

2005
ANNUAL REPORT
STRATFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT



April 2006

His Worship Mayor Dan Mathieson and
Members of City Council
City Hall, P.O. Box 818
Stratford, Ontario
N5A 6W1

Mayor Mathieson and Members of Council:

It is my privilege to present the Stratford Fire Department 2005 Annual Report. The members of the Fire Department are dedicated professionals who are committed to serving the citizens and guests of the City of Stratford. This report summarizes the activities that have occurred during the past year. If you would like further information on any items, I would be pleased to be of assistance.

Our number one goal is to make Stratford one of the safest communities in Ontario. Deputy Chief Michael Gornyczki and I are determined to achieve this through the strengths of our people and building partnerships with community and organizations. We will continue focusing proactively on fire prevention, public education, code enforcement and emergency preparedness.

A wise old fireman once told me early in my career “there is no honour in fighting a fire that could have been prevented”.

Yours truly,

Richard Young
Fire Chief

STRATFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

FIRE CHIEF

R. YOUNG

DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

M. GORNYICZKI (December 20, 2005)

DIRECTOR OF TRAINING AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

B. DAHMS

DIRECTOR OF FIRE PREVENTION

P. BUTSON

FIRE INSPECTOR

M. GORNYICZKI

"A" GROUP

Capt. P. Benjamin
Lt. A. Paul
Lt. L. Landreth
F.F. B. Wakelin
B. Chadwick
S. McCormick
R. Niezen
S. Petrie
K. Cobb
B. McCann

"B" GROUP

Capt. T. Martell
Lt. M. Salt
Lt. R. Marriott
F.F. J. Mavity
T. Adair
K. Aitcheson
T. Hislop
C. Gaylor
M. Lukachko
R. MacDonald

"C" GROUP

Capt. L. Dale
Lt. R. Petrie
Lt. R. Micks
F.F. P. Boudreau
T. Cottenie
R. Mazzanti
S. Dekok
C. Beach
T. Schieckoff
M. Handley

"D" GROUP

Capt. W. Clarence
Lt. J. McCaffery
Lt. J. Byatt
F.F. W. Adair
E. Schuett
K. Smith
J. Lane
J. Canning
S. Ford
G. Ankenmann

CIVILIAN DISPATCHERS

M. Hansford
K. White
R. Murphy
P. Patterson

SECRETARIES/DISPATCHERS

J. Franks
J. Paterson

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Fire Fighter Jason Carter resigned April 4, 2005

Fire Chief James Clements retired June 30, 2005

Deputy Fire Chief Richard Young promoted to Fire Chief September 13, 2005

Michael Handley commenced employment on November 14, 2005 as probationary Fire Fighter

Fire Inspector Michael Gornyczki promoted to Deputy Fire Chief December 20, 2005

C.P.R. INSTRUCTOR

M. Lukachko

CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS COUNCILLOR

B. Chadwick

CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES

Critical Incident Stress Management

Individual Crises Intervention
and Peer Support Workshop - B. Chadwick

Dalhousie University College of Continuing Education

Certificate in Fire Service
Leadership Program - M. Gornyczki
Station Officer Dealing with New Operations

Municipal Health & Safety Association

Basic Certification Training - P. Boudreau
- M. Gornyczki
- M. Lukachko

Municipal Health & Safety Association Continued

Biological Hazards

Designated Officer Training - B. Chadwick

Electrical Safety for

Emergency Responders - J. Byatt
- M. Lukachko
- B. Wakelin

Traffic Protection for

Emergency Services - M. Luckachko
- B. Wakelin

Trench Rescue Awareness

- M. Luckachko
- B. Wakelin

Workplace Specific for Firefighters

- C. Beach
- M. Gornyiczki
- M. Lukachko

Ontario Fire College

- T. Adair
 - Specialized Rescue Operation
 - Hazardous Materials
 - Training Administration & Program Planning
 - Career Development
 - Comprehensive Review & Exam
- K. Aitcheson
 - Leadership & Communication Theory
 - Legislation/Standards/Program Orientation
 - Practical Communications & Supervision
 - Fire Prevention Theory
 - Fire Inspections
- C. Beach
 - Legislation
- P. Butson
 - Comprehensive Review
 - Ontario Building Code Course
 - Interpretation/Application of Ontario Building Code Act
 - Fire Protection

Ontario Fire College Continued

- B. Chadwick
 - Training Admin. & Program Planning
 - Career Development
 - Pre-Incident Planning
 - Leadership & Communication Theory
 - Practical Communications & Supervision
- K. Cobb
 - Legislation
- T. Cottenie
 - Training Admin. & Program Planning
 - Career Development
 - Leadership & Communication Theory
 - Practical Communications & Supervision
- S. Dekok
 - Legislation
- C. Gaylor
 - Legislation
- M. Gornyczki
 - Comprehensive Review & Exam
 - Ontario Building Code Course
 - Interpretation/Application of
 - Ontario Building Code Act
- M. Lukachko
 - Legislation
- R. Mazzanti
 - Leadership & Communication Theory
 - Legislation/Standards/Program Orientation
 - Practical Communications & Supervision
 - Fire Prevention Theory
 - Fire Inspections
- S. McCormick
 - Legislation
- S. Petrie
 - Legislation

Ontario Fire College Continued

- E. Schuett
Comprehensive Review
- K. Smith
Legislation
- R. Young
Incident Management of Rail Incidents

TAPP-C Fire Fighter Facilitator Training

Ontario Fire Marshal, London

- P. Butson
- J. Carter
- M. Gornyczki
- M. Lukachko
- S. McCormick
- K. Smith

TRAINING DIVISION REPORT

Director of Training and Public Education Brian Dahms

The new training facility endorsed by City Council will enhance our fire fighters' skills in all areas, not only for their safety but also for the citizens of Stratford. Sites used for training purposes in 2005 were the two fire stations, the Avon River and an auto wrecker's yard. An old house at 945 Erie Street was donated and the following evolutions were conducted: tanker operations, advancing hose lines, fire streams, portable tank, portable pumping, ventilation-vertical, horizontal, mechanical and search and rescue procedures.

The Department implemented a new personnel accountability system that is being used by all the fire departments in Perth County. The two-tag system will improve our incident scene accountability, hazard entry/breathing apparatus accountability and assist with the incident management system for the safety of our fire fighters.

The following subjects were reviewed, practiced and/or re-certified throughout the year:

- SCBA Breathing Apparatus
 - Cold weather operations
 - Quick fill operations
 - Donning and doffing
- Water and Ice Rescue
 - Theory
 - Practical (summer and winter)
- Personnel Protection Equipment
 - Inspection
- Medical Training
 - CPR, adult, child and infant
 - Review 911 defibrillator manual
 - Re-certification in defibrillators by London Base Hospital
 - Ambulance orientation and equipment with Perth County Paramedics
 - Medical bags and equipment
 - Cervical collars, video #31I
 - Fire Service Emergency Care, Chapters 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 43
 - Guidelines 6-6 Medical Calls and 6-7 Personnel/Safety Medical Calls
- Operational Guidelines
 - Section Six, Procedures 6-9 to 6-13
- Water Supply
 - Pre-plans for Kelly's Lane, Downie Street, Vivian Street, Huron Street, Mornington Street, Quinlan Road, O'Loane Avenue, Lorne Avenue
 - Pre-plans for industrial sites
 - Pumper relays
 - Pumping with new portable Rol-la-tank
 - Drafting
- Ropes and Knots, Video #70C

Training Division Continued

- Annual Equipment Checks and Maintenance
- Home Fire Safety Program
- Appliances and Adaptors for Water Supply
- Hose Testing
- Ladders on Pumper #1
- Pumper Dry Vacuum and Pump Testing
- Revised Operational Guideline 5-5 Personnel Accountability
- Vehicle Extrication
 - Z-Mag ground pads
- Fire Streams
 - Direct, indirect, combination fire attacks
- Communication Center
 - Dispatching
 - Documentation and reports
- Loss Control
 - Salvage
- Operational Guidelines, Section 21
 - Apparatus/equipment
 - Communications
 - Environment
 - Personal protective equipment
 - Personnel accountability
 - Procedures
- City Boundaries, Streets, Schools and Factories
- Pumper #1, #3, #4 and Aerial #1 Operations
- Video #50H, Fire Service Litigation
- Video-Do's and Don'ts at the Gas Pump
- Lap top computers at Stations #1 and #2
- DVD Firefighter Safety and Survival by Goldfeder
- New Personnel Accountability System by RSQMAN



Aerial #1 Ladder Extension Practice



Preparing for Search and Rescue on Upper Floors

PUBLIC EDUCATION REPORT

Director of Training and Public Education Brian Dahms

The Ontario Fire Code requires smoke alarms be installed between each sleeping area and the remainder of the dwelling unit, and where the sleeping areas are served by hallways, the smoke alarms shall be installed in the hallways. An amendment to the Ontario Fire Code effective March 1, 2006 also requires in addition to the above, at least one smoke alarm shall be installed on each storey that does not contain a sleeping area in a dwelling unit.

In 2005, fire fighters installed 23 smoke alarms and 26 batteries. **Eleven residences** were provided with smoke alarms by our fire fighters. These homes had **no smoke alarms**, an early warning detection of a fire, giving inhabitants that precious time to escape to safety. **The policy of our Department is - we do not leave a house without a working smoke alarm.**

Information packages, containing pamphlets on smoke alarms, carbon monoxide and a return questionnaire were distributed to 665 residences. Inspections were conducted in 401 homes and the following are the results:

Working Smoke Alarms	330	Smoke Alarms <u>Not</u> Working	49
Smoke Alarm Maintenance	280	Fire Escape Plans	238
Carbon Monoxide Detectors	215		

Fire fighters visited 4,853 houses in the past five years, installed 161 smoke alarms and replaced 221 batteries in the homes of our citizens.

- 2,909 houses have been checked for smoke alarms
- 87% of these homes had working smoke alarms
- 13% of the homes in the City had no smoke alarms or were not working



Information on and about smoke alarms can be found on the City's web site.

The Home Fire Safety Program started in 1999 and is conducted annually from the first of May to the end of August. All fire fighters participate four nights a week, from the hours of 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Public education is the Fire Department's number one priority in regards to fire and life safety for the citizens of Stratford. The Fire Prevention and Training Division participated in various functions throughout the year including 'Appreciation Night for Emergency Personnel and their Vehicles', 'Racing Against Drugs Education Forum', mall displays, 'Chief for the Day' and our 'Ride to School' for elementary students. 'Municipal Government Day' was held at City Hall along with safety lectures at junior educational facilities, service clubs and groups in Stratford. Portable fire extinguisher demonstrations/training and Fire Safety Plan reviews were provided for industries.

FIRE PREVENTION REPORT

Director of Fire Prevention Paul Butson

The Fire Protection and Prevention Act requires that every municipality in Ontario establish a program that addresses public education with respect to fire safety and certain components of fire prevention which include, at minimum, request and complaint inspections. The Stratford Fire Department has exceeded the aforementioned minimum for many years by implementing an annual routine inspection program, which assesses fire safety characteristics in many buildings located in the city.

The task of the Fire Prevention Division is to develop, deliver and evaluate programs with respect to fire safety education and compliance specific to occupancy classification, which adequately targets the identified needs and circumstances requisite to the City of Stratford. Implementation of the above-noted strategy has resulted in a fire-safe environment, which protects the municipality's residents and workforce, as well as the many visitors to this diverse community.

Using the resources of the Fire Department, which includes the Fire Suppression, Fire Prevention, and Communication Divisions, we inspect over 1,800 properties annually. These inspections have the potential to:

- Reduce fire occurrence
- Improve containment thereby minimizing the impact of fire
- Provide adequate detection of a fire and warning to the occupants
- Confirm an adequate means of egress to allow occupants to evacuate without injury
- Provide and maintain suppression equipment that protect lives and limits the damage caused by fire
- Ensure sufficient fire safety planning
- Reduce injury, the loss of life and damage to property

As stated previously in this report, the Fire Prevention Division delivered a wide variety of public education programs consistent with the diversity found in the community. Using the media outlets in the city along with our own staff, many fire safety messages were distributed to the municipality as a whole, while other distinct programs were targeted to specific groups. The Fire Prevention Division presented the following fire and life safety programming this past year:

- The Older & Wiser Program for Seniors
- Learn Not to Burn Program for Elementary School Pupils
- Fire Prevention Week
- Talking Fire
- Fire Extinguisher Training
- Christmas Fire Safety Message
- Town Crier Fire Safety Messages
- Canadian Tire Summer Smart program
- Canadian Tire Autumn Watch program

Fire Prevention Division Continued

The Fire Prevention Division was also active on the following committees:

- The Utilities Coordinating Committee
- The Bed & Breakfast Review Committee
- The TAPP-C Steering Committee of Perth County
- The Site Plan Review Committee
- Stratford Summer Music Committee

The Fire Prevention Division attended the following educational seminars in 2005:

- The Ontario Municipal Fire Prevention Officers' Association Training and Educational Symposium (Kitchener)
- The Ontario Public Fire and Life Safety Educators' Conference (Haldimand-Norfolk)
- The Ontario Municipal Fire Prevention Officers Association Seminar (Gravenhurst)

Attending the above-mentioned educational events allows the Stratford Fire Department to remain current in fire safety matters that are relevant to the fire service throughout the province.

The Fire Prevention Division continues to strive toward our goal of developing and delivering effective and meaningful fire safety education programs for all. We will continue to assist property owners to ensure that their buildings are void of unnecessary fire hazards and to enforce compliance as required with respect to applicable codes, standards and legislated requirements.



Director of Fire Prevention Paul Butson tests the Department's new propane powered fire extinguisher training unit. This is a tremendous asset to the Fire Prevention Bureau and provides a realistic method to conduct fire extinguisher training. It can easily be transported, cleans up well and is environmentally friendly.



Fire Inspector Michael Gornyczki mans a display during Fire Prevention Week. The Department continues to be proactive with various public education initiatives throughout the year.

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Co-chairs of the Committee are Fire Chief Richard Young and Fire Fighter Brent Chadwick. Members include Fire Fighters Paul Boudreau, Chris Beach, Michael Lukachko and Rod MacDonald. Health and Safety certified members are Richard Young, Michael Gornyiczki, Paul Butson, Brent Chadwick, Byron Wakelin and Chris Beach.

Listed are the major health and safety issues and concerns, which were discussed and addressed over the past year:

- The City of Stratford Health and Safety Policy was reviewed
- Turnout clothing inspections conducted by Director of Training
- Safety precautions when using the new Z-Mag extrication tool were reviewed
- The benefits of a Substance Abuse Policy was examined
- Modified Work/Return to Work procedures following an accident or injury assessed
- Additional critical incident stress counsellors are required
- Vehicle seat belts are to be worn at all times, door pull straps were added to Pump #4 to assist in closing doors when fire fighters are wearing seat belts
- Portable radio procedures were enacted to assist in identifying fire fighters at emergencies in accordance with our accountability system
- Sanitation improvements were undertaken for Station #2 washroom facilities
- Workplace inspections were conducted
- All completed accident report forms were reviewed
- Safety concerns when responding to grow-ops and meth labs were discussed
- Floor marking to aid the backing of trucks into the stations were installed
- Safety precautions and traffic control at vehicle accidents were reviewed
- Breathing air compressor, filters and fill system are maintained in accordance with standards
- Committee members suggested converting to leather fire fighting boots. At this time, cost is prohibitive
- Turnout clothing laundering procedures were reviewed
- Charges and penalties were discussed concerning Bill C-45
- Vehicle operators responsibility to ensure loose radios and equipment are stored and secured properly
- Visual acuity of fire fighters wearing SCBA; lens clips will be provided
- 'Caution Slippery Floor' signs were purchased for both stations
- The topside compartment on Pump #4 was taken out of service eliminating a fall hazard

There were three accidents reported in 2005. None were recorded as lost-time injuries.

Our Health and Safety team is committed to working together in order to eliminate all accidents and injuries in the work place. Safety is every fire fighter's primary concern and objective.

ALARMS RECEIVED

	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	TOTAL
911	10	1	11	9	9	14	18	34	6	17	8	9	146
Ambulance	75	72	103	86	94	90	74	69	83	80	78	77	981
Police	4	4	0	6	3	2	7	3	7	1	3	4	44
Direct Connect to Fire Dept.	13	7	11	7	4	7	10	6	8	5	6	7	91
Still (Verbal to Station)	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	7
Telephone Fire Dept. Dispatch	13	2	4	5	6	5	9	19	15	9	5	5	97
Telephone From Other Emerg. Prot.	5	11	12	10	11	12	19	12	9	15	5	8	129
Other	9	8	5	14	3	13	4	4	0	1	1	1	63
TOTAL													
2005	129	106	147	138	131	143	142	147	128	128	107	112	1558
<i>2004</i>	<i>118</i>	<i>109</i>	<i>111</i>	<i>117</i>	<i>128</i>	<i>128</i>	<i>121</i>	<i>114</i>	<i>124</i>	<i>126</i>	<i>101</i>	<i>130</i>	<i>1427</i>



Fire Station #1
388 Erie Street



Fire Station #2
44 McCarthy Road

RESPONSE TYPES

	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	TOTAL
Fire/Pre-Fire Explosions	5	6	9	13	9	13	9	17	8	9	7	5	110
Public Hazard	7	1	3	5	7	8	5	9	3	4	2	6	60
Rescue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical	75	73	103	88	94	91	79	84	80	89	78	77	1011
Vehicle Fires	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	6
Other Responses	41	26	32	31	21	30	48	36	37	26	20	23	371
TOTAL													
2005	129	106	147	138	131	143	142	147	128	128	107	112	1558
<i>2004</i>	<i>118</i>	<i>109</i>	<i>111</i>	<i>117</i>	<i>128</i>	<i>128</i>	<i>121</i>	<i>114</i>	<i>124</i>	<i>126</i>	<i>101</i>	<i>130</i>	<i>1427</i>

CAUSE OF ALARMS

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
Acetylene Torch/Propane	2	3
Arson/Vandalism	6	7
Automatic Alarm Activation	155	171
Bomb Scare	1	0
Careless Smoking	2	2
CO Detectors	21	35
Cooking/Grease/Oven	30	31
Children with Matches/Lighters	0	1
False Telephone Calls	16	17
Fireplace/Chimney/Incinerator	5	1
Flammable Liquid Spills	13	8
Hazardous Material	16	17
Machinery/Appliances Overheat	30	32
Miscellaneous	105	125
Rescue/First Aid/Medical Assist	894	1011
Rubbish/Grass	44	32
Smoke/Gas/Odour Investigations	73	58
Other Fire Related	6	1
Vehicle Fires	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>
TOTAL	1427	1558

EQUIPMENT USED IN 2005

Aero Fog	2
Extinguishers	15
Extrication Equipment	3
Ladders	12
Portable Generator (Lighting, etc.)	6
Portable Pump	4
Pumping from Hydrant	2
Self-Contained Breath. Apparatus	79
Slik Wik Absorbent Pads	44
Smoke Ejector/Tempest Power	23
Tarps	7
Thermal Equipment	35
Vapor/Gas Detectors	128
Water Vac	5
Medical Equipment –	
• Defibrillators	4
• First Aid	166
• Oxygen	130
• Ventilator/Resuscitator	2

HOSE USED

38mm	600m
100mm	270m
Trash Line	240m
Garden Hose	3

VEHICLE MILEAGE

1992 Aerial	10,166 mi.
1999 Pumper	55,572 km
1995 Pumper	32,605 mi.
1976 Pumper	32,363 mi.
1946 Pumper	12,719 mi.
1923 LaFrance Pumper	6,040 mi.
1987 Rescue	36,393 km
2003 Car	19,281 km
1999 Car	78,210 km
2001 Van	48,538 km
1995 Mini Van	89,605 km
1997 4x4 Pickup	44,241 km

PROPERTY CLASSIFICATION OF ALARMS

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
Assembly	150	169
Business & Personal Service	40	54
Industrial	91	103
Institutional	72	94
Mercantile	49	56
Residential	787	856
Other Than Buildings	<u>238</u>	<u>226</u>
TOTAL	1427	1558

TYPE OF BUILDINGS

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
Brick	1006	1179
Concrete/Cement Block	106	89
Frame	17	5
Metal	10	10
Siding	27	27
Stucco	2	1
Wood	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Sub-Total	1168	1311

Other Categories

Open Area	174	159
Vehicles	<u>85</u>	<u>88</u>
TOTAL	1427	1558



FIRE LOSSES IN 2005 OVER \$30,000

545 Brunswick Street

ESTIMATED LOSSES

Buildings/Contents	\$208,575
Vehicles	\$ 11,300



ALARMS AND LOSSES FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ALARMS</u>	<u>LOSSES</u>
1996	481	\$ 245,897
1997	678	2,455,366
1998	633	383,016
1999	1,203	621,305
2000	1,230	345,200
2001	1,258	165,000
2002	1,261	309,300
2003	1,320	2,524,340
2004	1,427	431,700
2005	1,558	219,875

*Message from
Fire Chief Richard Young*



It is with excitement and anticipation for the future that I present this, my first, annual report. The Fire Department saw a change in leadership in 2005. On September 13th, I was proud to be appointed Stratford's 12th Fire Chief, succeeding Jim Clements upon his retirement after heading the Department for eight years. On December 20th, Fire Inspector Michael Gornyczki was promoted to Deputy Fire Chief. Michael and I look forward to leading the Department knowing we have the support and confidence of City Council.

Our goal is to make Stratford one of the safest communities in Ontario. Together with the members of the Department, Michael and I will work diligently towards this objective using the Fire Marshal's three lines of defense - public education, fire suppression and appropriately applied and enforced standards.

- We intend to strengthen our already active and prominent public education program by adding an Adopt-A-School component. This educational tool will team up our four platoons with two schools each, focusing on reinforcing fire safety messages with grades four to six students.
- In 2006, fire suppression will see a new rapid response vehicle, which will increase fire-fighting flexibility. It is also of the utmost importance that fire fighters be trained to safely carry out their duties. For this reason, a new mobile training unit has been proposed. This will provide required live fire training ensuring the maintenance of current skills and supply a catalyst for learning new techniques and procedures.
- The Fire Prevention Division, in conjunction with the Director of Training and Public Education, is developing an awareness and action plan to deal with the amendments to the Ontario fire Code. Our primary focus will be the new law requiring smoke alarms on every level of single-family dwellings. The current home inspection program will require minor changes and include additional training for fire fighters.

Through the strength of our members and partnerships forged with the community, we can achieve our vision.



Population	32,000
Streets	174 km 108 miles
Fire Area	6,307 acres 2,552 hectares 9.9 square miles
Hydrants	822 public 120 private

