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APRIL NEWSLETTER

*Marystown Volunteer Fire Department
April 2020*

In April, we responded to several emergency calls, continued operations based on our COVID-19 plan, conducted online training, supported Autism awareness, supported a regional fundraiser, recognized Volunteer Week, shared the provincial restrictions on open fires, acknowledged the completion of exterior renovations to the Fire Hall, and continued preparations for the Junior Firefighter Program.

Our Department completed the following in-house online training during April: Reviews in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation(CPR) and First Aid, National Fire Protection Association(NFPA) resources, Ice-Water Rescue, Ground Ladder, Firefighter Safety and Survival, and Tactical Ventilation on our new online Firefighter Training portal.

We continued operations based on our COVID-19(Coronavirus) plan adapted to our Department last month. The Fire Hall remains closed to the public, and regular training, meetings and activity at the Fire Hall is still suspended until further notice. In light of all this, our members are in constant communication with one another and online training is made available too. We have even launched our own online training corner for our Firefighters to keep up-to-date. In regards to emergency response, all calls for service through 911/279-1333 continue as regular, but with our Officers and Firefighters taking increased prevention measures to mitigate contact with the virus. The day-to-day internal operations of the Fire Department continue too, through shared efforts of Fire Chief Alex Coady and the Officers. During the pandemic, we took a few opportunities to thank those providing essential services to the public - your efforts are sincerely appreciated! We also joined in on efforts to show acts and signs of positivity through the difficult times.

On Wednesday, April 1st at 12:05AM, we received notification of a Vehicle Fire on St. Mary's Street. 4 Officers and 15 Firefighters responded to the scene with Unit #1, Engine #3 and Rescue #4. Upon arrival, we were met with a vehicle fully engulfed and fire attack commenced immediately. The fire was extinguished in short order, overhaul was completed and the scene was passed over to

the Royal Canadian Mounted Police(RCMP). Marystown Ambulance responded to the scene too. We returned to the Fire Hall around 1:05AM.

On Autism Awareness Day, April 2nd, we showed our support as we do each year. We are proud to be aware and support those with autism in our area through the local Autism Parent Support Group!

On Tuesday, April 7th at 3:47PM, we received notification of a commercial Fire Alarm activation at 13 Rogers Place. 5 Officers and 7 Firefighters responded with Unit #1, Engine #3 and Rescue #4, but we were cancelled en route. The activation was confirmed to be a false alarm and we returned to the Fire Hall.

On Sunday, April 12th at 9:26AM, we received notification of a residential Fire Alarm activation at 5 Power's Road, Little Bay. As Firefighters were responding to the station, the activation was confirmed as a false alarm and the response was cancelled.

On Monday, April 13th at 3:22PM, we received notification of a Brush Fire at 362 Ville Marie Drive. 5 Officers and 11 Firefighters responded with Unit #1, Engine #3 and Rescue #4, but the fire was extinguished before arrival. Unit #1 and Engine #3 arrived on scene to confirm all clear, then all incoming Firefighters were cancelled. The RCMP also attended to the scene.

The Town of Marystown and the RCMP co-hosted a Food Drive for Food Banks on the Burin Peninsula on Thursday, April 16th and we were proud to support their initiative. Thank you to the Town, RCMP and the general public for supporting those in need during this difficult time with approximately \$45,000 collected for the cause!

On Saturday, April 18th at 1:30AM, a Chimney Fire was reported at 82 Marine Drive. 4 Officers and 12 Firefighters responded to the residence with Unit #1, Engine #3 and Rescue #4. Upon arrival there was no fire as reported, therefore we stood down and returned to the Fire Hall. The RCMP also attended to the scene.

Volunteer Week is a week we are always proud to celebrate! April 19th to 25th was Volunteer Week, but this year was like no other as public celebrations were cancelled due to the ongoing

health pandemic. That didn't stop us from recognizing our Firefighters who spend many hours serving the community each year. They respond to emergency calls, support many community events, and complete a lot of training. There's also committee meetings, maintenance activities at our facilities, and planning and hosting other activities during regular times. Eight(8) committees manage and oversee internal operations such as Fire Prevention, Heritage, Fundraising, the Junior Firefighter Program and more. We are proud of the commitment, dedication and service of our Firefighters. Their service to our Department and the Community is sincerely appreciated, and we must recognize their families too for the tremendous support!

At this time, we would also like to recognize a volunteer group who are very important to us, the Fire Wrens. Our ladies auxiliary are to be commended for their activities to support us each and every year. Through their efforts, our Firefighters are better equipped when responding to emergency calls in the community, and we know they will always be there to help in any way they can – thank you, it's much appreciated! A shout out to all volunteers in our community and the region too, for the great work you all do!

On Tuesday, April 21st at 7:45PM, we received notification of a residential Fire Alarm activation at 10 Crocker's Point Road from an alarm monitoring company. 5 Officers and 12 Firefighters began to respond to the location with Unit #1, Engine #3 and Rescue #4. Upon arrival of the first unit, the activation was confirmed to be a false alarm, then all incoming units and Firefighters were notified and cancelled.

On Wednesday, April 22nd at 7:50AM, we received notification of a Carbon Monoxide Alarm at 564 Spanish Room Road. Unit #1 and Engine #2 were dispatched to the location with 3 Officers and 2 Firefighters, while a crew remained on stand-by at the Fire Hall. Upon arrival, a gas test was conducted in the residence, but it was confirmed there was no further issue. Firefighters cleared the scene and returned to the Fire Hall around 8:25AM.

The Department of Fisheries and Land Resources announced new restrictions for open fires on April 22nd. As per the news release, a ban on open fires is now in effect for all of Newfoundland and Labrador. The ban specifically prohibits the setting of all open fires on forest land or within 300 meters of forest land for all regions of the province. The declaration will remain in effect until September 30 and includes a ban on grass burning, brush burning, campfires and personal fireworks. Gas barbeques and approved patio wood

burning devices are excluded from the ban, except in municipalities that have issued a ban for these devices. The ban has been declared with the goal of reducing the number of wildfires requiring action by Fisheries and Land Resources fire staff, local and volunteer fire departments, and other first responders during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This is consistent with actions being taken by other forest fire fighting agencies in Canada to lower the risks associated with COVID-19 exposure. The minimum fine associated with the violation of the fire ban proclamation is \$1,000. The Department of Fisheries and Land Resources has already recorded five wildfires this year related to burning of grass by individuals. The public are encouraged to report any wildfires or any open burning being conducted in violation of the fire ban by calling 1-866-709-FIRE (3473) or their nearest local Forestry and Wildlife District Office. The Town of Marystown's Outdoor Fire Regulations can be found on our website, at the bottom of the Regulations page. Also, further clarification relating to the province's restrictions on outdoor fires is available on our social media platforms.

Our Fire Hall has a new look and it's awesome! We would like to thank the Town of Marystown and the Provincial Government for their commitment to the exterior renovation project – it's sincerely appreciated by all of us! Thank you to Livewire, the contractor, for their work – the station looks sharp.

On Wednesday, April 29th at 11:51AM, we were notified of a Brush Fire on Marine Drive, in the area of W.M. Drakes Road. 3 Officers and 3 Firefighters responded to the location with Unit #1, Engine #3 and Rescue #4, while additional Firefighters were on stand-by. The fire was extinguished quickly and we cleared the scene around 12:10PM.

Are you, or do you know, someone who is interested in firefighting? Our Junior Firefighter Program is open to local high school students attending Grade 10, 11 or 12. The program is tentatively scheduled to begin in September and it is an opportunity to experience what we do(except responding to emergency calls). The Junior Firefighters have a designated drill night each week for the duration of the program, and will assist the Department with other events and support as requested. Applications are available on our website under the Applications and Forms page. Please email completed applications to paulsnook76@gmail.com. Keep following our Facebook, Twitter and Website for updates related to the program!



Picture 1. Vehicle Fire on St. Mary's Street



Picture 5. HOPE – That this pandemic will soon end!



Picture 2. We are Autism Aware!



Picture 6. Making Noise in support of Frontline Workers!



Picture 3. Tribute to essential services!



Picture 7. Completion of exterior renovations to the Fire Hall



Picture 4. Returning from a Commercial Fire Alarm!



Picture 8. Together we will get through this!

The Marystown Volunteer Fire Department serves approximately 5400 residents from the centrally located Fire Hall at 97-105 McGettigan Boulevard. The Fire Department has 30 very dedicated firefighters and a fleet of a Fire Chief's Vehicle(Unit #1), 1 Ladder Truck(Ladder #1), 2 Pumpers(Engine's #2 & #3), 2 Rescue Vehicles(Rescue's #4 & #6), 1 Pick-up Truck(Mobile #5), a Hovercraft(Rescue #1), Hazmat Unit & Antique Pumper(Engine#1). Visit our website at www.marystownvolunteerfiredept.com, or you can also visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MystVolFireDept and Twitter @MYSTVolFireDept.

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