

2018

BRANDON FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES  
**ANNUAL REPORT**



*“On behalf of the staff of  
Brandon Fire & Emergency  
Services (BFES), it is my  
pleasure to submit to you  
the department’s 2018  
Annual Report.”*



PHOTO: MATT GOERZEN/THE BRANDON SUN

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



On behalf of the staff of Brandon Fire & Emergency Services (BFES) it is my pleasure to submit to you the department's 2018 Annual Report.

It was a busy year with lots of major incidents, most noticeably the multiple fires in downtown Brandon in May. We are fortunate to live in Brandon and have a great, supportive community that was able to assist in the fighting of these fires. It is not every day these incidents happen and it is almost impossible to train for them. Being called upon, staff stepped up to the challenge and delivered on their commitment to the fire service and to the community.

Staff participated in a mock scenario at Crocus Plains High School, put on by Mothers Against Drunk Driving. They were able to demonstrate to students the process of attending a motor vehicle collision scene and how we interact with other departments.

The department welcomed 37 students who were job shadowing staff to get a better understanding of what they do. Of these students, 17 were paramedic preceptors from Red River College, providing them with hands-on experience. This year we provided an opportunity for a medical student to shadow our staff to provide knowledge and understanding of our care to patients before they reach the hospital.

We hope you enjoy the 2018 Annual Report. Thank you for your continued interest and support.

*Scott McDonald*

Scott McDonald, Fire Chief



# HISTORY

At the beginning of February 2019 we said goodbye to Brent Dane after 36 years of service. He was hired in February 1983 as a firefighter/paramedic and worked his way up the ranks to Deputy Fire Chief in 2001, and finally Fire Chief in 2005. We wish Brent all the best in his future endeavors.

When the Fire Department was first established in 1882, it was run on a volunteer basis. It wasn't until 1909 that the Department became paid city employees, officially terminating its volunteer era. Since its establishment, the department has seen 14 fire chiefs, four of which were on a volunteer basis.



**1882 - 1883**

G.M. ALEXANDER

**1884 - 1894**

E.G. WISWELL

**1895 - 1897**

JOHN RICHARDS

**1897 - 1899**

THOMAS HUDSON



**1899 - 1909**

**E.G. WISWELL**



**1909 - 1931**

**JOHN MELHUIHSH**



**1931 - 1943**

**ALEXANDER MOWATT**



**1943 - 1958**

**GEORGE BAIN**



**1958 - 1965**

**JAMES MUNRO**



**1965 - 1972**

**JACK CAREY**



**1973 - 1993**

**ED POLNICK**



**1993 - 2001**

**GARRY WINTERS**



**2001 - 2005**

**RICH GREGOIRE**



**2005 - 2019**

**BRENT DANE**

# FIRE PREVENTION

The Fire Prevention Division consists of a Fire Prevention Officer, two Fire Inspectors and a Public Educator. The Fire Inspectors perform various tasks in ensuring that buildings and public areas meet or exceed ALL fire regulations.

Their mandate is to ensure that residents and patrons of establishments within the City of Brandon and surrounding contracted communities have systems in place to protect life and property in the event of a fire.

The Public Educator provides programs for youth and adults that promote fire safety and prevention.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**233** apartments were inspected while **113** restaurants and **113** stores were inspected.



Tours of #1 Fire Hall were given to 931 people.

There were 40 students who graduated from the babysitting course, which is held every spring and fall.



Fire extinguisher training was provided to 304 individuals.



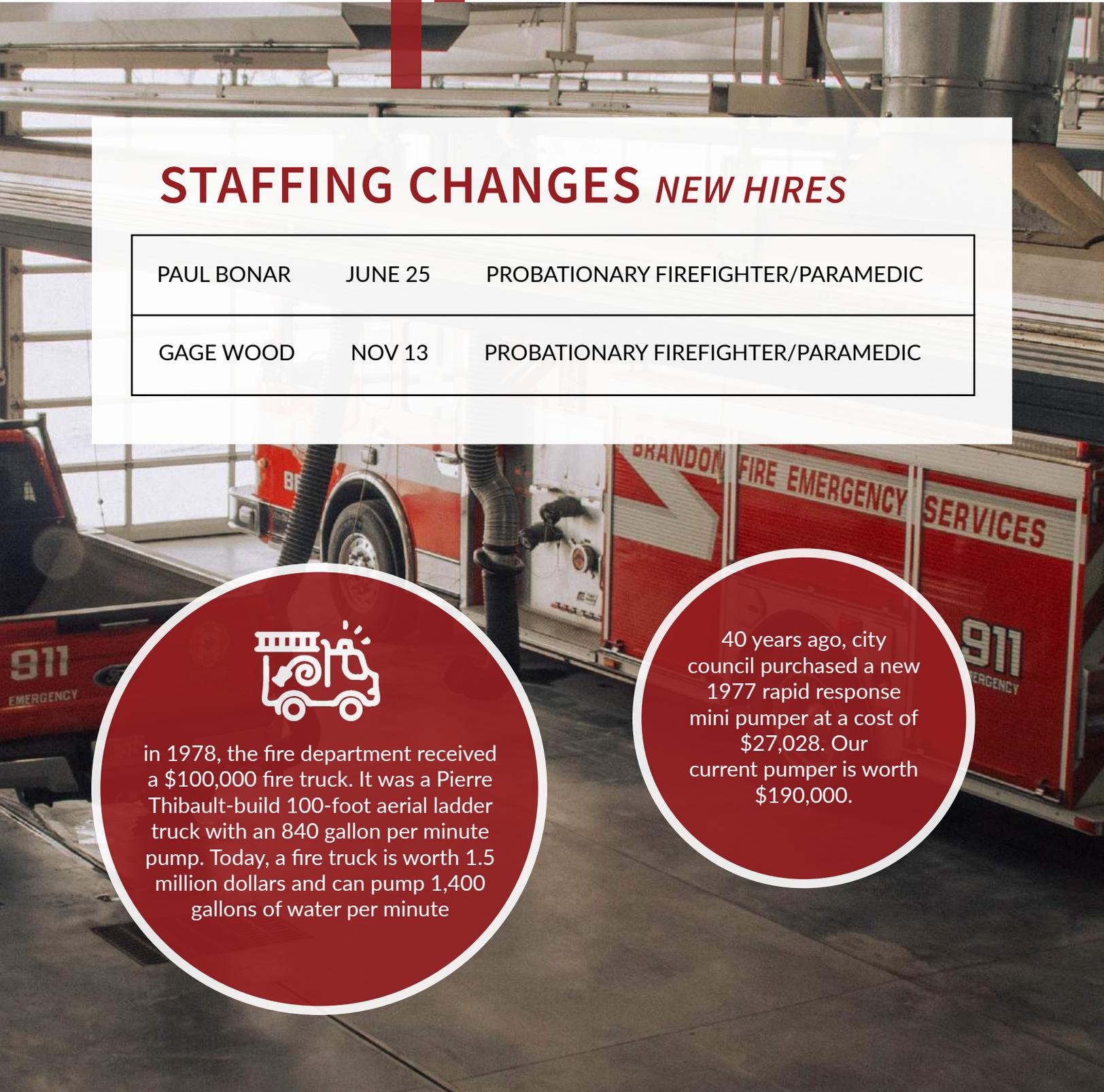
## STAFFING CHANGES *NEW HIRES*

PAUL BONAR	JUNE 25	PROBATIONARY FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC
GAGE WOOD	NOV 13	PROBATIONARY FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC



in 1978, the fire department received a \$100,000 fire truck. It was a Pierre Thibault-build 100-foot aerial ladder truck with an 840 gallon per minute pump. Today, a fire truck is worth 1.5 million dollars and can pump 1,400 gallons of water per minute

40 years ago, city council purchased a new 1977 rapid response mini pumper at a cost of \$27,028. Our current pumper is worth \$190,000.



# DOWNTOWN BRANDON ON FIRE

May 19 - 20, 2018

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At approximately 12:30 on Saturday May 19, a structure fire was reported at Christie's Office Plus. Upon arrival, flames were extending from the ground to the roof on the northwest corner. Because of the significant heat generated by the fire, our concern moved to surrounding structures, the main one being Massey Manor. Shortly after arrival, it was determined that Massey Manor needed to be evacuated.

Soon after, it was reported that there was smoke coming from the roof of the Collyer's Sales & Service building, as well as early reports of fire at the Brandon Sun. The fire at the Brandon Sun was a result of embers from Christies setting the grass on fire against the building. It was quickly extinguished. Not long after, smoke was reported at Knight's Inn Vendor/ Club on Rosser Avenue.

It was recognized early that the fire had extended beyond the capacity of our department to control and extinguish. We reached out to some of our mutual aid partners for assistance in protecting properties and suppressing the fires. Wawanesa, Souris, Shilo, MB Hydro Generating Station and the Office of the Fire Commissioner provided assistance.

As our staff were all engaged in extinguishing the fires, it became impossible for us to deliver on our EMS responsibility. Medical Transportation Coordination Center and Prairie Mountain Health stepped in immediately to take over our responsibility to cover EMS within the City. They had four ambulances in the City and were able to respond to approximately 10 calls.

Other City departments were of invaluable support during this time including Brandon Police Service, Transit, City Works, and the Water Treatment Plant.

Food and drinks were provided by multiple local businesses in the community as well as non-local businesses and family members of the firefighters to help staff continue fighting the fires hours on end.

Staff stayed on scene for 28.5 hours and after using 36 million litres of water, there was approximately a \$24 million loss calculated.



PHOTO: MICHAEL LEE/THE BRANDON SUN



PHOTO: MATT GOERZEN/THE BRANDON SUN



PHOTO: MATT GOERZEN/THE BRANDON SUN



PHOTO: FILE PHOTO



## AMBULANCE

Our staff are trained as firefighters and paramedics and are able to administer pre-hospital patient care. Often times they perform skills at an emergency scene that, in the past, were only performed in the emergency room. Together with Prairie Mountain Health and our EMS Training Officer, all 64 staff are provided with training throughout the year to ensure their skills are kept up-to-date.

Our paramedics also provided Brandon Regional Health Center ER staff with proper patient removal from vehicles training. Our EMS Training Officer works with PMH Clinical Education in instructing ACLS educational courses throughout the region.

Currently, Shared Health Services is implementing patient care map changes which will positively impact pre-hospital patient care. All of our paramedics are in the process of being trained in these changes.

## TRAINING

Every year Mothers Against Drunk Driving organize a mock scenario at different locations to emphasize the seriousness and potential devastating results of drinking and driving. This year the mock scenario was held at Crocus Plains High School involving the fire and police departments and Memories Chapel. The scenario involved a two vehicle head on collision and a pedestrian being struck and killed. One patient was transported by ambulance and one was transported by hearse. Staff demonstrated using the Jaws of Life to extricate a patient from a vehicle.



## SPECIAL RESCUE TEAMS

Our Department has three specialized rescue teams - Water, Tech, and Haz-Mat. These teams each have 10 staff members and they participate in numerous training exercises throughout the year to ensure their skills are proficient in the case of any specialized rescue response.

The Haz-Mat team was formed in 2018 and they gathered several times for training opportunities. They have met with local industries that produce and handle hazardous goods and products to build familiarity and partnership with these facilities to better assist and respond to calls for service within the City of Brandon and surrounding area.

Two members of the team had the opportunity to attend a course on Crude Oil Railcar Emergency Response. The course took place at the SERTC facility in Pueblo, Colorado. Students had the chance to train at the state of the art facility that provided hands on practical scenarios to respond to Crude Oil Rail incidents. The course was provided to our department courtesy of CP Rail.



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