

Baddeck Volunteer Firefighters say to all - support your department, we all own it!

by Barry Blackman

Take a moment and imagine you are a fire fighter; here we go - its 4:00 am and you are sleeping snugly in your bed on a frigid Christmas morning. Suddenly your pager sounds an alarm and within minutes you are dashing to your vehicle to answer the call to your fire hall.

By 4:05 am you are driving or riding on one of the four fire trucks down an icy road answering a call that perhaps could mean life or death to the caller in distress. You may be driving your own personal vehicle to the scene.

A similar situation can and no doubt has occurred in recent memory of our volunteer firefighters.

The Baddeck Volunteer Fire Department has been in operation since 1947 with the first Chief being Kenneth D. MacDonald. Subsequent to 1947, the Department built the present fire hall on Water Street and purchased what is now the Baddeck Firefighters Community Centre.

There are currently 30 firefighters, one mini pumper-specialty emergency operations vehicle, one 2500 gallon water tanker, one 800 hundred gallon pumper and one rescue truck.

There were approximately 60 calls in 2010 (average one every 6 days) including fire alarms, highway related emergencies (extraction of passengers from vehicles and other related matters) containment of oil spills etc, stuck horses, burnt toast, downed power lines and assisting individuals requiring emergency assistance.

In addition to the above service, each year firefighters attend 12 meetings on the first Tuesday of every month and a minimum of 10 scheduled training sessions held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Firefighters receive no monetary pay; however a qualified member who attends a minimum of 20% of meetings, calls and training sessions currently receives a tax credit of \$500.00 and one free Nova Scotia Firefighters license Plate.

Your firefighter activities are not restricted solely to responding to calls for

help. On Canada Day, you take part in the parade, operate a canteen on the waterfront, pub and musical entertainment and dance. You may also take responsibility for setting

in use through out the year for numerous functions and is frequently manned by our firefighters in several capacities.

Maintenance of your Volunteer Fire

- Fire Fighting Turn Out Gear Pants and coat - \$1300 plus gloves \$125.00
- Kernel Hood - \$40.00
- Boots - \$160.00+

- Nomex Coveralls for vehicle extraction, forest fires, grass fighting etc. \$300.00+

Your BVFD has incurred two major expenses recently: the Community Centre required a new roof with an original cost of \$90,000 and a new fire truck in excess of \$200,000.

While some grants generally are received (Village of Baddeck - \$5000.00 and Municipality of Victoria County - \$41,110.00 in 2010) there remains an outstanding debt of approximately \$195,000.00.

As a volunteer firefighter and as a member of the Department's supporting Fire Ladies

Auxiliary, you not only volunteer time, but also work to raise funds through various functions and raffles during the year.

Your Firefighters and Auxiliary volunteer many hours of service to our community, occasionally at some personal risk in dangerous situations. Recently two volunteer firefighters lost their lives in Listowel, Ontario.

Your Volunteer Fire Department deserves community recognition and financial assistance. Please, open your hearts and your cheque book and make a donation.

Donations are eligible for tax deductions.

Remember - hopefully you will never need their assistance in an emergency - but - if you ever do - YOU WILL BE THANKFUL YOU "GOT EM"!

A book entitled *Sparks and Volunteers* by Mac Fuller makes for excellent reading and is an informative and sometimes humorous history, up to the turn of the Century, of your BVFD. Copies are available at The Blue Heron Gift Shop.



Pictured are 18 Firefighters who turned out recently for a special "photo op".

off the fireworks.

On Hallowe'en, you drive a Fire

Department does not come cheap. The bare annual operating costs are approximately



This is the Department's new Specialty Emergency Operations Mini Pumper.

Department vehicle or escort costumed children along Chebucto Street to the BYC where Hallowe'en activities take place. Cost of treats, prizes and activities are shared among various local organizations, BVFD, Lions Club, Legion and Bras d'Or Yacht Club.

As a firefighter you carry out traffic control for such events as Canada Day, the Cabot Trail Relay Race, and, as well, educational activities around Fire Prevention week at the school. The Community Centre is also

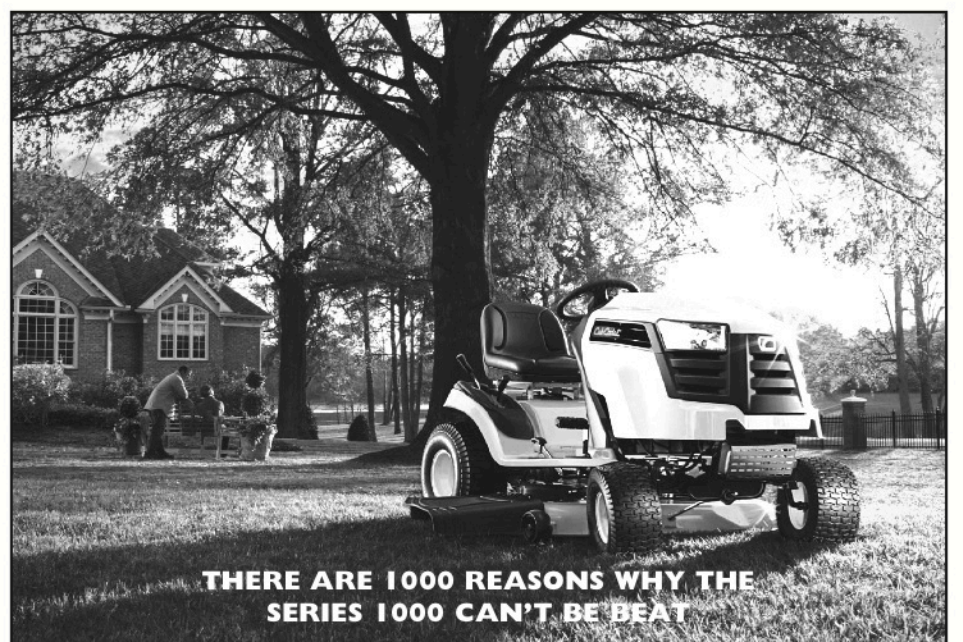
\$45,000 for day to day department operations but this does not include gear, debt payments, personal and vehicle equipment acquisition and repairs. This is a constant concern to you.

The cost to outfit you is:

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