

**City of Owen Sound
Fire & Emergency Services
Annual Report
2004**





In 2004 Council approved moving to the new crest as portrayed on the front page of this Annual Report.

Mission Statement

- save lives
- protect property
- prevent harm

Goals

- Mitigate hazards and emergencies by rapidly responding to all requested calls for service and assistance by trained professionals.
- Provide public safety education and awareness and ensure Fire Code compliance.
- Maintain/increase levels of service.
- Provide employee development that enhances proficiency.

2005 Objectives

- Completion of Master Fire Plan.
- Completion of Enhance Level of Emergency Planning for the City of Owen Sound.
- Vehicle/Equipment Rationalization Plan.
- Unified Command Response Model.
- All Firefighters to Operation Level Hazmat.
- All Firefighters complete First Responders Certification (Advanced CPR & First Aid).
- Full implementation of complete FDM (Fire Department Management System) module.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2004 Owen Sound Fire & Emergency Services Department Annual Report has been somewhat redesigned in that, in addition to the regular Division reports, there are now reports from the Mechanical Division, Joint Health and Safety Committee, and the Owen Sound Professional Fire Fighters Association.

While call volume continues to increase slightly from year to year, the number of fire calls tends to remain constant. In 2004 there was an increase in the fire loss from the previous year as a result of three larger fires, of which two were investigated by the Office of the Fire Marshal due to the nature of the cause.

Fire Prevention through inspections, public education, presentations, and in junction with the Firefighters involvement in the “Home Visitation” and Smoke Alarm Programs continue to proactively promote life safety and property preservation. In addition, with the rapid response times of suppression personnel, fire damage is limited.

The Training Division is continuing its work on maintaining, developing and enhancing the skills of the Firefighters in the Suppression Division to ensure that training is consistent with and meets or exceeds standards established by the Office of the Fire Marshal, Ministry of Labour and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

The Firefighter/ Mechanic is diligent in maintaining fire department vehicles and equipment on an ongoing basis to ensure their efficiency and effectiveness so when called upon, the vehicles and equipment operate as required responding to the needs of the Firefighters.

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Fire and Emergency Services

Fire Chief

Ed Nowak

**Administrative Assistant
Doris Tolton**

**Fire Prevention
Officer/Captain**

Tom Potter

**Fire Prevention
Inspector
Greg Nicol**

**Deputy Fire Chief
Fire Operations**

Kevin Roy

**Training Officer
Doug Sim**

**Platoon A1
Ken Lawrence
(Captain)**

Wayne Flood
(Acting Captain)
Firefighters
Barfoot, Larry
Morneau, John
MacMillan, Jeff

**Platoon A2
Doug Barfoot
(Captain)**

Jay Forslund
(Acting Captain)
Firefighters
Reid, Darwin
Caruso, Dave
Gray, James
Plagenz, Will

**Platoon B1
Dave Cruickshank
(Captain)**

Greg Scott
(Acting Captain)
Firefighters
Gow, Jay
Thomas, Rob
Flear, Scott
Wagner, Steve

**Platoon B2
Randy Moore
(Captain)**

Bob Bringleson
(Acting Captain)
Firefighters
Long, Jody
Scott, Marc
Cooper, Andrew
Stephenson, Barry/
Mechanic

**Floater
Dan Fromager**

**Floater
Al Douglas
Justin Canastraro**



Owen Sound

Fire Chief's Report

Mayor Lovell and members of the City of Owen Sound Council, it is my pleasure to provide the Owen Sound Fire & Emergency Services Annual 2004 report.

The year 2004 was a year of change and transition in the Owen Fire and Emergency Services:

1. The County of Grey took Land Ambulance back on September 4, 2004;
2. A new Fire Chief was appointed from outside the organization;
3. A new crest was developed and approved by Council for introduction in 2005;
4. A rationalization of response vehicles was provided to Council at Service Analysis;
5. The introduction of Emergency Management Ontario's first of a three part comprehensive program (the Essential Level) was completed; and
6. The Owen Sound Fire & Emergency Services entered into preceptorship agreements with community colleges for students completing their 18 month Pre-Service Firefighter Education and Training Program allowing the students to work with the Owen Sound Fire and Emergency Services Department.

The departure of the Land Ambulance Service created a transition. One which focuses on the traditional fire department roles – primarily of prevention and suppression as well as on the additional emergency services that are provided such as 1st Responder medical, dive rescue and recovery, hazardous materials response (to an operational level), high angle and confined space rescue, and water and ice rescue among others.

A number of bylaws were also updated to reflect current requirements among these the Establishing and Regulating Bylaw for the fire department as well as the Emergency Response Plan for the City of Owen Sound. As we have completed the requirements of the Essential Level established by Emergency Management Ontario, we are now proceeding to complete the second (Enhanced) level by the yearend 2005.

Fire Prevention Officers have achieved the necessary requirements under legislation (Bill 124) to interface between the Building and Fire Codes are required in the designated areas. This was done well in advance of the July 1, 2005 deadline provided for in the legislation.

The Fire Prevention Officers are completing training as Arson Investigators allowing them to complete the cause and effect relationship between building construction, fire conditions, fire regulations and fire cause thereby determining the full impact and effects of a fire.

These changes and transitions could not have taken place without the cooperation and support of the Mayor and members of Council, the members of the Owen Sound Fire and Emergency Services and the Owen Sound Professional Fire Firefighters Association, to all of whom I am extremely grateful.

As well, the residents of Owen Sound are to be complimented and congratulated for their vigilance and for practicing fire safety which saw no fire deaths in 2004 and limited fire loss.

Sincerely,

Ed Nowak, Fire Chief
Owen Sound Fire & Emergency Services

Promotions

Barry Stephenson to Driver/Mechanic as of March 1, 2004.

Retirements

Fire Chief Bill Millman retired June 30, 2004 after serving 32 years of service.

Fire Captain Doug Gibbons retired September 30, 2004 after 36 years of service.

New hires

Ed Nowak was appointed Fire Chief effective June 21, 2004 bringing with him over 20 years of firefighting experience.

Firefighter Al Douglas started with the Owen Sound Fire & Emergency Services on February 16, 2004.

Resignations

Nil

Years of Service Recognition

Nil

Co-op Students

Jenna Doyle from OSCVI, Sept. 15, 2004 – Jan. 27, 2005

Ken Rose from St. Mary's High School, Sept. 20, 2004 – Feb. 3, 2005

Conestoga College (Preceptorship Program for Pre-Service Firefighting students) Nov.- Dec. 2004:

Andrew Dean

Colin Andrews

Dan Roseborough

Drew MacKinnon

Geoff Pick

Shawn Clark



Owen Sound

Deputy Fire Chief's Report

The year 2004 was another busy year for the department. Although there was a slight decrease in the total number of calls as reported in 2003, this was in large part due to a slight change in operations and reporting. The 26 members comprising the Suppression Division, fully supported by the Administration, Training and Prevention Divisions, responded to a total of 1,546 calls in 2004.

Again, I can report with great pride that there was not a single fire related fatality in Owen Sound during the year. Property loss due to fire was also very low. Both of these successes are a testament to the hard work and dedication of all the members of Owen Sound Fire and Emergency Services, and to the continued support of Council and the Community.

Owen Sound Fire and Emergency Services train firefighters to provide a full complement of response capability including but not limited to the following:

- Fire suppression
- Motor vehicle extrication
- High angle/technical rope rescue
- Confined space rescue
- Marine/ice rescue
 - Surface
 - Sub-surface
- Hazardous materials response
- Emergency medical first response (defibrillation/resuscitation/first-aid)

Further advancements in training and enhancements to departmental equipment quality and inventories allow Owen Sound Fire and Emergency Services to provide a superior level of service to the community. As well, further enhancements to fire department information management systems continue, enabling the department to stay on the leading edge of newer technology within the fire service.

Two new project proposals for government funding that began in 2003 came through to fruition in 2004. Both projects enable the maintenance of state-of-the-art special operations capabilities.

The first was a NIF funding grant of \$17,000 for Marine Rescue Equipment. Equipment purchased with this grant included a new Radar/GPS unit, Night Vision glasses, 8 person rapid deploy/inflatable life raft and a floatable stokes basket with associated accessories.

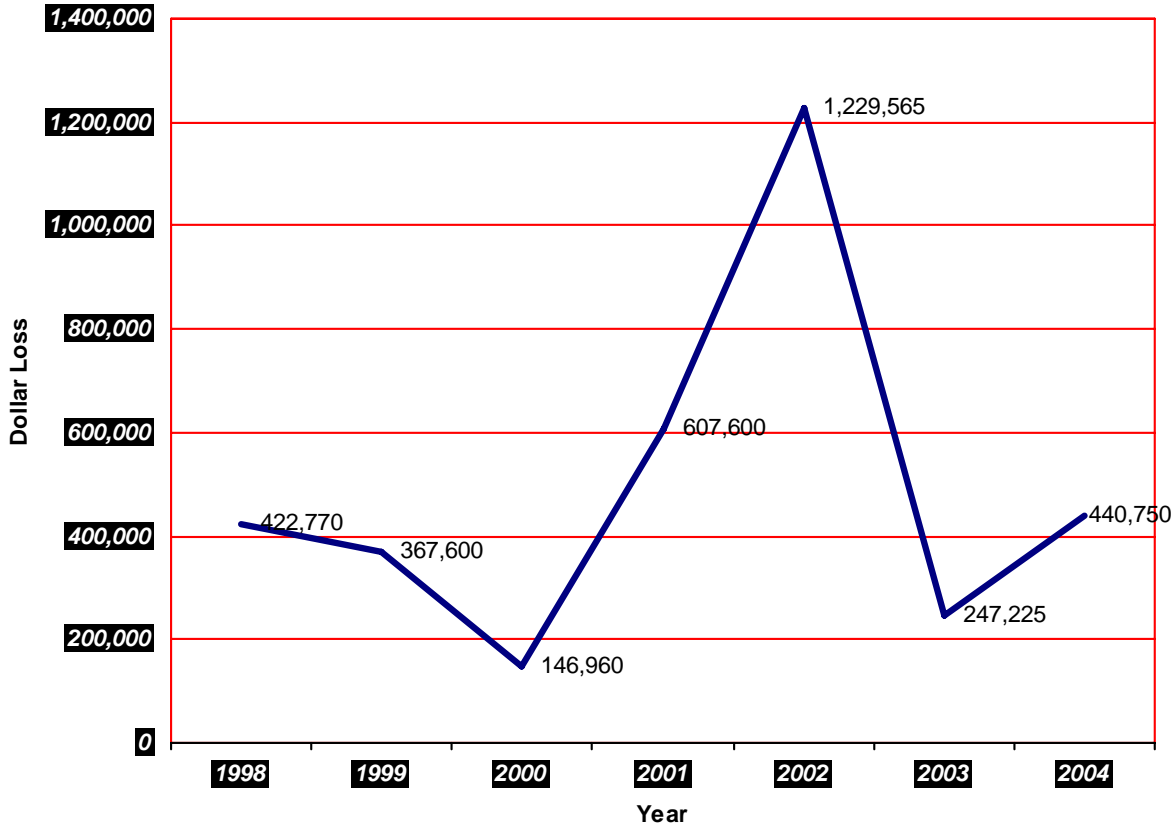
The second project receiving approval was for JEPP funding of \$24,587 to purchase CBRN equipment. Equipment purchased with this funding and budgeted capital dollars included a new 24' HazMat Trailer/Command Post, fully encapsulated hazmat suits, gas detection equipment and rapid deploy hazmat weather station with remote operating range of 7 km.

Owen Sound Fire and Emergency Services are committed to providing excellent emergency and non-emergency services to protect the lives, property, and environment of our fine community. This commitment is demonstrated through the continued efforts to maintain the highest departmental readiness to provide fire prevention programs, and fire suppression and rescue services.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin A. Roy
Deputy Fire Chief

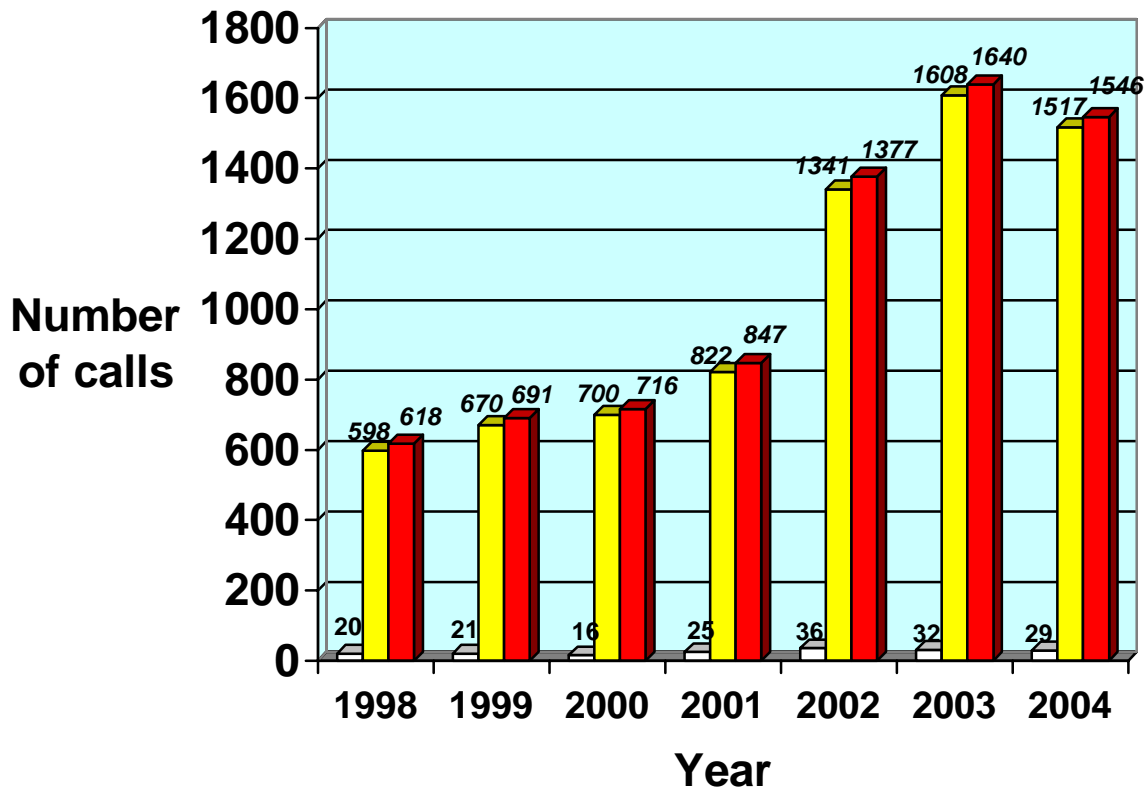
Fire Loss Summary for 1998 through 2004



The Fire Loss statistics were somewhat skewed for the years 2001 and 2002. This was due to the fact that there was one significant fire occurrence in each of those years; the County of Grey Owen Sound Museum fire in 2001 and Joe Tomato's Restaurant fire in 2002.

The Fire Loss Statistic for 2004 was due in large part to three fires, each with damage of over \$100,000. Two of the three fires were arson related. The low dollar loss again highlights the positive results from Fire Prevention and Education activities, as well as improvements in Fire and Building Codes.

Response Summary for 1998 through 2004

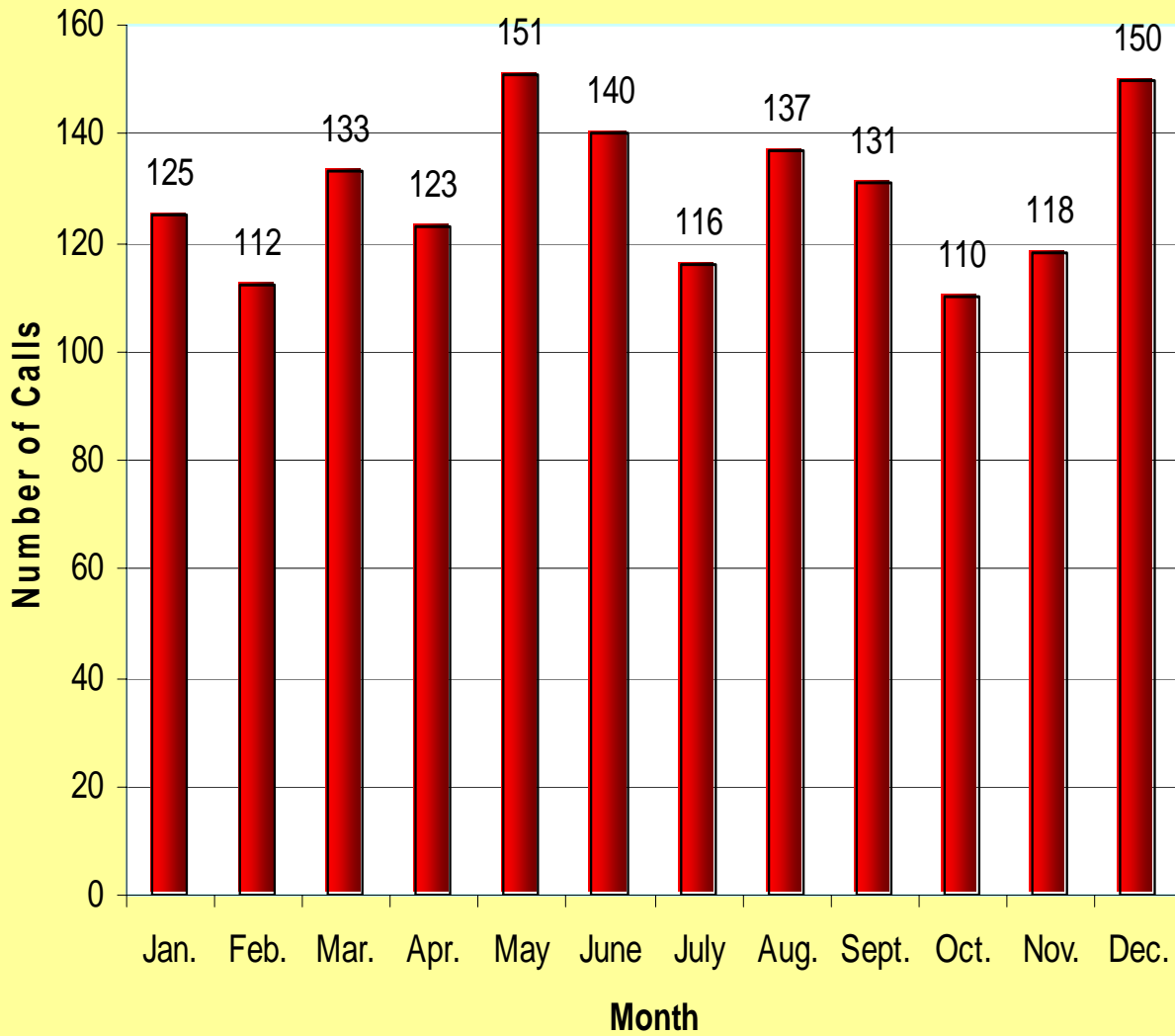


□ Fire Calls With Loss ■ Other Calls ■ Total Calls

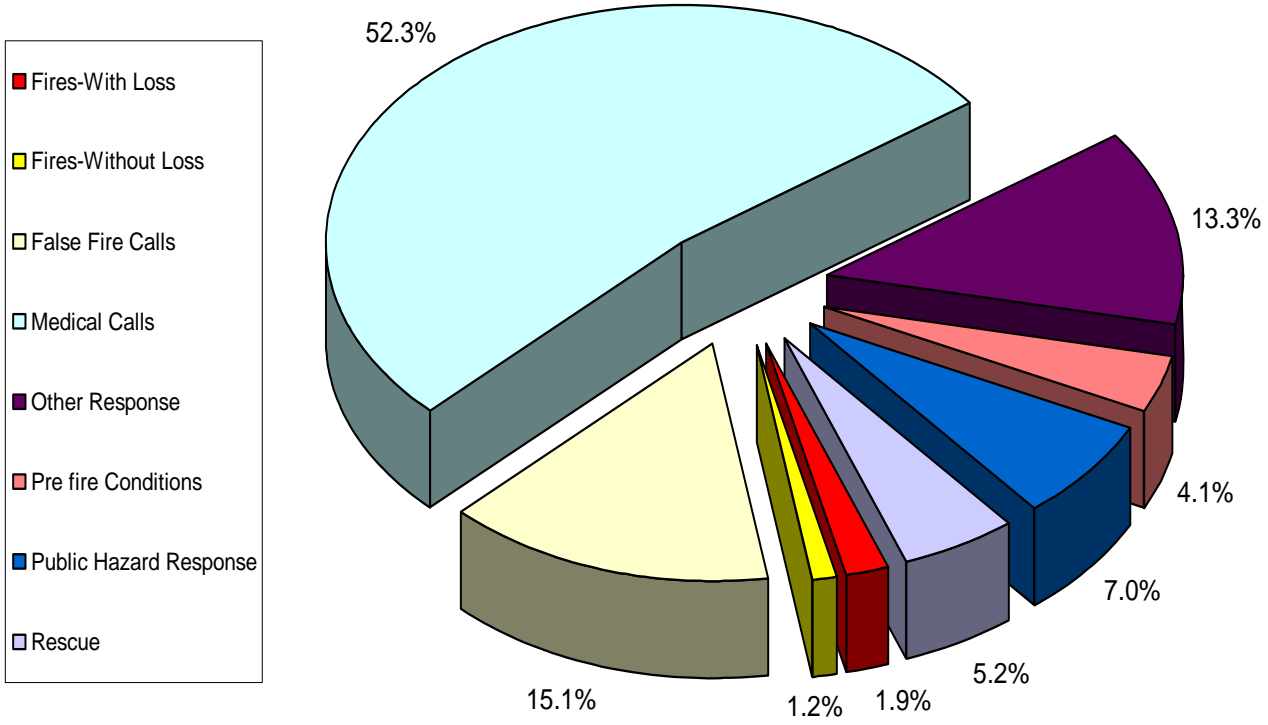
Owen Sound Fire and Emergency Services respond to all Code 4 Medical calls within the City. This type of call refers to *Situations of a Life or Limb Threatening Nature and Time is Critical*.

The **Fire Calls With Loss** column represents the number fires with an associated dollar loss. The **Other Calls** is illustrative of the number of calls of other response types. This includes response to Motor Vehicle Collisions, Medical Response, Fire Calls With No Dollar Loss and the wide diversity of other incidents that are responded to.

2004 EMERGENCY RESPONSES



All Call Summary (%) 2004



All Call Summary - 2004

Fire Calls

Fires - With Loss	29	
Fires - Without Loss	<u>18</u>	
<u>Total Fire Calls</u>		47

Non fire Calls

False Fire Calls

Alarm Equipment - Accidental	57	
Alarm Equipment - Malfunction	107	
Human - Accidental	21	
Human - Malicious	9	
Human - Perceived Emergency	29	
Other False Fire Call	<u>10</u>	
Total False Fire Calls		233

Alcohol Related	32	
Asphyxia, Respiratory Condition	129	
Burns	1	
Convulsions	1	
Cuts, Abrasions	44	
Dead on Arrival	9	
Drug Related	33	
Epileptic, Diabetic Seizure	88	
Heart Attack, CPR	55	
Medical Aid not Required on Arrival	16	
Other Medical/Resuscitator Call	307	
Person Fainted, Nausea	42	
Stroke	39	
Fracture	11	
Traumatic Shock	<u>2</u>	
Total Medical Calls		809

Other Response

Assistance Not Required by Other Agency	59	
Assistance to other Agencies	5	
Assistance to Police	4	
Authorized F.D. Activated Activity	2	
Call cancelled on route	7	

Other Response Continued:

Incident not Found	5	
Other Public Service	103	
Other Response	13	
Authorized controlled burning - complaint	<u>8</u>	
Total Other Response		206

Pre fire Conditions

Overheat	20	
Overpressure Rupture - no fire	0	
Pot on Stove	16	
Unauthorized Controlled Burning	<u>27</u>	
Total Pre fire Conditions		63

Public Hazard

CO Reporting	45	
Gas Leak - Natural Gas	14	
Gas Leak - Propane	1	
Gas Leak - Miscellaneous	2	
Other Public Hazard	22	
Power Lines Down, Arcing	7	
Ruptured Water, Steam Pipe	4	
Spill - Gasoline or Fuel	9	
Spill – Toxic Chemical	0	
Spill - Miscellaneous	<u>4</u>	
Total Public Hazard		108

Rescue

Commercial/Industrial Accident	2	
Persons Trapped in Elevator	1	
Vehicle Accident	70	
Water Rescue	3	
Vehicle Extrication	3	
Other Rescue	<u>1</u>	
Total Rescue		80

Total Non Fire Calls **1499**

TOTAL CALLS 1546



Owen Sound

Fire Training Officer's Report

It is my pleasure to present to you the Training Division annual report for 2004. Individually the Officers and Firefighters recorded approximately 250 hours each for a total of 6250 hours of training in 2004 in the following areas.

BASIC FIREFIGHTING SKILLS

1. Search and rescue
2. Self contained breathing apparatus
 - inspection
 - maintenance
 - practical
3. First Aid/CPR/Defib
 - first responders studies
4. Ladders
 - maintenance
 - practical
5. Forcible entry
6. Master streams
7. Pumper operations
 - hydraulics
 - relay pumping
8. Portable pumps
9. Foam operations
10. Ventilation
11. Salvage and overhaul
12. Portable extinguisher
13. Ropes and knots

SPECIALIZED RESCUE TRAINING

1. Auto extrication
2. High rise fire fighting
3. Confined space
4. Hazardous material
5. High angle rescue
6. Dive rescue
7. Ice rescue

In addition to the ongoing basic and specialized training, Dave Cruickshank and Jay Forslund have successfully completed the

Company Officer final comprehensive review and exam Module 1000, in March of 2004. Dave and Jay are the first officers from the Owen Sound Fire and Emergency Services Department to complete the Company Officers course since the program format was overhauled in 1997. Acting Captain Wayne Flood, Acting Captain Greg Scott, Acting Captain Bob Bringleton and Firefighter Jody Long are currently enrolled in the Company Officer Program at the Ontario Fire College and are working towards their Company Officer Diplomas.

Greg Nicol has completed the Fire Prevention Officer Program, Greg was scheduled and did complete the final comprehensive review and exam in March of 2005, and the results of the exam were pending at the time of this report.

Captain Doug Barfoot and Fire Prevention Inspector Greg Nicol are also working toward their Certificate in Public Administration, the Ontario Fire College has partnered with Ryerson University to provide this course through the College.

The following is a list of training courses I attended in 2004.

- Hazardous Materials, Technician Level (Feb. 2004)
- Firefighters First Response Defibrillation Facilitator Program (March 2004)
- High Angle Rescue Train the Trainer Course (Aug. 2004)
- Pump Operators Course (Aug. 2004)
- Ground Search and Rescue Course (Sept. 2004)
- Pump Operators Train the Trainer Course (Nov. 2004)

In addition to the courses mentioned above, I also attended the Training Officers Seminar held at the Ontario Fire College in November of 2004.

The Owen Sound Fire and Emergency Services Department is a member in good standing with the Ontario Association of Fire Training Officers.

Yours truly,

Doug Sim,
Training Officer



Owen Sound

Fire Prevention Officer's Report

Allow me to present the Annual Report of the Fire Prevention Bureau for 2004. The following list of specific contacts includes inspections and re-inspections carried out during the year.

Assembly:	172
Arenas, Art Galleries, Auditoriums, Churches, Clubs, Community Halls, Theatres, Court Rooms, Day Care Centres, Restaurants, Libraries, Schools and Colleges.	
Institutional:	13
Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Police Station with Detention Quarters and Jails.	
Residential:	409
Apartments, Boarding Houses, Hotels, Motels, Houses, Group Homes and Retirement Homes.	
Business & Personal Services:	167
Banks, Barber Shops, Hairdressing Shops, Dental Offices, Office and Medical Buildings.	
Mercantile:	299
Malls, Department Stores, Shops and Retail/Food Stores.	
Industrial:	130
Bulk Plants for flammable/hazardous substances, Factories, Feed Mills, Grain Elevators, Laboratories, Printing Plants, Service Stations, Spray Painting Operations, Warehouses, Woodworking Factories and Workshops.	
Construction Sites:	<u>46</u>
TOTAL INSPECTIONS:	1,236

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Meeting with building owners, architects, contractors and others	595
Telephone interviews	1,257
Letters sent out	551
Public education presentations	78
Attendance at public education presentations	2,472
Building/site plans examined	60
Fire routes inspected	40
Fire route violations issued	33

1. Numerous fire safety presentations involving lecturing, video presentations & fire extinguisher training took place throughout the year. Presentations were made to babysitting classes, tenants in multi-residential dwellings, schools, nursing/retirement home staff, community groups and industry throughout the City.
2. I attended the Ontario Municipal Fire Prevention Officer's Association annual conference held in Fort Erie, Ontario from April 5th – 8th, 2004.
3. The ongoing implementation and enforcing of the residential retrofit legislation of the Ontario Fire Code has ensured a much higher level of life safety in many of Owen Sound's multi-residential dwellings. The intent of the retrofit legislation is to upgrade residential buildings constructed prior to the introduction of the 1975 Ontario Building Code. Fire Prevention Greg Nicol and I compiled an extensive list of what we believe to be multi-residential properties simply by driving all of the City's streets and noting what we suspected were multi-residential units. We then examined the City's taxation roll to find names of property owners and began contacting property owners to schedule inspections of their properties. This have proven to be a very successful endeavour as we have been able to improve the level of life safety in rental properties in Owen Sound that previously hadn't been upgraded. This will be an ongoing project until we achieve total compliance.

4. The Grade 5 fire prevention poster contest coupled with the "Firefighter For A Day" program proved successful again with 100 entries received from Owen Sound students.

Certificates were issued to all participants with cash prizes awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each of the boys and girls categories. The overall winner between the boys and girls categories receives a keeper trophy and has their name engraved on a shield, which is mounted on the W. O. Fraser Memorial Trophy, which stays in the winner's school for the school year.

The "Firefighter For a Day" award is bestowed upon the winners of the boys and girls categories in the poster contest. The winners are invited to join the Owen Sound Fire Department for a day of activities during summer holidays so no school is missed. Jordan Morrison from Sydenham Community School and Jacob Scheufen from Dufferin School joined us on Wednesday July 28th, 2004 for a full days activities. The day's itinerary hosted by both on and off-duty Firefighters read as follows:

- picked up both winners in aerial platform truck and returned them to the Fire Hall
- presentation of t-shirts to both by Owen Sound Professional Firefighters Association
- outfitted students with all necessary protective clothing and equipment
- numerous media interviews
- indoor training with ropes and knots
- lunch prepared by firefighters
- assisted with dive operation/exercise
- hydrant, hose and pumper evolutions

Both Firefighters and students enjoyed this day immensely! (See attached photo Page 24)

5. Approximately 75 legal inquiries involving real estate transactions in the City were processed for change of ownership or refinancing purposes. The fees for legal inquiries coupled with user fees for inspections as requested by solicitors or realtors resulted in an income of approximately \$3,900.00.
6. Business license applications in the City resulted in the inspection of approximately 107 new businesses in 2004.
7. The "Home Visitation & Assistance Program" continues to be very well received by the residents of Owen Sound. This proactive program is carried out by the suppression crews in a pre-determined area of the City and is completely voluntary on the part of the homeowner.

The suppression crews look for possible fire hazards in the home and offer the homeowner advice on how to make their homes fire safe. More than 50 smoke alarms were installed by the suppression crews in homes in the North-west portion of Owen Sound, along with numerous 9 volt batteries. This program is done in a different quadrant of the City each year and repeats itself every fifth year.

8. FPI Greg Nicol attended the Ontario Fire College in Gravenhurst, Ontario, on several occasions this year. Greg is enrolled in the Fire Prevention Officer Program and is working towards becoming a Certified Fire Prevention Officer.
9. FPO Tom Potter and FPI Greg Nicol were successful in completing the prescribed courses and accompanying exams necessary to comply with the requirements of Bill 124. Bill 124 states that anyone doing plans examinations, building design or inspections must be certified by July 1st, 2005. FPO Potter and FPI Nicol successfully completed the following:
 - Part 9 Buildings – HVAC & Fire Protection (with accompanying 3 hour exam), March 2nd – 5th, 2004, Walkerton, Ontario
 - General Legal Process – Building Code Act & Parts 1 & 2, Ontario Building Code, April 26th – 29th, 2004, Walkerton, Ontario (with accompanying 3 hour exam in Goderich, Ontario on May 13th, 2004
 - Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing – Challenge Exam for Fire Protection (3 hrs), Georgian College, Barrie, Ontario, June 15th, 2004.

By completing the above courses and exams, FPO Tom Potter and FPI Greg Nicol are “Certified Building Inspectors for Fire Protection Purposes”, having met the requirements of Bill 124.

10. FPI Greg Nicol completed the Fire Cause Determination course at the Ontario Fire College, November 8th – 10th, 2004.
11. FPO Tom Potter and FPI Greg Nicol participated in full evacuation exercises at the following nursing home/long term care facilities: Georgian Heights, May 14th, Summit Place, May 17th and Maple View, May 21st, 2004.
12. FPO Tom Potter conducted 6 TAPP-C (The Arson Prevention Program for Children) sessions throughout the course of the year with children of various ages involved in “fire play”.
13. Christmas Fire Safety advertising campaign appeared on screen at the new Galaxy Theatre complex during the months of November and December 2004. This endeavour was funded jointly by the Owen Sound and Inter Township Fire Departments and would appear twice before each feature movie was played. The fire safety messages were seen by thousands of people before and during the holiday season, with many positive comments received from this new and innovative venture.

14. FPO Tom Potter addressed the Fire Services Committee regular meeting on Thursday March 25th, 2004 at the Owen Sound Fire & Emergency Services Department. FPO Potter gave two presentations outlining (1) the Status of Apartments in Owen Sound, and (2) the Responsibilities of the Fire Prevention Division.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Potter, Captain
Fire Prevention Officer

Better, Together.

To make a donation,
call: 372-3925



GREY-BRUCE

NEWS EDITOR: KAREN PRIDHAM

NIGHT NEWS EDITOR: STEVE HARRON

THURSDAY, JULY 29, 2004

THE SUN TIMES

PAGE A3

AUGUST GOLF SPECIAL
Monday - Friday
11 am - 3 pm
18 holes with cart
\$45.00 pp.
376-7899
www.stonetree.on.ca



60756435

Grey-Bruce InBrief

KINCARDINE

Beach closed for swimming

Poplar Beach, just south of Kincardine, was closed for swimming Wednesday after bacterial levels exceeded Ministry of Health standards. Two consecutive samples from the beach exceeded the ministry guidelines and the area will be closed until two acceptable samples indicate that the water is safe for swimming. For more information on beach conditions and closures visit www.publichealth-greybruce.on.ca.

MARKDALE

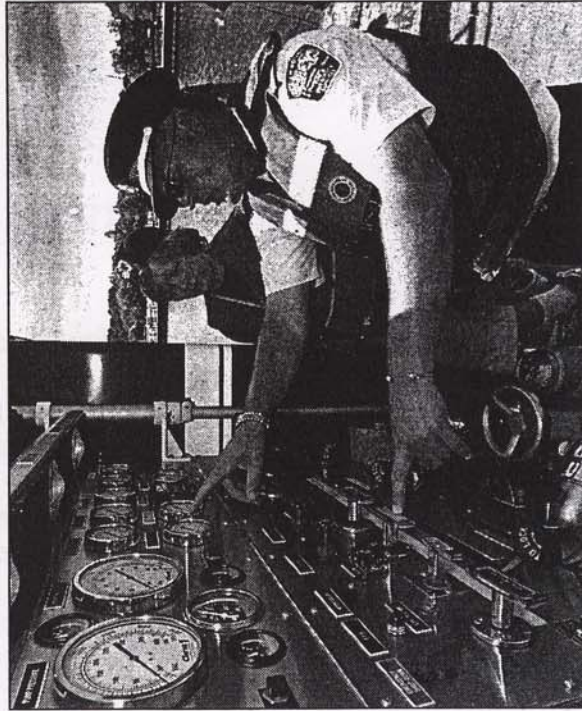
Six agree to kiss pig for money

Six local people have agreed to kiss a pig Saturday to raise money for the cause of their choice. Brian Bumstead, co-chair of the International Plowing Match & Rural Expo 2004 committee, will donate money he raises to the IPM, which will be held near Meaford

FIREFIGHTERS FOR A DAY



Two students who won a Grade 5 Fire Prevention Poster Contest had their chance to be firefighters for the day on Wednesday. Above, Jordan Morrison, 10, from Sydenham Community School, listens as Owen Sound Fire Department firefighter Dave Caruso, centre, reads out the air pressure of acting Capt. Wayne Flood's air tanks prior to his dive in the Inner harbour Wednesday afternoon. Morrison was on



JAMES MASTERS THE SUN TIMES

hand to help record diver stats. In the photo at right, Jacob Scheufer, 10, from Dufferin Elementary School, listens as OSFD fire prevention officer Tom Potter explains the controls to the department's #4 aerial pumper truck. Scheufer and Morrison worked with the department's aerial platform, learning how to hook up and handle fire hoses, and as land support crew for firefighters involved in a training dive.



Owen Sound

Driver/Mechanical Officer's Report

The responsibilities of the Fire Department Mechanical Division are to keep all fire fighting equipment in prime working condition and ready to operate. The equipment must start, run and continue to operate at peak performance for extended periods of time. This is achieved by continued preventative maintenance.

It is also the Mechanics responsibility to be aware of current maintenance procedures and availability of new and better equipment. This will help lessen Department costs and keep the operations efficient. The Mechanic must also research and draw up specifications for new equipment and vehicles. A high level of knowledge of fire pumps and related machinery is necessary. These duties are over and above the fire suppression and every day duties.

Current equipment list:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| ~ 2 pump trucks | ~ 2 aerial trucks |
| ~ 1 rescue vehicle | ~ 1 Zodiac boat & engine |
| ~ 5 portable generators | ~ 1 stationary generator |
| ~ 3 heavy rescue engines and related equipment | ~ 3 portable pumps |

Other duties:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| ~ hose repair | ~ breathing air tests |
| ~ SCBA maintenance | ~ JAWS maintenance & repair |



Barry Stephenson,
Driver/Mechanic



Owen Sound

Joint Health & Safety Co-Chair's Report

There were a number of issues looked at by the Joint Health & Safety Committee throughout 2004.

A treatment protocol for Firefighters was established with the Emergency Department at the Grey Bruce Health Services. This protocol developed a standard testing and treatment procedure for exposures from toxic by-products, metabolic heat stress or exhaustion related to firefighting activities. In conjunction with this protocol there were amendments to the Health Protection & Promotion Act, (Bill 105). Bill 105 helps emergency workers seek information about exposures to possible diseases that workers may have been in contact with.

The Cancer Claims and Disease Registry that has been in place since 2003 helps track cancers and diseases of its active or retired members is continuing it's on going battle with these illnesses.

New safety equipment placed into service:

- hearing protection for pumper operators
- personal safety glasses
- Kore Kooler chairs
- sports bars & drinks
- disposable BVM's (bag value masks)
- sunscreen & sun glasses

There were a number of issues talked about relating to Health and Safety with hopeful implementation in 2005:

- ventilation system for the truck bays
- SCBA (self contained breathing apparatus) replacement
- fitness equipment

Greg Scott, Acting Captain

Jody Long, Firefighter



Owen Sound

Owen Sound Fire and Emergency Services Marine Rescue and Recovery Dive Team

The Owen Sound Fire Department Dive Team was formed in 1968; at that time there were three members. Those three individuals over the next few years responded to several calls ranging from rescue to recovery as well as assisting other agencies like Inter Township Fire Department.

Thanks to those three dedicated individuals the Owen Sound Fire Department today has six active dive members and one fire fighter currently being trained to dive status, as well as 30 Firefighters that are trained as surface support. The diver's safety and success is as a result of our surface support. Not much has changed in regards to responses. We respond to rescue and recovery of persons, property and evidence, not only do we assist our local Police Department with retrieval of evidence but we also provide assistance to our surrounding communities upon request for support as a form of mutual agreement. We are very proud of the level of service that we are able to provide to the citizens of Owen Sound and surrounding areas as there are only two Fire Department within Ontario, Chatham-Kent and Owen Sound that provide this level of service, which complies with the Ministry of Labour's Diving regulations. To achieve this Divers and Surface Support under go monthly training exercises each lasting four hours in duration, testing both diver and surface support's skills.

Our Department in conjunction with our Dive Team is committed to providing essential non-emergency support for community projects such as Communities in bloom and Festival of Northern Lights as away of giving back to our community.

The Owen Sound Dive Rescue and Recovery Team is very dedicated to our service, but it is only a reflection of the support that we have been given by both Management and Council and we hope where our team is today is only the foundation of where we will be in years to come.

Wayne Flood,
Acting Captain/ Dive Supervisor



The Owen Sound Professional Fire Fighters Association

1209 3RD AVENUE EAST, OWEN SOUND, ONTARIO N4K 2L6

AFFILIATED WITH: INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 531

Owen Sound Professional Fire Fighters Association, Local 531 Report

The year 2004 was another busy year for members of the Owen Sound Professional Firefighters Association. We continued our involvement in several minor sports programs and our members spent many off duty hours volunteering in our community. This year saw the addition of two new faces to our family at the fire hall. Al Douglas was hired as a firefighter in February; welcome aboard Al. June saw the addition of a new Fire Chief. Chief Ed Nowak came to us from Waterloo; we wish Chief Nowak and his family all the best in their new community.

Over the years our Association has sponsored several minor sports teams in this community. This year we sponsored teams in hockey, lacrosse, ringette and soccer. As well as sponsoring these minor sports teams, several of our members were heavily involved in coaching, as trainers and executive members in minor hockey, ringette and soccer. It was also our pleasure to work with the City and sponsor a night of free ice- skating at the Coliseum.

Muscular Dystrophy has been a charity sponsored by firefighters for years now. This year I would like to recognize the efforts of our public relations officer Wayne Flood. Wayne along with other members of our department again put on a successful Charity Golf Tournament held at Scenic City Golf Course. This success was due in part to retired Capt. Doug Gibbon's better half Marg Gibbons who used her previous experience in helping Doug with this tournament and assisted Wayne and his crew. This year the proceeds were split between M.D. and other local charities including the M.R.I. fund.

Our annual Emergency Services Hockey Tournament was this year jointly organized by the Owen Sound and Inter Township Fire Department members. Firefighter Will Plagenz stepped up and organized another great tournament. This year approximately \$2000.00 was raised for local charities.

Members of Local 531 again assisted in several long-standing events in our community. These included setting up and tearing down of the Festival of Northern Lights displays, installation & removal of the Festival fountain by our dive team, assistance at M&M Charity Barbecue, M.D.

Charity Barbecue at Benjamin Moore Paints, Camp Quality, Salmon Spectacular and the Polar Bear Dip.

Our members have been on stand-by to assist with meals on wheels when weather makes it difficult for the regular drivers to deliver the meals. This year our members were called upon a few times during bad weather and were glad to be of assistance.

Home Depot has asked for our assistance in several community projects where our membership has again helped out. These include Fire Safety Day and children's workshops held throughout the year.

Christmas was another busy time for the membership where the needs of 586 Children were met. Our members assisted Sears with their Gala Toy Drive where all toys donated went to needy children. With the hard work of our membership and the generosity of this great community and businesses, Christmas was made a little better for a great many children.

This year saw a new initiative taken on by the management and staff of the Owen Sound Fire & Emergency Services. This was an agreement between our department, Conestoga College and Lambton College for students enrolled in the firefighter program to complete their curriculum. This year required six of our firefighters to act as preceptors and provide mentorship for students working towards a career as firefighters. Comments of this program were all positive and our members look forward to next year and a new batch of students.

As President of Local 531 I would like to recognize and thank all members of the Owen Sound Professional Firefighters Association, Management and staff of the Owen Sound Fire & Emergency Services for their dedication to life & property and serving the needs of our community.

Doug Barfoot, President
Owen Sound Professional Firefighters Association, Local 531