



PIVFD CHIEF'S REPORT

Annual General Meeting June 2018

TEAM EDUCATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- EOLFF course completions – Philippa White, Garth Irvine, Guy Plante
- First Responders Re-Certs – Evey Gabille, Lloyd Phillips, Guy Plante
- Air brakes training – Michal Pawlik, Kelly Stevenson, John Hall, Kerry Keats, Philippa White, Garth Irvine, Lloyd Phillips, Guy Plante, Alan Bryce, Lenny Green
- EOLFF Team Leader – Pauline Olesen



PIVFD Team 2018

THANK YOU

I would like to begin by thanking all the volunteer fire fighters and first responders who have dedicated so much of their time and energies since the last AGM. This group is unpaid and consists of your neighbours and friends who must attend numerous training sessions at the Fire Hall and who can be called out in the middle of the night for a medical or fire emergency. They are here for your safety and for your well being; we all owe them a huge debt of thanks. Their names on the board at the entrance to the Hall so next time you come into this building, have a look so you know who they are.

It has been a privilege for me this past year to be your Fire Chief. Pauline and I are grateful for your support and for the support of our fire Trustee, Greg Miller. We hope to continue building and improving the fire department this year.

The following is a brief overview of the PIVFD activities for this past year...

WHAT WE HAVE DONE

- Handled seven medical emergencies
- Extinguished one structure fire
- Managed 2 high tension line power pole fires
- Monitored one re-ignition of a burn pile on private property during the High Hazard season
- Re-certified three medical First Responders
- Trained 10 firefighters for Air Brake vehicles
- Passed one firefighter in the Team Leader program
- Graduated 3 new Playbook ELOFF firefighters
- Acquired a new fire Engine to replace the Tender
- Completed Phase one of the paver brick project at the Fire Hall
- Awarded 2017 FireSmart certificate from Partners in Protection

“The best fire is the one that never starts”

WHERE WE ARE NOW

We have a very competent core of firefighters (18) and medical first responders (12). We can train completely “in house”. Currently we have 5 members who are cross-trained for both medical and fire. We have equipment to deal with most structure fires and we have a plan and equipment in place in the event of a forest or interface fire. We are training with Emergency Services on a regular basis.

WHERE WE ARE GOING

The current Brush Truck or 4x4 needs replacement; we expect to have a suitable vehicle chosen before the end of this calendar year. The Rescue Vehicle is now in the process of being replaced with a Type IV Ambulance. This will allow us to bring medical first responders and their equipment and transport patients from the door of the majority of properties on Piers. With the acquisition of the Engine 33 this year, we will soon have all new vehicles which should be effective for us for at least the next 10 years.

Training needs to continue so that we have all firefighters brought up to the minimum training requirements of the Fire Commissioners “Playbook”. We now have 6 certified ELOFF firefighters but we need more. Our goal is to double that number within the next year. It does take about 2 years to put someone through these courses. It is a substantial commitment for our volunteers and I know that it can be difficult for many of our volunteers to attend the practices required. There’s not much we can do about that as we draw from a limited pool of people. Currently we only have one trainer so one of our goals will be to recruit a Training Officer.

The First Responder group is in great shape with 12 certified volunteers. As with any skill, constant practice is required so our aim this year is to retain all 12 members and to continue with monthly training sessions. We are most fortunate to have 2 dedicated Trainers but if one of them is to retire, we will need to have a new member take the Instructor course. We are also trying to set up a summer wide CPR-AED session so that all islanders can learn the basics of this life-saving technique.

Buildings and infrastructure are in being maintained but we should decide soon on whether and when to complete the paver project at the new fire hall. We had great success this past year selling commemorative bricks to fund phase 1 but we cannot expect the same success for phase 2. It would be helpful to the PIVFD to have this project completed as it will extend our training platform and allow us to clean and maintain our equipment, especially the fire hose.

Our fire prevention activities need to continue. Everyone has been doing a great job in reducing the fuel loads on their properties and participating in the FireSmart program however this really does need to become something we do all year, every year. The goal in any community like ours is to PREVENT fires. If we do have a fire, by following the FireSmart program, we can MITIGATE the damage done and prevent the spread. We encourage you to become involved with your Fire Department in this very important aspect of island life. We are remote and we can’t always count on others to help in our time of need so please join us in keeping Piers Island FireSafe and FireSmart.

Respectfully submitted

Steve Cruise

Chief PIVFD