

# 2023 Annual Report

Bracebridge Fire Department



## MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES / FIRE CHIEF, SCOTT GRANAHAN



Mayor Maloney and Members of Bracebridge Council,

On behalf of the Firefighters and staff of the Bracebridge Fire Department (BFD), I am pleased to present my first annual report in the role of Director of Emergency Services/Fire Chief for 2023.

This annual report is presented to ensure that members of Council and the community are kept up-to-date on the Bracebridge Fire Department's service levels that outline and provide direction in Fire and Life Safety Education, Fire Prevention and Code Compliance, and provides specific service levels related to emergency responses covered within the Establishing and Regulating By-law for the community.

The BFD continues to work from the Town's first Fire Master Plan which was released in 2021. Recommendations brought through the plan process have given staff strategic priorities and direction which has allowed for areas such as life safety education, fire prevention inspections, and equipment and operational modernization to be addressed and adopted.

In 2023, the fire department was fortunate to onboard six new volunteer firefighters for Stations 1 and 2. These additional members will support an already strong, effective response force and allow for responders to support a wide variety of fire/emergency ground operations.

I would like to thank Mayor Maloney, Council, CAO Rettie and the Bracebridge Leadership Team for their continued support of our Department; it wouldn't be possible to accomplish our goals and objectives without it. Lastly, I would like to thank the citizens of Bracebridge for their dedication and commitment to fire safety.

I hope you find this Annual Report to be informative. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or the Deputy Chief with any questions or concerns or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Scott Granahan'. The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large loop at the end.

**Scott Granahan**

Director of Emergency Services/Fire Chief

# Primary goals and mission of the Bracebridge Fire Department

The goals and mission of the Fire Department are to provide fire protection services through a range of programs designed to protect the lives and property of residents and visitors from the adverse effects of fires or exposure to dangerous conditions to those

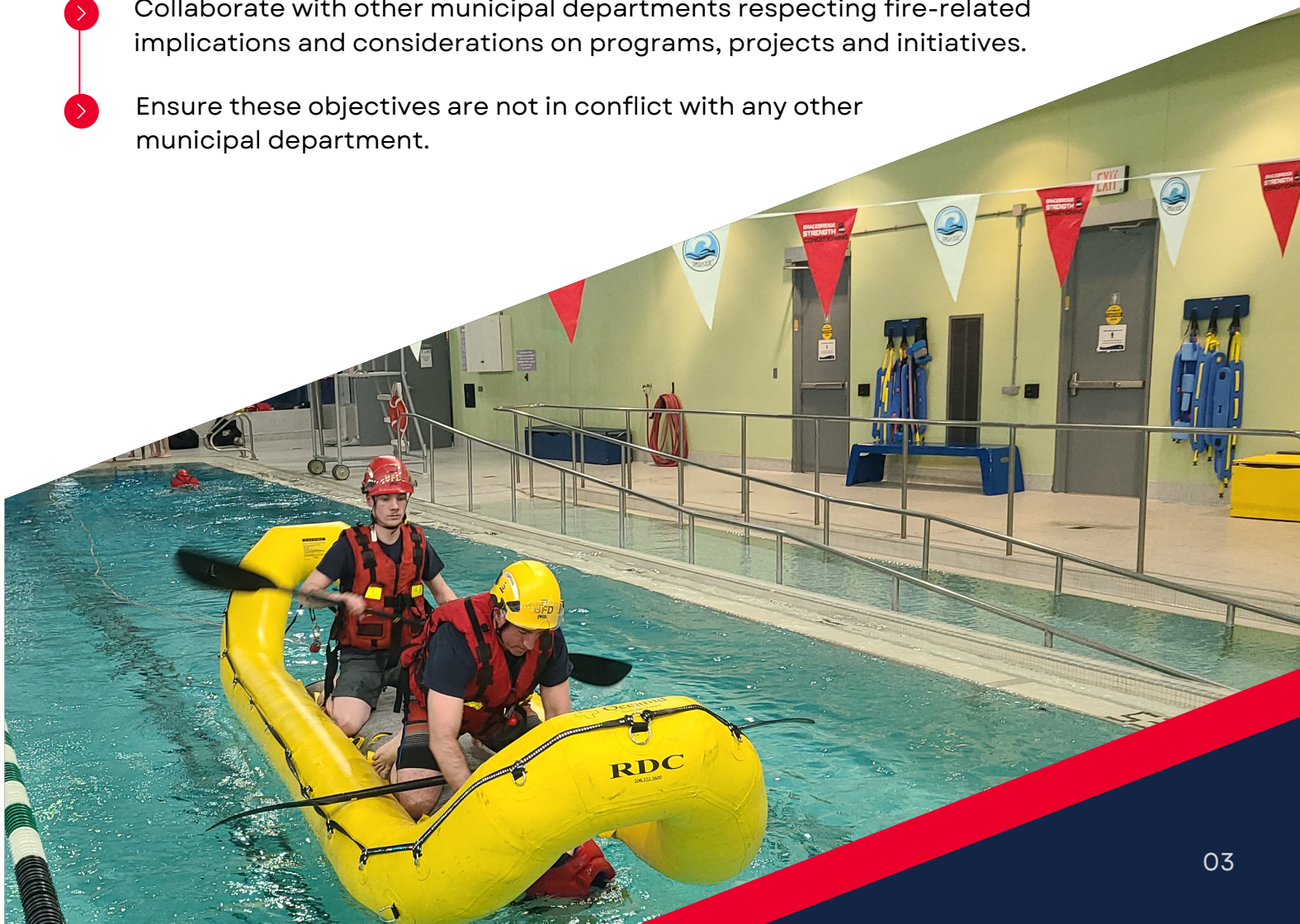
- In our municipality;
- Surrounding municipalities requiring assistance through authorized emergency fire service plan and program (mutual aid) activities; and
- To the municipalities the Fire Department provides fire protection services to via authorized agreement.

To achieve the goals and mission of the Fire Department, necessary funding must be in place and the following objectives met:

- Safeguard the well-being of the public and Fire Department Members by ensuring the availability of firefighting equipment and operational team members within the municipality, enabling a prompt and timely response to emergency calls.
- Identify and assess the Fire Protection Services requirements and report them to Council.
- Establish administrative processes that align with the requirements of the Fire Department and the Corporation.
- Deliver standardized departmental training to maintain a continuous enhancement of all Members proficiency in the most current methods of fire prevention, fire suppression, and emergency response. Collaborate with other municipal departments regarding leadership development and other initiatives.
- Implement a maintenance program to ensure the readiness of all fire protection apparatus for response to emergency calls.

## Provide an effective fire prevention program to:

- Ensure that required fire protective equipment is installed and maintained in working order through plan examination and inspection;
- Reduce and/or eliminate fire hazards and risks;
- Ensure compliance with applicable municipal, provincial and federal fire prevention legislation, statutes, codes, regulations, and by-laws in respect to fire safety.
- Develop and maintain an effective public information system and education program with particular emphasis on school fire safety programs, rural areas, identified vulnerable sectors, commercial, industrial and institutional training.
- Ensure that outside departments and other agencies are accessible to provide assistance in managing a significant catastrophe within the municipality.
- Develop and maintain a collaborative relationship with federal, provincial and municipal departments, utilities and agencies, to safeguard the protection of life and property.
- Collaborate with other municipal departments respecting fire-related implications and considerations on programs, projects and initiatives.
- Ensure these objectives are not in conflict with any other municipal department.





# Three lines of defence

Overall, the Department operates under the methodology of the “Three Lines of Defence” to promote public safety:



Public Fire and Life Safety Education



Fire Safety Standards and Code Enforcement



Emergency Response



# Organization of the department.

**Emergency  
Response**

**Fire Prevention  
and Public  
Education**

**Emergency  
Planning**

**Administration**

**Logistics  
Communications**

**Physical Assets**

**Training and  
Education**

# General Department Information

The Bracebridge Fire Department has a current roster of 47 staff members, as of December 31, 2023. This includes:

- Director of Emergency Services/Fire Chief;
- Deputy Fire Chief;
- Fire Prevention Officer;
- Training Officer;
- Administrative Coordinator; and
- 42 Volunteer Firefighters.

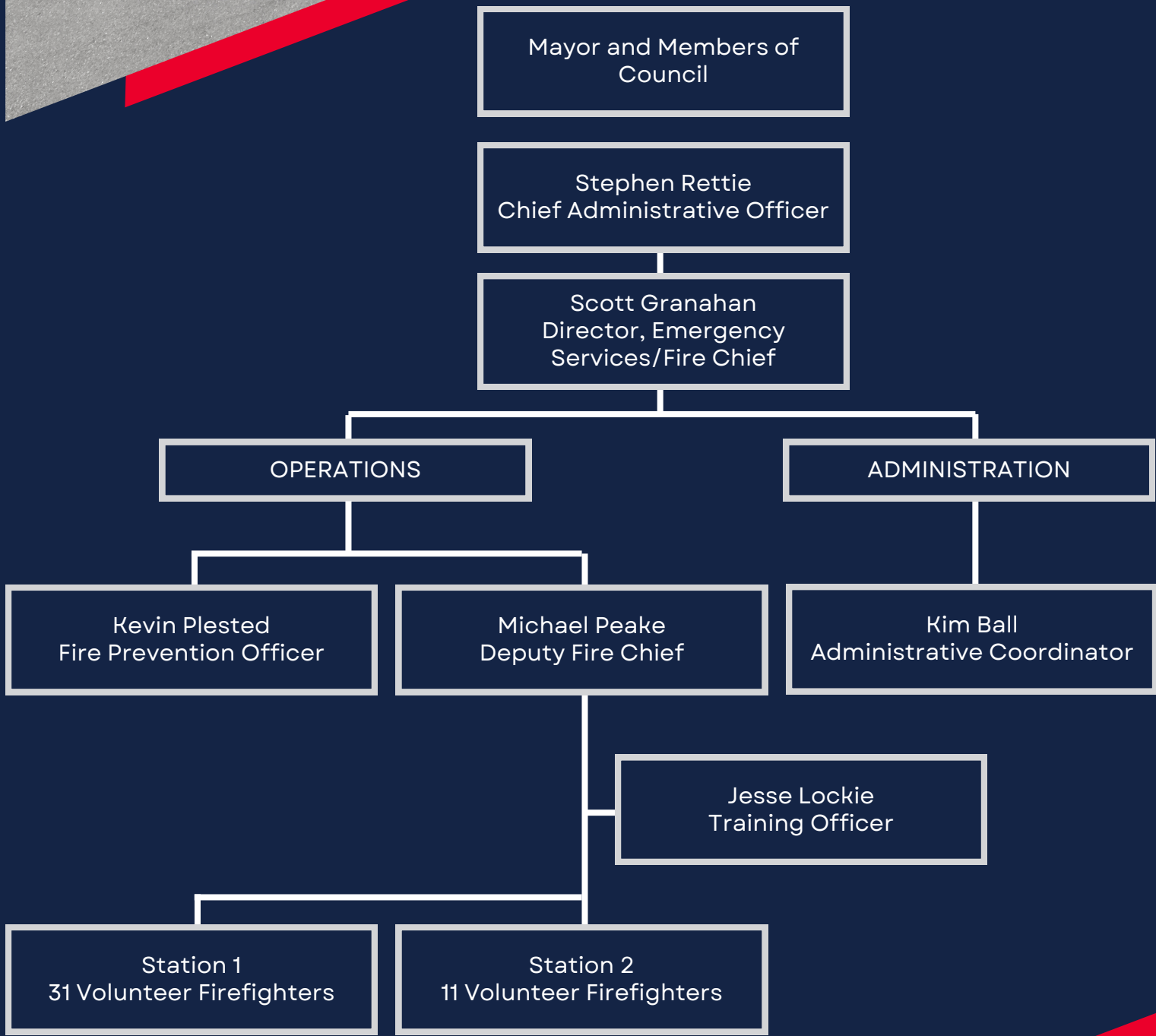
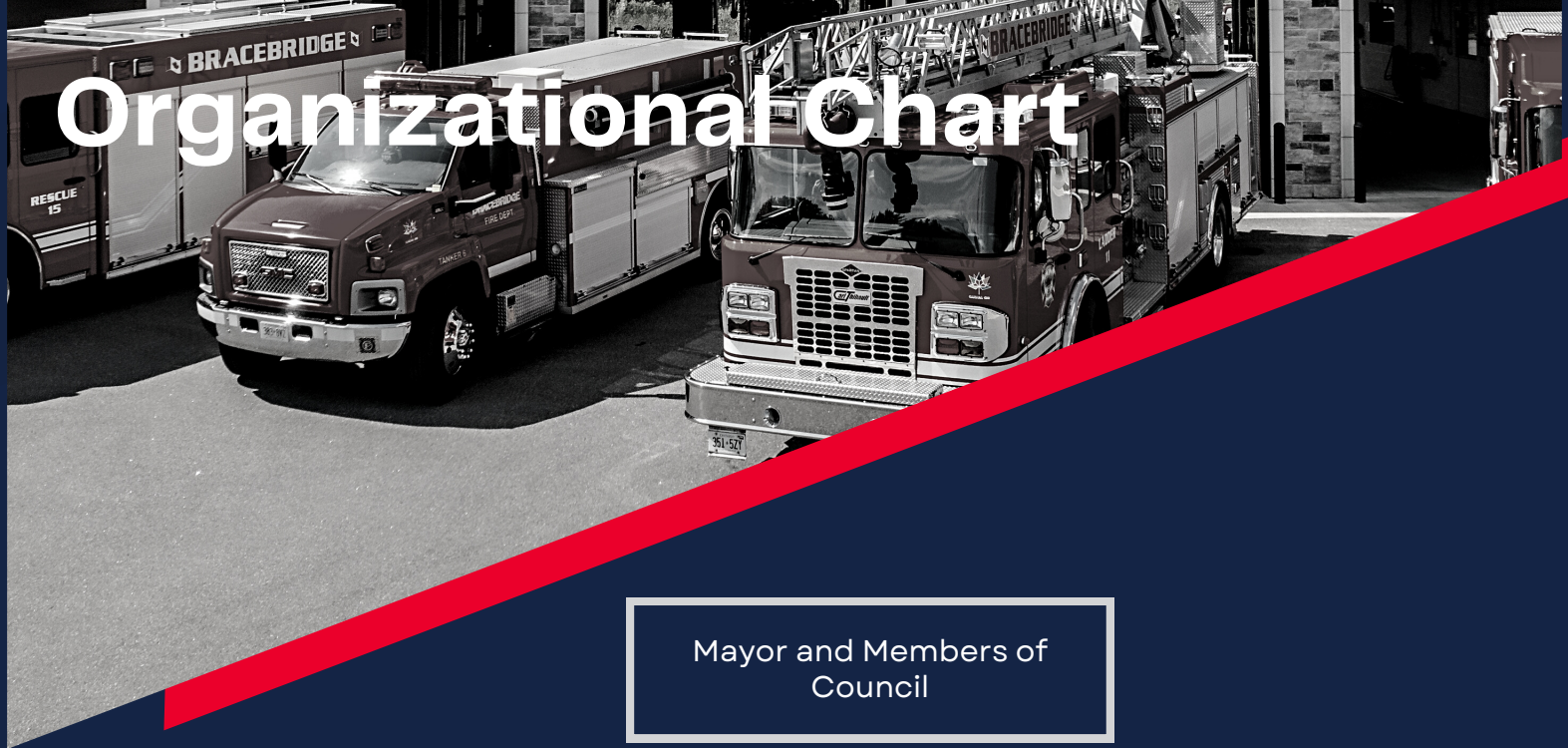
In February 2023, the department took on its first ever secondary school co-op student, Maddie Starratt from St. Dominic Catholic Secondary School. Maddie added another layer to the team and excelled in firefighting operations and public education.

In September, the Department welcomed another co-op student from Bracebridge and Muskoka Lakes Secondary School, Alfie Napper. His love for the fire department has already fueled his passion for firefighting and the process to recruit Alfie as a Volunteer Firefighter has begun through the co-op program.

In June of 2023, the department celebrated the retirement of long-standing Fire Chief, Murray Medley, who served the department for 45 years. Murray was the proud recipient of the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (OAF) Alf Stone Award in 2023. Subsequently, Scott Granahan was hired as the new Director of Emergency Services/Fire Chief.



# Organizational Chart





## Station 1

### Platoon 1

Jim Jackson (Captain)  
Rose Jackson (Acting Captain)  
Brad Jackson  
Don Giroux  
Dwight Brown  
Jason Campbell  
James Heslinga  
Michael Cartwright

### Platoon 3

Frank Mazzuca (Captain)  
Jesse Lockie (Acting Captain)  
Matt Balfe  
Matt Planeta  
Shayne Dowling  
Scott Kinsman  
Paul Beaton  
Steve Larsen

Joe Hemmings, Air Officer

### Platoon 2

Steve Saunders (Captain)  
Dan Carty  
Adam Goodale  
Kate Kennedy  
Rod Elliott  
Amanda Flynn  
Kyle Kuzmyk

### Platoon 4

Kevin Ellis (Captain)  
Mike Holotuk (Acting Captain)  
Jonathan Taylor  
Dan Kearns  
Steve Hooper  
Chris Tellier  
Emma Taylor  
Mike Baldwin

## Station 2

### Platoon 5

Jeremy O'Brien (Station Captain)  
Aaron Robbins  
Kyle Bartlett  
Steve Clarke  
Emerson Blackman  
Mike Kelly

### Platoon 6

Kevin Lambert (Acting Captain)  
Mike Ducharme  
Jackson Schmidt  
Adam Dubreuil  
Tristan Dunnett

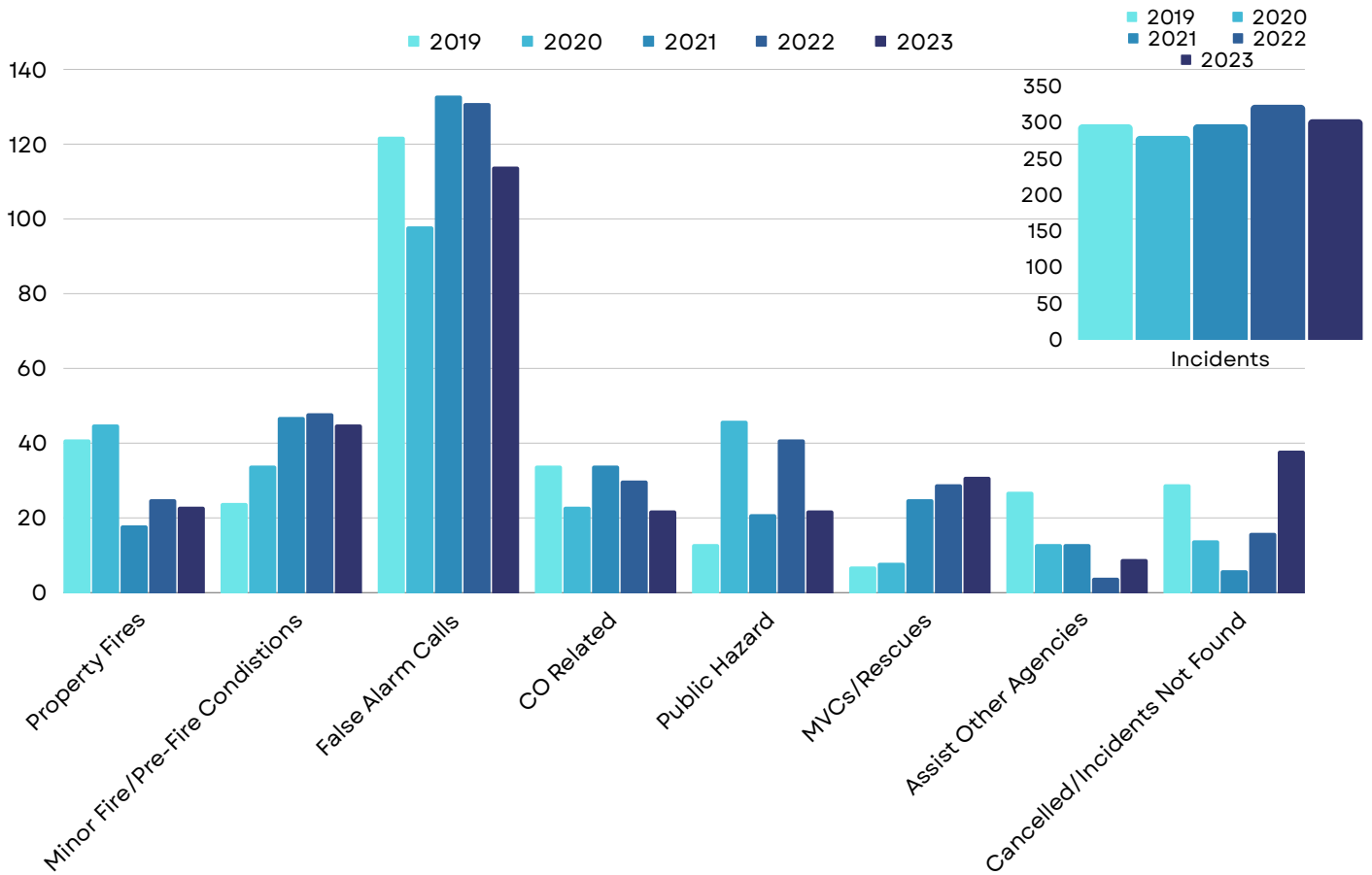
## Retirements

Murray Medley	45 years of service
Bruno Leclerc	22 years of service
Ron Phillips	22 years of service
Greg Hunter	5 years of service
James Henderson	5 years of service

# Emergency Response

The Department responded to a total of 304 emergency calls for assistance in 2023. Dispatched responses are categorized in the Departmental Records Management System using the same wording as the Standard Incident Reporting utilized by the Office of the Fire Marshal.

The chart below shows a five-year comparison of the Department's responses:



- **Property Fires:** residential, commercial and industrial structures, vehicle, and wildland fires.
- **Minor Fire/Pre-Fire Conditions:** minor cooking incidents, open air burning, garbage bin fires.
- **False Alarm Calls:** fire alarm equipment malfunctions, accidental activations, malicious or perceived emergencies.
- **Carbon Monoxide (CO) Related:** actual incidents with CO readings, as well as false alarm.
- **Public Hazard:** natural gas and propane leaks, hydro lines down on trees or across roadways.
- **MVCs/Rescues:** vehicle accidents, including those requiring extrication, water/ice, elevator and similar rescues.
- **Assist Other Agencies:** assistance to Muskoka Paramedics or OPP with gaining entry to residences or welfare checks in residences where breathing apparatus may be required. Mutual aid involves sending resources to assist a neighbouring community's fire department.
- **Cancelled/Incidents not found** calls cancelled by other agencies or incidents not located.

# Fire Prevention and Public Education

The Fire Prevention and Public Education Division saw an increase in the number of inspections and the hours staff devoted to public education activities in 2023. Staff worked collaboratively to update the Fire Prevention Program to include more inspections of occupancies as part of a proactive approach to fire safety. The division has taken an approach to ensure building owners are educated on their responsibilities found in the Ontario Fire Code, why those responsibilities are important for the safety of occupants, and the consequences of those responsibilities are ignored. Interactions with building owners have been positive.

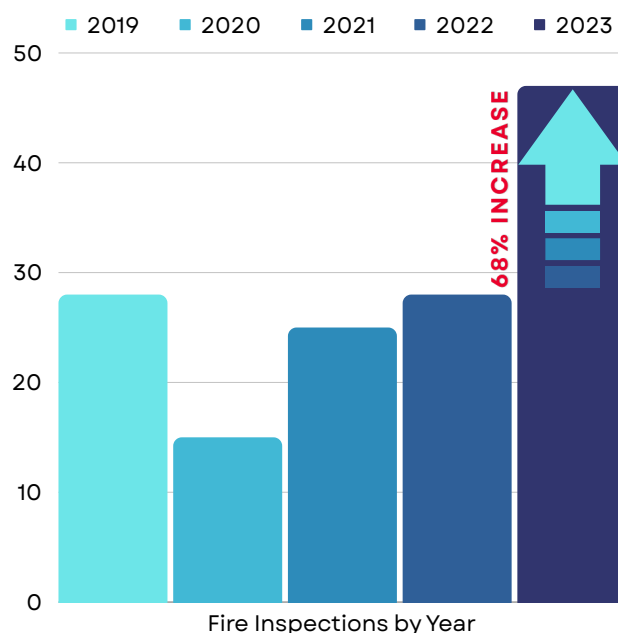
The Division formed new relationships with many community support agencies that assist our more vulnerable residents. These relationships have allowed the Department to have closer connections with the houses of residents that may have mobility issues, mental impairments, medication changes or sub-standard housing. These residents would benefit greatly from the early notification that smoke and carbon monoxide alarms provide, therefore staff have ensured these agencies make it part of their visit to assess the fire safety needs of the residents and invite Fire Prevention staff to come assist if problems are identified.

## Fire and Life Safety Inspections

The *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997*, and Ontario Regulation 365/13 (O. Reg. 365/13) requires that fire safety assessments and inspections, if necessary, be undertaken as directed by the Fire Marshal for:

- (1) every building for which a fire safety complaint is received; and
- (2) every building for which a request for assistance to comply with the Fire Code is received and the involvement of the Chief Fire Official is required.

In 2023, the division conducted 47 inspections, resulting in a 68% increase over the previous year. Most inspections continued to be routine annual inspections required by legislation.



### Complaint Inspections

A complaint may be received from several sources including: the public, outside agencies or government ministries.

Complaint inspections are focused on the fire safety concern that has been raised to determine if the complaint is justified. This type of inspection may not address every hazard on the property.

### Request Inspections

Requests for inspections are to assist owners to comply with fire safety legislation, including when certain provisions of the Fire Code require the approval of the Chief Fire Official. This type of activity assists in improving the fire safety of properties in the community and allows the property owner to propose alternate means for compliance for certain Fire Code requirements.

### Routine Inspections

Routine inspections are usually performed annually as required by the Fire Code or other legislation. Current routine inspections include vulnerable occupancies (nursing homes, retirement homes or other care facilities), schools and recreational camps.

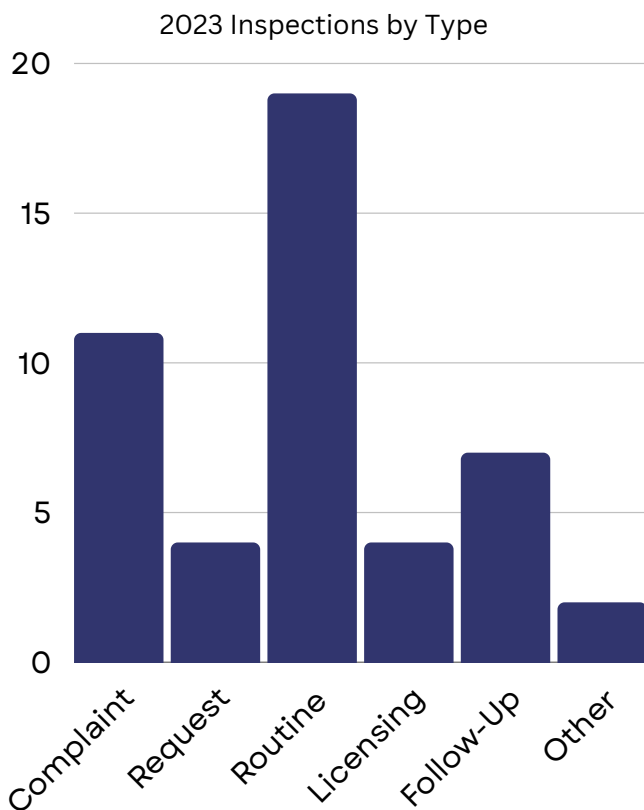
### Licensing Inspections

Licensing inspections are performed upon request, primarily for acquiring liquor or daycare licenses to ensure those businesses are meeting their Fire Code obligations.

### Follow-up Inspections

These inspections are completed because of our fire suppression crews being dispatched to an address for an incident and they determine that further follow-up by the Fire Prevention division is required to address any fire safety issues. These inspections may not require a site visit and may not address every hazard on the property.

As suggested in the Master Fire Plan, the Department is expanding upon the existing Fire Prevention Policy and By-Law 2023-076, adopted by Council on November 15, 2023, further formalized the Inspection Program as part of the 2023 Business Plan. The updated Fire Prevention Program provides further definition of inspection types that will be conducted and added an Inspection Frequency by Occupation Classification schedule to allow Fire Prevention staff pivot to a more proactive approach to fire prevention as opposed to reactive. The program also enhanced communication guidelines between the Fire Prevention staff and the Building Services Branch.



# Public Education

Public education initiatives continued to expand in 2023. The Department spread fire safety messaging through new and conventional methods, totaling 549 documented staff/volunteer firefighter hours allotted to these activities. The program strives to educate as many diverse groups as possible, while also attempting to improve on rural and identified at-risk properties or populations for public education campaigns.

Bracebridge firefighters had the opportunity to attend a number of on-site public events in 2023 to connect with community members of all ages one-on-one about fire and life safety. These events included the:

- Vankoughnet Family Day Event
- Bracebridge Library's Party in the Park
- Muskoka Pioneer Power Annual Show
- Monsignor Michael O'Leary Family Fun Day
- Santa's Village Hero Days (summer and fall)
- Wood Lake Regatta
- Bracebridge Fall Fair & Horse Show
- Festival of Lights
- Santa Claus Parade



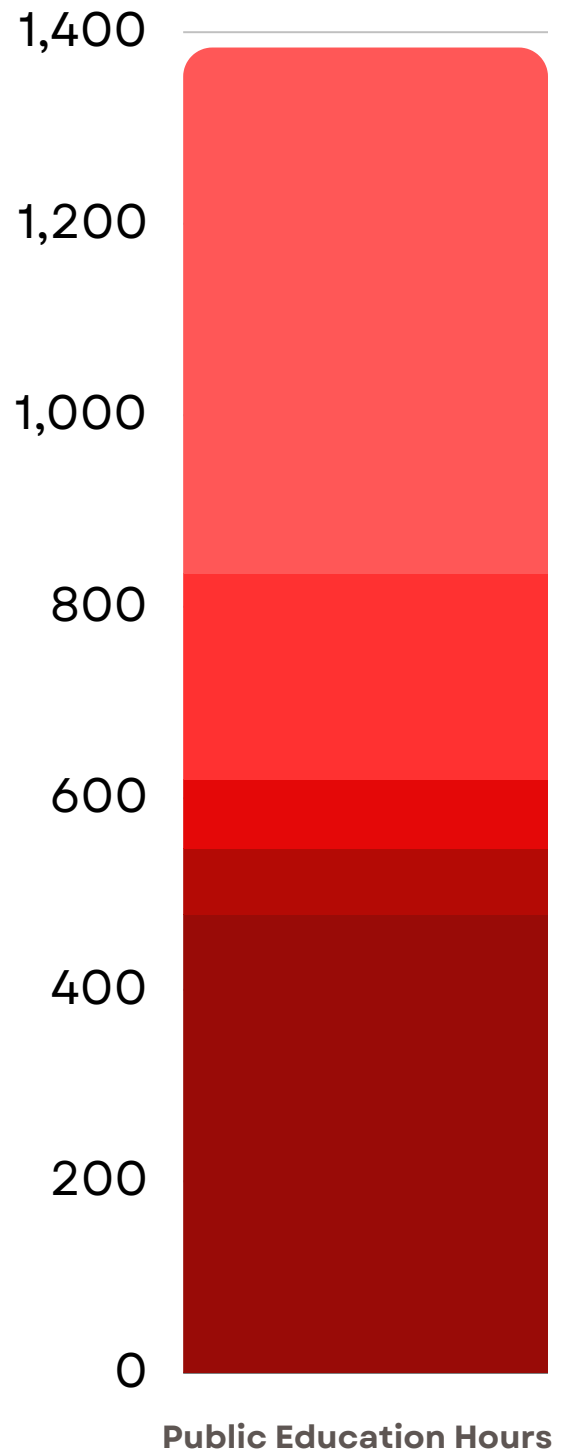
## Fire Danger Rating Program

This year, the Fire Danger Rating program received added attention due to a significant fire ban that took place in the summer, the amount of rain received during that time, and the unprecedented wildfires taking place in other parts of the province. The rating is set using the Fire Weather Index in consultation with the Muskoka Area Fire Chiefs (MAFC) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR). The town is also located in Restricted Fire Zone (RFZ) 27 (District of Muskoka) which allows the MNR to enact fire bans that supersede municipal bans.

A municipal fire ban was issued on May 30, and subsequently the MNR issued a restricted fire zone on June 1. During the month of June, the municipality received a significant amount of rainfall that may have allowed the MAFC to remove the ban, however the MNR continued with their restrictions due to the ongoing wildfires further north. To ensure consistent safety messaging, the MAFC kept the ban in place over the Canada Day long weekend which resulted in the cancellation of the celebratory fireworks display. Staff tended to additional questions and inquiries from the public about the ongoing ban and its affects on individuals celebrations. The RFZ and municipal fire ban were lifted on July 11 with no further bans in place for the rest of the year.



- 2019
- 2020
- 2021
- 2022
- 2023



## Smoke/CO Alarm Door-to-Door Campaign

This year's campaign was adjusted to focus more on a quality over quantity. Firefighters were encouraged to spend more time at the door when speaking to residents, involving children where possible, and not limiting their conversation to just smoke/CO alarms. Outreach was focused on an older area of town where many homes were built before smoke alarms were required. During the campaign, firefighters knocked on 202 doors, made contact with 110 residences and left fire safety information on 92 front doors.

## Test Your Smoke Alarm Day & Fire Prevention Week

This year, Ontario's Office of the Fire Marshal introduced *Test Your Smoke Alarm Day* on September 28, dedicated to fire safety. The initiative was created after the province reported 133 fire fatalities in 2022 - which was the most in 20 years. The initiative focused on encouraging everyone to test their smoke alarms, and encouraged all Ontarians to learn more about smoke alarms, fire safety, and home fire escape planning.

This year's Fire Prevention Week's message followed shortly after with, *Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention.* It focused on the simple and important actions that can be taken to stay safe while cooking.

Both initiatives were promoted on social media via the Town of Bracebridge and Bracebridge Fire channels, with media interviews, fire safety displays in Town facilities and community mailboxes in the rural areas and some in-person events.



# Emergency Planning

The Loomex Group facilitated an in-person session for the Bracebridge Emergency Control Group in November of 2023. This session included an overview of the Incident Management System and its use during events that require a unified, scalable response to mitigate negative impacts. The group also participated in a training exercise scenario from the beginning of an emergency through recovery and returning to normal operations. This style of learning helps ensure ECG members are kept up to date on processes, contacts and effective communication.

In addition to the annual compliance, several Town staff members took the initiative to further educate themselves in Emergency Management through the following courses:

- Incident Management System 200, six attendees
- Basic Emergency Management 200, four attendees
- Community Emergency Management Coordinator, one attendee

In the spring of 2023, staff from the Fire and Recreation Departments held a roundtable session to reconnected with local agencies and non-government organizations (NGO's) to review available resources, strengthen connection points and learn more about the resources available in the community. Having a full understanding of what our community partners do daily ensure our processes are expedited when required.







There were some particularly important updates to the Appendices in the Town's Emergency Plan, including the Emergency Communications Guide and the hazard-specific Emergency Actions Plans. The Action Plans now mirror the Town's Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA) along with the identification of trigger points and actionable steps when those trigger points are met.

The 2023 Emergency Preparedness Week took place in the first week of May. Country 102 FM partnered with the Department to promote a contest through the week, giving away a 72-hour emergency kit. Throughout the campaign, daily advice or preparedness information was provided through social media posts linking back to the Town's Emergency Preparedness webpage for more detail.

Every season brings new challenges for Emergency Management and none greater than the risk of flooding. This year was no different. Bracebridge did see elevated water levels during the spring freshet, although the risk to properties were minimal. Through this period, regular public communication was distributed to include preparedness information, watershed updates and where to find resources such as sandbags. Water level monitoring and road monitoring by Fire Department and Public Works Department staff was carried out as required as some properties and area roads were impacted by flooding.

# Administration



## Business Plan Projects

## Emergency Planning Projects

### Project EP-01: Emergency Preparedness – Emergency Control Group Training – Emergency Plan Training

Provide additional emergency management training to the members of the Bracebridge Emergency Control Group.

Lead: Fire Chief

2023 Budgetary impact – \$1,000  
COMPLETE

## Fire Department Projects

### Project FD-01: Complete station location analysis and site acquisition for Fire Station 2

Based on the recommendations contained in the Fire Master Plan and Motion 22-GC-079/080 (Internal Feasibility Study for the Replacement of Fire Station 2), complete additional location analysis and provide Council with recommendations regarding site acquisition.

Lead: Fire Chief

2023 Budgetary impact – Nil  
Update: Staff Report forthcoming in 2024  
Expected completion – 2024/2025

### Project FD-02: Develop a formal process to review Section 21 Guidance Notes

Review the pilot program for the Department's Officer Development Program and adjust as needed to meet current legislation.

Lead: Fire Chief and Training Officer

2023 Budgetary impact – Nil  
Expected completion – Q2 2024

**Project FD-03: Review of the Department’s Establishing and Regulating By-law**

Review and update the Town’s Fire Department Establishing and Regulating By-law based on current operations and legislation.

Lead: Fire Chief

2023 Budgetary impact – Nil  
COMPLETE

**Project FD-04: Replace and upgrade a department 1,500-gallon tanker truck to new 2,500 gallon**

2023 activities will include liaising with the awarded vendor on the construction of the new Tanker #7, including a site visit to the manufacturing facility. Expected delivery is 2024. (Awarded through Motion 22-GC-156)

Lead : Fire Chief

2023 Budgetary impact – Nil (To be included in the 2024 budget)  
Update: Site visit schedule to be determined in 2024.

Expected completion: Q3 2024

**Project FD-05: Develop a separate fire prevention policy**

Expand upon the existing policy contained within the Establishing and Regulating By-law to further formalize Fire Prevention activities around a Smoke/C.O. Alarm Program, Public Education Program and Inspection Program.

Lead: Fire Chief and Fire Prevention Officer

2023 Budgetary impact – Nil  
COMPLETE

**Project FD-06: Implementation of program to download fire inspections directly to FirePro from mobile device**

Ongoing project to further the capabilities of FirePro and the use of mobile devices in the field.

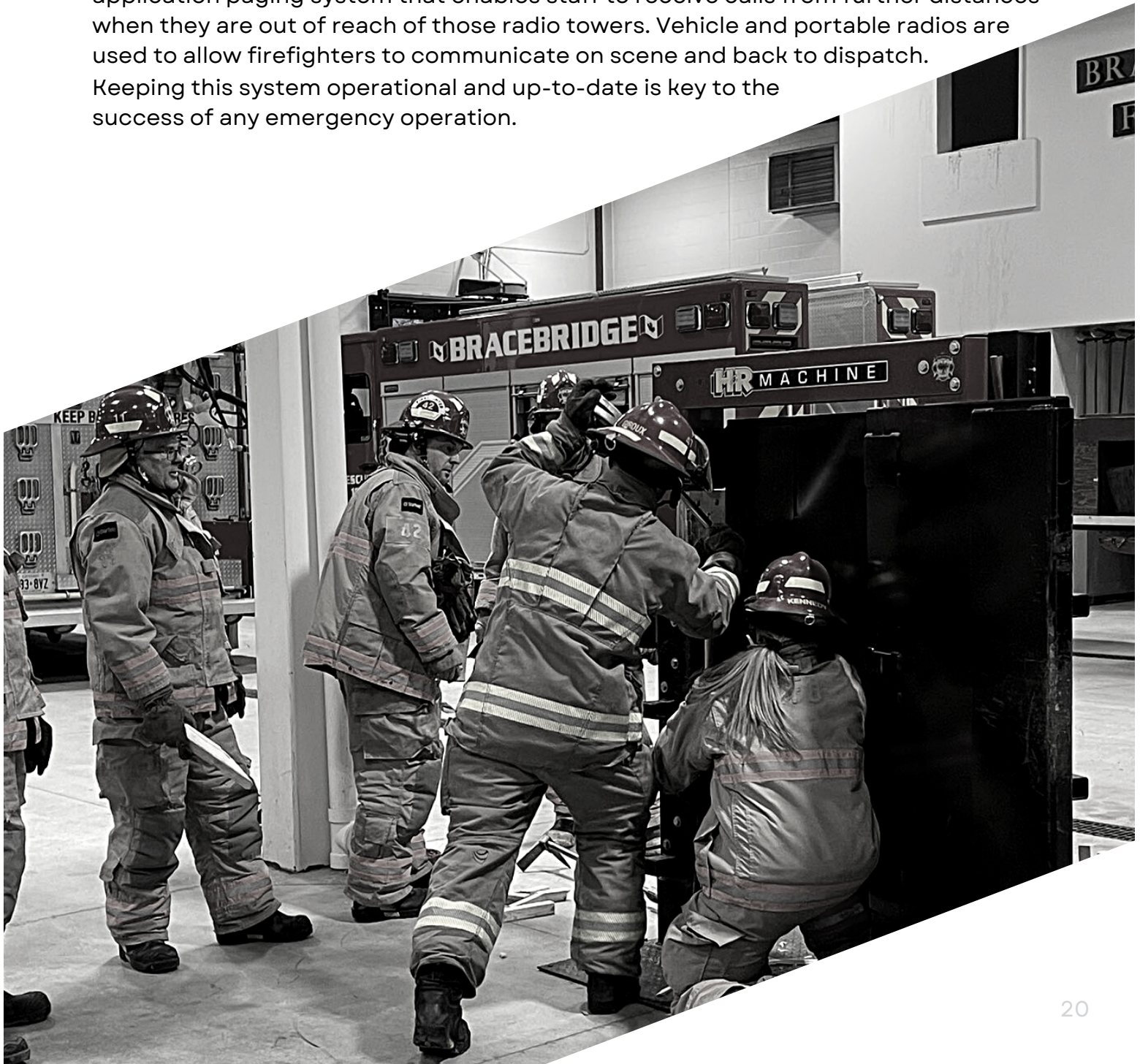
Lead: Fire Chief and Fire Prevention Officer

2023 Budgetary impact – Nil  
Update: Initiative paused to investigate new software in 2024.

# Logistics Communications

An area of focus on Logistics Communications was created late in 2023 with the updated Establishing and Regulating By-Law to oversee the dispatching and technology services for the Department.

Dispatching has been provided by Muskoka Ambulance Communications Service for over 20 years. The Department uses a two-tower radio system to provide radio coverage to most of the town. Off these towers, pagers are used to notify firefighters of emergency calls and that system is backed up with a cell phone application paging system that enables staff to receive calls from further distances when they are out of reach of those radio towers. Vehicle and portable radios are used to allow firefighters to communicate on scene and back to dispatch. Keeping this system operational and up-to-date is key to the success of any emergency operation.



# Physical Assets



The Department responds out of two stations.

- Fire Station 1 at 225 Taylor Road is the primary station that houses the full-time staff and four Platoons, plus an Air Officer; and
- Station 2 at 3448 HWY 118 East that has two platoons.

The Department's fleet consists of:

- Two pumper trucks;
- Three water tankers;
- One rescue truck;
- One ladder truck;
- Four 4X4 rapid response units (including 1 new in 2023); and
- One fire boat that is berthed on Lake Muskoka during the ice-out months.



## 2023 Equipment Purchases

The following emergency response equipment was purchased in 2023, with some purchases funded through community donations.

- **Six sets of structural bunker gear** was purchased to replace expired bunker gear. Bunker gear has a 10-year service life from the manufacture date.
- **One emergency plug** to aid in demobilizing electric vehicles during emergency operations.
- **One high pressure pump assembly** to replace a pump on one of the forestry pump packs (mark 3), due to the pump seizing up.
- **Four structural fire helmets** to replace expired helmets. Helmets have a 10-year service life from their manufacture date.
- **One auto crib set** which is placed beneath the vehicle and used to stabilize vehicles at motor vehicle incidents.
- **Six stream lights.** Personal lights to be used by the Rapid Interview Team to increase visibility.
- **One large area search kit** which allows firefighters doing internal search operations to have a trace line to safely return out to the entrance. It also aids rescue teams to locate downed firefighter faster.
- **One DeWalt tri-pod light** powered by a 20-volt battery. This allows for easy set up to create a safe working environment, increasing the firefighter's ability to see in dark areas away from the fire apparatus lighting.
- **Two smooth bore nozzles** that replaced the old fog nozzles and are used with the multi-story hose packs. Smooth bore nozzles allow firefighters to apply a greater volume of water.
- **One RIT-PAK Assembly.** This equipment is used to supply down firefighters with additional air in hazardous areas in MAYDAY situations. This second RIT-Pak will allow the department to have access to this equipment in the event of more than one emergencies occurring at the same time.
- **Forcible entry tools**
  - Two Halligan bars;
  - Four flat head axes;
  - Two pick head axes.
- **Six cooler chairs** to be used during rehab for firefighter to help them cool down. Each chair has built-in water pouches that fill with cold water and surrounds the firefighter when seated.



# Training and Education





## Regular Training

Regular Departmental training occurs on Monday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. In 2023, Fire Department personnel spent a total of 2,666 staff hours training over 93 sessions.

Subjects included:

- Ground ladders;
- Familiarization of local snow mobile trails;
- Firefighter survival;
- Search and rescue operations - vent, enter, isolate, search;
- Maps reading;
- Portable and wildfire pumps;
- Rescue tool proficiency;
- Hose testing;
- WHMIS;
- Power saws;
- Carbon monoxide awareness;
- Emergency vehicle driver training;
- First Aid/CPR/AED recertification;
- Health and safety;
- Hazardous materials/emergency response guide;
- Self-contained breathing apparatus;
- Proper protective gear decontamination;
- Rural water supply;
- Pumper operations;
- Radio communications;
- Vehicle extrication;
- Fire boat training;
- Water operations;
- Smoke alarm education;
- Rapid intervention teams (RIT);
- Fire hose deployment;
- Lithium-ion battery awareness;
- Wildland fire operations (SP103);
- Recruit live fire;
- Forcible entry;
- Presentation form District of Muskoka re: water supply (Hydrants); and
- Mock structure fires using four local buildings.



## Specialized Training

The Bracebridge Fire Department delivered an in-house NFPA 1001 Firefighter Level 1 program to five new recruits. This course is one of two levels required to become a fully certified firefighter. After the five new recruits and an additional two existing firefighters complete both levels, the Bracebridge Fire Department will be fully certified. Certifications also include International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC), Pro-Board NFPA and the Office of the Ontario Fire Marshal.

Additional fire certification courses that were completed in 2023 through fire regional training centres include:

- **NFPA 1021 Fire Officer Level 3:** This course is for senior officers supervising Captains and Acting Captains. Three members completed this course.
- **Resilient Minds:** This course is designed to help first responders recognize and help other firefighters find support after events that may cause concern for post-traumatic stress disorder. Ten members completed this course.
- **Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Tech Level 1:** This course allows members to do visual inspections and repair self-contained breathing apparatus equipment including air cylinders. Three members completed this course.
- **Joint Health and Safety Committee Part 2:** Two members have completed this course.



# Mandatory Certification

As of July 1, 2022, the Office of the Fire Marshal has legislated mandatory certification for Ontario Fire Departments that must be completed by 2026. For the level of service of the Bracebridge Fire Department, Firefighters are required to have NFPA Firefighter 1001 Level 1 and 2; and Fire Officers are required to obtain NFPA Fire Officer Level 1 or 2 depending on rank. In addition, there are additional requirements for certification in water/ice rescue, pump operations, and incident safety officer, which the Department is working toward.

Bracebridge Fire Department members with a Firefighter rank are already trained to the required standard (NFPA Firefighter 1001 Level 1 and 2). Fire Officers within the Department are all certified to the level required (NFPA Fire Officer 1021 Level 1). Additional fire certification courses that were completed in 2023 through fire regional training centres (for mandatory certification requirements or from recommendations in the Fire Master Plan) included:

- **NFPA 1521 Incident Safety Officer:** This training was identified in the Fire Master Plan to have more firefighters certified to oversee safety of personnel on the fire grounds. Two members completed this course.
- **NFPA 1035 Fire and Life Safety Educator:** Two members completed this course, which focuses on delivering fire and life safety education to the public.
- **NFPA 1002 Pump Operator:** Two members completed this course, which certifies firefighters to operate an apparatus pump at emergency scenes.
- **NFPA 1033 Fire Investigator:** One member completed this course, which focuses on being able to complete a detailed investigation of a fire and be able to present the case in a courtroom.
- **NFPA 1021 Fire Officer Level 1:** Two members have completed this course which allows them to supervise firefighters during emergency operations.

## Recruit Training

The department has created two recruitment hiring platforms. One is the recruitment that hires applicants that have no fire knowledge, and they are trained and complete their NFPA firefighter level 1 and 2 by the end of their recruitment. This recruitment process takes approximately four to six months to complete with the combination of self-study, practical training, and testing, and is normally part of a Muskoka-wide recruit training process.

The other recruitment is called a fast-track recruitment. This recruitment hires applicants that already have their NFPA firefighter level 1 and 2 that is now required with mandatory certification. These already certified recruits go through more of a refresher training and allows them to start responding to emergencies faster. This recruitment process takes approximately one month to complete.

The Department held a full recruitment drive in the spring of 2023, and subsequently hired four firefighters for Station 1 and one firefighter for Station 2. These five firefighters completed an in-house NFPA 1001 Level 1 Program in 2023 and will be completing their NFPA Level 2 in 2024.

The department hired five fast track recruits for Station 1 in December 2023. They will complete their training in early 2024 and will be responding to emergencies by February.

The department hired a total of 10 recruit firefighters in 2023. The department opened another full recruitment in December 2023 and anticipates recruiting 8-10 additional firefighters to start their training in January 2024.





## Giving Back

The Bracebridge Fire Department participates in various community and national fundraising events, the largest being the Annual Salvation Army Food Drive held each December.

- Hike for Hospice
- Salvation Army Food Drive
- McHappy Day





# Conclusion

The Bracebridge Fire Department continues to evolve and modernize operations to meet the needs of a growing community.

Emergency response data shows no alarming trends and has been consistent over the last few years. Notable was an increase in fire alarm activations with a reduction in malfunctioning fire alarm systems. Fire Prevention staff continue to monitor accidental incidents to identify more clearly the root cause and focus efforts to reduce these calls.

Community Emergency Management activities were focused around seasonal weather events including a 41-day fire ban, spring flooding in areas of the municipality and extreme storm weather events in both the summer and winter months.

Fire Department staff use local and provincial trends to direct public education activities. The Department has increased its focus on social media campaigns for both fire safety and emergency planning and will continue to do so in 2024.

The Department will continue to implement Fire Master Plan recommendations, with the largest of those projects being the relocation of Fire Station 2. Continual updating of the Community Risk Assessment data in response to changes in the building stock and land use of the municipality will also continue to direct Departmental decision making.

Bracebridge's volunteer firefighters are a dedicated group who are the heart of the organization and the reason for the teams continued success. These individuals, with the support of their families and employers, are committed to community service in their community and are fire safety champions.



BRACEBRIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT



BRACEBRIDGE

BRACEBRIDGE  
FIRE DEPT.  
TANKER 6

BRACEBRIDGE

351-527