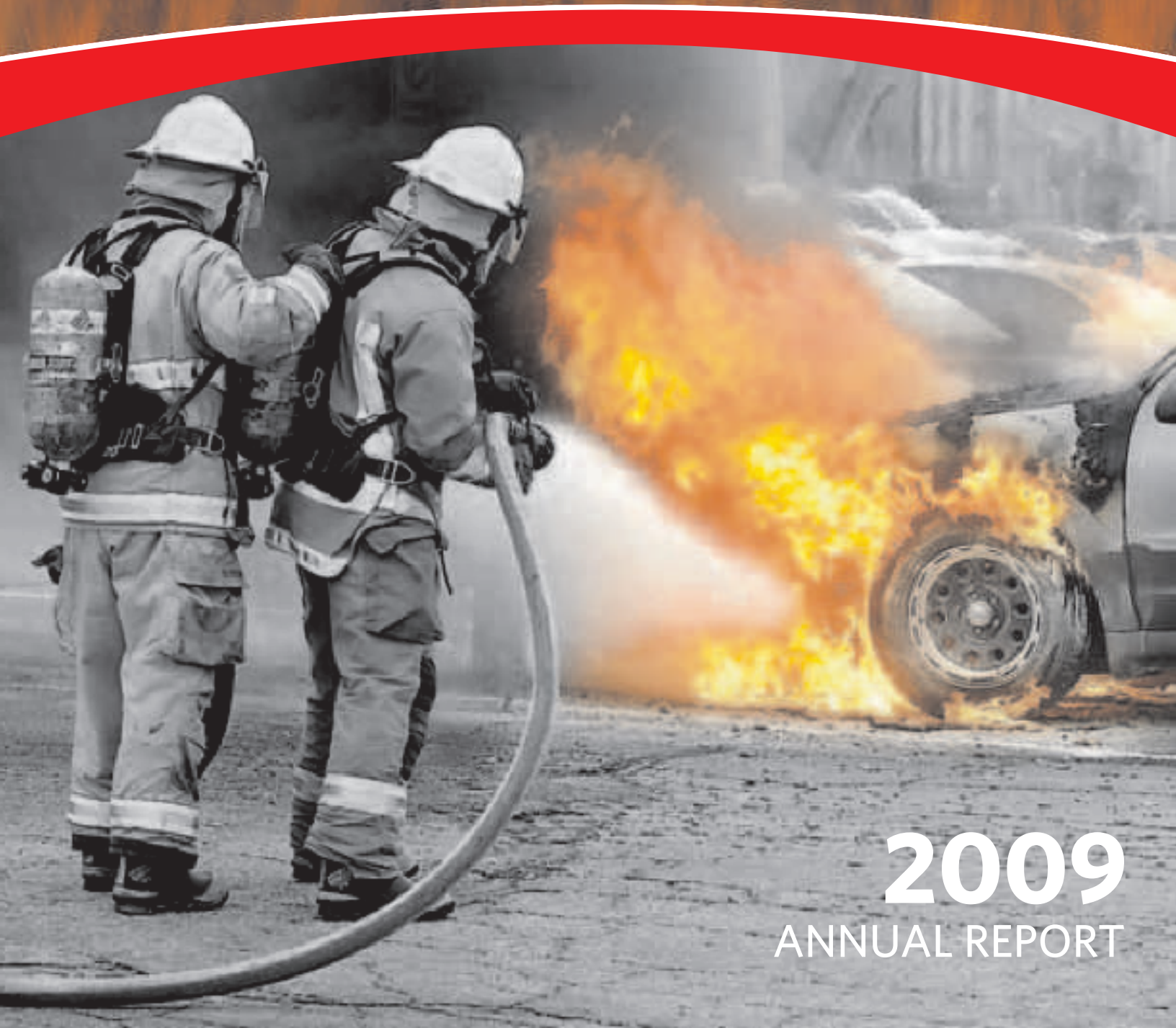


# **BRANDON FIRE**

**& EMERGENCY SERVICES**



**2009**  
ANNUAL REPORT

*"We just wanted to pass on to you that your members... acted in a very professional and friendly manner... It is obvious these members are very well trained and the best type of person for this type of work.."*



Photo Courtesy of Brandon Photographics

## A MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF DANE

On behalf of the staff of Brandon Fire & Emergency Services (BFES) it is my pleasure to submit to you the department's 2009 Annual Report.

2009 has been a busy year for the department during which we responded to a total of 4,250 calls. A new project the department started in 2009 was the archiving of the department's history. This began in preparation for the move to the new Fire Hall in 2010. This project has involved many organizations and individuals which has so far involved sorting through the material that has been kept through the years and deciding a course of action. We will continue to work towards properly archiving the department's history in the years to come.

The department is looking forward to 2010 with the completion of the new building and the opportunities that will present themselves upon taking occupancy. We hope you find the 2009 Annual Report interesting and informative. Thank you for your continued interest and support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brent Dane". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Brent Dane  
Fire Chief

### **Mission Statement**

*"To protect life, property and the environment through education, prevention, emergency communications, firefighting, rescue and medical services."*

### **Vision Statement**

*"Making a difference to the people we serve."*



Photo Courtesy of Ashely Ritchie





*“It is good to know we have the timely and professional capability of the Brandon Fire Department to provide assistance when the need arises.”*

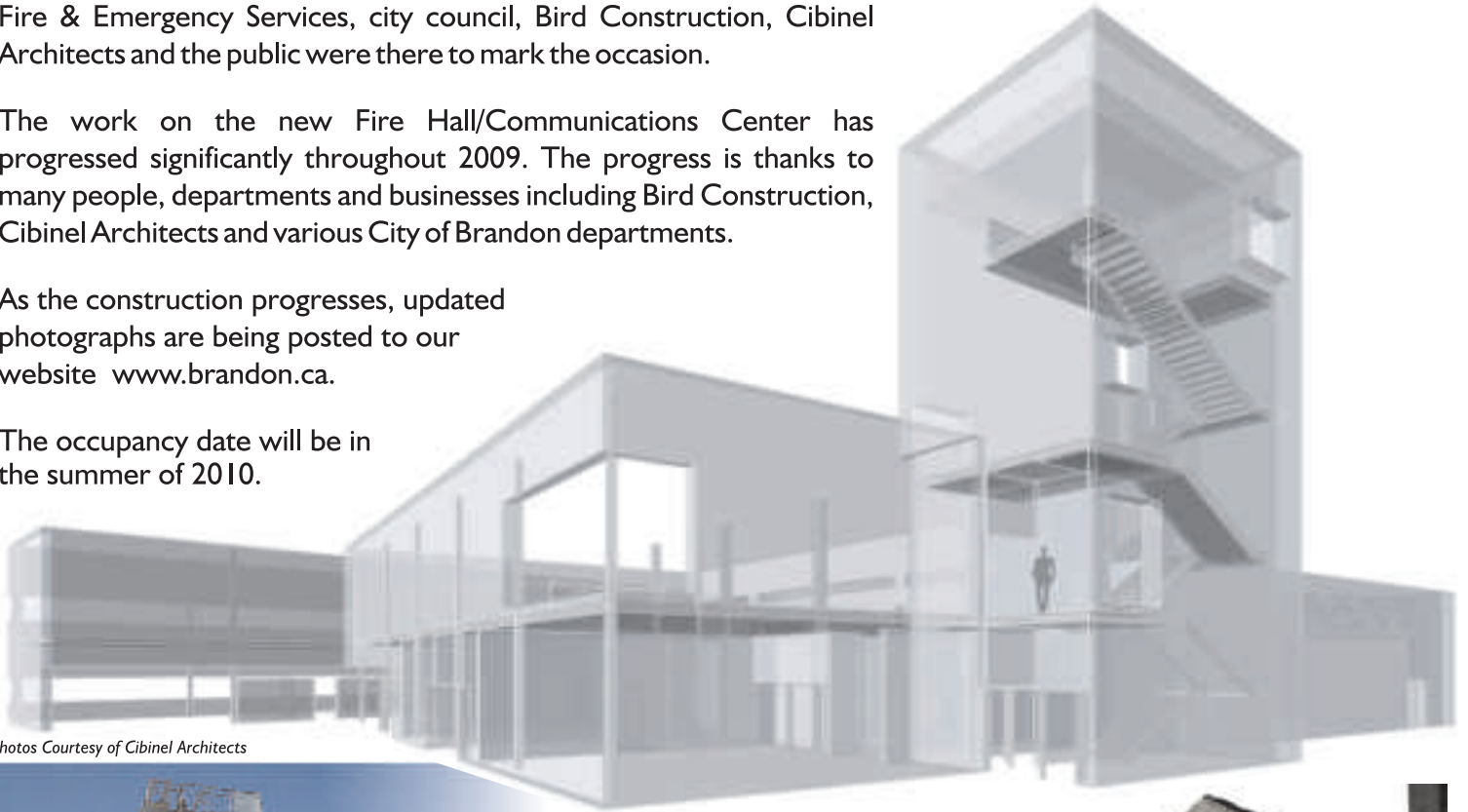
## FIRE HALL UPDATE

The tender was awarded to Bird Construction, with construction beginning the first week of June. A ground breaking ceremony was held on June 12th. Mayor Burgess and representatives from 911, Brandon Fire & Emergency Services, city council, Bird Construction, Cibinel Architects and the public were there to mark the occasion.

The work on the new Fire Hall/Communications Center has progressed significantly throughout 2009. The progress is thanks to many people, departments and businesses including Bird Construction, Cibinel Architects and various City of Brandon departments.

As the construction progresses, updated photographs are being posted to our website [www.brandon.ca](http://www.brandon.ca).

The occupancy date will be in the summer of 2010.



*Photos Courtesy of Cibinel Architects*



*Photo Courtesy of Life's Images*



# FIRE SUPPRESSION

We are happy to report that the number of structure fires and fire losses for 2009 is lower than in previous years. The frequent incidents of arson experienced in 2008 has dropped off in 2009. This should be partially attributed to the success of the Arson Task Force in identifying the responsible individuals so arrests could be made.

The department participated in a mock disaster in May called Operation Help our Hercules (OH OH). The incident involved simulating a DND C-130 Hercules aircraft crashing while doing training evolutions. The response to the crash involved members of Brandon Airport Emergency Services, Brandon Fire & Emergency Services, Shilo Emergency Services, Department of National Defense, RCMP, Brandon Police Service and the Office of the Fire Commissioner. The mock incident was to test the unified command structure as well as interagency operability.

## 2009 CALL TYPE BREAKDOWN

Ambulance Response	2040
Ambulance Resp. Non-Emerg.	835
Long Distance Trips	343
Carbon Monoxide Response	45
Fire - Structural	15
Fire - Other	115
Investigation	158
Other	15
Motor Vehicle Accident	327
Alarm	348
Hazardous Materials	6
Rescue	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>4250</b>



Photo Courtesy of the Brandon Sun



Photo Courtesy of Ashley Ritchie





BFES responded to 3,218 EMS calls and treated 3,953 patients in 2009.  
75% of BFES's total calls were EMS related.

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

BFES renewed our Continuity of Service Agreement with the Assiniboine Regional Health Authority (ARHA) and is presently working on renewing our agreement with the Shilo Fire Department. These agreements permit each region to ask for assistance in the event that call volume exceeds our resource's capabilities. The agreements also ensure ambulance service 24/7 within our primary service area, the ARHA and Shilo.

We were able to replace two of our higher mileage ambulances with a refurbished unit and a new "Sprinter" prototype ambulance. This ensures that we have four dependable units at our disposal.

BFES was an active participant in H1N1 discussions with the Brandon Regional Health Authority. These were to review provincial mandates and to develop operating guidelines for our staff to follow when dealing with or treating individuals exhibiting the signs and symptoms of H1N1.

We were again fortunate enough to have the Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Fund sponsor our department for the purchase of equipment for the ambulance service. They provided \$3,423.70 towards the purchase of 12 cardiology stethoscopes, 5 defibrillator batteries and 2 blood pressure cuff sets.

### SHAW BEARS

When we respond to calls, we frequently deal with children who are upset due to the circumstances of the call. In order to help put them at ease, in 2009 we started carrying stuffed animals that we can give to them. Shaw Communications runs a program in which they donate teddy bears to community organizations and service groups across Canada. The cuddly white bears are provided free of charge to be given to children in situations where they are frightened, sad or traumatized. This has been a very successful and appreciated addition to the department.



## DEFIBRILLATOR REPLACEMENT

Late in 2009 we were supplied with defibrillators from 3 major manufacturers for evaluation. A large number of our staff had the opportunity to try out the different types of defibrillators and provide their input as to what style of defibrillators to request in the tender that will be released in 2010. Part of this process was ensuring that the defibrillators were compatible with Winnipeg Fire & Paramedic Services (WFPS) Electronic Patient Care Report (E-PCR) system, which would allow the department to move to a paperless reporting system.



Photos Courtesy of the Brandon Sun



*"Thank you so very much for all the support help and care the three men gave to my mother-in-law... and myself...  
The three young men that helped us were just the greatest and I appreciate all the support they gave us.  
Thank goodness we have you people."*

## SPECIALTY TEAMS

### TECHNICAL RESCUE/HIGH ANGLE & CONFINED SPACE

The Tech Rescue team continues to train together and participated in the newly accredited week long course offered by the Manitoba Emergency Services College. The team acquired a larger trailer to house all the confined space and high angle equipment. This trailer is now set up for immediate response in a similar fashion as the Water Rescue Team trailer, should the need arise.

### WATER RESCUE

The BFES Water Rescue Team trained in both the Assiniboine River and Killarney Lake. They performed both open water rescue and ice rescue utilizing various strategic responses.

In September, they participated in two days of training on the Red River with the Winnipeg Fire and Paramedic Service.

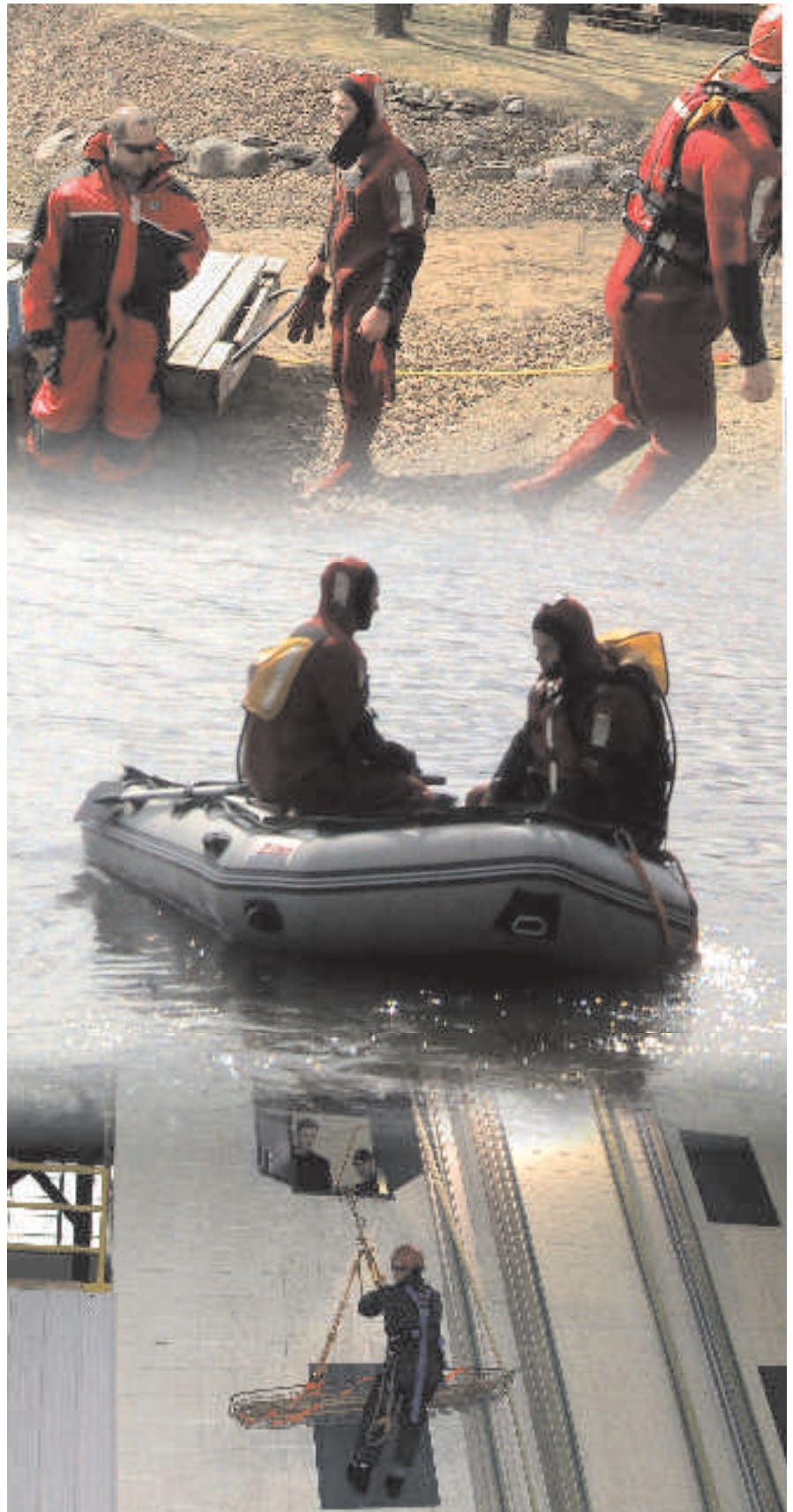
### CBRNE & USAR TEAM

We continue to train new team members to the CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radioactive, Nuclear, Explosive) team. One member attended the initial training for the team in Ottawa. In June the team members participated in a training exercise in Winnipeg.

The USAR (Urban Search and Rescue) Team continues to train with the Office of the Fire Commissioner as part of a skills maintenance program.

### HAZ-MAT TEAM

In November a Hazardous Materials Tech Team was introduced to our department. This team will work closely with the Office of the Fire Commissioner's (OFC's) Haz-Mat team. This will ensure we have the capability to provide a Haz-Mat response prior to the OFC's deployment.





“...the ambulance equipment and the capabilities of your EMS staff are truly impressive. Brandon residents are very fortunate to have a service of this caliber.”

## TRAINING

### EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

Through a partnership with the ARHA and our medical Director (Dr. Norman), our personnel annually recertify their EMS license by using a web-based training module called the Alternate Route to Maintenance of Licensure (ARML). The second portion of our training program is delivered by our training officers. It is the practical component of the medical certifications and includes IV starts, emergency childbirth and pain management.

We have maintained 52 of our staff members at a Primary Care Paramedic level, 17 of which are Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) certified. The ACLS program allows us to administer cardiac drugs on scene for cardiac related emergencies. This program affords the patient the best chance to survive pre-hospital cardiac emergencies.

New to our training program in 2009 was the way that our groups were assigned to EMS training sessions. In the past, training sessions were scheduled with staff being separated by skill sets. In 2009 we started to mix the skill sets into the training sessions. This helped us run more realistic scenarios, as well gave everyone a better understanding of what other members scope of practice is.

### FIRE

2009 saw the reintroduction of live fire training. Twelve members were provided the opportunity to practice a variety of live fire exercises at the Manitoba Emergency Services College practical training site in March.

### OTHER

Mcpl. Mike Bursey from CFB Shilo and Firefighter/Paramedic/Military Reservist Doug Wheatland gave presentations in October to our staff. The presentation detailed the effects that the Afghanistan missions are having on military members and their families once they return from the war.

Eleven members of the department took Fire Service Leadership Courses by correspondence from Dalhousie University. This Certificate provides fire officers with opportunities to expand their overall knowledge of the fire service and to add management education to their existing technical training. These courses are required for promotion within the department.

Our staff participated in vehicle extrication training throughout the year. Some of the staff were given the opportunity to tour various automobile dealerships to view the new hybrid technology. This helped to familiarize them with the vehicles and the challenges extricating from a hybrid may present.



Photos Courtesy of the Brandon Sun



*“I would just like to comment on how well the Officers and Paramedics interacted with the tenant... they were very respectful and caring... I have nothing but high praise for the Officers and Paramedics who attended this situation.”*

## FIRE PREVENTION

### LEARN NOT TO BURN PROGRAM

The “Learn Not to Burn” program is designed to reduce fire deaths and injuries among children. The program was introduced to teachers in the Brandon School Division in 1997. That year, 10 classrooms participated in the program involving approximately 250 students. In the 2008-2009 school year there were 93 classrooms participating in the program involving approximately 1,989 students.

We offer this program to all Kindergarten – Grade 3 teachers. The curriculum teaches 14 fire and burn prevention behaviors. Each year, new behaviors are introduced, and behaviors learned the previous year are reviewed so that the knowledge is reinforced in the students. A fire safety visit is also offered to supplement the learning activities. Teachers are provided with a personalized binder with the complete program inside which includes introduction letters to parents, pre-tests and post-tests, family activity letters and activity booklets. All information is photocopied so that each student has their own copy.

Brandon Fire & Emergency Services is able to provide this very valuable program with financial assistance of the Kiwanis Club and the Firefighters Burn Fund.

*On June 9th, 2000 BFES responded to a house fire on Lorne Avenue. When the fire started a mother and her two children were in the house. The daughter smelled smoke and tried to wake her mother. When she was unable to wake her, she took her little brother and rushed over to her neighbour’s house and called 911. As a result her mother was rescued. Her quick thinking saved lives and averted a catastrophe. We asked her how she knew what to do? Her answer was “I learned it in school”. She was a student at Riverview school and had taken part in our “Learn Not To Burn” program.*

Photo Courtesy of Ashley Ritchie





*"I was very impressed by the way they handled (the patient) and explained what they were doing so that his fear was much reduced."*

## STAFFING

### RETIREMENTS / RESIGNATIONS

Firefighter/Paramedic Randy Markewich retired from the department after 29 years of service on April 17th.

Firefighter/Paramedic James Jasper resigned on November 30th.

### PROMOTIONS

Scott McDonald was promoted to Captain  
Bob Smit was promoted to Lieutenant  
John Houlihan was promoted to Acting Lieutenant I

### NEW HIRES

Five new staff joined our department in 2009. Welcome to all of our new employees, which include:

- Michael Lees
- Trevor Bell
- Stephen Semenchuk
- Eric Boudreault
- Cory Parrott

## 2009 BRANDON FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES ORGANIZATIONAL CHART STAFF COMPLEMENT 67

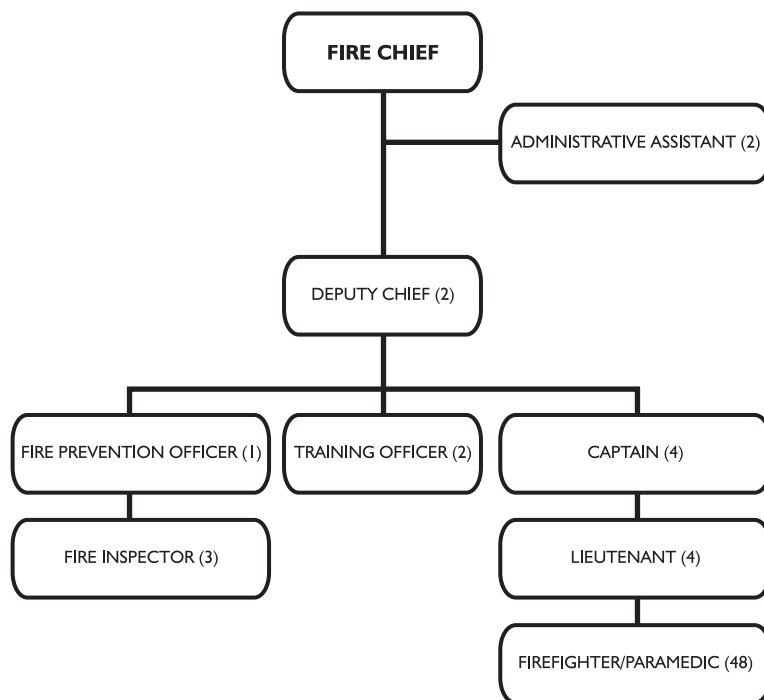


Photo Courtesy of the Brandon Sun



*“The internship I did at the hall... will be one I never forget.  
I learned so much being at the hall that it is my decision to start applying for fire college right here in Brandon.”*



*Photo Courtesy of Life's Images*



*Photo Courtesy of Ashely Ritchie*

## WORK EXPERIENCE

In 2009 we hosted 58 work experience students from Rolling River School Division, Brandon School Division, the Manitoba Emergency Services College and various other sources. The opportunity to come to the fire hall for work experience is of great value to these individuals, as it gives them an inside look at what it would be like to be employed as a firefighter/paramedic. Many of the individuals we have hosted for work experience in the past are now current valued employees.

## THERMAL IMAGING CAMERA

The department received a new thermal imaging camera in 2009. This capital purchase will assist on the fire ground to locate potential victims, find potential hot spots that could rekindle, and help pinpoint areas of electrical malfunction.





*“Their stand presence and ability to quickly coordinate with needed intervention and use of the pumper water cannon greatly assisted in the timely and safe resolve of the inmate disturbance and reduction in property damage.”*

## HISTORY PROJECT

In preparation for the move to the new hall we began to sort through some of the items we had in storage at #1 Fire Hall. The intent was to pick out a few of the more notable pieces for display in the new hall museum area.

When going through the items in storage it became quickly apparent that this was going to be no small task. We discovered that we had a large volume of items including scrapbooks, daily logs, employment records, helmets, fire alarm boxes, firefighting and EMS equipment along with scores of photographs and documents.

We met with some individuals with experience in this field including representatives from Manitoba Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Sport, the Provincial Historic Resources Branch, SJ McKee Archives (at Brandon University), Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum and Daly House Museum. The consensus was that, contrary to our intent we should not be displaying any original photographs or documents.

As this project began to grow in size we recruited help from some of our staff and retirees. They have been volunteering their time every Monday and Thursday afternoon since November to help sort through, reproduce and find information to go with the display. We are hoping that this group of volunteers will continue to aid us in properly preserving and cataloguing this history once the display is complete. This way the rich history of the department can be preserved for generations to come.



Photo Courtesy of The Brandon Sun



1885-1910

Original Fire Hall  
Brandon Civic Offices,  
Jail and Court Room,  
637 Princess Avenue

1913 Seagrave pumper  
South side of 700 block of Rosser, became Eaton's





1910

AKEVANK

EMPIRE HOTEL

EMPIRE HOTEL

BIJOU

PAINTS

June 23, 1910 Empire Hotel

Photo Courtesy of S.J. McKee Archives, Brandon University, FAI Lawrence Stucky