

Fire Chief's Report For 2018

2018 marked my second year as Chief of the Kinkora and Area Fire Department. As with any role in the Fire Service, being a Chief does not mean that you stop learning. I am a big believer in constant training and learning. The role of Chief is just another position on our Department that should continuously learn techniques to serve fellow firefighters and the community. I want to thank everyone for having confidence in me as Chief of the Kinkora and Area Fire Department. The support from our members, families, Council, District, and the general public in which we serve makes the Kinkora and Area Fire Department such a great place

to volunteer.

2018 had a higher number of calls for service than 2017 at 48 calls. These calls ranged from MVAs, fires, alarms and MFR calls. Having a low call volume adds to the importance of training and being prepared. After all, when we don't see as many calls as in the past, our skills can become rusty and can only be sharpened through education and practice.

We currently have a full complement of 35 members. This includes 6 members on probationary status until they complete the required training to become full members and 2 members on medical leave absence. In 2018 6 members resigned from the Kinkora and Area Fire Department due to family and work commitments that kept them from meeting the minimal attendance criteria.

The gaps left in our roster were quickly filled as we had a waiting list to join the Kinkora and Area Fire Department.

2018 was a very productive training year, we saw members attend various courses both on and off Island, including MFR, Hazmat, Level 1, and Fire Instructor courses and FDIC. I attended the Canadian Fire Chief's conference in Ottawa in September and brought back many ideas and resources to use. At this time, there are 4 probationary members of the Kinkora Fire Department in the process to complete Level 1 training. The remaining 2 members will start the Level 1 procedure in 2020 as they only recently joined the Kinkora and Area Fire Department. 4 members completed Level 2 training and have been certified. New members of the Kinkora Fire Department

have also been certified in MFR. In-house training at the Kinkora and Area Fire Department was successful in 2018 with veteran members not only honing their skills but also mentoring newer members. The many hours that our members put into these courses and training should be recognized.

In 2018 we launched our new accountability system where all members are given 2 tags. 1 tag is hung on the truck the member responds in and the second tag is given to the Accountability Officer who hangs it on a board corresponding with the task the member was given. At the end of the incident, tags are collected from the Accountability Officer and no truck shall return to the hall until all tags are returned to members. No member will be left behind this way. High visibly vests

for officers were purchased to go with the accountability system so members involved in the Incident Command System are easily recognized by members and other Authorities involved at an incident. By-Laws were launched in 2018 with every member being responsible for understanding and signing off that they read them. 10 gently used BAs and bottles were purchased for approximately \$10,000 which was a savings of roughly \$50,000.

The Kinkora and Fire Department participated in the annual ALS hockey tournament in Crapaud in March hosted by the Crapaud Fire Department in support of one their members. This past summer we had our Annual Antique tractor pull and pancake breakfast fundraiser which was a major success.

The Kinkora and Ares Fire Department's Firefit team performed exceptionally well at a regional event in August, posting times that qualify for the national event. The Kinkora and Area Fire Department hosted its annual summer barbeque and lobster dinner with family and invited guests from neighboring departments, council and district representatives. September saw members of the Kinkora and Area Fire Department do boot drives in both Kinkora and Central Bedeque with all money collected donated to Muscular Dystrophy Canada. Members of the Kinkora and Area Fire Department played in the PEI Firefighter Associations golf tournament in October giving members an opportunity to play and socialize with Firefighters from across the Island in a fun relaxed atmosphere. Also, in October,

during Fire Prevention week members spoke to students at Somerset Elementary about the importance of fire prevention and what to do in the event of fire. This past November brought our annual Firefighter's Ball, where members were showcased and received awards and certificates for all public to see. It was a hit once again and we look forward to it in November 2019. In December members and families got together for an informal evening of food and drink to celebrate another great year and Christmas cheer.

We are very fortunate to have on our Fire Department a very diversified membership. These members are very highly trained professionals who provide an essential service on their own time. They leave work and whatever else they may be doing to answer emergency calls

and yes they are putting their life at risk for the sake of someone they know or a perfect stranger. But this is what they enrolled for.

Members hold their heads high with pride while providing the public with the best service, care, professionalism and compassion that they have.

I am very pleased to report that 2018 has worked out to be a balanced budget, after getting through another year of annual expenses. We hold approx. \$45000 in our truck reserve to be put towards our next truck. The bunker suit reserve sits at approx. \$8000 to be put towards the future purchase of bunker suits. I am very pleased to report tonight that the fire dues will remain the same for 2019 fiscal year.

Once again I would like to thank

everyone for the past year and look forward to making 2018 a safe year.

Thank You
Chief Johnny Dugay