promote a safety culture so that everyone goes home safe." The Rama Fire Service also has the "Everyone comes home – safely" slogan on the inside of their bay doors to remind firefighters as they are leaving the hall to work safely. Many fire departments in Canada have adopted this avenue to remind firefighters after it was reported first in a previous issue of *Courage*.

If you are a member of the fire service, we encourage you and the members of your department to sign the pledge and always wear a seatbelt. You can download pledge forms from [www.trainingdivision.com/seatbeltpledge.asp](http://www.trainingdivision.com/seatbeltpledge.asp).



# Sunrise Propane EXPLOSION



by William A. Stewart, Fire Chief, Toronto Fire Services, Director CFFF

In the early morning hours of Sunday August 10, 2008, a propane explosion rocked a neighbourhood in the north end of the City of Toronto. The explosion occurred at 54 Murray Road in the Dufferin and Wilson area of the City at 03:50 hours. The 911 Communications Center located at Toronto Police Service, received a call at 03:51 and the caller stated there were “lots of explosions going on”. On receiving the information from 911 and based on the information received by the Toronto Fire Services’ Communications Division a 2nd Alarm was dispatched before the 1st Alarm crews left the station. Additional calls were received through 911 to Toronto Fire Services Communications Division. At 03:54 a caller reported multiple explosions and buildings involved with huge explosions and multiple fireballs visible.

The first arriving District Chief on scene at 03:56 hours upgraded the call to a 3rd Alarm as explosions occurred every 5 to 15 seconds. Toronto Emergency Medical Services were also inundated with emergency calls as an EMS dispatcher reported injuries and that 911 phone lines were overwhelmed. The call was upgraded to a 4th Alarm at 03:58 hours as fire fighters on scene were evacuating residences and ensuring the safety of the public. The District Chief in Command, District 14 stated, “there must be a mass evacuation” and said “the fire is out of control”. The call was quickly upgraded to a 5th Alarm at 04:05 hours. By 04:15 hours District Chief 14 requested a no fly zone as the area of the fire was in the flight path to both Lester B. Pearson International Airport and the Bombardier runways, in close proximity to the site of the fire and explosion. Highway 401 was also closed due to the close

proximity to the blast site. This section of the 401 Highway is one of the busiest highways in North America and a major commuter route. This call was upgraded to a 6Th Alarm at 04:58 hours and would see the following vehicles on scene working the incident with 121 fire fighting personnel:

- 19 Pumpers and Rescue Pumpers*
- 6 Aerial Ladders*
- 2 Heavy Squads*
- 6 District Chiefs*
- 2 Platoon Chiefs*
- 3 Division Commanders*
- 3 Deputy Chiefs*
- 1 Haz Mat Truck*
- 2 Air Supply Trucks*
- 2 Command Vehicles*

The Emergency Operations Center was activated for the City of Toronto where the Deputy Mayor, City Manager, Deputy City Managers and Division Heads from the various City Departments assembled at the Center, given the magnitude of the incident. Canutec established the evacuation zone for this incident with a 1.6 km. radius. This evacuation area required the coordination and evacuation of 10,000 residents to ensure their safety in the immediate area of the explosion. Toronto Transit Commission buses transported the area residents to York University. The University was used as a reception center for area residents approximately 2 miles north of the blast site.

The explosion and subsequent fire occurred at a Sunrise Propane site, located at 54 Murray Road, which claimed the life of



an employee of Sunrise. The ensuing fire and explosion hurled debris into the surrounding residential area. The blast wave blew out windows and caused damage to many homes in the neighbourhood. The Transportation Division yard and Emergency Medical Services station sustained damage due to the ensuing blast and debris fallout of shrapnel. A propane highway tanker located on the Sunrise site was blown into the Transportation yard and the end of the tanker landed on the office area of the facility. Another large piece of the tanker also became a projectile and landed in the roof of the salt dome. There were numerous pieces of shrapnel from the blast throughout the surrounding neighbourhood.

During this incident District Chief Bob Leek, Emergency Planning Officer for the Toronto Fire Services, suffered a fatal cardiac arrest while performing home site inspections in the surrounding area of the evacuated blast zone. District Chief Leek was a 25-year veteran of the Toronto Fire Services and was afforded a Line of Duty Death department funeral with over 3,500 fire fighters in attendance on August 15Th.

The blast and impact to the neighbourhood required the area to be immediately evacuated to protect the residents as fire fighting operations were underway to mitigate the incident. One can appreciate the magnitude of the incident to protect both life and property. Initial reports from Canutec suggested that the fire may take as long as 7 days to burn out. The actions of Toronto Fire Services personnel on the scene during the incident were exceptional as the fire was contained to the site and extinguished by 18:00 on August 10Th. Under the direction and leadership of Deputy Fire Chief Jim Shelton, fire crews advanced hose lines to shut off fixed propane tanks and to establish flare off procedures with propane technicians to burn off residual propane on site. These actions significantly reduced the magnitude of the incident. Once the fire was extinguished the site was turned over to the Office of Fire Marshal, Province of Ontario for investigation purposes. Due to the number of propane cylinders and high pressure cylinders on site, Toronto Fire Services maintained a fire watch until the scene investigation was completed. This required apparatus on scene twenty four hours per day from August 10th through to September 15th to ensure site and area safety.

As a result of the blast, asbestos was released from the buildings on the Sunrise Propane site. Asbestos was emitted into the thermal column and friable asbestos was discovered on the roofs and lawns in the surrounding area. The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) issued an order to Sunrise Propane on August 13th to take immediate action to clean up the site and the surrounding area. As a result of inaction by Sunrise Propane, the City took over certain clean up of the surrounding neighbourhood. This included the cleanup of asbestos by contractors hired by the Corporation. This required the asbestos to be picked up or vacuumed up for disposal from building roofs, lawns, gardens, sidewalks and roads. This was accomplished block by block in a timely manner in order to return area residents to their homes. The City and its contractors followed guidelines established by the Ministry of Labour for worker safety. The exterior cleanup of approximately 580 homes was completed by August 22nd, 2008.

On August 21, 2008, the MOE issued an Order to Sunrise Propane and the owner of the site. On August 27, 2008, the City was advised by the MOE that it did not have confidence that



Sunrise or the property owner would address site security, safety and clean-up concerns of the site in a timely manner. As a result, the City agreed to carry out certain work on the site to make it safe.

This incident had numerous divisions and ministries involved from the City of Toronto, Province of Ontario as well as support agencies such as the Red Cross and Salvation Army. Our common goal was to mitigate the incident and to restore the community to the pre-incident state. Regrettably, two lives were lost but countless others saved as a direct result of our actions in serving the citizens of Toronto. Members of the Toronto Fire Services responded with courage, compassion and service!

Photographs courtesy of the Toronto Fire Service.

# Book Pages

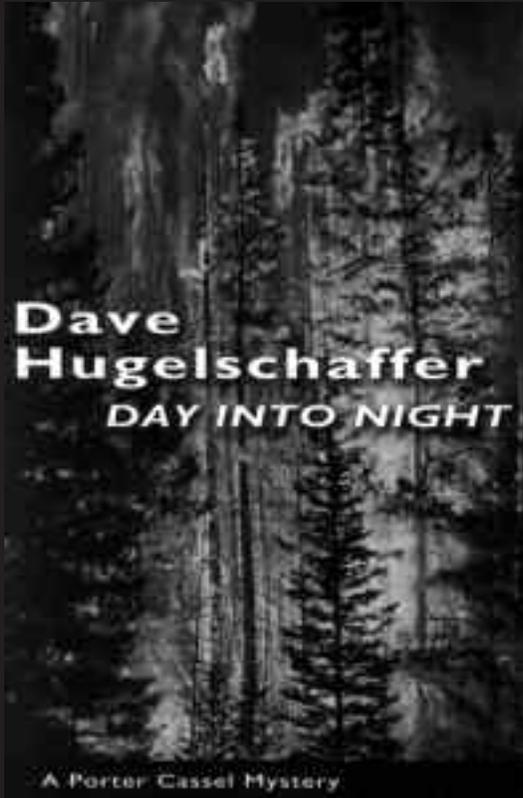


Photo by the author. Used with permission Cormorant Books, Toronto

This mystery series surrounds forest firefighting and arson investigation in Alberta and northern Montana. Dave Hugelschaffer's first book in the Porter Cassel Mystery Series is titled *Day Into Night*. This book is currently available in stores across Canada. (including indigo/chapters, amazon.ca, etc). The second installment in the series titled *One Careless Moment* will be available in stores in January.



## ONE CARELESS MOMENT

Dave Hugelschaffer

A Porter Cassel Mystery

**Some fires must be fought alone.**

On loan from the Alberta Forest Service, forest firefighter and investigator Porter Cassel is sent to Montana, to help with an outbreak of fires. When a small fire starts to creep through the underbrush deep within a Montana forest valley, Cassel is brought in to organize the firefighters charged with containing it. The fire moves quickly from bad to worse, rapidly scaling the forest canopy and killing one of Cassel's men. Removed from command, Cassel takes the fire investigation into his own hands and discovers that the fire was not just a random flare-up, but the work of an arsonist. In this second book from the Porter Cassel mystery series, *One Careless Moment* picks up where *Day Into Night* left off — with Porter continuing to prove himself against all odds.

Dave Hugelschaffer has spent eighteen years working in the forests of Alberta as a forest ranger, timber cruiser, firefighter, and land planner. *One Careless Moment* is his second book. Dave currently lives in Edson, Alberta.

ISBN: 978-1-897151-08-2

Release: January 2009

5.125" x 7.625"

Trade Paper

\$19.95 / 320 pages

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& Detective/General

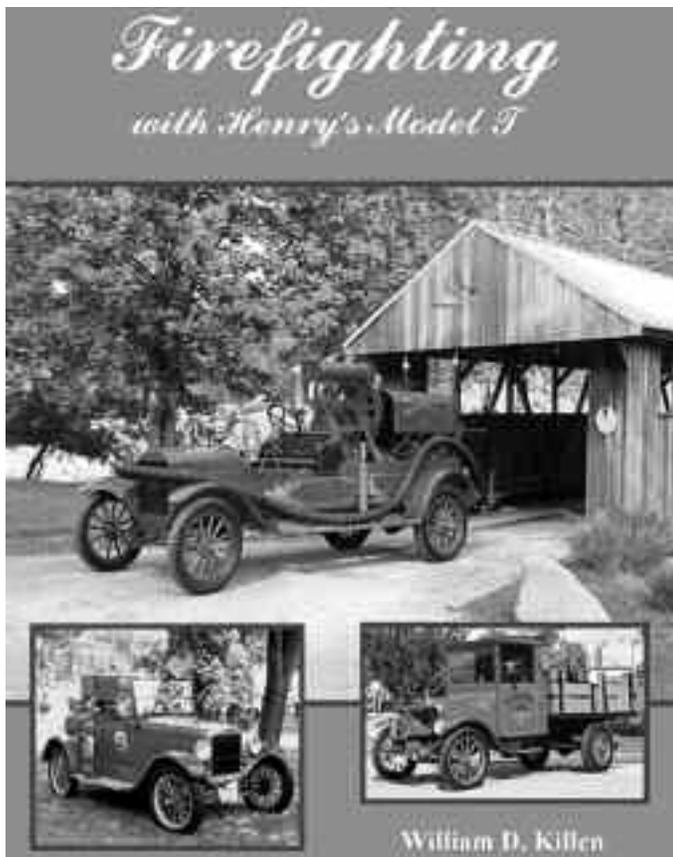
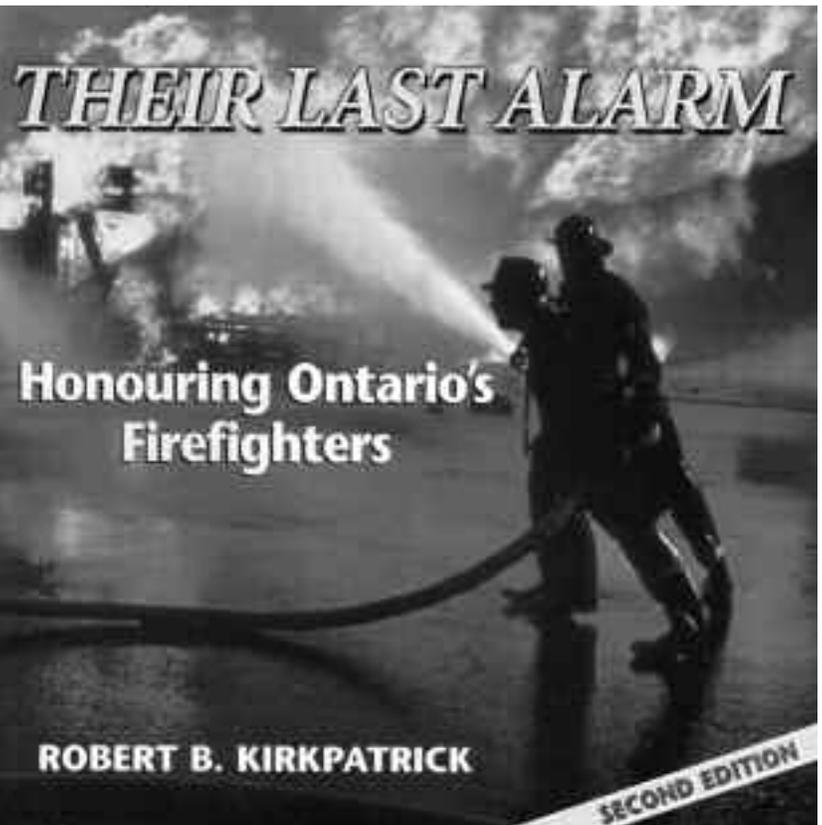
Also by this author:

*Day Into Night* (\$21.95)

ISBN 978-1-896951-93-5

# *Their Last Alarm – Honouring Ontario’s Firefighters*

*By Robert B. Kirkpatrick  
is available at the  
web store at [cfff.ca](http://cfff.ca)*



## *Book on fire trucks to help CFFF*

Former President of the I.A.F.C., Fire Chief William Killen has written a book about Model T fire trucks and is donating a portion of the proceeds to the CFFF. To order your book, please go to: <http://www.cfff.ca/programs/activities/2008/docs/Order-Form-Canada.pdf> and mail to the address given.

The Foundation is thankful for the efforts of Mr. Killen to help organizations that remember and honour the sacrifices of those that have gone before.



# CANADIAN FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS 2008 Activities

## CFFF meets with Surrey Professional Firefighters Pioneer Association

On August 2, 2008 CFFF V.P. Doug Wylie met with Lorne Pearson retired Deputy Chief with the Surrey Fire Department and president of the Surrey Professional Firefighters Pioneer Association at Surrey's new #10 fire station.

V.P. Wylie was welcomed into the hall by members of the retirees association and Captain Brad Shirley and his crew of A Shift.

The Foundation was given a generous donation by the Pioneer association through the purchase of Foundation Golf shirts and T-shirts.

The CFFF wishes to thank Retired Deputy Chief Lorne Pearson and the Surrey Professional Firefighters Pioneer Association members for their ceaseless efforts to advance the goals of the Foundation and honor those who have paid the ultimate price.



Deputy Chief Lorne Pearson ( Ret ) with VP Doug. Wylie in front of # 10 Fire Hall.



Pioneer Association members in the back row, Al Cleaver, Lorne Pearson Rudy Brieter, Don Bruckner, Ted Menu, Bob Phippen, Ken Douglas and Gary Hanney and in the front row, to the left of Doug Wylie is Captain Brad Shirley and his on duty crew.

### CFFF at BC Chief's Convention

CFFF 1st Vice President Doug Wylie attended the British Columbia Fire Chief's Association convention in Kamloops B.C. on June 1, 2008. The CFFF shared a booth with Chaplain Bruce Rushton of Emergency Service Chaplaincy. Bruce is the Chaplain for the Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services and will give prayers at this year's Fallen Firefighters Ceremony in Ottawa on Sept 14.

The convention was a great opportunity to meet all the British Columbia Fire Chiefs, new, and established, as well as spreading the message of the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

The Foundation thanks Dave Mitchell and Associates who sponsored the CFFF booth.



Dave Mitchell on the left and Deputy Chief Doug McRae (ret) from the VFRS who works with Dave Mitchell.

### Foundation visits Maple Ridge B.C.

Following the opening ceremonies for the British Columbia Fire Training Officers Association, 1st Vice President Doug Wylie of the CFFF presented a Foundation flag to Fire Chief Peter Grootendorst of the Maple Ridge Fire Department, a long time supporter of the Foundation.

Accepting the flag for Chief Grootendorst is Assistant Chief Howard Exner and the Maple Ridge Fire Department Honor Guard. The flag will be placed on a standard for ceremonial purposes until the new Fire Station 1 is built at which time the flag will fly permanently over that new station.

The Foundation thanks the Maple Ridge Fire Department for sponsoring the booth at the convention to help raise awareness of the Foundation and its goals.



CFFF 1st Vice President Doug Wylie, Assistant Chief Howard Exner and the Maple Ridge Fire Department Honour Guard



Chaplain Bruce Rushton on the left with Vice President Doug Wylie at their shared booth, while Doug McRae looks on from the far left



CFFF 1st Vice President Doug Wylie at the CFFF booth

## A Tragic Accident

The Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation is saddened by the sudden death of former CFFF Director Pierre Suprenant, age 51. The Foundation extends its condolences to the Suprenant family and that of New York State Trooper Shawn Snow, age 47. Both men were electrocuted while changing a tire on an antique aerial truck returning from Syracuse, NY.



Pierre was one of the earliest members of the CFFF and stepped down as a Director in 2007. He was pursuing his hobby with antique fire apparatus and was very passionate about the fire service. Pierre had recently been Chief of the Ottawa Airport Fire Department and at one time a member of the Canadian Forces Fire Service.

Pierre Surprenant ringing the memorial bell at the 2005 ceremony.

## CFFF visits FDIC Atlantic

CFFF Eastern Canada representative, Director David Smith and friends operated a Foundation information booth at the Atlantic FDIC in June. They gave out information about the Foundation's activities and upcoming ceremony in September to members of the fire service at the large conference.



From left to right: Norman Lavoie, David Smith, David Clement, Bryson Wilson, Myles Faulkner

## Toronto Firefighters Remembered



The Toronto Fire Services held their annual Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service on Sunday May 25, 2008. The memorial is located beside the Harbour Front Station and contains the names of all Toronto and pre-amalgamation city firefighters that died in the line of duty. The Foundation's Ontario representative, Division Chief Dave Sheen, laid a wreath on behalf of the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation. The Toronto Pipes & 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 these photos of the ceremony.



Dave Sheen, right, lays the CFFF wreath

## Memorial – Robert Draper

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Robert Draper on April 7, 2008. The former Clinton Ontario Fire Chief was a special guest at the Canadian Fallen Firefighter Foundation's annual ceremony on September 9, 2007. Mr. Draper represented the Canadian Corps of Overseas Firefighters from World War 2 at the ceremony and received the special fly-over of vintage aircraft honouring his group of Canadians. Ontario regional V.P. Robert Kirkpatrick attended the funeral visitation in Clinton and passed on the condolences of the Foundation to his family. Mr. Draper and others from his group are a tribute to the spirit of Canadians and in particular Canadian Firefighters.



# EVERY GENEROUS GIFT PUTS US A STEP CLOSER TO OUR GOALS

**THE NEED IS \$4 MILLION FOR THE CANADIAN FIREFIGHTERS  
MEMORIAL AND \$1 MILLION FOR THE ENDOWMENT FUND**

*By Douglas A. Lock, CD, CHRP, Treasurer*

The Foundation is pursuing three key objectives; the Construction of the Canadian Firefighters Memorial in Ottawa, the creation of an endowment fund to sustain the granting of scholarships and bursaries to the children of Canadian firefighters, and the production of the Canadian Firefighters Annual Memorial Ceremony on Parliament Hill. The management of the Foundation's finances reflects these priorities.

A copy of the annual audit (currently 2007, the 2008 audit will be available after it is tabled at the Board of Director's Annual General Meeting on May 1, 2009) may be obtained by forwarding a request to [treasurer@cfff.ca](mailto:treasurer@cfff.ca).

The unaudited statement of the Foundation's assets and liabilities as at November 30, 2008 is noted below.

## CANADIAN FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION ASSET/LIABILITY UPDATE (UNAUDITED)

As at November 30, 2008

### ASSETS

Canadian Firefighters Memorial Fund	\$ 840,390	
CAFC Pledge (1)	110,000	
CCFM&FC Pledge (2)	10,000	\$ 960,390
CFFF Education Program		10,798
CFFF Operating Account		30,146
Inventory (Web Store)		37,690
Prepaid Expenses		7,062
Total Assets		\$ 1,046,086

### LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable		\$ 12,846
Accrued Liabilities (for professional fees)		9,000
Total Liabilities		\$ 21,846

Surplus/(Deficit) \$ 1,024,240

(1) Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs

(2) Canadian Council of Fire Marshals and Fire Commissioners

# SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR CANADA'S FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS

Visit the CFFF online store on our website at [www.cfff.ca](http://www.cfff.ca)



Patches



Mens and Ladies Embroidered Apparel



Glassware with Genuine  
Pewter CFFF Emblems



Lapel Pins



Keychains and Ornaments



Choose from a wide selection of collectibles and apparel available for purchase online today. By purchasing any of the items we have available, you will be helping the CFFF reach its goal of building a National Monument to honour ALL firefighters that have died in the line of duty in Canada. Thank you for your support!

# PAIN FREE GIVING

Each of us will receive a United Way pledge card that provides the opportunity to contribute to worthy local, regional and national charitable causes through payroll deduction.

United Way is recognized as being one of the most cost efficient fundraising organizations anywhere. For example, just 16.6% of funds raised by United Way of Peel Region are used to cover combined fundraising (9.5%), administration costs (7.1 %). By comparison, telemarketing and lottery costs vary between 60% and 80%, and special events such as walkathons can cost up to 50%.

You may direct your donations to the UNITED WAY to be dispersed according to their priorities, or direct your donations to a specific charity. Each year many staff from fire and emergency services chose to direct their donations to the CANADIAN FALLEN FIRE FIGHTERS FOUNDATION. The Foundation primary goal is the construction of a permanent national memorial to fire fighters who have lost their lives as a consequence of their work.

The Foundation subsidizes the travel expenses and funds the lodging expenses to bring the families of Canadian firefighters killed

in the line of duty to the annual national firefighter's memorial ceremony in Ottawa. The Foundation is also raising \$4 million to build the Canadian Firefighters Memorial in Ottawa as well as creating scholarships and bursaries through an endowment fund for those families who have lost a family member in our service.

A number of fire departments across Canada use this avenue to support the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation; a non-profit, registered, tax-deductible charity. The CFFF is completely dependant on fundraising activities. More on the CFFF and its programs can be found at [www.cfff.ca](http://www.cfff.ca), or call 613-786-3024 or email [info@cfff.ca](mailto:info@cfff.ca).

If you would like to contribute to the Foundation through the United Way, just fill in the complete charity name as "Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation" Ottawa, ON and use the charity number #88214 6509 RROOO1. Direct donations may also be sent to Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation, 440 Laurier Ave. West, Suite 200, Ottawa ON K1R 7X6. You can also donate online at [cfff.ca](http://cfff.ca). Click on the helmet in the upper left corner.

**United Way Centraide Ottawa**

Please correct any errors below. Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Language preference:  English  French Home Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Age group:  18-24  25-34  35-44  45-54  55-64  65+ For information, please call 613-964-4755.

**TO HELP BUILD A STRONG, HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITY FOR ALL, I WILL GIVE:**

I CHOOSE UNITED WAY/CENTRAIDE OTTAWA TO MAKE THE GREATEST IMPACT.  
I want to ensure my gift goes where it is needed most.

I CHOOSE TARGETED IMPACT. I want my gift to be directed to United Way/Centraide Ottawa's Impact Area:

- Providing healthy environments for children and youth
- Helping families and enhancing seniors' quality of life
- Reducing barriers and increasing participation for people with disabilities
- Strengthening individuals and families in times of need and crisis
- Reducing barriers and increasing involvement for new Canadians and immigrants
- Strengthening aging, neighborhood and community capacity

WANT HELP? \_\_\_\_\_

I want to designate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ of my gift to a specific United Way/Centraide Ottawa's Impact Area/Program/Service or another registered Canadian charity (designate gift in \$100000's - round to 00's only).

I do not want my gift to be distributed to the following registered agency or registered:

Please turn this form over to specify your method of donation and sign at the bottom.

**TELL US HOW I WANT TO MAKE MY DONATION:**

**CASH OR CHEQUE** (check only with deposit)

Cash \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque \$ \_\_\_\_\_

post-dated cheque(s) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**CREDIT CARD**  Visa  MasterCard  Amex

One-time gift in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**MONTHLY GIVING\*** (a minimum gift of \$10 per month is required for all gifts)

CREDIT CARD  Visa  MasterCard  Amex

Monthly gift in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for 12 consecutive months (beginning Jan. 15).

PRE-AUTHORIZED BANK WITHDRAWAL

United Way/Centraide is to withdraw a monthly gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ beginning Jan. 15.

Attach VOID CHEQUE.

**GIFT OF STOCK/OTHER GIFT OPTIONS\***

I want to make a gift of stock \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I want to make a gift of:

Life Insurance  Request  Named Endowment Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I have included United Way/Centraide Ottawa in my will.

Please send me more information on the above gift options.

**SIGNATURE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
BY DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**United Way Centraide Ottawa**

*Thank you*  
for gift in building community and changing lives

# A Volunteer Remembered

by Chief Dave Ferguson, Cowichan Bay Volunteer Fire Rescue



Why does Cowichan Bay Volunteer Fire Rescue send two members to Ottawa every year for the Canadian Fallen Fire Fighters Foundation Memorial Service? What motivates a small rural fire department of 30 volunteer members, located 50 kilometers north of Victoria on Vancouver Island, to make this a priority? Is it simply to reward two members for a job well done? Is it simply a way for us to ensure remembrance and recognition of those firefighters who have answered the last alarm?

It is all of these things and more.

Friday, November 29, 2002 will be a date that is forever etched in the history of the Cowichan Bay Volunteer Fire Rescue.

The members of the department were paged at 1845 hours for a cardiac problem at their firehall. Preparations were underway there for the Annual Ladies Auxiliary Bazaar, an event organized by the spouses and partners of the members, both active and retired, with funds being raised for the benefit of the fire department.

The first members were on scene within five minutes and were faced with the type of situation that all members of the fire service dread – a member of our department had collapsed; there was no respiration and no pulse. The ambulance was still not on scene and so those who had responded did what all firefighters do – “they put on their game hats and they go to work”, as one of our members so aptly described his reaction to the scene that was in front of him. They did their best. They went to the hospital with the ambulance, but there was no miracle recovery in the cards that evening.

Robert William Evans, affectionately known around the fire hall as Bobby, ‘This is me’ or ‘Papa Heaven’, had answered his last alarm. The second nickname was Bob’s choice on any nametag he ever wore. The latter nickname came in recognition of one unfortunately witnessed event that he was never allowed to forget....a tradition of fire departments around the world.

Bob was our longest serving active member. He had been a member of the department for almost 26 years and had just celebrated his 48th birthday. The fire hall was Bob’s life. As a single fellow, he looked after his mother, first and foremost, but he was the epitome of the dedicated, loyal and team-oriented member. He was firefighter of the year, he was a Captain, he was a Driver Trainer, he was a mentor, he was the unofficial sergeant-at-arms, he was a friend to all and his loss to the department is recognized formally on an annual basis. But he is remembered frequently as we contemplate what Bob would have thought of a member’s actions or suggested plans for a change to a tried and true tradition in the firehall.

How do you honor someone who has been such an outstanding member? The members of the Cowichan Bay Volunteer Fire Rescue chose to do a number of things designed to ensure the loss of Bobby Evans was honored in the most respectful way possible.



His funeral was designed to reflect the wishes of his family, which was to ask the fire department to look after the arrangements. We paraded behind one of our engines carrying Bob's casket, draped with our fire department flag. The funeral service included the presentation of Bob's helmet and the flag to his mother, a full fire fighter memorial service with bagpipes, a trumpet and the firefighter's prayer. The pallbearers were members of the department together with Bob's nephews. The congregation included fire fighters from all of our mutual aid partner departments and others who had traveled to pay tribute to Bob.

We created a perpetual trophy in Bob's name awarded annually for the member who best reflects the high standards of commitment, leadership, and all-round participation in firehall activities.

A fund was created in Bob's name to provide annual CPR classes for the families of the members, a number of whom were affected by their lack of knowledge of what to do on the evening Bob collapsed.

Every department needs a Bob Evans. Someone who will tell you to slow down if he thinks you are driving too fast responding to a call. Someone who makes sure you obey the long-standing rules of the fire station, whether it is reprimanding kids from running around in the upstairs hall, members tipping chairs in the lounge or anyone failing to clean up a mess. Someone who understood the importance of balancing both work and play when it came to the fire service, whether it be hockey, curling, slow pitch or an inter-department social gathering. Someone who is generous with his time and advice to the new members ensuring they understand the privileges they enjoy as member of the department and the importance of being safe on the fire ground above all else.

*We paraded behind one of our engines carrying Bob's casket, draped with our fire department flag. The funeral service included the presentation of Bob's helmet and the flag to his mother, a full fire fighter memorial service with bagpipes, a trumpet and the firefighter's prayer.*

Bob had participated in a medical check up just months before his sudden death and deemed by his doctor to be fit to participate as an active member of the department.

The message is clear... take nothing for granted, and enjoy each day to the max. Bob was doing what he did best the evening he died. He was helping the ladies out and was delivering his Mother's baking for the following day's event.

Another lesson learned is that there is no O.G. in the world that prepares a department for an event such as this. If you have a fire chief surrounded by strong leaders, you know that should the chief be on the other side of the country when these situations arise, the proper actions will be taken. That is what the Deputy Chief and Senior Captain in Cowichan Bay did. They got the department together ASAP, they arranged to bring in counselors and they gave everyone a chance to talk and express their feelings.

These events either bring your department closer together or it leads to people stepping away. How you recover from these tragedies is a true test of the character of your department and a tremendous opportunity to carry on with a stronger commitment to provide outstanding service to your community, in the name of the Bobs of this world.

Cowichan Bay Volunteer Fire Rescue sends two members to Ottawa each year to honor the memory of Bob Evans. It sends two members each year to experience an inspirational ceremony honoring those who have died in the line of duty. It sends two members each year to help those departments who are perhaps still reeling from the loss of a Bob Evans. It sends two members each year to demonstrate support for the immediate creation of a permanent national memorial which will provide those who mourn the loss of a fallen brother or sister a lasting sense of support that Canada cares about the fire fighters who lose their lives providing a critical service to their community, their Province and their country, from Cowichan Bay to the Rock.

# FORGOTTEN... FOR A WHILE

by Robert Kirkpatrick, Mississauga Fire Captain and President, Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation

Morrisburg, Ontario is located 80 kilometres south of Ottawa near the St. Lawrence River. The town has gone through many changes since its founding in 1832 but none as dramatic as in 1958 when part of the town was relocated to make way for the new St. Lawrence Seaway system. The now quiet town of 2400 has several cemeteries including St. Mary's, located alongside Hwy #2.

Rick Roberts has lived in Morrisburg for the last 39 years. Now retired, he often visited St. Mary's Cemetery, where family members are buried, and often passed by a plot with unusual plot markers without paying it close attention. As time went on financial constraints reduced the amount of attention the landscape at the cemetery was getting and Rick volunteered his spare time to help "spruce up" the grounds. While trimming around the grounds, and the grave of Frank Hutt, he finally noticed the unusual markers around the plot were cast fire hydrants. Reading the inscription on the grave marker he noticed that Hutt had been a firefighter who had been killed in 1904.

With no relatives found around the community, and sensing the injustice of a heroic firefighter's grave deteriorating and going unnoticed, he decided to clean it up. Trees around the plot were trimmed, which uncovered a previously unknown gravestone under the grass, and plans were made to straighten the fire hydrants. Wanting to learn more Mr. Roberts contacted the CFFF. An investigation found the cause of young Frank Hutt's demise.

In 1902, Frank Hutt was single and lived in the Point St. Charles area of Montreal. On

January 1, 1903, at the age of 21, he joined the Montreal Fire Department and was assigned to Station 1. His short career as a firefighter lasted just over a year when he responded to his last alarm on January 5, 1904.



The temperature was a bitter -16 degrees Fahrenheit at 06:55 when the Montreal department dispatched apparatus to the prestigious Club Mont-Royal at Stanley and Sherbrooke Streets. A passing newspaper boy had noticed a fire through the window and by the time firefighters arrived, it had grown to serious proportions necessitating a general alarm bringing out all available crews. Firefighters Hutt, James Ruddy and George Reynolds were injured while exiting the building when a wall crumbled above them sending debris onto the firefighters. A large stone cornice hit Hutt on the head delivering a fatal blow.

Frank Hutt's body was returned to Morrisburg, the town where he was born, for burial. His journey from there to the fire halls of Montreal was over. He was laid to rest in the family plot, where his father joined him in 1930.



The memory of the Hutt family faded into the past until just recently when Rick Roberts re-discovered the significance of the memorial plot added decades earlier. The Foundation encourages those concerned to make the extra effort as Mr. Roberts has done and to remember all fallen firefighters. Frank Hutt and over 900 other Canadian firefighters are remembered on the second Sunday in September every year at the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation annual memorial service held in Ottawa.

# BUILD FOR GEORGE

or When Help Is Needed The Firefighters' Community Moves As One (added – ed.)

by James Coones, Editor, *Intrepid*, The Official Publication of the Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association, Summer 2008 Edition, reprinted with permission, submitted by John Sobey, a Director of the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation

Photographs courtesy of James Coones

George Copeland, born in Leeds, England and raised in Windsor, started his career as a professional fire fighter with the Windsor Fire and Rescue Services (WFRS) on January 4, 1993, at the age of 32. He spent most of his career at Station #4 – the “Sandwich Station” on College Avenue - and like everyone else who works out of that particular station, George was affectionately referred to by the rest of the job as a “West Ender”. “George,” as he was called by his peers, was well respected as a “good fire fighter” and a leader within the fire station; a “go-to-guy” that was fun to be around and who, “got the job done.” In 2005, George participated in the WFRS promotional examinations and successfully qualified as a Captain in the Fire and Rescue Division. He was a member of the Honour Guard and was a very gifted athlete that participated in many Fire Department softball tournaments and played basketball in a competitive recreational league called, “Core City Hoops.” Following Engine 4’s horrific accident next to the Ambassador Bridge (detailed in the spring issue of the *Intrepid*), George was completely paralyzed and was hospitalized at three different institutions – including sixty-six days in intensive care at Hotel Dieu Hospital and four months at the world class Michigan Rehabilitation Institute - for a total of 485 days. His prognosis following the accident was very grim as doctors gave him a three to five percent chance of recovery after the surgery. Yet, true to his character, his remarkable tenacity, dedication, faith and courage shone through brighter than ever and he worked tirelessly through agonizing and painful rehabilitation therapies to regain partial use of his right arm. Although he is still unable to move his legs and left arm independently, George has far from given up on his ability to fight through this obstacle and will embrace the additional treatments still available to help him overcome his current situation.

With injuries as extensive as George’s and a new reality that would surely present many accessibility and functionality challenges, the prospect of George ever returning to his current two-storey detached dwelling was remote. In fact, for the first six months, it was unknown if George would ever leave hospital care again.

As fate would have it, the Build for George project was initiated from the simple yet thoughtful actions of eleven year-old Sierra Currie, daughter of Windsor Fire Fighter, Wayne



Currie. In the very late evening of March 2, 2007, Wayne had returned home from being called in as one of the Association’s Health and Safety representatives to help investigate the accident. His daughter, Sierra, had printed out an online application form from the hit television show, *Extreme Home Makeover*, with the simple message written on the front that said, “Hi Dad, maybe we can get Ty to help build George a new home? Love Sierra.” She had definitely planted the seed. When it became clear in the fall of 2007 that George would in fact be able to continue life outside of a hospital setting, Wayne took the idea to the next level and began to talk seriously with other Local 455 members about “pulling this off.” It quickly became evident, however, that even though there were many talented Windsor Fire Fighters in all areas of home construction; they

## BUILD FOR GEORGE

lacked the experience to complete an extreme home build with these timelines and parameters on their own. It was mentioned at that time that the Greater Windsor Home Builders Association (GWHBA) had completed a three-day home build only two years earlier. Wayne contacted Ben Klundert, the past President of the GWHBA and pitched the idea to him. He was asked to make a presentation in January 2008 to their Executive Board. Following that presentation, the Board unanimously approved the concept and the project was officially born.

It would be impossible to describe in any amount of detail, the hundreds of hours that were spent by the joint committees, planning and preparing for this truly inspirational event – all before a single hammer was ever swung. The efforts required to build a regular 3,900 square foot home on a bare lot

through several different events. The main event being the “Build for George Gala Event” held on April 18, 2008, which raised \$45,000. The fundraising efforts, combined with money from the WSIB, corporate and private business donations, and the many volunteers to perform the labour made this project a reality. Speaking of volunteers...this was one of the most labour intensive efforts for the committee; to solicit and then coordinate the workflow and organize all of the volunteer labourers that would be essential to this project being completed. The results from the various presentations made, appeals issued, and campaigns launched were nothing short of incredible.

Over the course of the four-day build, an astounding 1,200 people showed up to volunteer their time and skills. The committee employed the same organizational management



within ninety-six hours is undeniably a very daunting and demanding task – let alone a house that required many special considerations and features. George and his family decided on the lot in Tecumseh after reviewing several lots in the Windsor area. The original plans for the house were designed by BK Cornerstone, an award winning custom home builder, owned by Ben Klundert. After reviewing plans that WSIB had provided and speaking with other families in the neighbourhood who also had accessibility issues to deal with, George and his team made some final revisions to the plans. Although many of the supplies for the build were donated after a letter-writing campaign to various businesses and suppliers within the home building industry, not all materials were acquired by that means and many supplies still required being purchased. Money to fund these supplies, as well as other costs involved, was raised

technique that had worked so well for the GWHBA during their extreme build a couple of years earlier – and ironically, a technique that is very similar to our own fire service incident command structure. They assigned colour-coded t-shirts to all of the volunteers based on their “rank” within the project or the skills that they offered. To watch the organized chaos of the build unfold, and to witness the progression from a vacant lot to the final product would be nothing short of magical. Despite the lack of cooperation from Mother Nature, who delivered plenty of rain, beginning on day two of the build, right through until the morning of day four, spirits remained high and the level of workmanship and professionalism even higher. It truly epitomized what being a fire fighter is all about and what we are capable of doing when we come together to take care of one of our own in need.

The feeling across the build site; knowing the reason why you were there and being extremely proud and honoured to be given the opportunity to help, was omnipresent. Not everything went entirely smooth over the course of the build however. The size of the roof line and the complex design delayed the roofing and insulation process. As well, to delay the roofing task even further, the crane scheduled to hoist the truss assemblies into position, once completed, was late arriving. Some of the larger volume projects – such as boarding the exterior framework of the house and the installation, mudding and taping of drywall – moved at a slower pace than anticipated due to the smaller number of experienced trades people in those areas. In the end, these obstacles and others were overcome with extra effort and dedication from the volunteers who stayed past their scheduled shifts, as well as some consideration in the original timetable by the committee for such occurrences.

Anyone who knows George will know that he is a huge Detroit Pistons fan. In fact, George had adopted the Pistons' slogan, "It's Time to go to Work!" as his own during his arduous rehabilitation sessions. It was something he would say to himself in order to help push him through the tougher, more trying times. With this in mind, Wayne and the committee spent a considerable amount of time contacting the proper people at the Detroit Pistons' front office as they felt it was very important to get them involved in the project. And get involved they did! Incorporated into the design plans of the house was a designated rehabilitation room for George. It was a place where he would continue his recovery in the comfort of his own home in an effort to overcome the remaining obstacles he faced. The Detroit Pistons organization provided George with all of the necessary inspiration and motivation that he could ever need in order to reach his goals. They helped to recreate the Palace of Auburn Hills, the home of the Detroit Pistons, by designing special messages from the players and the organization, donating ceiling banners and signed photos with well wishes to George and providing memorabilia and Pistons Players' clothing for George. They also created a wall banner from the Players with a special message to George: "GEORGE, IT'S TIME TO GO TO WORK, the Detroit Pistons.

"The time had finally arrived; word had come around 4:00 pm on Sunday afternoon that George was on his way to his new home. At last, after almost sixteen months, George was finally leaving hospital life behind and was about to begin a new chapter in his life with his family. The crowd outside of the new home had swelled to several hundred. There were twenty foot high inflatable figures on the front lawns of a few neighbours' houses, welcoming George to the neighbourhood. The media was on hand with cameras and microphones and the anticipation and the excitement was palpable. The WFRS had placed their large Command Vehicle strategically between where George would arrive and the home; blocking his view until the stage was set to reveal his new abode. Finally,

George's van rounded the corner at the top of the street and a thunderous applause erupted from the crowd. The van stopped and George and his family disembarked to the calls of, "Welcome home George!" Once he was in position, the call, which had been previously rehearsed, came over the mic from Wayne to the crowd, "Hey driver!" The crowd in turn answered, "Move that bus!" As the Command Vehicle drove ahead, the sweat, love, dedication and workmanship that had been poured into the project over the past ninety-six hours was revealed and a definite emotional overtone took hold of George, his family, and everyone else that was present. After a special few minutes spent hugging and greeting many of the projects key orange shirt members, including the members of his crew that were with him in Engine 4 on that fateful day, George and his family took a very intimate tour through their new house. As I followed along with them, taking photos to capture the special moment, I was overcome myself at times with emotion as I could see the pure joy and appreciation that they were experiencing.

Following the family's private tour, George went back outside to offer his sincere appreciation to everyone involved and attempted to convey the overwhelming emotions that he was feeling at that moment. He then invited the hundreds of friends and neighbours gathered to take their own tour of the house. Not surprisingly, however, most people were more interested in meeting the charismatic George and formed a line that was at least three times as long as the line to tour the house. George loves his new home! He is receiving physiotherapy in his new rehabilitation room several times a week and his kids are very happy to be playing and having fun in their own home instead of in the hospital room. When family and friends stop by, George is the first to talk about how special this home is to him.

As much as this project was a joint effort that involved so many different people, the Windsor Professional Fire Fighters Association would like to acknowledge and is forever appreciative of the support, guidance and dedication of the Greater Windsor Home Builders Association. Without them, the project would never have been a possibility.

**BUILD FOR GEORGE COMMITTEE MEMBERS FireFighters**  
**Wayne Currie, Build for George Co-Chair • Darren Dixon, Build Committee • Mark Mailloux, Build Committee Jim Romanko, Fundraising Committee • Kam Lauzon, Fundraising/Volunteer Committee • James Waffle, Donation Committee • Gino Campigotto, Fundraising/Volunteer Committee**

**BUILDERS Ben Klundert, Build for George Co-Chair • Mike Dinchik, Executive Officer GWHBA • Scott Babister, Build Committee • Roch Barrette, Donation Committee • Norbert Bolger, Donation Committee**

# BEING A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER

## *MEANS BEING PROPERLY EQUIPPED TO FIGHT FIRES AT HOME AS WELL AS AT THE FIRE HALL*

by Peter H. Ratcliffe

Let me introduce myself. I am the father of a Fallen Firefighter. Our then twenty-year-old son James ([www.james-ratcliffe.com](http://www.james-ratcliffe.com)) died in June 2005 in a water rescue training accident. James chose to be a volunteer firefighter for all the right reasons, just a natural decision for an exceptional young man in our happy and caring small town. As parents, we backed James' decision to be a volunteer firefighter.

Our town is probably a lot like your town, full of fine, caring, and compassionate people served by great firefighters who are willing to put their life on the line to save lives and protect property. Knowing that the primary audience of this publication is firefighters, no matter what your age I need to speak to you as if I were your father.

Just as you would not fight a fire without proper and functioning safety gear, you need some essential safety equipment for your family. As much as you might want to avoid confronting issues of your death and injury, you really need examine insurance issues and your personal will.

Many of you are young; maybe most of you have young families. It is normal at this time of your life to have debt from student loans, cars, credit cards, and a mortgage. It is also normal to ignore the possibility of death or disability in your chosen avocation.

I would wager that the vast majority of firefighters do not have any idea of the insurance coverage for death or disability provided by your department. James surely did not. Your situation might be just fine, but you should at least know how your family will survive if fate turns ugly. Here are some clear facts from our actual experience for you to consider.

Even as a volunteer firefighter, any accident is treated as a work related accident. Because of this, you or your family, even in the event of negligence, will have no legal recourse to compensation except as provided by workers' compensation in your province. The Quebec's Workers Safety Board paid each surviving parent very little, a bit over \$4,000. A legal marital relationship and children would increase those numbers. You need to know those numbers; they represent the safety net for your family. You can access the tables online in some jurisdictions or by calling your local Workers Compensation Board. Get the facts for your specific case.

Most volunteer firefighters have a primary career that provides all or a significant part of family income. It is critical that you understand the exact workers' compensation treatment of disability income if you are disabled, short or long term, while working as a volunteer firefighter. Will you get a percentage of your firefighter earnings or a percentage of your total wages including your primary career? If you are covered by disability insurance either through a private insurer or at your main career, will they pay if you are disabled performing as a firefighter? Does the employer's insurance coverage include payment for disability or death suffered because of being a volunteer firefighter? Does your town have firefighter-specific insurance, or are you part of the insurance coverage for all town employees? Get all the facts.

If you have personal insurance or bank-provided insurance coverage on any of your debts, verify that the coverage includes disability or death while firefighting. Do not take anything for granted; this will be your family's lifeline. Insurance companies read the fine print before paying out a claim; you should read it now so you know and understand the implications. If you do not know, ask questions. Get clarification in writing stating that you are covered so there will be no dispute later.

If the current insurance will not keep your family safe and comfortable, insist that your town provide adequate insurance or find private insurance to protect your loved ones. Do not forget your debts; very few are forgivable and some may not be obvious. For example, cell-phone contracts carry penalties for cancellation that your estate would have to pay.

If you cannot obtain adequate insurance to protect your family, you may need to reconsider volunteer firefighting until your department minimizes the financial risk to your family and your estate by providing adequate coverage.



James Ratcliffe  
March 22, 1985 – June 6, 2005

The word estate brings up the second critical family equipment issue. Every firefighter in every department needs a current and valid legal will to reflect clearly his or her exact wishes. It costs extra time, energy and money to manage and settle an estate without a will, but just a few dollars to produce it. If you do not have a will, your assets likely will be divided according to a provincial formula to various family members. That can be especially significant in an unmarried couple with children. Again, there are horror stories. Make a will and update it whenever it needs it.

These are not easy subjects for most to talk about, but as professional firefighters you manage risks and make life and death decisions. These issues directly affect the quality of life your family will have if fate turns ugly and the worst happens. Do not ignore this issue.

If you lead firefighters, I suggest that you might find a local lawyer to provide a discount to prepare wills for all your firefighters. I would ask the town to pay for firefighter wills, another reminder that this is a dangerous profession. I would recruit a local insurance expert to educate the firefighters to help them establish a solid understanding of how much insurance each family needs and a clear assessment of what your town and workers' compensation would provide. A local investment advisor would round out the package to let everyone understand the financial issues. Educate for a fully informed force.



There are no national standards for minimum insurance and no national awards for a heroic death. I have confronted local, provincial, and national politicians on these issues. So have the CAFC and many other organizations. There is lots of rhetoric but no solid action. It is therefore incumbent on each individual town or department to have insurance and to determine the amount of that insurance. Many towns have not even looked at that insurance amount in years; it is may be automatically renewed at the lowest rate.

Do not presume that a heroic death ensures the future care of family. I have heard some anecdotal horror stories on insurance for fallen firefighters. I have heard about families left deeply in debt and without income and little or no insurance. There needs to be a political will to establish minimum amounts or consistent national awards. Write your elected representatives at all levels of government and remind them that you choose to do dangerous work in the public interest and there should at least be a guarantee of proper insurance.

Leadership of all fire departments, especially volunteer departments, need to make sure each firefighter has access to clear facts and that they are making a clearly informed decision to be a firefighter. If you as a firefighter do not have these facts, get them. Do not ignore these important issues for another day; put out this fire now.

# THIS JUST CAN'T BE HAPPENING TO ME

## *SPECIAL TO COURAGE*

**C**an a firefighter have a heart attack? Or be diagnosed with cancer, or have a stroke? As above average Canadians, when it comes to fitness, over 90% of us would certainly say no way! Well, way! Firefighters across this great country of ours are having more heart attacks than ever, and being diagnosed with cancer at an alarming rate never seen before. Why is this happening to us, and why now? Well let us just try to stick with the facts. According to the Centre for Disease Control in Atlanta Georgia, the Mayo Clinic and the Sunnybrook Health Science Centre in Toronto, the problem is us.

It is the food that we eat, or rather the foods of which we do not eat enough. Or enough of the proper exercise and too much stress. As adults, if we looked at the “NEW” Canadian Food Rules, almost 50% of our diets would consist of vegetables, fruit, nuts and the rest lean protein. Yet we are eating the way our American cousins to the south of us eat. Today in Canada, almost 34% of children going into grade one are termed obese. Whose fault is that? Please do not tell me that it's McDonald's or Burger King's fault. As adults, we are now beginning to suffer for the error of our ways. If we stop smoking, eat properly and exercise three times a week, it would reduce the rate of heart attack, stroke and cancer – by almost 70%! Can you imagine how much that would save the Canadian Medical System? There could be billions of dollars a year in savings and billions less going in for unnecessary taxes.

Stress is the leading cause of heart attacks in Canadians, yet as firefighters, our rates are above average in frequency and intensity. That is because we live on the edge, in life and death situations. We are like a sprinter, always in the starting blocks, and always waiting for the starting gun to go off. Between the bad foods, the stress, the lack of regular, proper exercise, the shift work and regular family stresses it is no wonder any firefighter lives to age 70 at all.

In Ontario, a firefighter had to sue the Workers Compensation Board for job related cancer. The fact that he attended numerous chemical fires as well as warehouse fires was unrelated, ruled the board at first. It took years of appeals before he finally won, but the victory was hollow because he died before any payments could be made. The media always portrays the life of a firefighter as exciting and glamorous. Yet there are thousands of widows and orphans left behind as survivors. Forgotten are the thousands of firefighters across the country who daily survive heart attack, stroke and cancer. Those illnesses do not just affect them, but affect their spouses, children and other dependants as well as their creditors, mortgage holders, and others who earn their living in the Canadian economy.

Michelle Hennessy of Calgary has been insuring firefighters in Alberta for over five years and has heard many tales of hardship and pain. “Firefighters are in financial denial”, she says. The individual

policies such as critical illness insurance and long-term care insurance were created for these exact Canadians.

“For the price of a Tim Horton's coffee a day, a family would receive \$100,000 non-taxable cash, when that firefighter is DIAGNOSED with a heart attack, stroke or cancer. It doesn't matter if that firefighter returns to work or not, the money is still paid out.” Unfortunately, firefighters never think that it will happen to them. With chemical toxins from fires, high stress from the job, as well as normal day-to-day pressures, they just do not want to acknowledge any of it. Perhaps it is the macho image of the job that keeps them in denial. However, the facts dictate that they are much more vulnerable than the average person is to these major calamities.

In most places when this happens they will receive either full pay or 75% of full pay, but the day-to-day costs are now beyond their belief. Most cancer drugs cannot be covered by any group insurance plan; that is the first shock. Bank credit lines or loans are usually stopped and cannot be increased upon diagnosis of a critical illness; that is the second shock. There are many more to come, all financial in nature. Does the spouse take time off work with no pay to look after the one that is ill?

With the fiscal belt tightening across Canada becoming a reality and benefits being clawed back in a lot of jurisdictions it behoves us to look after ourselves.

It starts with, veggies, fruits, lean meats and a 6km walk a day, or a gym 3 times a week.

Really, look on your own street, how many houses have burned down in the last 5 years? Yet how many people on that street have been touched by heart attack stroke or cancer! I bet they all have fire insurance on their homes.

Now when a heart attack, stroke or cancer happens to you, does your doctor ask you to have more or less stress? Work longer hours or shorter hours? Just imagine that your mortgage is paid up for the next 2 years, your credit cards are paid in full, your cable, cell phone and utilities are all prepaid in full for 1 year. Is that not worth the price of a Tim's coffee a day as well as an apple and a trip to the gym?

As a firefighter, remember those colleagues around you that have been touched by heart attack, stroke, and cancer, and realize this can happen to you. Protect you and your family financially. With every protection plan you purchase, on your behalf a percentage will be donated to the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Association.

Michelle Hennessy  
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# CORPS OF CANADIAN FIREFIGHTERS HONOURED IN HAMPSHIRE UK

*By Chief Warrant Officer Bruce Paradis, CD, A Director of the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation*

In early October 2007, a proposal was received by the Canadian Forces Fire Marshal from Hampshire (UK) author John Leete who had just completed a historical account of the National Fire Service during the Second World War titled *Under Fire*. Mr. Leete's proposal was to honour the 422 Canadians that formed the Corps of Canadian Firefighters that served with distinction from 1942 to 1945.

The concept for a formed group of civilian firefighters was first raised by the Fire Chief of Vancouver as a means of aiding the British citizens in their constant battle against the fires ignited by German bombings. It was not until Canadian Prime Minister Mackenzie King visited London in the summer of 1941 and saw the destruction first hand that he offered the help of firefighters to Britain.

The call for volunteers went out shortly thereafter and the response by the civilian volunteers was remarkable. Within a few months, 406 volunteers from professional and rural departments answered the call. They were formed into the Corps of Canadian Firefighters and brought to Ottawa for training and issuing of uniforms. Amazingly, the first contingent of Canadians arrived on 24 June 1942, barely six months after the initial call for volunteers. By December of 1942, all 422 personnel were in place and serving in the southern area of the country.

Upon arrival, the Corps was split and sent to two separate training locations, one of which was located in Testwood School in Totton for those destined to serve in Southampton and Portsmouth. It is in Totton that the Corps began their notable relationship with the local population, integrating themselves into sports, community events, and anything that would help them to cope with being so far from home.

On completion of training, the men were placed on active duty as an integral part of the UK National Fire Service (NFS) but were very easily identified by their different style of Canadian-issued uniform. These brave Canadians worked alongside their British counterparts who had been devastated by the constant fires caused by the dreaded V1 "buzz bomb." The much-needed

Canadians filled the ranks of the NFS and deployed across London, Southampton, Portsmouth, Bristol, and Plymouth. Their job upon the sounding of the air raid sirens was to leave their quarters and proceed into the deserted streets while the populace took shelter. This allowed them to be tactically deployed in the event that a lucky bomb found their home station and allowed them to spot fires caused by the bombings as there were few people left to see and report these fires.

During the time that the Corps was deployed, they formed a bond with the local population, assisting



Corps of Canadian Firefighters No.2 Coy



Gordon Bryce



L to R: Assistant Chief Officer Charlie House; Mr. Michael Cartwright, Chairman of the Hampshire Fire Authority; Elaine Bryce; CWO Paradis

where required in the day-to-day struggles. This bond led the Hampshire Fire Services in cooperation with John Leete to strike a memorial plaque remembering and honouring these brave individuals. As the Corps was formed as a paramilitary organization, they contacted the Canadian Forces to have representation at the unveiling. When I was asked by the Fire Marshal whether or not I would be interested in attending, I jumped at the chance.

The plaque was unveiled on February 27, 2008 at the headquarters of the Hampshire Fire Service during the book launch for John Leete's *Under Fire*, which includes two chapters dedicated solely to the Canadian Corps. As the Canadian Forces Fire Marshal Chief Warrant Officer, it was my pleasure to be a key part of this event as the surviving members of the Corps were unable to make the lengthy trip. Also in attendance was Elaine Bryce from Minesing Ontario, the daughter of Gordon Clarke Bryce and niece of Gordon's brother William Clarke Bryce, both of whom served with distinction in the Corps. William Bryce was presented the Humane Medal for saving the life of a drowning boy from the River Test during his service in Britain.

Probably one of the most notable persons in attendance was May Belbin who ran the canteen truck donated by the Canadian Red Cross at the Totton facility and who befriended this group of Canadians. Her recollection of their service and life in the UK was outstanding and it was a pleasure to chat with her. To round out the ceremony, a contingent of the Canadian Veterans Association (UK) was able to make it down from London complete with their Canadian Colour party.

The plaque now mounted in the main entranceway to the Hampshire Headquarters reads as follows:

*Dedicated to*

*The Corps of (Civilian) Canadian Fire Fighters who volunteered to come to the United Kingdom in support of the men and women serving with the National Fire Service.*

*The First contingent of what was to total 406 men arrived on June 24 1942 and the last left for home on August 19 1945.*

*Distinctive by their style of uniform, the Corps operated from their own fire stations in Southampton, Portsmouth, Bristol and Plymouth.*

*During their deployment three members of The Corps lost their lives.*

*In recognition of Service, the Commanding Officer, Chief G E Huff MM was awarded an OBE, Senior Company Officer N Torno was awarded the MBE and a BEM was awarded to Senior Company Officer M W Dolman and Leading Fireman C J Diwell.*

*Lest We Forget*

Sadly, three Canadian Firefighters did die in the line of duty during the deployment. These were: Section Leader Lawrence Woodhead from Saskatoon, Canadian Firefighter John Coull from Winnipeg and Canadian Firefighter Alfred Lapierre, from Montreal. It is important to all of us that we know our history and the accomplishments of those that served before us by studying, searching and most importantly, conversing whenever possible with these remarkable people that provided us this history. Our office has been able to help support requests by veterans of the Corps and urges anyone with additional information to contact us through the CFFF.

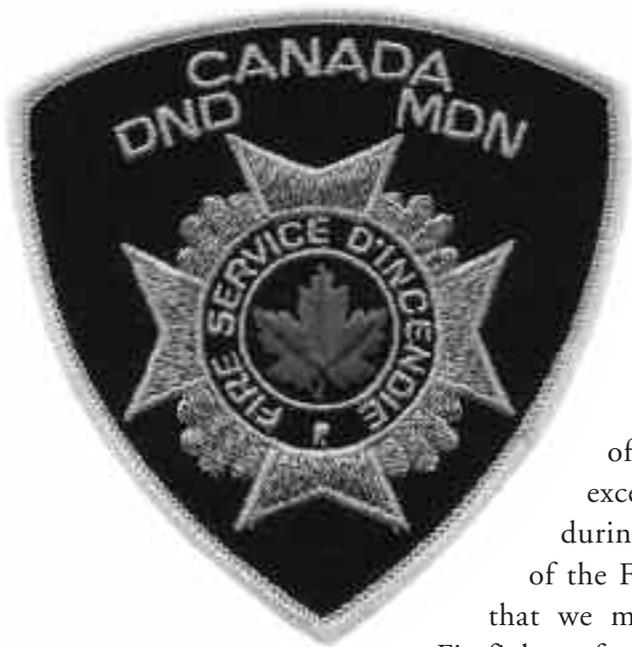
For more information on the Corps, visit <http://firehouse651.com/posten/index.html>. To order a copy of *Under Fire* contact Julian Scheff, Customer Service Independent Publishers Group [julian@ipgbook.com](mailto:julian@ipgbook.com) or call 800-888-4741 ext 222.



Men and equipment

# THE LAST WORD

## CANADIAN FORCES/NATIONAL DEFENCE



### THE CANADIAN FORCES CHALLENGE!

**T**he Fire Service in Canada has over 100,000 members combined and if every one of these members were to donate the equivalent cost of two social beverages (beer), the foundation could meet and exceed their goals in as little as two years. Adopting this model during the last year, our Fire Service has raised the awareness of the Foundation and its goals at the grass roots level. Recognizing that we must look first within our own ranks, we approached our Firefighters for funding through the National Defence Workplace Charitable Campaign. Members can contribute on a monthly basis and, they can target the

CFFF while still donating to other organizations.

Although the donations that our members make our confidential, initial feedback indicate that up to 25% of the donations have been directed to the CFFF. In the Fire Marshal's office alone, 95% of contributions were directed to the CFFF and we intend to better advertise this means of support for the next annual campaign through email, website and posters in all of our locations across the country.

The Canadian Forces/National Defence Fire Service would like to challenge all other departments that use the charitable campaign through United Way to match our participation numbers. We stand ready to take on all challengers in support of this worthy cause.

Editor's Note: If you want to accept this challenge, contact Chief Warrant Officer Bruce Paradis at Paradis.BG@forces.gc.ca and let him know. The details for United Way contributions can be found elsewhere in this yearbook.



**CANADIAN FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION**

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