

PEI FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING 2004
Charlottetown Fire Department Station 2
November 7, 2004

President Noel Palmer welcomed all delegates to the PEI Firefighters Association's Annual General Meeting. This year there are nearly thirty different displays for your interest, hopefully you will find something interesting there. The speakers lined up for the mornings session promise to be informative. A moment of silence was asked for in respect for our fallen brothers.

Charlottetown Fire Department Station 2 Club President Greg McCormick introduced the first speaker of the day, Shelly MacWillaims from Muscular Dystrophy Canada. Shelley passed along her sincere thanks for all the support that Fire Departments have provided MD over the years. This is a very worthwhile cause and we as firefighters are providing people a better quality of life through our efforts.

Greg thanked Shelley following which she was presented with a number of cheques from various Island Fire Departments.

Greg then called on and introduced each of the morning's guest speakers. Speakers lined up this year include Charles Easter from Highway Safety and Chief Mike Eddy from the Halifax Regional Municipality.

Following lunch and prior to the business portion of the meeting, time was allowed for Shawn Murphy to discuss progress being made on a tax credit/allowance for volunteer firefighters. As well, Col. William Minnis and Kip Holloway spoke to the group regarding the proposed Fountain Memorial for service personnel.

The business portion of the meeting was called to order at 2:10.

Moved by Ken Campbell, **seconded** by Wally Ross that the minutes of the 2003 Annual General Meeting be adopted as circulated. Motion **carried**.

Business Arising from the Minutes:

No business arising.

President's Report (Noel Palmer):

It has been a busy year for the Association. Hazardous Materials team graduated 12 technicians. We have been working on equipment and containers for Level II. Level I is still running with very good attendance, graduating a number of members to this level. Put on some new courses this past year - Ice Rescue and Rope Rescue. Working on setting up a driver's training and setting up an auto extrication course. School has had a number of visitors from many different areas and we receive excellent reports on a regular basis on the way the school is set up and running.

Moved by Noel, **Seconded** by John Bernard that President's report be accepted as presented. Motion **Carried**.

Training Report (Bill Hogan):

Over 23 departments took part in training over the year.

Level I will continue, field work this coming weekend. The last confined space course was postponed. A number of departments are looking for individual department training.

Hours are up over past years to nearly 4000 classroom sessions. HazMat was one part of this increase.

We are looking at additional funding for infrastructure work. Containers will allow us to move into Level II. We are also looking at addressing environmental concerns, installing a water supply.

Next year's schedule should be out in the coming weeks.

An auto extrication course is being worked on as well as driver training.

Regarding Hazardous Materials - core group established, planning to expand to all Regions in the Province. Rick Niblett discussed developments in HazMat. We are looking at taking over part of the Metro Emergency Response Association's equipment. There are various levels of training available for HazMat - awareness, operations, and technician. We are not looking at having everyone across the Island trained to technician level, awareness is an 8 hour course, operations is an additional 54 hours (primarily taken at the officer's level). Technician level will be offered in a modular style of training, this will involve a number of individuals in the assistance and instruction of the course. We would like your support within your departments on this program. There will be a meeting December 18th at the Fire School regarding the rest of the how's and where's of the program.

Note from Dave Rossiter - there were a lot of hours put in by the members of the HazMat but at least 10 times that was put in by Daniel Corriveau and Rick Niblett.

The other instructor in the HazMat course, Daniel Corriveau has kept in touch and is enjoying his new job in the United Arab Emirates.

Moved by Bill Hogan, **Seconded** by Dave Rossiter for acceptance of report as presented, Motion **carried**.

Auditors Report (Claud Dorgan, Wally Ross):

One suggestion is to increase insurance deductibles to lower premiums or to have the Provincial Government take over the insurance for us.

Another suggestion is to send statements on a more regular basis.

Reviewed the books for August 31, 2003, they were found to be in good order.

Moved by Claud, **Seconded** by Wally, motion **carried**.

Financial Report (Scott Ryan):

Highlights from the financial statements include the increase in equipment this past year. That represents additional expenses for containers that are required for Level II, a truck to replace the Suburban, money given to the HazMat team for equipment that the school uses for other courses. Training costs increased due largely to the new courses that we put on in Ice and Rope Rescue.

Bottom line for the year was a loss of \$15,670. This can be explained by the \$5,000 given to the HazMat team and the insurance for the year.

It is also important to note that this year represents the first time that our revenue has gone over the \$100,000 mark.

Moved by Scott, **Seconded** by Kent Cook motion **carried**.

PEI Fire Marshal's Office Report (Dave Blacquiere):

Sports (Garth O'Brien):

PEI Firefighter's Curling Association has requested to host the Golf tournament for each of the next several years.

There appears to be a decreased interest in hosting Provincial tournaments.

Moved by Garth, **seconded** by John Bernard, the report be accepted as presented.
Motion **carried**.

Fire Marshal's Office

Western Mutual Aid Association is moving toward an improved dispatching system. Minister MacFadyen has struck a committee to assist in this effort.

Because of a code non-compliance in Bloomfield fire, the Fire Marshal's office is going to be taking extra measures to enhance this part of their jobs. We as community members need to look at our buildings and identify areas that may need the attention of the Fire Marshal's Office.

Some departments are concerned about false alarms. This is a growing concern in some

areas. If you are responding, it is not a **false** alarm as you are responding. Not until you have fully investigated the situation can it be called false.

If there is a fire, be careful of the use of "no known cause." This determination is best made by the investigators from the Fire Marshal's Office.

We have to keep on the Federal Politicians with regard to the tax credits.

The Fire Marshal's website is continuously being updated. Includes the proper protocol for placement of pins and medals.

Government Members appreciate what we are doing.

Maritime Fire Chief's Association:

Barclay Rand spoke regarding MFCA. The Association has been around since 1914. Membership is \$35 per year. Barclay Rand and Noel Palmer are directors from the Island. They did help out the PEI Firefighters Association with a \$2,000 grant this year. The Association makes its money through ticket sales, each department gains from this individually, and they strongly suggest that you take part in that.

New Business:

PEI Mutual, Frank Sanderson. Thanks to the departments for their work. Any assistance that is desired from PEI Mutual would be of interest to them. Especially around Fire Prevention, questions around wood burning, etc. The dedication of the volunteers is greatly appreciated.

Moved by Scott, **seconded** by Darryl to amend constitution, Article V, section 6 to read No business shall be transacted at any meeting of the Directors unless a quorum consisting of at least (6) persons is present, said persons being directors or one representative from the Fire Marshal's Office or the Chief Fire Instructor from the PEI Firefighters Association's Fire School. Motion **defeated**.

Moved by Eric, **seconded** by John that the constitution be amended in Article V, section 6 to be (5) Directors. Motion to take effect after a vote at next year's annual meeting. Motion **carried**.

Cost of courses. Looking at increasing the cost of Level I from \$10 to \$15 in response to the Association's mandate that courses be offered on a cost recovery basis. Further discussions will be held at the Director's meeting with notification of new rates being communicated to members.

Thanks to the rest of the West Prince Mutual Aid that assisted O'Leary in their major fire at the Bloomfield Mall. The profession working relationship was greatly appreciated.

Two letters went out to our Members of Parliament regarding the lack of support on the

original private members bill.

The support of Miles, Bill, and Rick especially have been very instrumental in keeping the school running as well as it has. Nomination has been put forward for Miles as Islander of the Year.

Moved by Bill, **seconded** by Jimmy Stewart that this association put forth a nomination for Miles as Islander of the Year, motion **Carried**. Please call your MLAs to support this nomination.

Nominating Committee (Garth O'Brien):

President: Noel Palmer, nominations from floor called three times. **Moved** by Ken Campbell nominations cease.

Vice President: Bill Gourley, nominations from floor called three times. **Moved** by Darryl Noonan nominations cease.

Secretary/Treasurer: Scott Ryan, nominations from floor called three times. **Moved** by Garth O'Brien nominations cease.

Directors for Prince County: Dale Harris and Shawn Jessome, nominations from floor called three times. **Moved** by Scott Ryan, nominations cease.

Directors for Queens County: Donnie MacEwen and Tim Jenkins, nominations from floor called three times. **Moved** by Garth O'Brien nomination cease.

Directors for Kings County: John Donahoe and Art Robichaud, nominations from floor called three times. **Moved** by John Bernard nominations cease.

Moved by Garth O'Brien, **seconded** by John Bernard for the acceptance of report and those nominated. Motion **carried**.

Moved by John Bernard, **seconded** by Bill Hogan for adjournment at 4:15 PM.