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DECEMBER **NEWSLETTER**

*Marystown Volunteer Fire Department
December 2019*

In the last month of 2019, the Marystown Volunteer Fire Department supported muscular dystrophy, assisted the Fire Wrens with photos with Santa, made a presentation to the local food banks with fellow First Responders, held the last Monthly Membership Meeting of 2019, recognized volunteers retiring from active service, and responded to emergency calls. We also hosted and attended gatherings during the Christmas season, participated in and supported community events, saw the beginning of exterior renovations to the Fire Hall, conducted training, hosted a training presentation for First Responders, and would like to thank everyone for their support throughout the year!

Our Department completed the following in-house training during December: Equipment and Vehicle Familiarization and Suicide Awareness.

The Muscular Dystrophy Committee extends a thank you to everyone who always supports our fundraising efforts for those affected by the neuromuscular diseases! Most recently, our Firefighters sold the annual Christmas ornaments and fall raffle tickets in aid of the cause. They wish everyone a happy holiday season!

Firefighters also assisted the Fire Wrens with their photos with Santa sessions at the Peninsula Mall last month. The Fire Wrens began the sessions the last of November and concluded mid-December. Thank you to the public for supporting our ladies auxiliary over the four(4) opportunities they provided with the jolly man himself!

Over 2,500lbs of food and nearly \$1,200 was equally distributed to the Sacred Heart Family Aid and Salvation Army Food Banks on Monday, December 2nd. The proceeds were collected by local First Responders through the Annual Emergency Services Food Drive on Saturday, November 30th. Thank you to everyone who supported the Food Drive again this year as those organizations help others in need, especially at this time of the year!

Exterior renovations to the Fire Hall began in early December. Thank you to our Town Council

and the provincial government for their support of this project!

On Saturday, December 7th at 4:33PM, we received notification of a single-vehicle Motor Vehicle Accident(MVA) on Route 210, the Grand Bank Highway near Winterland. While Firefighters were responding to the Fire Hall for an out-of-town response, notification was received that Fire Department assistance was not required and we stood down.

Thank you to Firefighter Adrian and Fire Wren Genevieve Murphy on their retirement from the Fire Department and Fire Wrens, respectively. Your over 30 years of service each is tremendous and much appreciated!

We were happy to participate in the Christmas Parade in our neighboring community of Jean de Baie on Sunday, December 8th. Great job by all involved!

Christmas is all about family and so are we! On Sunday, December 8th, we gathered with our families for the annual Children's Christmas Party. It was an afternoon enjoyed by all. Thank you to our partners and children for their unwavering support and understanding!

On Monday, December 9th, Eastern Health provided a presentation on Suicide Awareness for first responders in our area. Thank you to Denika Ward for coming to our Fire Hall and providing the great presentation on a topic so important to all first responders!

Firefighters Jerry Hanrahan and Colin Farewell attended the Burin Peninsula North Special Olympics Christmas party on Monday, December 9th and had an enjoyable evening with the team. Thank you to the group, who we are proud to support, for inviting a couple of our Firefighters to attend again this year and we hope you enjoyed yourselves too!

Calvary Pentecostal Church welcomed the less fortunate and those spending Christmas alone to their Annual Christmas Blessing Supper on Friday, December 13th. A couple representatives of our Department and the Fire Wrens stopped by to lend a hand and serve the meal to the many in

attendance at the church's community center, The Merge. Great job by the group and all involved in bringing the community together and helping others celebrate the season!

We are proud to support and participate in the Annual Kinsmen Community Christmas Parade each and every year. This year was no different as we joined the many businesses and community organizations with our vehicles and floats to help spread the cheer of Christmas on Saturday, December 14th. Thank you to the Kinsmen for organizing the event every year, and kudos to all involved for making the parade enjoyable for those who came out to line the route!

Later on Saturday, December 14th, we hosted our 1st Parade of Lights. Businesses and community groups were invited to join us in travelling through the community with floats decked out in Christmas Lights. The event was an outstanding success, thanks to the groups which came to participate and we hope everyone along the route enjoyed it! Kudos to Fire Chief Alex Coady and Firefighter Rodney Nolan on your efforts with our newest float project, the "Ladder Truck." Terrific job, and thank you to anyone who assisted in any way with preparations for the Christmas parades!

Our last Training Drill of 2019 was on Monday, December 16th. That evening, we finished up activities of the past year, and ensured our vehicles and equipment were in a ready-state if needed over the holidays. Then we gathered with Honorary Members to spend time reminiscing about past years, and looked forward to the new year. While it was the last official gathering for the group in 2019, our Firefighters are always on-call should an emergency arise. We will reconvene regular meetings/drills on Sunday, January 12th as we meet for the Annual General Meeting, followed by the elections for the Executive, Committee Chairpersons and Liaison for the Firefighters.

On Tuesday, December 24th at 1:42PM, the Fire Department received notification from 911 regarding a single-vehicle Motor Vehicle Accident(MVA) north of Marystown on Route 210. 2 Officers and 5 Firefighters were dispatched to the scene with Unit #1, Engine #2 and Mobile #5. No extrication was required as all occupants were out of the vehicle upon arrival, but assistance was provided to Marystown Ambulance. We cleared the scene around 2:20PM and returned to the Fire Hall. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police(RCMP) also attended to the scene.

Junior Firefighter Committee Chairperson Wayne Clarke and his committee had another successful program in 2019. Seven students

completed the 12-week program and we are proud of them for their participation and interest. We have also begun accepting applications for the 2020 Program which is tentatively scheduled to begin in September. More information and applications are available on our website under the "Junior Firefighter" and "Applications and Forms" pages. Once completed, applications can be returned to the Fire Hall, the Marystown Central High School(MCHS) main office or emailed to waydedclarke@msn.com.

Our Fundraising Committee, led by Chairperson Paul Snook, would like to thank the businesses and the general public who supported our fundraising activities of the past year. It was another successful year of raising funds to upgrade current equipment and make new purchases which allow us to better serve the community and region when called upon. The Demolition Derby, scrap recycling efforts, and more would not be the success they are without the tremendous support we receive from the community as a whole. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year are extended to you and yours!

The best way to fight a fire is to prevent it from happening in the first place. Therefore, our Department places great emphasis and commitment into Fire Prevention activities and outreach every year. Led by Committee Chairperson Jordan Hannam, the Committee and Department organized and engaged in many fire safety activities through 2019. Through the support of the businesses and residents in the community, Fire Prevention efforts were successful again this year. The Committee wishes you all a fire safe holiday season, with a healthy and safe 2020 to follow!

In 2019, our Firefighters made tireless efforts for the community because we care for everyone we serve. Many hours were spent responding to emergency calls and training, but we were also involved in the community when possible and undertook many other activities like Fire Prevention and the Junior Firefighters. Thank you Firefighters for everything you do every day. To our family members, we always appreciate your support and understanding!

Fire Chief Coady, the Officers and Firefighters of the Marystown Volunteer Fire Department would like to acknowledge the awesome support the Fire Department receives from the Town of Marystown, businesses and residents year in and year out. The support we receive helps make us the Department we are, with the success that we have. This holiday season, know we appreciate you and hope it's the best one yet!



Picture 1. Presentation to the local Food Banks



Picture 5. Annual Kinsmen Community Christmas Parade



Picture 2. Thank you for over 60 years of service combined!



Picture 6. Parade of Lights



Picture 3. Jean de Baie Christmas Parade



Picture 7. Parade of Lights



Picture 4. Annual Kinsmen Community Christmas Parade



Picture 8. Motor Vehicle Accident on Route 210

To schedule a demonstration, presentation or tour, call us at (709)279-2226 or email marystownfiredept@nf.aibn.com

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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