



**City of Owen Sound
Fire & Emergency Services
Annual Report
2006**

TO OPEN



FIRE ALARM

Northam Electric Company LIMITED

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FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

In 2006 we saw the completion and successful launch of the Owen Sound Fire Department history book entitled "Sirens Across the Sound" just in time for Christmas. The book depicts the fire service in Owen Sound from its origin to the modern day.

2006 Major Initiatives

Three major initiatives which originated in 2006 and will see completion in 2007:

- The first is the completion of the vehicle rationalization program with the final vehicle, a Pumper – Rescue being tendered after literally being built from the "ground-up" in conjunction with Barry Stephenson of the Mechanical Division.
- The second is the voluntary undertaking in the development of a Master Fire Plan using the Office of the Ontario Fire Marshal's model. The Master Fire Plan measures how well we are meeting our demands as identified through benchmarking and performance measurement.
- The third item was the tendering and purchase of new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) for staff. This marks the first time since the mid-90's that self-contained breathing apparatus has been updated and purchased. With the new SCBA, each Firefighter will have their own personal face piece and regulator which aids in preventing cross contamination and also aids in Firefighter rescue in the event a Firefighter is lost, trapped, or injured.

City of Owen Sound – Strategic Initiatives – Emergency Services

The annual exercise of the City's *Emergency Response Plan* (ERP) and *Emergency Operations Centre* (EOC) addresses a number of items identified in the City's Strategic plan:

- a. Testing and monitoring of the City's Emergency Response Plan and using feedback to improve the plan;
- b. Partnering with area emergency services and with other existing supporting services.

In addition, the *Master Fire Plan* when completed will address a number of the Emergency Services Initiatives in the City's Strategic Plan.

- a. A needs analysis of emergency service and safety needs.
- b. Measure how well we are meeting our demands as identified through benchmarking and performance measurement.
- c. Provide funding to meet adequacy standards and service needs.

As well, another initiative that commenced in 2006 which will address initiatives in the Strategic Plan in 2007 includes:

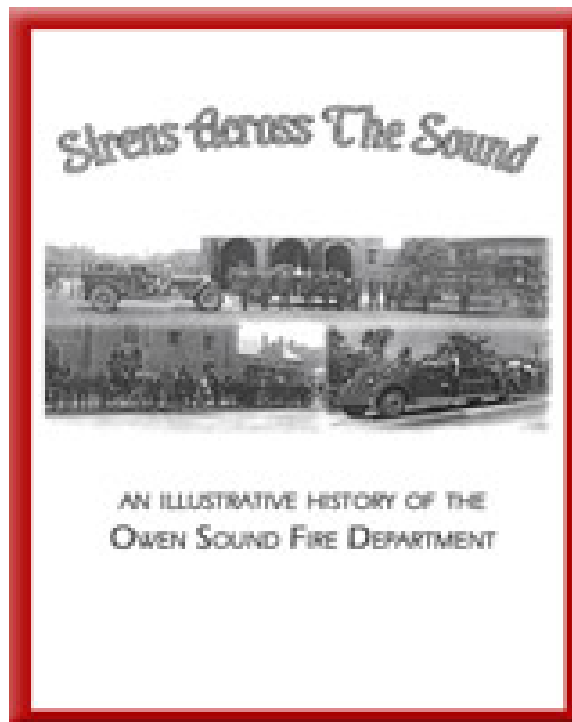
- a. Establishing a broad communication system between emergency services – will occur with the *Interoperability* JEPP funding as well as changes at the Owen Sound Police Services once renovations are completed.

In 2007 we will continue working toward the remaining items identified in the City's Strategic Plan.

I would like to thank the Mayor, Council, Fire Services Advisory Committee, and City staff for their ongoing assistance and support, as well as the members of the Owen Sound Fire & Emergency Services for their committed dedication and professionalism in making City of Owen Sound a fire safer community.

Sincerely,

Ed Nowak,
Fire Chief



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.

2007 Objectives

- Completion of Master Fire Plan.
- Develop an Interoperability Plan with the various emergency and non-emergency services.
- Update the City's Emergency Response Plan.
- Training for members of the Municipal Emergency Control Group and support staff in the application Incident Management System in major emergencies.
- Finalization of the City's "Pandemic Plan".
- Work toward completing the remaining initiatives identified in the City Strategic plan for the Owen Sound Fire & Emergency Services Department.

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
John Marnean
Larry Barfoot
Jeff MacMillan
Al Douglas

Platoon A2
Doug Barfoot
(Captain)

Jay Forslund
(Acting Captain)
Firefighters
Darwin Reid
Will Plagenz
Steve Wagner
Andrew Coops

Platoon B1
Dave Cruickshank
(Captain)

Greg Scott
(Acting Captain)
Firefighters
Rob Thomas
Scott Fleer
Jay Cow
Dan Fromager

Platoon B2
Randy Moore
(Captain)

Bob Bringleton
(Acting Captain)
Firefighters
Barry Stephenson/Mechanic
Marc Scott
Jody Loag
Jeff Finch/Mechanic

Floater

Dereck Boltzau

Floater

Glenn Walsh

New Hires

Firefighter/Mechanic Jeff Finch (Ethel, Ontario) April 17th, 2006
Firefighter Dereck Boiteau (Shallow Lake, Ontario) June 5th, 2006
Firefighter Glenn Welsh (Owen Sound, Ontario) June 5th, 2006

Promotions

Al Douglas to 3rd Class Firefighter on February 16th, 2006
Jeff Finch to 5th Class Firefighter on October 17th, 2006
Dan Fromager to 1st Class Firefighter on December 2nd, 2006
Dereck Boiteau to 5th Class Firefighter on December 5th, 2006
Glenn Welsh to 5th Class Firefighter on December 5th, 2006

Retirements

Nil

Resignations

Firefighter Dave Caruso on March 30, 2006 to Cambridge Fire Department
Firefighter Jamie Gray on May 19, 2006 to London Fire Department

Years of Service Recognition

Captain Doug Barfoot – Long Service Medal (25 years)
Captain Ken Lawrence – Exemplary Service Medal (20 years)
Acting Captain Greg Scott – Exemplary Service Medal (20 years)
Firefighter John Morneau – Exemplary Service Medal (20 years)

Co-op Students (High School & College)

Amy Gaviller, Creative Career Systems – July – November 2006
Clark Green from West Hill Secondary School, February – June 2006
Drew Switzer from OSCVI, February – June 2006

Firefighter Preceptor Course:

James Long, Northern College – Jan 16 - 29, 2006
Brodie Barfoot, Georgian College – May – August, 2006
Justin Schmidt, Georgian College – May – August, 2006
Scott Paterson, St. Lawrence College – June – August, 2006
Joshua Ironmonger, Conestoga College – Nov – Dec, 2006
Steven Mackie, Conestoga College – Nov – Dec, 2006
Ian Pringle, Conestoga College – Nov – Dec, 2006
Jared Turner, Lambton College - May – August, 2006

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DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

The year 2006 saw a marginal increase in the call volume with responses to **1,524** alarms. The 26 members comprising the Suppression Division are supported by the Administration, Training and Prevention Divisions as well as a majority of fire department resources – including personnel, equipment, facilities, and support services are committed to fire suppression efforts.

I am extremely pleased to report again that there was not a single fire related fatality in Owen Sound in 2006. Estimated property fire loss did however increase by 277% [\$486,457] to \$761,207 which in a large part was the result of significant fire loss in one commercial and three residential fires.

Owen Sound Fire and Emergency Services Firefighters are trained to provide a full complement of response capability in the following areas:

- Fire suppression
- Motor vehicle extrication
- Medical First Response (defibrillation/resuscitation/first-aid)

The department also supports the following **specialized operations**:

- High angle/technical rope rescue
- Confined space rescue
- Marine Rescue
- Dive Rescue and Recovery
- Hazardous materials response
- Shipboard Firefighting

Trench Rescue was added to the department's special operations capability in 2006. Shoring, bracing and other equipment required for trench rescues has been inventoried in the Special Operations Unit trailer. Further advancements in training and enhancements to departmental equipment and inventories allow Owen Sound Fire and Emergency Services to provide an improved quality of life for our firefighters and community.

These are not however, the only functions performed by this department. The Fire Department also provides fire inspections on a regular basis for code enforcement and familiarization, the home visitation program, public education projects, training as well as performing a number of related tasks including annual hose and pump testing.

The Master Fire Plan is currently under development through the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office – "Shaping Fire Safe Communities" program. The purpose of this program is to:

- Enhance the municipality's understanding of Risk Management
- Provide a systematic way to help assess the risks in Owen Sound
- Provide tools, resources and a process to help in the selection and implementation of solutions.

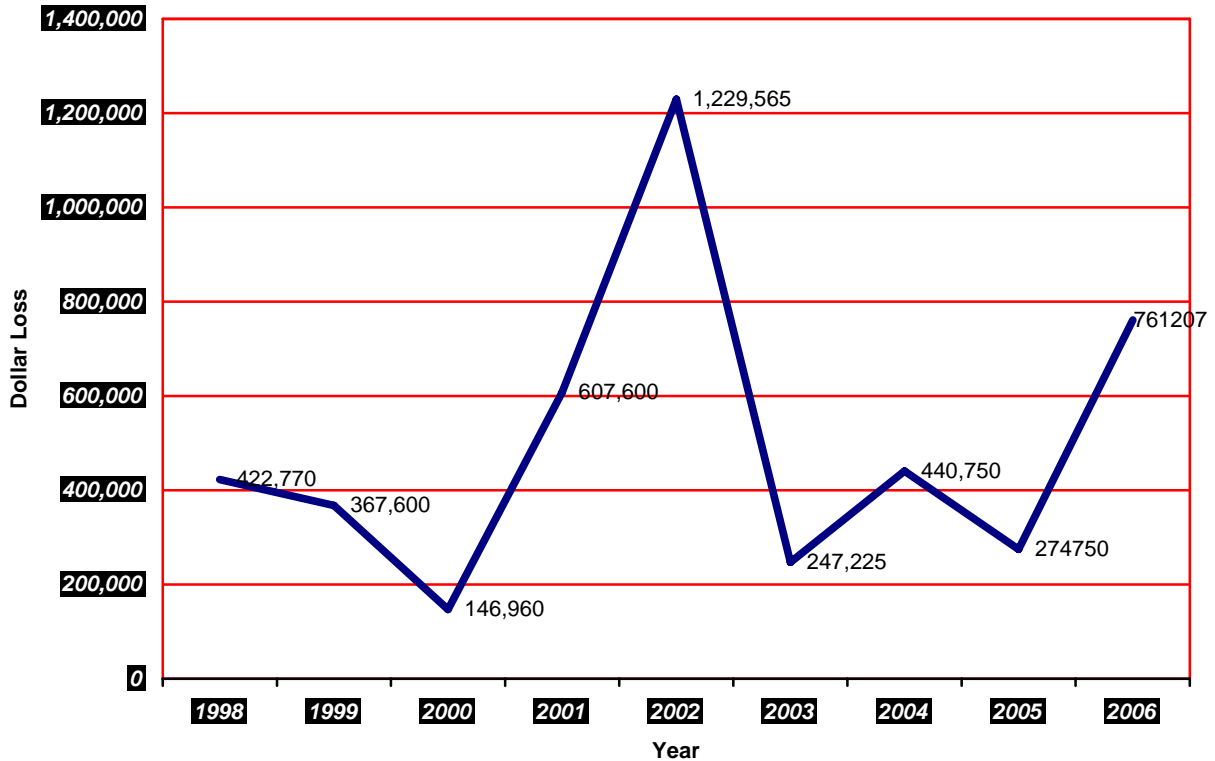
The primary goal of a Master Fire Plan is to provide a strategic blueprint for fire protection that addresses local needs and circumstances based upon costs the community can afford.

Owen Sound Fire and Emergency Service 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, fire suppression and rescue services and is 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 the Fire Services Committee, City Council and the Community.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin A. Roy
Deputy Fire Chief

Fire Loss Summary for 1998 through 2006



RECENT LARGE LOSS FIRES

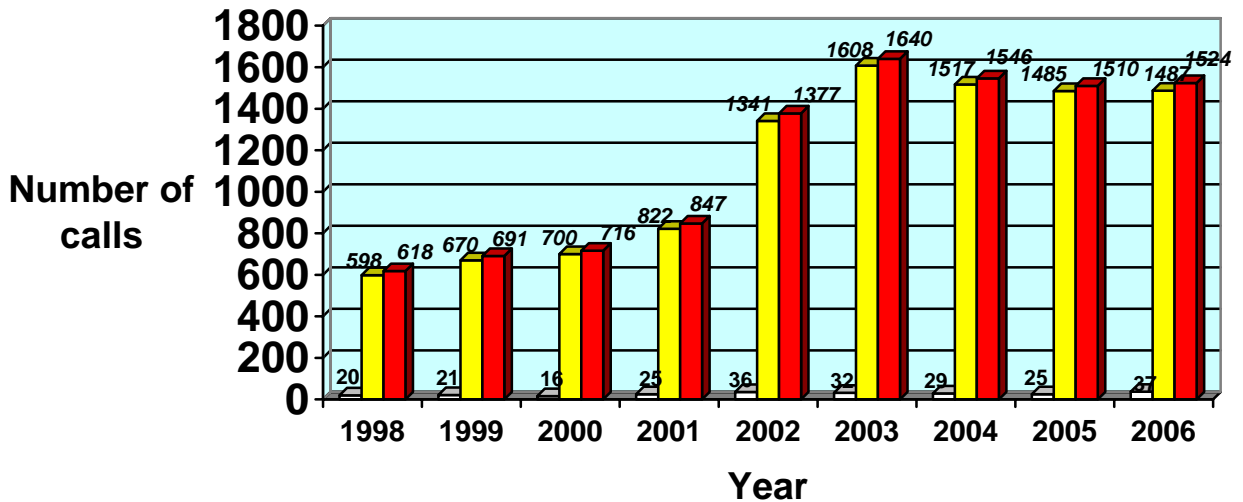
- 2001 - County of Grey Owen Sound Museum
- 2002 - Joe Tomato's Restaurant

Fire Loss Statistics for 2006

Was due in a large part to:

- One significant commercial fire of \$190,000; and
- Three residential fires with losses averaging \$150,000 each.

Response Summary for 1998 through 2006

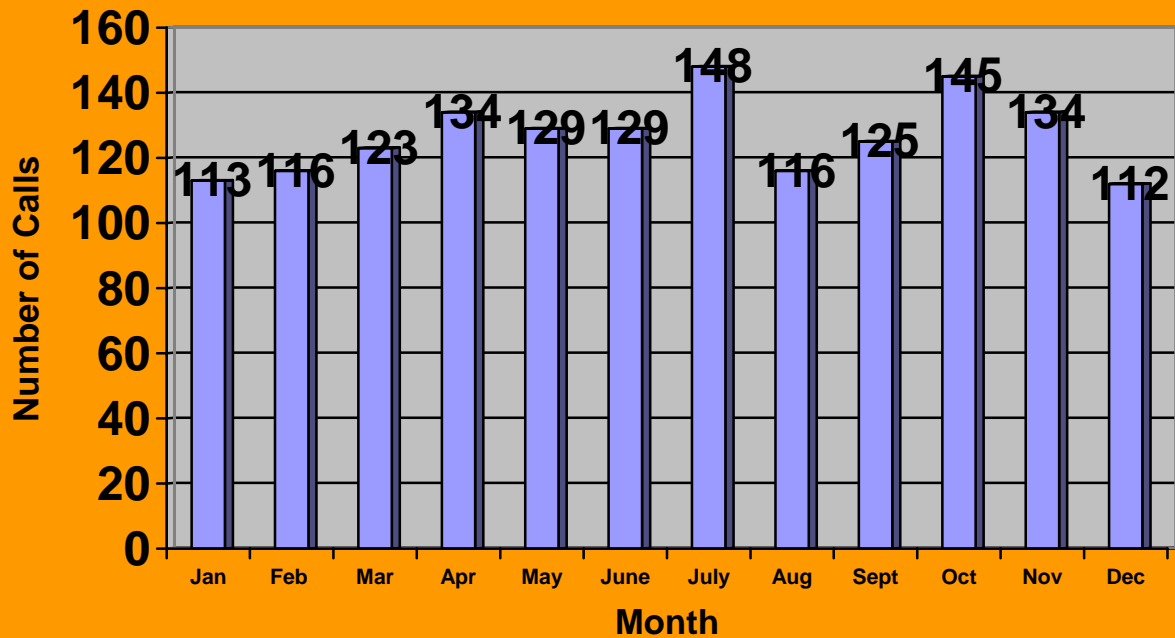


Fire Calls With Loss
 Other Calls
 Total Calls

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*.

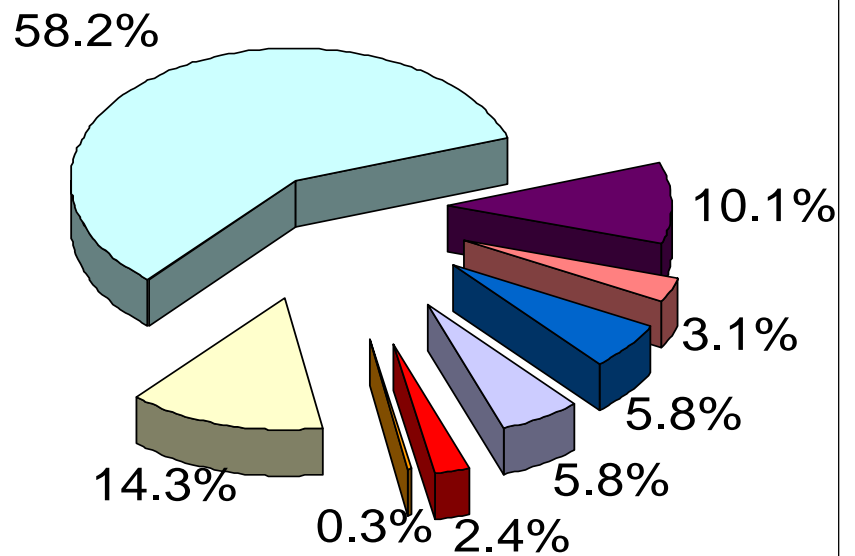
The **Fire Calls With Loss** column represents the number fires with an associated dollar loss. The **Other Calls** is illustrative of the number of calls of other response types. This includes response to Motor Vehicle Collisions, Medical Response, Fire Calls With No Dollar Loss and the wide diversity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

2006 Emergency Responses



All Call Summary (%) 2006

- Fires with Loss
- Fire without Loss
- False Fire Calls
- Medical Calls
- Other Response
- Pre Fire Conditions
- Public Hazard Response
- Rescue



All Call Summary ≈ 2005 – 2006

Fire Calls	2005	2006		2005	2006
Fires – With Loss	25	37	Pre Fire Conditions		
Fires – Without Loss	12	5	Overheat	15	17
Total Fire Calls	37	42	Overpressure Rupture-no fire	0	1
Non Fire Calls			Pot on Stove	6	9
False Fire Calls			Unauthorized Controlled Burning	28	20
Alarm Equipment - Accidental	46	47	Total Pre Fire Conditions	49	47
Alarm Equipment - Malfunction	109	85	Public Hazard		
Human - Accidental	26	33	Bomb, Explosive, Removal, Standby	4	0
Human - Malicious	13	19	CO Reporting	40	40
Human – Perceived Emergency	32	23	Gas Leak – Natural Gas	4	4
Other False Fire Call	11	11	Gas Leak – Propane	2	0
Total False Fire Calls	237	218	Gas Leak - Miscellaneous	4	0
Alcohol Related	34	34	Other Public Hazard	18	10
Asphyxia, Respiratory Condition	169	172	Power Lines Down, Arcing	10	15
Burns	1	0	Ruptured Water, Steam Pipe	3	1
Convulsions	1	3	Spill – Gasoline or Fuel	6	13
Cuts, Abrasions	33	45	Spill – Toxic Chemical	0	0
Dead on Arrival	21	21	Spill – Miscellaneous	1	5
Drug Related	28	28	Total Public Hazard	92	88
Epileptic, Diabetic Seizure	79	87	Rescue		
Heart Attack, CPR	54	55	Commercial/Industrial Accident	4	0
Medical Aid not Required on Arrival	9	2	Persons Trapped in Elevator	1	7
Other Medical/Resuscitator Call	358	346	Vehicle Accident	55	70
Person Fainted, Nausea	30	46	Water Rescue	3	5
Stroke	47	40	Water Ice Rescue	0	1
Fracture	14	7	Vehicle Extrication	4	3
Traumatic Shock	2	1	Other Rescue	3	1
Total Medical Calls	880	887	Total Rescue	70	88
Other Response			Total Non Fire Calls	1472	1482
Assistance Not Required by other Agency	46	84			
Assistance to other Agencies	5	5			
Assistance to Police	7	10			
Call cancelled on route	7	19	TOTAL CALLS	1509	1524
Assistance to Other Fire Depts.	0	1			
Incident not found	3	1			
Other Public Service	64	25			
Other Response	3	3			
Authorized controlled burning-complaint	9	6			
Total Other Response	144	154			

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FIRE TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT

“Train....because your life depends on it”. Firefighters responding to an emergency scene may have to cope rapidly with a variety of conditions. Training that the firefighters receive reflects the diversity of the emergencies we respond to. In addition to the basic firefighting skills learned and continually trained on, specific skills are needed for technical rescues. Response to these emergencies frequently includes the use of specialized equipment and techniques that are challenging and require the Firefighter to be creative and to adapt to the changing emergency situations.

It is my pleasure to present to you the Training Division annual report for 2006. Officers and firefighters recorded approximately 688 hours of training covering the listed topics.

BASIC FIREFIGHTING SKILLS

- Fire Behaviour
- Fire Ground Safety
- First Aid/CPR/Defibrillation
 - Annual recertification is required for CPR and Defib
 - First responder recertification is required every three years
- Foam operations
- Forcible entry
- Ladders
- Master streams
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Portable pumps
- Pumper operations
- Ropes and Knots
- Salvage and overhaul
- Search and Rescue
- S.C.B.A. (**Self Contained Breathing Apparatus**)
 - Inspection
 - Maintenance
 - Practical evolutions
- Ventilation
 - Horizontal
 - Vertical
 - Mechanical
 - Hydraulic



Continuous training of these basic skills helps promote consistency, and team work at emergency scenes, it also encourages professionalism and safe work habits.

SPECIALIZED RESCUE TRAINING

- Auto Extrication
- Confined Space Rescue
- Dive Rescue /Recovery
- Hazardous Material Operations
 -Operations Level
- High Angle Rescue
- High Rise Firefighting
- Shipboard Firefighting
- Surface Marine Rescue
- Trench Rescue
- Structural Collapse Rescue

Company Officer / Fire Prevention Officer Program:

A/C Wayne Flood, A/C Greg Scott, A/C Bob Bringleston and F.F. Jody Long are currently enrolled in the Company Officer Program working towards their Company Officer Diploma.

Doug Barfoot has completed the courses required to receive his university certificate in Public Administration and Governance in Ontario from Ryerson University in partnership with the Ontario Fire College.

Dave Cruickshank and Tom Potter have completed the Emergency Operations Site Managers Course at the Canadian Emergency Management College in Ottawa.

Following is a list of training courses, conferences and seminars that I participated in during 2006:

- Ontario Association of Training Officers Spring Seminar, Toronto
- Pre-Incident Planning, Fire College, Gravenhurst
- Fire House Expo, Baltimore Maryland
- Trench Rescue Awareness Level, May 2006
- Trench Rescue Technician Level, June 2006
- Ontario Association of Training Officers Fall Seminar, Gravenhurst

All personnel have completed the First Responder program. The First Responder Program is an expanded First Aid course that includes blood pressures reading, Oxygen delivery and Automatic External Defibrillator certification.

This year also included teaching three (3) Re-certification Standard First Aid courses for City Staff. Recertification is a one day course reviewing first aid and CPR skills.

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

Yours truly,

Doug Sim
Training Officer

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FIRE PREVENTION OFFICER'S REPORT

Allow me to present the Annual Report of the Fire Prevention Bureau for 2006. The following list of specific contacts includes inspections and re-inspections carried out during the year.

Assembly:	268
Arenas, Art Galleries, Auditoriums, Churches, Clubs, Community Halls, Theatres, Court Rooms, Day Care Centres, Restaurants, Libraries, Schools and Colleges.	
Institutional:	29
Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Police Station with Detention Quarters and Jails.	
Residential:	465
Apartments, Boarding Houses, Hotels, Motels, Houses, Group Homes and Retirement Homes.	
Business & Personal Services:	196
Banks, Barber Shops, Hairdressing Shops, Dental Offices, Office and Medical Buildings.	
Mercantile:	285
Malls, Department Stores, Shops and Retail/Food Stores.	
Industrial:	128
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>24</u>
TOTAL INSPECTIONS:	1,395

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Meeting with building owners, architects, contractors and others	596
Telephone interviews	1,087
Letters sent out	511
Public education presentations	72
Attendance at public education presentations	1,789
Building/site plans examined	64
Fire routes inspected	22
Fire route violations issued	18
Court Appearances	2

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. The Grade 5 fire prevention poster contest coupled with the "Firefighter For A Day" program proved successful again with 151 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. Simon Kaarid from Sydenham Community School and Gabrielle Wurfel from Ecole St. Dominique Savio joined us on Wednesday July 26th, 2006 for full day's 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
- hydrant, hose, pumper and aerial evolutions

Both Firefighters and students enjoyed this day immensely! Please see attached photo and e-mail from Simon's mother.

3. Approximately 41 legal inquiries involving real estate transactions in the City were processed for change of ownership or refinancing purposes. The fees for legal inquires coupled with user fees for inspections as requested by solicitors or realtors resulted in an income of approximately \$4,670.00.
4. Business license applications in the City resulted in the inspection of approximately 72 new businesses in 2006.
5. 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 South-east 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.

6. FPI Greg Nicol participated in several media interviews, primarily to discuss the recent change to the Ontario Fire Code involving additional smoke alarm coverage in all residences across Ontario which took effect March 1st, 2006.
7. FPI Greg Nicol visited numerous local public schools and day nurseries during the months of May and October to deliver fire safety presentations. FPI Nicol completed 60 fire safety presentations to approximately 1600 children of varying ages.
8. FPO Tom Potter participated in Transport Canada's table top emergency exercise at Best Western Inn-On-The-Bay, April 4th, 2006.
9. 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".

10. FPO Tom Potter attended the Canadian Emergency Management College in Ottawa, Ontario from April 24 – 28, 2006. FPO Potter successfully completed the Emergency Operations Centre Management course.
11. FPO Potter participated in the Canadian Emergency Preparedness Week display at Heritage Place Mall on May 11 & 12, 2006.
12. FPO Potter and FPI Nicol attended the Ontario Municipal Fire Prevention Officer's Association annual conference on Monday June 5th, 2006 in Barrie, Ontario. A resolution prepared by FPI Nicol and FPO Potter was passed to include more Part 1 ticketable offences for fire code violations.
13. FPO Potter and FPI Nicol attended the International Association of Arson Investigators annual seminar on June 6 & 7, 2006 in Waterloo, Ontario.
14. On June 1st, 2006, FPO Potter and FPI Nicol assisted OFM Investigator Bill Hiscott with the investigation of a suspicious fire which took place on May 31st, 2006 at Rockview Apartments, 248 – 7th Avenue East, Unit # 11.
15. FPO Potter assumed the role of CEMC for the City of Owen Sound 2006 emergency exercise "Operation Spinning Top", while FPI Nicol assumed the role of Simulation Room Controller on December 1st, 2006.
16. FPO Potter played a support role to the Grey County Fire Coordinator during the 2006 County Emergency Exercise on December 12th, 2006, at the Grey County Building, 595 – 9th Avenue East.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Potter, Captain
Fire Prevention Officer



**Make Your Intention Fire Prevention!
Dial 9-1-1 in an emergency.**

From: kaarid [mailto:kaarid@rogers.com]
Sent: August 4, 2006 19:34
To: Potter, Tom
Subject: Firefighter Simon (for a day)

Thank you so much for delivering a CD of wonderful photographs of Simon & Gabrielle's day as Fire Fighters. Simon certainly has a new appreciation of the hard work that our 'local heroes' perform!

Simon & I have also posted some photos on our website for his friends to see. Please feel free to share these with Gabrielle and her family. <http://www.kaarid.com/FFKaarid.htm>

Thank you again for taking the time to provide such a wonderful program to our children, and for giving them your time and attention. No reward could be better!

Sincerely,

Anne (Simon's Mom)



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DRIVER/MECHANIC OFFICER'S REPORT

Greetings from the Owen Sound Fire & Emergency Services Mechanic Division.

Year 2006 was an interesting year with the planning and building of the Department's new Pumper-Rescue. The pump-rescue concept has been used for years in other departments, but instead of going to a dual axle and long truck, we went up and used a lot of normally wasted space for compartments. We are confident this truck will be well accepted and liked.

The demo 75' Aerial the City purchased is working well. I feel the small aerial compared to the 50' boom is a more useful truck. The chassis has better suspension for repair and ride, thus saving money down the road.

Also Pump 1 and Rescue 2 were sold this year. Both trucks are well liked at their respective "new homes". Pump 5 had a body job on the cab and it was decided to go with the white over red paint on the cab thus keeping in line with the new look.

Our Aerial Platform truck is working well. We put new tires on and some drive line work was completed. It's almost as good as new but it still shows battle scars from heat exposure as it always responds to larger fires.

Our haz mat trailer is finally outfitted enabling the department to manage trench rescue, confined space rescue, dive rescue and haz mat response all from one unit that can be moved by two of our front line trucks.

All and all the new route the Department has taken from the Mechanic's side of things has and will show good efficiencies and value.

Barry Stephenson,
Firefighter/Mechanic

Jeff Finch,
Firefighter/Mechanic



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OWEN SOUND FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES MARINE RESCUE AND RECOVERY DIVE TEAM REPORT

The Owen Sound Fire Department Dive Team has undergone some staffing and equipment changes over the past year; however we have been able to maintain a minimum of six divers, five of whom are in active roles. One diver is currently being trained to dive status, as well, 28 Firefighters are trained as surface support. A diver's safety and success is as a result of our surface support.

We respond to rescue and recovery of persons and property, and assist Owen Sound Police Services with retrieval of evidence. We also provide assistance to our surrounding communities upon request for support. We are very proud of the level of service that we provide to the citizens of Owen Sound and surrounding areas as there are only three Fire Departments within Ontario, Chatham-Kent, Quinte West 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 personnel undergo monthly training exercises that test 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 the "Festival of Northern Lights" as a way of giving back to our community by keeping our waterways clean and looking tourist friendly.

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



**Jeff McMillan, Wayne Flood, Doug Barfoot
Jody Long, Dan Fromager**



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

Volunteer events Participated in 2006

Home Depot children's
workshop

Festival of Northern
Lights Fountain

M&M Meat shop
barbeque

Barbeque Cops for
Cancer

Meals on Wheels

Fire Safety Day Home
Depot

Camp Quality

Sears Spring Gala MD
Sears Fall Gala

Toy Drive

Polar bear dip

Home Depot
Children's workshop

Salmon Spectacular

Christmas Toys
GBRHC

Northern Lights

Fire Fighters working in our Community

For years, Fire Fighters have been rated higher than many professions when it comes to public satisfaction and sheer respect for the job that we do.

One of the main reasons we have enjoyed this kind of praise is the fact that Fire Fighters take their profession seriously. We are well trained, we care for the community we live in and the public we serve. We have worked hard over the years to earn this respect and strive to enhance the positive image of our City, the Department, our Association and above all ourselves.

Our members participate in many charity events, projects, and fundraisers over the course of a year which continues to ensure the stature we currently enjoy. Our involvement is not limited to volunteer man hours as we donate thousands of dollars to different organizations that are also dedicated to helping others.

Of course it is not only important that the public see us in a positive manner, it is important that our City Council understand our profession and the issues that are important to us, the rank and file firefighters.

In 2006, City Council acknowledged the importance of Presumption Legislation for Firefighters as it relates to job related occupation diseases and forwarded a letter to the Provincial Government and the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board asking for a review of what diseases are currently accepted by WSIB. This is an important step to protect the Fire Fighters and their families in Owen Sound and all Fire Fighters in the province of Ontario.

With this in mind, we would like to thank City Council for understanding the importance of sending this letter on behalf of our members and all firefighters.

Other areas that Fire Fighters are engaged in advancing the health safety of the worker, the Citizens of the City of Owen Sound, and Provincially Include

- Bill 28 – Act would require taking and analyzing blood samples to protect victims of crime, emergency services workers, good Samaritans and other persons.
- Bill 40 – Emergency Services Providers Insurance Protection Act – Protecting Personal Insurance rates

Halloween candy & safety tours

Billy Bishop Museum

Cruise Night Heritage Place

Coaching minor sports teams

Sponsorship many minor sports teams and individuals

Christmas Toys Women's Shelter

School Literacy Programs

Fire College Co-op Program

Special Olympics

Saddle Club Children's program

Santa Claus parade

Muscular Dystrophy

High School Co-Op Program

And many others

- Bill 58 – Amendments to the Safe Streets Act to allow Fire Fighters to conduct boot tolls
- Bill 107 – Proclaim Fire Fighter Memorial Day – to recognize fallen Fire Fighters.
- Introduction Bill 111 – Bob Shaw Act (221) Presumption Legislation for Ontario Fire Fighters
- Bill 120 – Seeks to amend the following (1) that every residential building with two or more dwelling units be equipped with fire detectors¹ in all public corridors and common areas of the building and interconnected fire alarms that are audible throughout the building, and (2) that every fire escape is constructed of non-combustible material
- Bill 128 – Marijuana Grow Labs Act – Additional Protection for emergency responders.
- Bill 206 – OMERS Pension Plan enhancement opportunities.
- Ontario Fire Services Grant - \$30 million

As we reflect on these positive things achieved for 2006, we must also reflect on some difficult ones. Two young firefighters left our department to take positions in other municipal Fire Departments. Dave Caruso accepted a position with the Cambridge Fire Department and Jamie Gray relocated to the London Fire Department. We wish these firefighters the best of luck at their new departments.

Also our department mourns the loss of our retired brother Firefighter, Willis Mclean. Willis passed away here in Owen Sound with a private family service. Our thoughts and wishes are with the family now and always.

On a happier note it is my pleasure to welcome aboard 3 new Firefighters to our Brotherhood. Jeff Finch, Dereck Boiteau and Glenn Welsh. These new firefighters are pleased to be part of this proud profession and especially here in Owen Sound with its long and distinguished history.

As President of the OSPFFA, I would like to sincerely recognize and thank all our members for their continued effort and assistance to so many charities and organizations throughout each and every year. Many times the hours spent assisting at these events takes them away from their own family commitments.

Dave Cruickshank, President
Owen Sound Professional Fire Fighters Association, Local 531