

# Association of Yukon Fire Chiefs

## *Hoselines*



Spring 2005 Vol. 2005-1

Box 31353, 211 Main Street, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 5P7

## Gathering of the Members



Kevin Taylor, Jack Holesworth, and Jim Smith at the Fire Chief's Conference  
January 21st 2005

Twenty-six members met for the Semi-Annual Meeting of the Association in Whitehorse on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Vice-President Chief Sparks presided over the affairs as President Dennis Levy was basking in the Arizona sunshine and just could not tear himself away from his golf game. Aside from general business matters presentations were provided for the upcoming Combat Challenge on May 21<sup>st</sup> in Whitehorse. Volunteers are still need to assist in making this event a success. If you are interested please contact Barry Blisner at 633-2804 or James Paterson at 667-6584.

As well, preliminary discussion has begun regarding the AYFC hosting the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs Convention in 2008. Further discussion on this item will be forthcoming at the Annual General Meeting in August.

Kevin Taylor and Warren Zakus provided an update on upcoming training this spring in the areas of Hazmat, Fire Investigation Levels 1 and 2 as well as Fire Inspection. More information regarding these courses may be obtained from contacting either member.

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### Next Issue

Scheduled for November 2005

**In a capitalist society  
man exploits man.**

**In a communist society  
it's the other way around**

Hoselines is published by the Association of Yukon Fire Chiefs. Please mail inquiries to Bob Atkinson, Secretary, PO Box 31353 Whitehorse, Yukon. Y1A 5P7 Phone 867-667-3635.

President - Dennis Levy. Vice President - Clive Sparks.  
Treasurer - Kevin Taylor. Secretary - Bob Atkinson

## President's Report

## From the Secretary's desk

The winter has gone all too fast and it will not be long until we return from Arizona to the Territory and back to reality. For those of you who attended the Conference in January this will be a repeat of some of that information.

Last year was an extremely busy time for all departments in the territory and all resources were taxed to the limits. While we do not know what 2005 holds in store for us, I feel we are better prepared to meet the challenges ahead.

I had the opportunity to be part of a conference call with some of you, along with director Dan Boyd, some members of Fire Management and Government representatives. This panel discussion focused on the direction the fire service should go in relation to wild fire management. As I told the panel we have to work as a team, which has started to come together over the past couple of years. We are getting more and more training in wild fire techniques, and better equipment to fight these kinds of emergencies. This must continue if we are going to be prepared for the "Big One" when and wherever it might be. We are starting to get the message across and our political masters are starting to listen thanks to Dan Boyd, Ken Colbert and their staff.

At our last Directors meeting of CAFC a number of items were discussed some of which I will readdress here:

The Millennium Project seems to be doing well and there has been one complaint of fraud which was investigated and deemed unfounded. I asked for the total amount of money collected to date and that figure was not available. Earnings from the fund will be used in part to reduce the debt of CAFC which as of

Jan 27 was \$149,000.00. It was estimated that CAFC is receiving approximately \$2400.00 per week from the Millennium project. The balance of funds from this project will go going to Fire Preventions programs.

The Canadian Fire Chief magazine has a new publisher. The "Matrix Group" has been given a contract and the first issue will be in May. CAFC will receive \$6000.00 annually and articles will be given to them and the activities of CAFC. Anyone wishing to submit an article is encouraged to do so.

The partnership between CAFC and the Retail Hardware Association is in the final stages and we should see some benefit from that in the near future.

The Chief Fire Officers Designation Program is being chaired by D/Chief Pat Cayen from the Sarnia Fire Department. For further information on this program Pat can be contacted at – [pcayen@city.sarnia.on.ca](mailto:pcayen@city.sarnia.on.ca).

I look forward to getting back into the swing of things this Spring and working towards our August Conference which I encourage all of you to attend. We are striving for a representative from every department and I would like to thank the other members of the executive for taking up the slack in my absence.

Thank you all for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Dennis W. Levy – President.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

#### Service Medals

The Association now has the initial funding for the Long Service Medal; we now need to know the numbers of active firefighters from each Department. This will give us an idea of what the cost will be and then we can seek other funding to cover the costs.

Awards are issued as follows: a plaque for 5 years, a medal for 10 years and a bar to go on the ribbon for 15. The plaques and medals will be the most expensive items so the knowing the number of people qualifying is important. As we have to plan for future qualifying folks as well, we need a list from each Department of all members and time on the Department or in the case of people who have been on more than one Department, the total years for both.

As we have to start somewhere, only active firefighters as of August 19, 2004 qualify.

Please forward this info to Bob Atkinson ASAP either by e-mail to [willowbob2003@yahoo.ca](mailto:willowbob2003@yahoo.ca), or by snail mail to:

The Association of Yukon Fire Chiefs  
31353-211 Main Street, Whitehorse,  
YT Y1A 5P7

Many Thanks,  
Bob Atkinson

# From the Fire Marshal's Office

## Challenges for the Fire Service

### History

The fire service, where do we come from? Well, the first fire service was volunteer and quite competitive. Various organized fire companies would be formed within a community, and money would be raised to equip these companies. When fire occurred in an area, the companies would race to the scene each attempting to be the first responder. Although the effort and the thought were sincere it wasn't always the effective way to go. At the time the fire service used hand drawn carts and pumps that were operated with human power. There was no such thing as a fire prevention program, as members were keen to respond to fires. The main incentive was to be the first company on scene extinguishing the fire and enjoying the glory.

We went from that to horse drawn steam fire engines which was still a competitive race, who can get there first. This era progressed to the motorized apparatus which changed the face of the fire service to today's modern apparatus and operation.

### What are we today?

We are a group of people who have chosen to volunteer or are paid to protect and help our neighbor, friend or any person who happens to live in or be in your community. We train to the best we can be and the community depends on us to be that way.

The fire service no longer just puts out fires. As a member of today's fire service you become involved in fire prevention, stopping fire before it starts. You are a participant in a number of other events that benefit the overall community. These events may not be totally fire orientated but do establish the department's identity within your community.

You now respond to various risks to the community that do not involve fire. You provide medical response, life support until an ambulance arrives. Disaster management and incident site management under Emergency Measures which requires specialized training, much of which is provided by EMO. In recent years we have been called upon to respond to hazardous materials incidents, even if we do nothing but isolate and monitor until the experts arrive, we still must train. We must know what to do and when and how to do it a far cry from those people that followed the steamer. We must be capable of performing multiple tasks from complex rescue operations which might include building collapse to massive highway accidents.

### Where are we going?

There is no doubt that technology has advanced the fire service more in the past twenty five years than it did in the previous one hundred, believe it or not the space program had a great deal to do with that. The future will bring with it new pressures and new challenges that we must be prepared to meet.

We need to provide a level of service that is acceptable to the community as well as setting a standard that we can live with. We must continually strive to maintain this standard of service for the community and justifiably. We advertise a service so we have a moral duty to provide the best possible service with the tools we have to work with.

To do this in a professional manner builds credibility with the residents of your area and with the credibility comes the support from them for your efforts. The community in fact has a duty to help you get the tools to do the job and we have a duty to train to use

the tools to the best possible advantage to aid the residents.

This brings to mind an analogy that I sometimes use to describe various fire departments. Door Mat, Garden Rake, Lightening Rod.

### Doormat;

What is a doormat? A device to wipe your feet on usually covered with mud and dirt with not a great deal of attention being paid to it. If your department does not strive to be better you become a doormat in the eyes of your community with little attention being paid to a "ho hum" attempt to run a fire service. They in essence wipe their feet on you and see you as a social or old boys club.

### Garden Rake;

The garden rake is a useful tool, until it is mishandled. If a garden rake is left in long grass and somebody steps on it, the handle invariably flies up and hits them square in the face. If your department does not plan for the future, if you allow it to fall behind and there is a major catch up job in front of you or a major incident that the department is ill equipped to respond to. In each case the community will be impacted financially or by an inadequate level of service and it comes as a major surprise. It is a slap in the face not unlike the garden rake. It will hurt the community who will lash out at the department just as we try to affix blame on the person who left the rake in the grass. The tendency is to throw the rake away or at least treat it badly and call it some not too complimentary names. Being a garden rake department is not a formula for success.

Cont .on page 13

# Marsh Lake Fire Rescue

It has been a rather quiet winter for Marsh Lake Fire Rescue. Since December 1st we attended to two medical calls, two fire situations, and one motor vehicle accident, the latter being a great challenge for our extrication team. Total volunteer time spent on those calls was 86.7 hours. Even so the call volume was down a bit, and we used the time to brush up on our training with a lot of practices and more planning.

In addition to our normal training nights we hosted a tabletop MCI with Mike Swanson from the Yukon Ambulance Service and, as usual, we invited our neighboring fire departments. In the photos on page 9 we look a bit like “kids playing with toys”, but these tabletop exercises teach us a lot about incident stabilization, medical triage, and how we would control a similar large incident, which could happen any day on our highway.

In January, Mike Marcuson from the Golden Horn Volunteer Fire Department started a new FF1 course for the Southern Lakes departments. It is a very challenging and time consuming course (approx. 120 hours) and I would like to thank all our members who are participating and commend them on their willingness to commit this amount of time. Mike Marcuson asked us to help out with instructing parts of the course and we are teaching five segments of the course out here at Marsh Lake. Besides learning lots everybody also has a good time.

In February we received a new pumper from YTG. The vehicle is state of the art equipment, its winter design has a closed in and heated pumphouse, it offers on the spot chain deployment and a locking differential, and all pump pressure controls are now computer controlled.

Following the spirit of mutual aid agreements, the truck will also be available to assist in neighboring jurisdictions. Golden Horn, Mount Lorne, Ibex Valley, Hootalinqua and Marsh Lake fire departments and the City of Whitehorse have agreements in place to assist each other when required. With the arrival of this equipment all Southern Lakes pumpers are now compatible with each other, which will be crucial for use in bigger events.

Last but not least, I would like to report on the progress we are making in respect of our emergency planning for the Marsh Lake area. Planning for “the bigger picture” is well underway. We met with the responsible agencies in town and discussed the planning and preparation for big events like a wild-fire or a hazardous material spill on the highway, which will affect the whole or large parts of our community. We are learning about evacuation and have started an emergency measures course for our members.

Comprehensive mapping is part of our planning. We went from a 17th century 3-D model of Marsh Lake to the 21st century edition which includes modern computer technology. With such tools coming into place, we can plan for different situations, work on pre-fire attack plans, identify pump sites, map all our side roads and trails, and most importantly, put the community people on the map. In our normal day to day operation that will be a very useful tool.

Knowing the basic layout of homes, how many people live there, fuel sources, pet names, etc. will help us gather valuable information en route. Starting this spring we will visit all homes in Marsh Lake, assist with property fire smart assessments, suggest improvements on the fire safety of each house and discuss how homes can be made safer in case of a wild fire.

With the help of a GPS (Global Positioning System) we will be able to put homes onto our map, attach relevant data to it and with local support we might be able to survive a larger wild-land fire with minimal losses.

We shall be holding workshops on wild land fire and evacuation procedures coming up early in May.

We'll be discussing ideas like sprinkler protection or alternative power sources, to better prepare Marsh Lakers in case they have to face disasters like the 2003 fires in British Columbia. Our motto for this is Don't be scared – be prepared!

Juergen Willms  
Fire Chief MLFR

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## Firefighters' Creed

**When I'm called to duty god  
wherever flames may rage  
give me strength to save a life  
whatever be its age**

**Help me to embrace a little child  
before it is too late  
or save an older person from  
the horror of that fate**

**Enable me to be alert  
to hear the weakest shout  
and quickly and efficiently  
to put the fire out**

**I want to fill my calling and  
to give the best in me  
to guard my neighbour and  
protect his property**

**And if according to your will  
I have to lose my life  
bless with your protecting hand  
my children and my wife**

## Marsh Lake Combined MCI Tabletop Scenario



The accident scene.  
A school bus with several children on board slid off the highway and rolled onto its side against a power pole. A red car involved in the accident is angled across the highway with four people trapped inside.



## Marsh Lake Fire Rescue

On February 29 the combined FF1 training held at Marsh Lake firehall was attended by volunteers from Golden Horn, Carcross, Mount Lorne, and Marsh Lake.

Al Alcock was the facilitator for the rescue training segment, Bruce Harder did the vehicle fire segment, and Jurgen Willms handled extrication training.



The vehicle we intended to burn during this session was buried under snow and ice, so one of our Marsh Lake firefighting “artists” drew a picture of a car on top of the snow with paint spray.



Jurgen Willms (2nd from right) handles the extrication segment

# Ibex Valley Fire Department

## HAPPENINGS AND GOING ONS

With winter almost behind us we were blessed with very little need to roll out the Pumper these past months.

Our only notable community incident occurred in the early Fall with a call out to a residence where the smoke detectors would not shut off. The alarms are an integrated electronic system with multiple sensors. After a thorough search of the home we concluded that there was no smoke or fire that set the alarms a blaring and attributed it to a system fault. The owner contacted the installer of the system later that morning. They performed an inspection of their system and confirmed a malfunction and repaired the fault.

Hootalinqua FD kept us on our toes with mutual aid call outs for Tanker

support. As well their old Tanker has been suffering its age. This has necessitated our Tanker being on standby as first responder on several occasions. We are beginning to think here at Ibex that Dan and his crew just likes our smiling faces...

Our major efforts this past winter was a rewrite of the Society's Constitution and Bylaws along with introducing Fire Department Policies and Standing Operating Procedures. While a time consuming process it brings the Department current and clearly sets out the division of powers between the two entities.

My fellow Fire Fighters and I would like to welcome and congratulate to the

Brotherhood six new certified Level One Fire Fighters: Ilir Azizaj, Dyre Beck, Jean Bourgetel, Dean Brown, Cindy Roulston and Jonathan Wurtak. Well done lads and lassie!

I would also like to take a moment and recognize the valuable contribution that my predecessor, Chief Bob Atkinson, has made and continues to make to the Department. Bob's knowledge and expertise is a valuable asset to Ibex and I look forward to many more years of working together as fire fighters. Thanks Bob...

Al Alcock  
Fire Chief



Al Alcock handles the Rescue segment of the February 19th combined training session at the Marsh Lake firehall.

# Wildland Fire Management

Even after the official close of the 2004 fire season on September 30, Wildland Fire Management (WFM) staff remained busy over the winter dealing with the aftermath of the busiest fire season in Yukon history, and also planning for 2005.

The Yukon government contracted an independent, five-person panel to conduct a community-based review of the 2004 fire season. The independent review team includes three out-of-territory wildland fire experts with years of experience in both wildland fire management and in fire review exercises, and two well-respected Yukoners with local experience and expertise.

The review panel is considering the nature of wildland fires in the Yukon and is looking at how the government manages wildland fire taking into account what happened last summer. The panel is taking an objective look at the Wildfire program, examining organization and operating procedures, and will recommend ways to improve and enhance the fire management program for the future.

The final report from the review, with recommendations from the panel, is expected soon and will be submitted to the Minister of Community Services, Glenn Hart.

## Training

WFM's area of responsibility for training has tripled since the transfer from DIAND to the Yukon Government. Currently WFM is decentralizing training from the regional level to the District level. There will still be training at the regional level, but the goal is to get applicable training products at the community level. The focus for training in the coming months is on seasonal resources and includes:

- EFF (S-100) Training Camp
- Type 1 and 2 Crewmember Training Camp

- Type 1 Initial Attack Incident Commander Training Camp
- Confined Space Entry Level 1 & 2
- Standard First Aid/CPR
- Mixmaster Training
- 1-200 Training

For information on these, and others, please contact Scott Hamilton, WFM Training Coordinator at 456-3962.

## Infrastructure

WFM will soon have new signage at its facilities. The Yukon Forest Fire Centre is located at 91790 Alaska Highway, across the highway from Forest Operations. The new sign will be located beside the Government of Canada, Whitehorse Facilities sign. WFM building houses the Fire Marshal's Office, and Wildland Fire Management. The FireSmart program is also housed at the WFM building. The Whitehorse Air Tanker Centre will also be getting some directional signage. They are located at 123 Condor Rd.

Protective Services acquired a new Command Trailer over the winter. It's fully equipped with satellite, computers, and workstations, even hot and cold running water! The department is very receptive to using the trailer in partnering events with other government emergency response departments and also for special events such as the upcoming Canada Winter Games in 2007. The trailer has been deployed several times for special SAR training exercises at both the Haines and Skagway summits. It was also utilized at the recent K2 Junior Western Canada Ski Championships at Mt. Sima. You can expect to see the Command Trailer out and about a lot in the coming months.

## WFM Comings and Goings

Tintina Fire Management Zone is pleased to welcome JEAN WALTERS. He is the Area Protection Officer and hails from Alberta where he has worked through the ranks for over 17 years. He comes to us with a packsack

full of envious credentials and will be a great asset to WFM in general. His wife and infant are still on their way up and we're hoping that they will settle comfortably in Watson Lake and enjoy the Yukon as much as we do.

Doug Coté, IA Crew Leader from Dawson (Klondike Fire Management Zone) is relocating to Teslin to assume a similar position, and Dawn Bouqout, who was in the lookout tower on Haeckel Hill last summer, was the successful candidate in a recent competition for Tower Person.

## WFM's new URL....

For those of you who don't already know, the Wildland Fire Management's website has a new address.... We are now at:

[www.community.gov.yk.ca/firemanagement/index.html](http://www.community.gov.yk.ca/firemanagement/index.html)

Please update bookmarks you may have to the old Community Services website.

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## Integrated Fire Services in the Yukon A first in Canada

In the Yukon, April 1<sup>st</sup> 2003 was perhaps the most important milestone for the Territories fire services. It was on this date that the Government of Canada devolved the Wildland Fire Management program to the Government of Yukon. That the transfer in itself is historic is without question, but what is of real significance is that a golden opportunity was seized and taken advantage of by Yukon.

# Wildland Fire Management

Let us regress for a moment and describe the fire services prior to April 1<sup>st</sup> of 2003. Wildland Fire Management and the Yukon's Fire Marshal Office program had for sure cordial relationships, but other than in emergency situations that was as far as it extended. It was as if the two entities existed unto themselves. The volunteer and community fire departments had virtually no interaction with WFM during the course of their day to day operations and many of us within the departments viewed ourselves as being poor second cousins. This often created a strained relationship.

Today we still have two programs because they have two distinct roles in Fire Management. However we now have a command structure where both programmes report to one Director (Dan Boyd). This macro philosophy has led to the Community and VFD's receiving Wildland Fire training, better equipment, and being part of the larger team effort in providing direct assistance to wild land fires and allows for the merging of the operations both in equipment and human resources, when and where necessary.

What does this mean? Quite simply, better fire protection and services for the Yukon. An integrated fire service allows for the sharing and maximization of scarce resources both at the operational and administrative levels. The district Zone Protection Managers on Wildland Fire Management now work closely with the Community and VFD's in formulating wild land fire strategies, training, and during the "hot" season as standby crews to provide direct assistance to the Wildland Fire crews in time of need.



# Whitehorse Fire Department

## What's happening in Whitehorse from Warren Zakus - Training Officer

A new class of 14 recruits started training March 2005 with the Whitehorse fire department. The recruit training course is approximately 150 Hrs long and will conclude with live house burn at the end of May.



Larry McKay - served 25 years from Aug 1980 to March 2005



### Training

Our department has established three priorities for training this year:

- 1) Training new recruits to increase our volunteer membership,
- 2) Fire Ground Officer training. This is an in-house course the we are offering to our members to develop their skills when commanding at incidents.

The recruit training and Fire Ground Officer course are scheduled to complete simultaneously so that the Fire Ground Officers can practice their new skills directing the new recruits in their scenario based training.

- 3) Dispatch training. We are exploring options to improve our dispatching system, including run cards and newer equipment and procedures of course accompanied by the training to go with it.

The Last few months have seen some retirements and thereby new Hires.

### Retirements:

Don McQuillen - served 32 years from Feb 1973 to Feb 2005



Harry Lowry - Volunteer served 14 years from Dec 1991 to Nov 2005



# Whitehorse Fire Department

## New Hires

Mike Albertini - Hired Fulltime  
December 2005



Dave Dowie Hired Fulltime  
February 2005



## AYFC Convention

August 17-20, 2005

Proposed Agenda

Gold Rush Inn, Whitehorse, Yukon

### Wed. Aug. 17

7:00 - 7:30 Opening Ceremonies  
7:30 - ??? Meet and Greet

### Thurs. Aug. 18

8:30 - 9:00 Registration  
9:00 - 10:30 Fire Smarting for Communities(may be changed)  
10:30 - 10:45 Coffee Break  
10:45 - 12:00 Fire Smarting for Communities (may be changed)  
12:00 - 13:00 Lunch  
13:00 - 14:45 Bill C-45  
14:45 - 15:00 Coffee Break  
15:00 - ??? AYFC AGM (see agenda on page 13)

### Fri. Aug. 19

8:30- 10:30 Incident Safety Officer or Clandestine Drug Labs  
10:30 - 10:45 Coffee Break  
10:45 - 12:00 Incident Safety Officer or Clandestine Drug Labs  
12:00 - 13:00 Lunch  
13:00 - 14:45 Incident Safety Officer or Clandestine Drug Labs  
14:45 - 15:00 Coffee Break  
15:00 - 16:30 Incident Safety Officer or Clandestine Drug Labs  
This session may end early to allow for extra curricular activities

### Sat. Aug. 20

8:30 - 10:30 Getting to Know Fire  
10:30 - 10:45 Coffee Break  
10:45 - 12:00 Getting to Know Fire  
12:00 - 13:00 Lunch  
13:00 - ??? Manufacturer's Demos (Fire Hall 2)

Fire Marshal's Banquet  
**18:00 Cocktails Cash Bar**  
**18:30 Banquet**

# Klondike Valley Fire Department

## NEWS FROM THE KLONDIKE

from Jeff Stephenson

New equipment graces the hall. At long last we have our Rescue Truck, shiny red and ready for business.

It is a 1994 Chevy 4x4 Extra Cab, with an 8000 lb. Warren Winch. We welded up the head rack to hold some of more important fire tools and we have installed a 50 gallon water tank with a 2x2 Honda pump. On the passenger side of the box we made a hose bed for ProPak Foam.

A key feature for us was the installation of a step up at the rear to make access easier when wearing our turnout gear. No more banging our shins or struggling to climb in the back.

You will see we installed Code 3 lights, Wig Wag lights, Siren and of course a radio. As well we put in bright back up/work lights. Along with the water tank we have installed a generator, Portapower, blocking, chains, come-along and other rescue tools. Still some more fine tuning to do but boy sure beats what we had before!!



Step in



Step out

# AYFC AGM

## August 18, 2005

### Gold Rush Inn Whitehorse

#### PROPOSED AGENDA

Call to Order  
Adoption of Agenda  
Adoption of Minutes  
Reports: President  
          Treasurer  
          Secretary

#### OLD BUSINESS

- 1) Update on Jim Robb print
- 2) CAFC Convention
- 3) Policy Issues
- 4) Constitutional Changes
- 5) 2006 Convention

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Vice- President  
Secretary

**If anyone has any other agenda items,  
please send them to  
BOB ATKINSON at  
[willowbob2003@yahoo.ca](mailto:willowbob2003@yahoo.ca)  
or by mail to:  
AYFC  
Box 31353, 211 Main St.,  
Whitehorse, YT  
Y1A 5P7**

**Have any items in BEFORE the end of  
July 2005**

**FMO Cont. from page 3**

#### **Lightening Rod;**

The lightening rod is placed on the highest points in the community for its protection. The lightening rod is always visible and seen by the community as their shield from danger. The lightening rod department is one that is progressive, trains to remain efficient when called upon to protect the lives and property of the community. Like the lightening rod the department can provide that feeling of safety and security and hold the respect of the community. The lightening rod department continually strives to maintain a high level of readiness to respond to the needs of the community.

I urge you to maintain the lightening rod concept for your department for the protection of lives and property and in doing so you will derive many benefits from the community and have a great pride in your organization.

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**If you would like copies of photos  
appearing in Hoselines please  
contact the Editor-in-Chief.**

# Hootalinqua Volunteer Fire Department

The Hootalinqua Fire Department has had more than its share of fire calls these past months.

On December 14<sup>th</sup> we received a fire call at 2042 hrs. Of course at the same time our tanker was down for repairs. Our crew was paged and mutual aid requested from Ibex and the City of Whitehorse for water transfer. A mobile home on the Mayo Rd. was fully involved when the pumper arrived on scene. The fire had a good hold on the structure before it was reported as no one was on the premises at the time. The structure was a total loss; however an adjacent building was protected. There was no insurance and the cause was a homemade barrel woodstove with improper installation.

On January 21<sup>st</sup> at approximately 11:00 AM a call was received regarding a propane leak. This was in the Agricultural subdivision off of the Takhini Hot Springs Road. After filling up the propane tank the driver started to drive away and forgot to disconnect his supply line. The woman at the house said "I saw the driver start to drive away and the line was lying on the ground. All of a sudden it got tight and there was a loud bang and a great cloud of white in the air. I took off running to my neighbours and did not even take time to put on my boots." Her propane tank was pulled approximately 6 feet off its foundation and broke the line going to the house. There was no fire or other damages. The propane truck had left and Superior Propane was called to come to the scene and secure the site. We waited until a propane technician arrived. Mutual aid was requested from Ibex but was not required.

On January 26<sup>th</sup> a call was received regarding a fire in the ceiling of a house. The cause was from a wood stove. The caller said they had the fire out. When we arrived on the scene there was no one at the house.

The place was unlocked and we entered. The fire was still smoldering and smoke coming out of the ceiling. Two firefighters were sent to the roof while two others pulled the ceiling down. The fire had a good hold in the ceiling area but was quickly extinguished. This was a factory woodstove with improper installation. The landlord had showed up during operations and said "save it if you can Dan because there is no insurance on it". Thanks to our experienced crew that is exactly what we did. As we thought we had a working fire we requested mutual aid from the City of Whitehorse for water transfer. We weren't back at the hall but 5 minutes when we got a call to attend to a vehicle that went into the ditch. Two of us went to the scene. A car had slid into the ditch backwards and the driver, a young lady was uninjured but shaken up. We remained with her until the ambulance arrived.

On March 3<sup>rd</sup> a call was received regarding a fire at the Bahai Centre at Deep Creek. This is a 12,000 sq. ft. structure so we were expecting the worst although the caller said the fire was out. Upon arriving at the scene the fire was smoldering behind an exterior wall and overhaul was commenced. Damage was 12,000 to 15,000 dollars. This fire is of a suspicious nature and all information has been passed onto the RCMP. It was investigated by Jack Holesworth, Jim Smith and I and we all came to the same conclusion. In addition we have a suspect in mind. More on this investigation later if it turns up anything.

On March 6<sup>th</sup> a new van that had been parked for a couple of hours caught on fire. There was no one in the vicinity and the cause is unknown. The van was a complete loss and totally burnt.

Our latest call on March 11<sup>th</sup> was to the Lake Laberge area where someone thought the trees were on fire. Inves-

tigation showed it was simply someone burning brush.

So as you can see we have had more than our share of calls and hope it comes to a halt.

There were no injuries during these calls and all volunteer Fire Fighters acted in a safe and professional manner. Thanks go out to all Fire Fighters including those that responded from the Ibex Fire Department and the City of Whitehorse Fire Department.

In closing I would like to congratulate the six volunteers from our hall who just completed their Level 1 training: David West, Sharilyn Gattie, Wayne McManaman, Chris Gishler, Brian Boyle and Darren Holcombe.

Dan Nickason

Fire Chief



Caldwell original - Hoot Hall - moose. All rights are reserved for Hoot Hall.

## Letter from Don Trudeau

Looking forward to making the trip in August again this year to attend the Yukon Association of Fire Chief's Conference. The Fire Marshal's Office has again been busy helping my business grow with the purchase of a Spreader, Cutter and Chain Package for the Ross River Volunteer Fire Department. These pieces of equipment will enhance the package they already have. Ross River will join the likes of Whitehorse, Dawson City, and Watson Lake, whom all have Amkus Rescue System equipment!

Mr. Jack Holesworth; Fire Marshal, is very proud of his Fire Fighters and he is insuring they have the best equipment, in terms of reliability, training, warranty, and service needs! Tru Way Rescue Services Inc., along with Amkus Rescue Systems, is proud in trying very hard to meet those needs.

Tru Way Rescue Services Inc. would like to thank the Yukon Government, the FMO, the Cities of Whitehorse, Dawson, the town of Watson Lake, the Fire Chiefs and all the firefighters in the Territory for their continued support! Every time I go, visit, or just drive through the wonderful Yukon, you make me feel as though I was right at home, and that feeling is ever present in your hospitality, your kind words and above all, your trust. Tru Way Thanks you, one and all, for your continued support!

On another topic, one has to realize that *fire fighting* is considered one of the most hazardous and dangerous occupations in the workplace. We have recently lost a couple of brave firefighters in the NWT and "Line of Duty" deaths are some things we don't really want to see. We, as firefighters, are always aware that it could happen to any *one* of us at *any* given time. It is the nature of our profession. We can never replace those lives, we can never and must never forget them in our

memories, and we must strive to achieve above and beyond, the glory of our chosen profession!

We must bear in mind that the grieving family members are the reason *we* must move on and be reminded that our family members would prefer to see us every day and night, instead of a *final farewell*. As firefighters, we must train better, be better trained, and train with the best equipment we have.

We wish we had all the right updated equipment; we wish we had more time to help one another; we wish we could do something different, only realizing it was too late; our wish lists goes on and on and on. One thing we do have, that is rather inexpensive, is common sense! We are not born with a firefighter, doctor, nurse, truck driver, miner, teacher, scientist and so on, labelled on our forehead! As we grow older, and given the different paths of life, we chose to become, with education and training, what we want to be and what we want to do. With that choice comes a lifetime of commitment! With it comes a lifetime of learning and practice. With it comes a lifetime of knowledge and experience. *Common sense* is instilled into us with all these lifetime actions. It cannot simply be drawn from a hat and won by someone, we must earn it! Or learn to use it!

One can never forget where one has been, nor can one forget what he has done. So, in life, as in firefighting, one must always remember to live for the moment, live for oneself and live for the love of one's family. We must train and practice as if our life depended on it. And you know what? *It does!* We must be always aware that this one thing, or this one action, could be our last. I am putting together a little presentation on Firefighter Survival Tactics. In short, basic "Learning How to Stay Out of Trouble!" With over 25

years experience as a firefighter, I think it may be time to present the way we do things, in a different manner. I am not saying what we do is wrong. What I am saying is simply — we must look at a different way of seeing the picture. It's something we do every day in life, and in our travels, so why can't we take a common sense approach as to how we train and how we can or may improve the way we fight fires. It's not new, it's using the most important thing we have — we are utilizing the space between our ears to our advantage!

During a fire, after a terrible injury, or even a loss of life, *it is not* the time to reflect as to what went wrong, but rather to train and learn not to let those things happen again. Only in training can we learn to *get a second chance!*

Thank You  
Don Trudeau

# Golden Horn Fire Department

## The Yukon Level One Firefighter Course

The Level 1 Fire Fighter Course that ran from January 05 to March 19, 2005 was organized and coordinated by Mike Marcuson, Captain, Golden Horn Fire Department and Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighter at Whitehorse Airport Fire Department with permission from and on behalf of the Yukon Fire Marshal's Office.

The course utilized fifteen lead and assistant "Volunteers" from six different Fire Departments and Organizations who volunteered their time to help with the course. We used the ESSENTIALS OF FIRE FIGHTING – Fourth Edition - International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA) book as a reference.

The course included drills and theory of all nineteen chapters and chapter review tests from the "Essentials of Firefighting, Hazmat Part 1, Multi Departmental Mobile Radio System (MDMRS), and the Incident Command System (ICS-100) as well as for the YFF1 Theory - Skill Stations 1 - 6, and for the YFF1 Full Certificate - Skill Stations 1 - 10.

One person completed the Yukon Fire Fighter 1 - Theory and eighteen personnel completed the Yukon Fire Fighter 1 - Full Certificate.

Practical Skill Stations are as follows and can be set up at any Fire Department in the Yukon Territory:

- Practical Skill Station – 01 = Personal Protective Equipment & Self Contained Breathing Apparatus
- Practical Skill Station – 02 = Ropes & Knots
- Practical Skill Station – 03 = Forcible Entry
- Practical Skill Station – 04 = Ladders
- Practical Skill Station – 05 = Fire Classification
- Practical Skill Station – 06 = Fire Detection (Smoke Detectors)
- Practical Skill Station – 07 = Rehab (Rehabilitation Area)
- Practical Skill Station – 08 = Primary Search
- Practical Skill Station – 09 = Vehicle Fire
- Practical Skill Station – 10 = Interior Structure Fire



Photos from the FF1 course - more photos on pages 6 and 7



**Special thanks to all the following people who took part in the course:**

**From Golden Horn:**

Rene Drysdelle, Krista Funk, Benoit Landry, Kirstie Simpson.

**From Mount Lorne:**

Charles Nadeau  
Werner Rhein

**From Marsh Lake:**

Mark Erschen, Graham Gifford,  
Vince Slotte, Drew Whittaker.

**From Carcross:**

Duke Beattie, Kyle Cresswell,  
Jonathan Ford, Billy Huebschwerlen,  
Richard Larker, Michael Murphy,  
Sarah Kelly.

**From Ibex Valley:**

Dean Brown  
John Bourgetel  
Iilir Azizaj  
Dyre Beck  
Cindy Roulston  
Jonathan Wurtak

**From Hootalinqua:**

David West  
Wayne McManaman  
Darren Holcombe  
Christopher Gishler  
Sharilyn Gattie

## Graduating Class of 2005

Hats are off to the trainees who successfully completed their Level I Fire Fighting Certification. A large gathering of some 80 folk were at the Gold Rush Inn on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> to honour the graduating class of 2005. Emceed by Jack Holesworth, in total twenty-nine new Fire Fighters from Carcross, Marsh Lake, Mount Lorne, Golden Horn, Hootalinqua and Ibex Fire Departments were congratulated on their achievement.

Special recognition, by way of a plaque presented from the Fire Marshall's Office, was paid to Mike Marcuson for his outstanding efforts in putting on one of the two courses using volunteer instructors. Well done Mike!

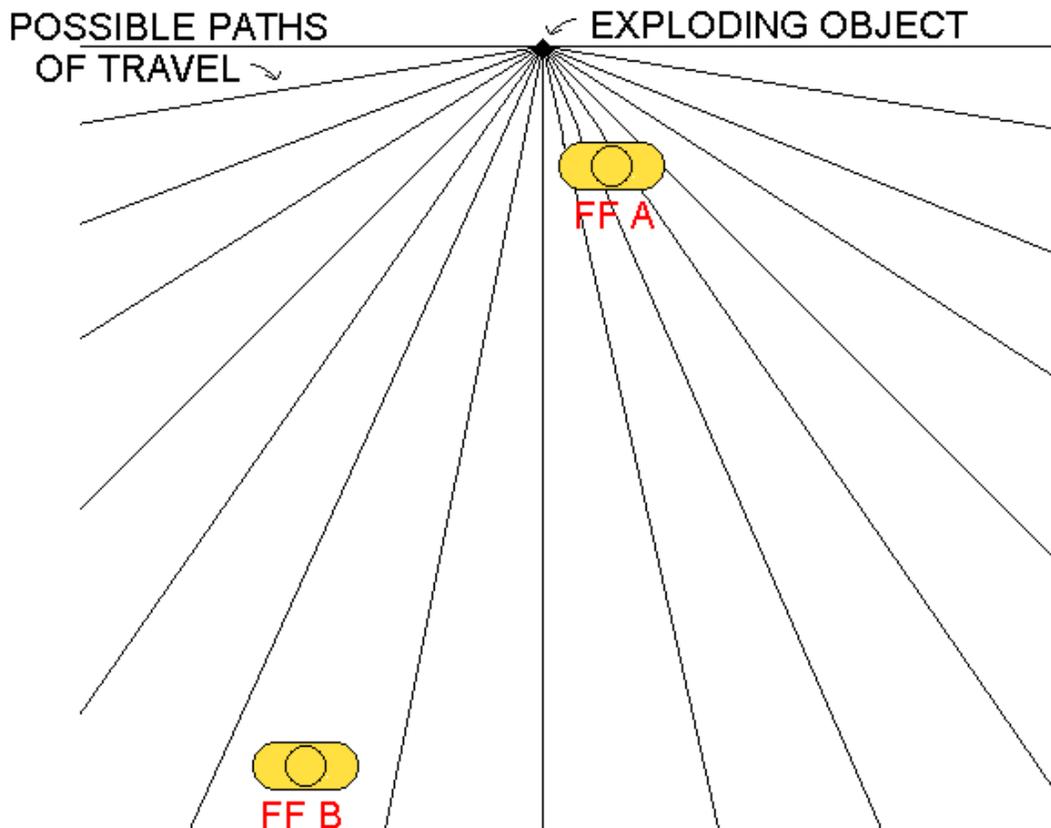
A good time was had by all amid laughter, good company to a Chinese smorgasbord.



# FIREFIGHTER BASICS

## DISTANCE

Can be a Fire Fighter's Best Friend



Not only will distance reduce the speed and impact force of a flying object, the farther away you are from the source the lower the chance of being in the path of the object or pieces of a flying object.

So why do firefighters often get so close to hazards such as burning vehicles? It could be over-confidence in our protective equipment. How effective is our PPE at stopping flying Objects? A fire stream from a properly supplied 1- $\frac{3}{4}$  inch fog nozzle will reach up to 24 meters (75 feet) and has very good coverage at 10 to 15 meters (30 to 40 feet). Use this **“reach of stream”** to cool objects and reduce temperature and hazards before approaching closer to complete extinguishment.

Warren Zakus  
Training Officer  
Whitehorse Fire Department

# Stop the Presses!

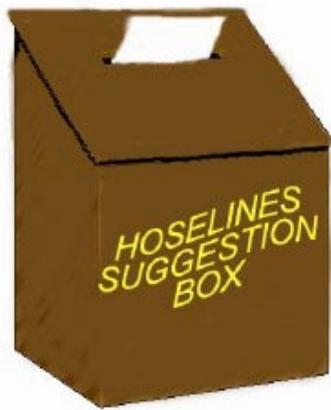
## Trade Show 2005

Protective Services provided excellent displays at the Whitehorse Trade Show on the weekend of April 29th to May 1st. Featured were the Emergency Measures Office, Fire Smart Program, Wildland Fire Management and the Fire Marshall's Office. Volunteer fire departments from Golden Horn, Hootalinqua and Ibex had their pumpers on display on each of the three days. Volunteer Fire Fighters from these departments provided an opportunity to the public to tour the apparatus. A thousand plastic fire hats were distributed, much to the enjoyment of adults and children alike. Good job everyone!

Al Alcock

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If you have suggestions about what you would like to see in *Hoselines*, please send them to:

Rob Alexander,  
Box 2165 Marsh Lake, YT, Y0B 1Y2  
phone: 660-4005  
e-mail: [robalex@northwestel.net](mailto:robalex@northwestel.net)

or send to:  
Al Alcock,  
PO Box 20612 Y1A 7A2  
phone: 633-3758 Fax 633-4843  
e-mail: [alalcock@northwestel.net](mailto:alalcock@northwestel.net)

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Association of Yukon Fire Chiefs.

If you wish to reproduce any of the content of this newsletter for training use or other purposes, please contact our Editor-in-Chief Rob Alexander at the address shown on the left.

## Small Advertisements

Al Alcock sent e-mails to advise that in this issue of *Hoselines* we would be adding a section for Trade, for Sale, and for Needed items.

We did not receive anything for this issue so I added my own silly adverts to

1) grab your attention

2) remind you that all fire departments may use this section free of charge. So please use it.

Editor-in-Chief

**Small can of brown boot polish.** Partly used. No reasonable offer refused. Will exchange for Ford F150 truck. Contact Al at Ibex Valley Fire Department.

**1951 Ford Van.** Very good condition, although it doesn't sound like it. But it does work. Well, the back door doesn't shut properly, but once you've got the knack it's fairly easy. It's only \$100 after all. Well OK, \$75. The knocking sound in the engine is just a squirrel trapped in there, nothing to worry about really, and the missing 1st and 2nd gears can be fixed quite easily. How about \$25? Oh... it needs 4 wheels. Contact Rob at Marsh Lake Fire Rescue. Oh alright, I'll give you \$5 to take it away.

**Urgently required.** New members for the Marsh Lake Suicide Club. This exciting new club is working out far better than we expected and new members are needed *right now*, before it's too la...

**Telepathic person wanted.** You know where to apply.

## NO PARKING IN THIS COLUMN



**FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS**