



" PRESERVING THE PAST FOR THE SAKE OF THE FUTURE "

# STANHOPE TIMES

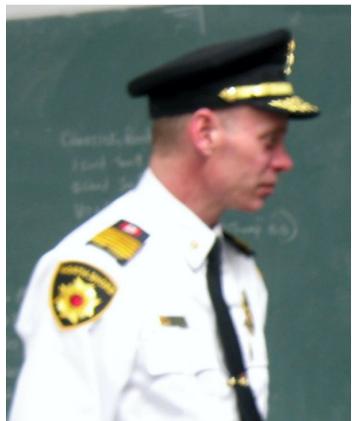
*Past & Present*

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The Stanhope Historical Society thanks Fire Chief, Jason Blackman for a most interesting and informative presentation on February 20<sup>th</sup>.



The relevance of his presentation could not have been emphasized more, given the fire which crippled the Cass' Creek Archery Club on Rte 25 in Covehead just days following his presentation. Damage to the building & loss of members' equipment exceeded \$100,000.

Jason Blackman, Fire Chief of the North Shore Fire Department (NSFD), was just three weeks into his second term when he spoke, having been re-elected Chief of the Department for a second two-year term on January 30<sup>th</sup>.

Given our organization's interest in historical perspectives, Jason spent considerable time reviewing the early development of the north shore fire service and had prepared a digital slide show for that evening.

Meanwhile, members of your Executive had met on February 8<sup>th</sup> and used that opportunity to anticipate how the members and friends of the SHS might derive the greatest benefit from the forthcoming appearance of Chief Blackman. Almost contrary to the usual aims of the Society, members of the Executive were clearly more interested in learning about the current status and operations of the North Shore Fire Department than its early history. The sentiment of the Executive was hastily shared with Jason via two written communications. The SHS wishes to thank Chief Blackman for his willingness to follow the Executive's lead as the guidance suggested in early February was quite at odds with the invitation originally proffered on Remembrance Day last year.

The evening of February 20, Jason filled the hall with a fireman's clothing and gear, breathing apparatus, hand tools, and fire extinguishers. Virtually everything smaller than the "jaws of life" was there to be seen and handled by the attendees. The opportunity to see and handle the thermal imaging camera gave everyone an appreciation of the ability of this tool to save lives.

Jason is an impressive speaker and the audience was highly attentive while he spoke earnestly about the organization he heads. On Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>,

Chief Blackman delivered his 2016 report to the North Shore Community Council at their Annual General Meeting. As this report included so many aspects of his presentation to the Stanhope Historical Society, he has given your editor permission to make liberal use of his report in this issue of our newsletter. The text quoted from Chief Blackman's report has been italicized.

## **CHIEF BLACKMAN'S REPORT**

*We currently have 29 active members and one on leave of absence. This number is up from last year by two as we have had two new members join our Department – Firefighter Craig MacDonald, a resident of Covehead, and Firefighter Matthew Lane, a resident of Harrington. Both recruits have taken extreme interest in the fire service and are currently attending the PEI fire school to qualify for their Level 1 firefighter certificates.*

*The Chief congratulates the two new members from 2015 who both achieved their Level 1 certificate in 2016 and are now Certified Firefighters. Congratulations to Jonathan Oliver and Cory Deagle.*

*With recruitment of members being an ongoing challenge, we have*

*partnered with the CAFC (Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs) in a national program called "Answer the Call". The CAFC has created a website that promotes volunteer firefighters and businesses, that have members working for them. This will eventually give the general public the ability to simply input their postal code, which will identify the fire department that covers them.*

*This past year, we focused on improving our in-house training, responding to the concerns of our members, defining the roles and responsibilities of our officers, and find ways to better our skills and performing our tasks more efficiently. The entire Department is committed to improve all aspects of the fire service.*

*As has been reported on several occasions, responding during storms can be both treacherous and/or impossible depending upon the ability of firefighters to either get to the hall and/or to respond with appropriate equipment. Hence, many departments are now putting storm crews in place when such emergencies are anticipated. The NSFD has completed the necessary improvements and acquired supplies to allow us in the future to staff our station with storm crews should the need arise.*

*The NSFD responded to a total of 62 emergencies from December 1, 2015 to November 30, 2016. Chief*

*Blackman notes with pride that none resulted in fatalities.*

*The staff completed 41 training sessions through which the members were able to hone their skills, learn new techniques, work more efficiently as well as determine what equipment the Department was lacking and/or safety devices we should consider acquiring to carry out anticipated future tasks.*

*Here are the emergencies to which the NSFD responded in the past year:*

- 15 Motor vehicle accidents*
- 18 Alarm calls*
- 12 Medical first responder calls*
- 3 Structure fires*
- 5 Utility pole fires*
- 2 Mutual aid calls\**
- 2 Carbon monoxide calls*
- 7 Others (tire fire, false alarms, etc)*

*\* Mutual aid calls represent calls to assist other Departments*

*The Department participates in public events throughout the year:*

- The Charlottetown Santa Claus Parade*
- Covehead Canada Day Celebrations*
- Grande Tracadie/Pleasant Grove Canada Day Celebration and fireworks*
- PEI Marathon-National Park and along the Confederation Trail*

*The Department hosted its first Fire Prevention Week at the hall with many attending to learn about fire safety. In addition to the information and item on display, the Department gave away a number of carbon*

*monoxide and smoke detectors. Thank you to all who participated and attended these events.*

*As an ever changing emergency service, it is imperative that the Department keep up with new practices and equipment to meet the anticipated needs of the public and the incidents to which we respond. The Department is regularly purchasing equipment and tools and learning new training skills. Most of these items and sessions come with a high price tag. The staff does its best to fulfill these requirements and have the equipment to do the job right.*

#### ***NO PRICE IS TOO HIGH FOR YOUR SAFETY IN OUR EYES***

*In order to continue the Department's vehicle replacement program, the NSFD has been budgeting accordingly, and the Department hopes to start the process to purchase a new Tanker in 2017. As the acquisition process (from start to delivery) can take upwards of 18 months to two years. This will be the last truck in the fleet to be replaced in this program. The next cycle will begin with the Department's oldest Engine, which will be 20-plus years old.*

In his presentation to the SHS, Chief Blackman described the manner of and recent improvements in communication equipment and technologies. While residents of Stanhope, West Covehead and Union Road may well consider the

NSDF "their neighbourhood fire service," the Department's area of coverage has increased over the years to include community neighborhoods all the way from the PEI National Park on the north to the Hillsborough River.

In acknowledgement of his re-election as well as that of his Deputy Fire Chief, Chris Hucz, for another two-year term, Jason said, ***"We are committed to improving the Fire Service within our community, providing the most up-to-date equipment and skills to our membership and ultimately for the communities we serve, Providing community leadership and public Fire Safety Awareness."***

As residents living under his vigilant eye, we are extremely fortunate to be served and protected by the North Shore Fire Department. We could not hope or ask for more dedicated and competent public servants.

In the February issue of the *Stanhope Times*, it had been said that the talk by Chief Jason Blackman would be of importance to area residents and property owners alike. No one could have imagined that there would be a devastating fire in West Covehead on Saturday morning, March 11<sup>th</sup>, just days following Chief Blackman's presentation to the SHS.

# FIRE AT THE CASS' CREEK ARCHERY CLUB

A hyperlink to an article about the fire is on the CBCNews website appears below:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/pei-archery-club-fire-1.4021056>

An article about the fire followed in *The Guardian* on Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup>.

The text of Mitch MacDonald's article follows as does a photo submitted by Duncan Crawford, club owner.

## 'Devastating loss' **Owner of Cass' Creek Archery Club hopes to rebuild after weekend blaze**

The Guardian (Charlottetown) 13 Mar 2017 BY  
MITCH MACDONALD  
DUNCAN CRAWFORD/SUBMITTED PHOTO

Duncan Crawford couldn't express the loss he felt this weekend in words.

The owner of Cass' Creek Archery Club said he has been devastated after a fire ravaged through the club's archery centre on Saturday morning, destroying an estimated \$100,000 of equipment.



Archery Club weekend Blaze

With hopes of rebuilding and replacing what was lost, for now Crawford said the range will be closed "indefinitely." The facility is located on Route 25 in Covehead.

"It's a devastating loss. I'm pretty sick about the whole thing," said Crawford, who has been participating in the sport since he was 10. "We shoot there every day and have done so for four and a half years. We have a great club of faithful members, everyone has given their best and offered support. "It's just horrifying, I don't have enough adjectives to put the loss into words."

The fire couldn't have occurred at a worse time for the club, which Crawford said was hosting its "first true" high performance camp with 15 top Maritime athletes. Crawford said the group had been training at the club all Friday

afternoon and evening. The club was also closed to the public Saturday while it ran the camp.

Crawford had returned to the archery centre at about 7:45 a.m. Saturday morning to start the furnace.

From there, he took his dog in the backyard for a quick run and left for home to have a shower.

“Because we had athletes coming in at 8:30,” said Crawford, who then received a call from an individual who stays at the club’s shop. “He said ‘jeez, I just called 911. The archery building is on fire.’

“I just threw my coat on and ran over, grabbed an extinguisher, but it was beyond that.” Part of Route 25 was closed as members of the North Shore Fire Department battled the blaze.

The P.E.I. fire marshal’s office was also on scene over the weekend and will determine the cause of the fire.

Crawford thanked the fire department and said members did a phenomenal job of extinguishing the fire quickly.

However, much of the damage had already been done.

“There was at least \$100,000 worth of gear,” said Crawford. “Each of (the athletes’) setups was probably three or four thousand dollars. Plus everything else in there, targets, equipment inventory, our video system.

“We have kids going to the worlds this fall in Argentina, they’ve lost everything.”

Crawford said he will be working with insurance to replace the gear. He also hopes to rebuild the archery centre, which served about 70 members.

## **YOUR IDEAS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME**

Your Executive appreciates suggestions for future programs and/or potential formats. Make your interests known to any member of the Executive.

You may contact the newsletter editor as follows. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

s-rci@bellaliant.com  
(902) 672-1462

## 2016-2017 EXECUTIVE

Office	Officers
Past President	Louis Watts
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Vice President	John Baird
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The next meeting of the Executive is scheduled for May 17, 2017

## DEEP THOUGHTS

Your editor saw an interesting item in an AARP cover story: **“Live Longer! “ -- 50 Proven Ways to Add Years to Your Life”**

AARP Bulletin Vol 58, No. 2, March 2017, page 26

### #27: Embrace Your Faith

Attending religious services once a week has been shown to add between four and 14 years to life expectancy, according to researchers who study *blue zones*. Don't belong to a church? Ask to join a friend at his or her services, just drop in at a nearby house of worship; most have an open-door policy.

So what are “blue zones”? This term was unfamiliar to this editor.

The reference to “Blue Zones” appears to be a reference to a 16-page guide to healthy living by Dan Buettner

Here's the hyperlink to the publication --  
<https://www.bluezones.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/BlueZonesStudyGuide.pdf>

Here are the opening paragraphs

THE BLUE ZONES: LESSONS FOR LIVING LONGER FROM THE PEOPLE WHO'VE LIVED THE LONGEST  
By Dan Buettner

### Study Guide by Ken Bingham

According to Dan Buettner, “Scientific studies suggest that only about 25 percent of how long we live is dictated by genes. The other 75 percent is determined by our lifestyles and the everyday choices we make. It follows that if we optimize our lifestyles, we can maximize our life expectancies within our biological limits” (xxii).

In effect, maximizing our life expectancies is the goal of “Blue Zones,” and, since you're reading this guide, it's one of your goals as well. So, before we begin on this journey together, let's first take some time to look through where you stand here at the outset.

Start a Health Journal, and take some notes on your current lifestyle:

Your editor did not know Dan Buettner, but he's an interesting accomplished fellow. Here's one hyperlink to Dan Buettner's biography:

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/explorers/bios/dan-buettner/>

An interesting bit of Internet research - ‘eh?