



# BELLS AND WHISTLES

Algonquin Lake in the Hills Fire Rescue Newsletter

April 2009

Best Wishes to Chief Guetschow!

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## Chief's Corner

By Chief Steve Guetschow

## Farewell

*' The end of March is rapidly approaching and I am looking for your articles for the newsletter. I would appreciate receiving them by Tuesday March 31st. Thanks in advance for your help!'*

When I received this e-mail from Mary, it really started to sink in that I am "retiring" at the end of April. So many things flow through my head as I reflect back over the course of my years of service. Please bear with my ramblings for one last time!

When I started out as a part time firefighter in 1978, I never imagined that so many good things would come out of my involvement as a fireman. The obvious thing was being able to help someone out of a bad situation. Secondly, all of the friendships developed because of not only what we do but also of who we are. I believe that people who choose the fire service as their career are probably the most giving of individuals.

We sometime give at the expense of our friends (you are leaving why?), our families (birthdays, special events, anniversaries) and often times our health. I would suggest that all of you look at these and understand what

**Bells and Whistles**  
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an important role they play in making you who you are.

I also never thought that I would look at new firefighters and wonder why we were hiring such young people! I am sure the firemen that preceded me thought the same thing. (But come on I think they should at least be out of high school!) Seriously, it is good to see the enthusiasm and attitude they bring to the fire service.

At times like this you realize also that many, many people help you along the way. Don't ever take that for granted. I think back to all of the people that influenced me in my career and I would not have enough paper to list them all! I may have to spend my retirement thanking them!

I would like to thank you all for the support you have provided me in my time here. Without that and the hard work you have all put in, the District would not be where it is today.

I wish Chief Rynders the best as he takes over. I believe he has inherited a very talented and dedicated group of firefighter/paramedics!

Best wishes to you all!

## Fire Prevention

### Children and fire

Children playing with fire cause hundreds of deaths and injuries each year. Preschoolers and kindergartners are most likely to start these fires, typically by playing with matches and lighters, and are most likely to die in them.

#### Facts & figures

In 2006, children playing with fire started an estimated 14,500 structure fires that were reported to U.S. fire departments, causing an estimated 130 civilian deaths, 810 civilian injuries and \$328 million in direct property damage.

Nearly two-thirds (63%) of all fatal victims of fires by playing are children 5 years old and younger.

Nearly two out of every three child-playing fires -- and four out of five associated deaths and injuries -- involve matches or lighters.

The items ignited by home fire-play are principally mattresses, bedding or clothing.

**Source:** NFPA's "Children Playing with Fire" report by Jennifer D. Flynn, January 2009



## Anniversaries

In April, the following people are celebrating an anniversary on the Algonquin/Lake in the Hills Fire Department.

Ron Nelson	20 years all combined
Joe Teson	14 years full time
Bill Hough	7 years as Lieutenant
Wendy Hoover	7 years as Lieutenant
Craig Allen	3 years total time
John Paul Kilanski	1 year full time - March 31

## Birthdays

April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Tim Littlefield
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Charles Teson
April 19 <sup>th</sup>	Scott Burkemper
April 20 <sup>th</sup>	Tamara Miner-Corso
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	Eric Busby
April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Keith Svendsen
April 25 <sup>th</sup>	Rick Kempe

Happy Birthday to all!

## Personnel Status-March

### Light Duty

Kim Matz

**EMPLOYEE TOTAL** **80**

Officials	7
<b>Full time</b>	<b>52</b>
Firefighter/paramedics	- 34
Firefighter/EMT	- 11
Firefighter	- 1
Salary	- 4
Civilian	- 2
<b>Part time</b>	<b>22</b>
Firefighter/Paramedic	- 6
Firefighter/EMT	- 10
Paramedic	- 3
Civilian	- 3

## Statistics

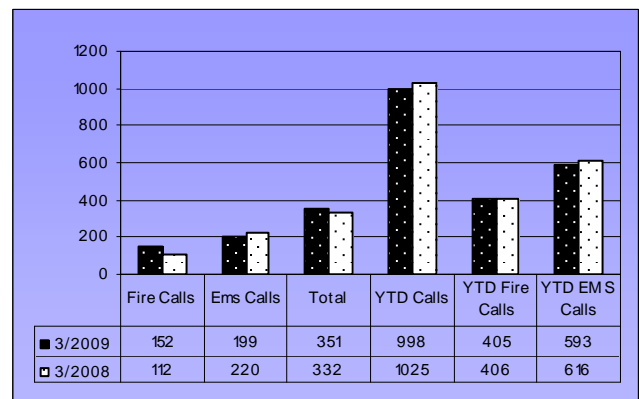
March 2009

130	89
Station One	
0181	21
0141	147
0151	121
0154	3
0150	2

Station Two	
0152	119
0142	134
0162	8

Station Three	
0153	22
0143	85
<b>Fire Calls</b>	<b>152</b>
<b>EMS Calls</b>	<b>199</b>

**Grand Total** **351**



## Condolences

Tim Littlefield's father-in-law passed away on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

Tim Ross's mother died March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to both of the families.

## Reflections

### Perspective

Submitted by Marjean Diercks

One day, the father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the express purpose of showing him how poor people live.

They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family.

On their return from their trip, the father asked his son, 'How was the trip?'

'It was great, Dad..'

'Did you see how poor people live?' the father asked.

'Oh yeah,' said the son.

'So, tell me, what did you learn from the trip?' asked the father.

The son answered:

'I saw that we have one dog and they had four.

We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end.

We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night.

Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon.

We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight.

We have servants who serve us, but they serve others.

We buy our food, but they grow theirs.

We have walls around our property to protect us, they have friends to protect them.'

The boy's father was speechless.

Then his son added, 'Thanks Dad for showing me how poor we are..'

Isn't perspective a wonderful thing? Makes you wonder what would happen if we all gave thanks for everything we have, instead of worrying about what we don't have.