



TOWN OF ST. MARYS FIRE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY REPORT

2016 - 2018



TABLE OF CONTENTS

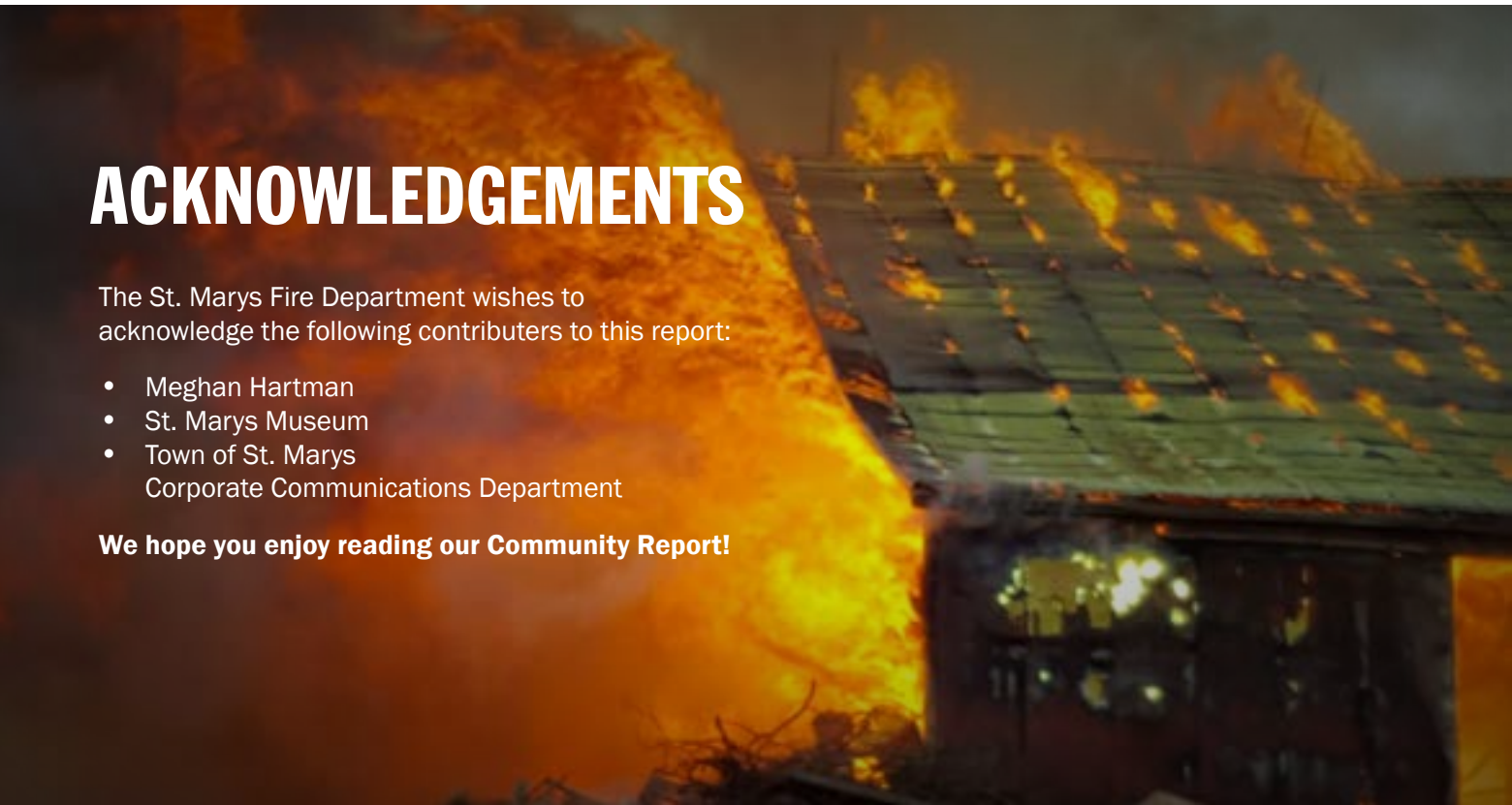
Our Leadership.....	1
Message from the Mayor.....	2
Message from the CAO	3
Message from the Chief	4
Message from the Deputy Chief.....	5
Organization	7
Our Fire Fighting Team.....	8
2016 - 2018 Retirements.....	9
2016 - 2018 Staff Promotions	9
Recruitment.....	10
Training	11
Incidents	12
Incident Statistics	13
Prevention.....	14
Public Education	15
Emergency Management.....	16
Emergency Exercises	17
Community Involvement	18
Open Air Burning By-law	20
Fire Equipment Upgrades.....	21
Vehicles.....	22
Firefighting History	24
St. Marys Fire Chiefs Past to Present	25

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The St. Marys Fire Department wishes to acknowledge the following contributors to this report:

- Meghan Hartman
- St. Marys Museum
- Town of St. Marys
Corporate Communications Department

We hope you enjoy reading our Community Report!



OUR LEADERSHIP

Council

Council meets regularly at Town Hall to adopt recommendations from the Strategic Priorities Committee, enact bylaws and adopt resolutions related to Town business.

Agendas and minutes: calendar.townofstmarys.com/council

To present to Council, contact: clerksoffice@town.stmarys.on.ca



Mayor Al Strathdee
519-276-9787
astrathdee@town.stmarys.on.ca



Councillor Fern Pridham
519-284-2340, ext. 490
fpridham@town.stmarys.on.ca



Councillor Jim Craigmile
519-284-2340, ext. 493
jcraigmile@town.stmarys.on.ca



Councillor Lynn Hainer
519-284-2340, ext. 494
lhainer@town.stmarys.on.ca



Councillor Marg Luna
Deputy Mayor
519-284-2340, ext. 492
mluna@town.stmarys.on.ca



Councillor Robert Edney
519-284-2340, ext. 491
redney@town.stmarys.on.ca



Councillor Tony Winter
519-284-2340, ext. 495
twinter@town.stmarys.on.ca

Senior Management

Senior Management oversees the Town's infrastructure as well as municipal program and service delivery.

Brent Kittmer, CAO/Clerk
ext. 216, bkittmer@town.stmarys.on.ca

Jed Kelly, Director, Public Works
ext. 244, jkelly@town.stmarys.on.ca

Lisa Lawrence, Director, Human Resources
ext. 335, llawrence@town.stmarys.on.ca

Richard Anderson, Director, Emergency Services
ext. 201, randerson@town.stmarys.on.ca

Trisha McKibbin, Director, Corporate Services
ext. 241, tmckibbin@town.stmarys.on.ca

Grant Brouwer, Director, Building & Development
ext. 215, gbrouwer@town.stmarys.on.ca

Jim Brown, Director, Finance
ext. 217, jbrown@town.stmarys.on.ca

Matthew Corbett, Library CEO
ext. 723, mcorbett@stmaryspubliclibrary.ca

Stephanie Ische, Director, Community Services
ext. 624, sische@town.stmarys.on.ca



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

On behalf of the residents of St. Marys, Town Council and Staff, I would like to congratulate the St. Marys Fire Department for another successful year protecting our lives and property. This group of dedicated and talented volunteers do an outstanding job maintaining a high standard in both safety and protection. We are extremely grateful for all of the extra training and commitment to servicing our community all of our force has exhibited.

We are also very proud of the long tradition of volunteer service of our firefighters, who respond to every emergency, often risking their own lives to protect us on a daily basis. They are outstanding public servants and represent the best of what commitment and dedication to public service truly means.

On behalf of the community of St. Marys, thank you for your service and for making the St. Marys Fire Department one we can depend on and be proud of.

Al Strathdee
Mayor



MESSAGE FROM THE CAO

Dear Residents,

Firefighting in St. Marys is a proud tradition, and we can never thank our Chief and our volunteers enough for their service. This is a group of individuals who, without hesitation, leave family gatherings, warm beds, and vacations to make sure that our families and personal property are safe. We also need to pause for moment and extend our thanks to the families of the volunteers. We sometimes forget about these people, but they are the ones who feel the stress of seeing a loved one leave to put themselves at risk to protect someone else.

The Town of St. Marys is committed to supporting the fire department. Over the past few years, Council and administration have invested in modernizing our fire department. Whether it be through the purchase of new equipment or updated training and qualifications, we want to make sure that our firefighters have the resources they need to protect our community.

Moving forward, 2019 and 2020 are very important years for our fire department, as we will begin working on a substantial renovation and update to our fire hall. This is yet another necessary investment that Council is making to ensure that our fire department meets today's standards and has the capacity to serve our growing community into the future.

I hope you will spend a few minutes to review the many accomplishments presented in this Report to the Community.

Collectively, we have much to be proud of as we continue to support a progressive Town of St. Marys.

Brent Kittmer
Chief Administrative Officer



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Dear Councillors and Residents,

It is with great honour I present this Community Report covering the past three years of success.

I have had the honour of managing the St. Marys Fire Department since May 9, 2016. During this time, I have acquired a strong sense of pride for my staff and the town we serve. The members who comprise the St. Marys Fire Department are amongst the most professional and highly skilled Paid-On-Call Fire Service in the province today. They pride themselves on providing excellent customer service, emergency response, prevention and risk mitigation to the citizens of St. Marys. Our dedicated firefighters endeavour to respond to all emergency response needs of the community, promptly and efficiently, treating the citizens with the utmost level of professionalism, compassion and esteem, while holding ourselves accountable to earn your trust.

The St. Marys Fire Department has undertaken many progressive changes, including internal policy revisions, Occupational Health and Safety initiatives, acquiring new Personal Protective Equipment and uniforms, rescue equipment, fire inspection, prevention and public education programs, fire training revisions and strategic planning.

I would also like to thank the Mayor, Town Council, and our CAO (past and present) for their steadfast support. Without their support in our role within the community and corporation, we would not be able to provide the services we have and enjoy today.

On behalf of the members of the St. Marys Fire Department, we look forward to maintaining our stellar reputation for the years to come.

Richard "Andy" Anderson
Fire Chief



MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY CHIEF

Dear Councillors and Residents,

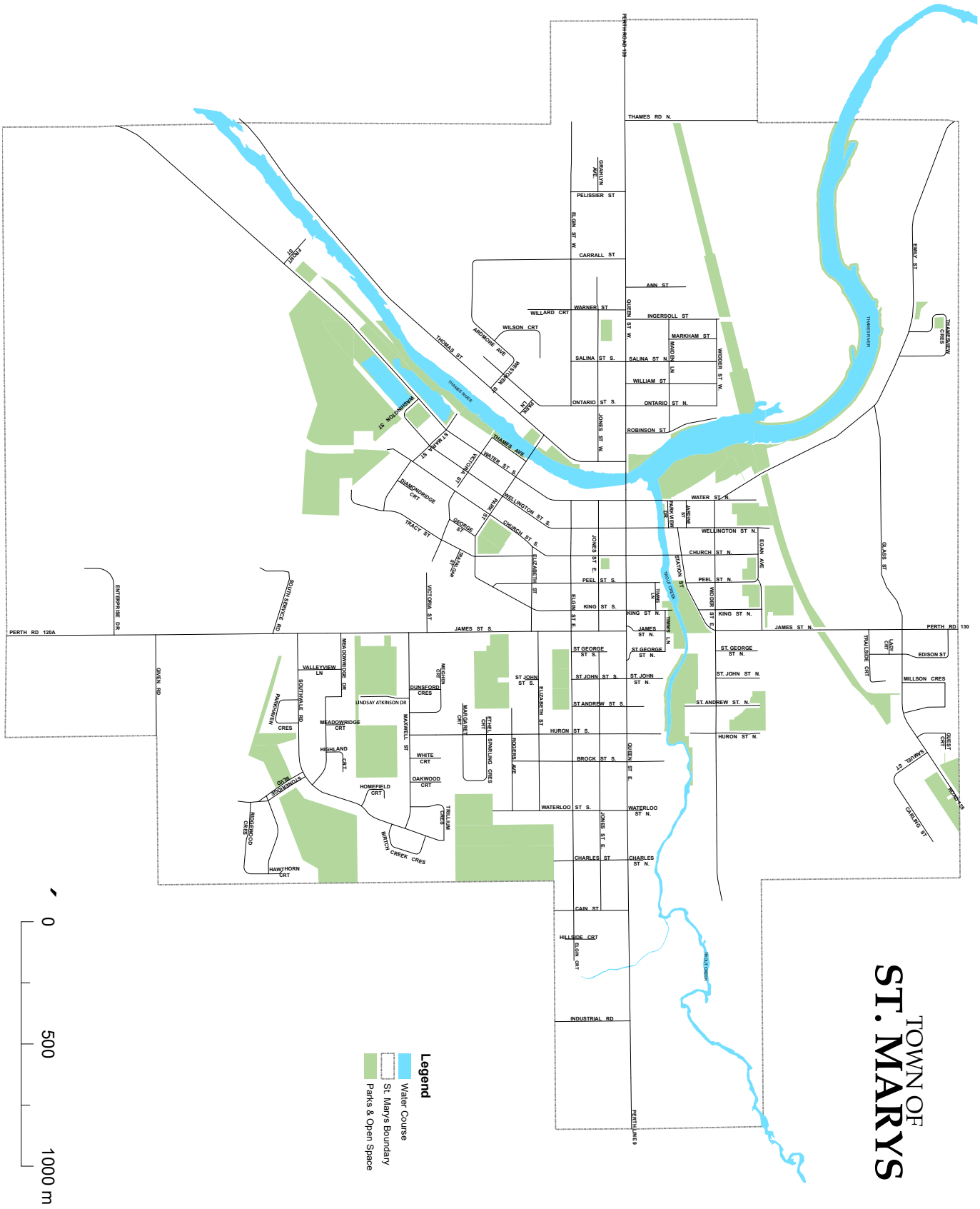
Having been born and raised in St. Marys and with a long-standing tradition of firefighting in my blood, I began my career as a Paid-On-Call Firefighter in December 1982. I was promoted to Captain in 2003 and eventually Deputy Chief in 2012. I am familiar with the Town and Perth South and the hazards presented within, which keeps the St. Marys Fire Department always ready to respond to fight fires, perform rescue and preserve life, alongside our fellow Emergency Services organizations.

As Deputy Chief, my responsibility is the Operational and Tactical level response capabilities of the St. Marys Fire Department, while supporting the Strategic requirements of the Fire Chief and Town Council.

Our firefighters are knowledgeable over a wide range of job responsibilities and possess an excellent “real world” experience. They continually upgrade their education and training through professional improvement programs, which include structural firefighting, water/ice rescue, auto extrication, and first aid. This is so that they are able to respond to the multitude of emergencies in our community, and the provision of Mutual Aid assistance, externally. We are devoted to providing the highest level of service delivery on a 24/7 basis.

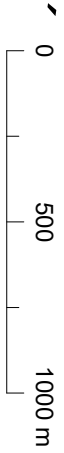
The St. Marys Fire Department strives to be visible within the community, not just for emergency responses. We believe in engaging with the public and providing education on fire safety during numerous community events. As well, we pride ourselves on giving back to our community through Fire Department fundraising events that are held throughout the year. Remember, we are your Fire Department and we are here for you. Please do not hesitate to make us aware of any fire safety questions or concerns you may have.

Brent Dundas
Deputy Fire Chief



TOWN OF ST. MARYS

- Legend**
- Water Course
 - St. Marys Boundary
 - Parks & Open Space



Mission

To provide a range of programs to protect the lives and property of the inhabitants of the Town of St. Marys from the adverse effects of fires, sudden medical emergencies or exposure to dangerous conditions, created by man or nature.

Services Statistics

Population

- 7,200

Streets

- 58.469 kms of public roads
- 1.701 kms of private roads
- 0.79 km on un-opened roads

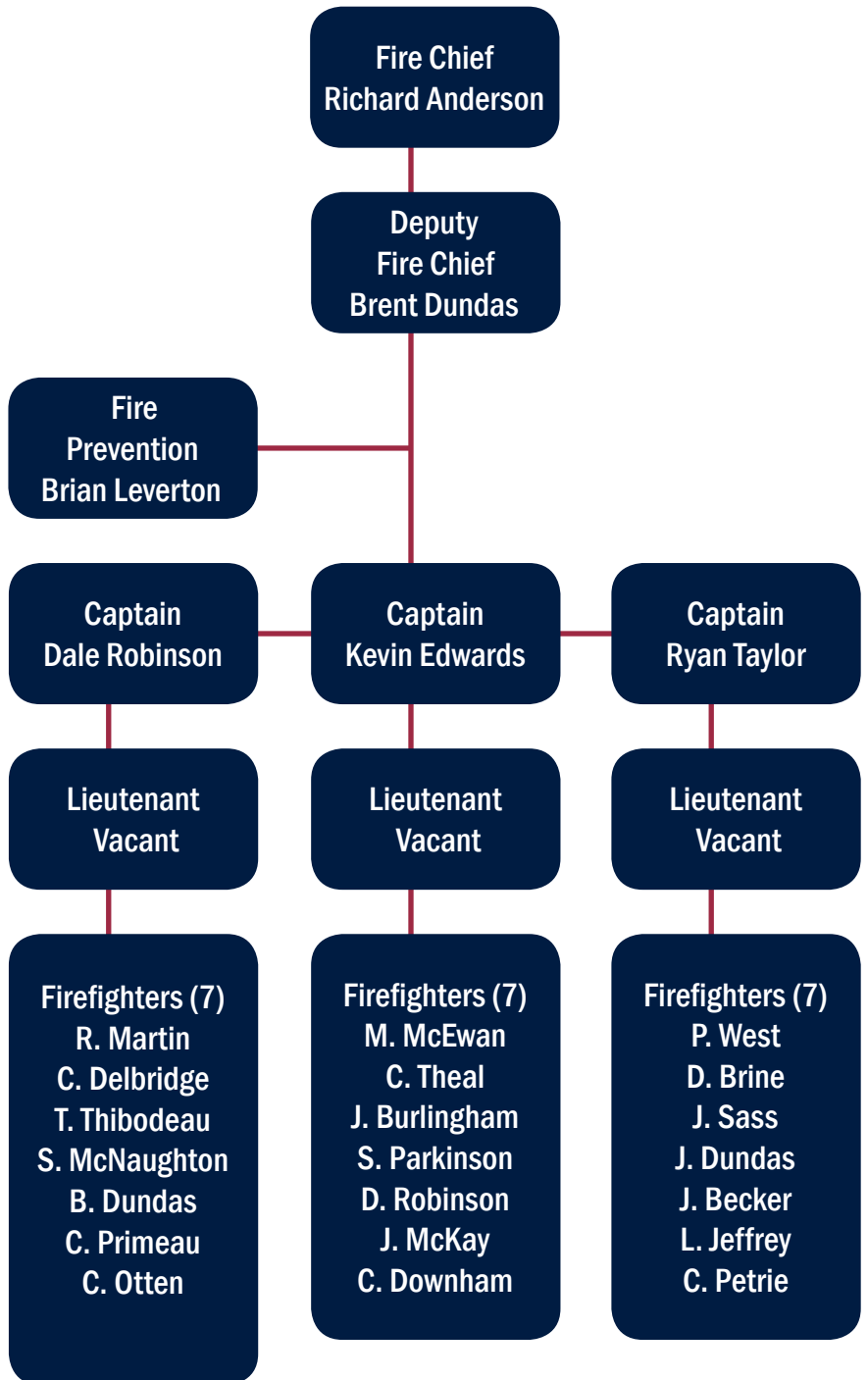
Fire Area

- 45,559.9 acres
- 18,437.4 HA
- 184,374,370.9 m²

Hydrants

- 273 Public

ORGANIZATION



OUR FIRE FIGHTING TEAM

Thank you to our volunteer firefighters and their employers!



Richard "Andy" Anderson
Fire Chief
Started May 2016



Brent Dundas
Deputy Fire Chief
Started Dec 1982



Brian Leverton
Fire Prevention Officer
Started Jan 2018



Kevin Edwards
Captain
Started Jan 2001



Dale Robinson
Captain
Started Jan 1990



Rick Martin
Firefighter
Started Dec 1992



Ryan Taylor
Captain
Started Feb 1995



Phil West
Firefighter
Started Nov 1995



Chris Delbridge
Firefighter
Started Jul 1997



Mark McEwan
Firefighter
Started Feb 1998



Daryl Brine
Firefighter
Started Jan 2001



Todd Thibodeau
Firefighter
Started Jan 2001



Cary Theal
Firefighter
Started Jan 2001



Jeff Sass
Firefighter
Started Oct 2001



Shawn McNaughton
Firefighter
Started Jan 2003



Jim Burlingham
Firefighter
Started Jan 2006



Justin Dundas
Firefighter
Started May 2009



Brandon Dundas
Firefighter
Started Jul 2012



Sam Parkinson
Firefighter
Started Sep 2012



Josh Becker
Firefighter
Started Sep 2013



Chris Primeau
Firefighter
Started Nov 2015



Darcy Robinson
Firefighter
Started Nov 2015



Lucas Jeffrey
Firefighter
Started Nov 2015

2016 - 2018 RETIREMENTS



Captain
J. McCurdy
Dec 31, 2017



Firefighter
R. Wiffen
Dec 31, 2018



Firefighter
J. Siddall
Dec 31, 2018

2016 - 2018 STAFF PROMOTIONS



Captain
R. Taylor
Dec 29, 2018



RECRUITMENT

In the fall of 2018, St. Marys Fire Department Management welcomed four new probationary firefighters.



Probationary Firefighters (Hire date Nov 14, 2018)

Left to right: Deputy Chief Dundas, Josh McKay, Chad Petrie, Chris Otten, Curtis Downham and Chief Anderson



Probationary Firefighter
J. McKay
Hand Dexterity Test



Probationary Firefighter
C. Downham
Ladder Climb



Probationary Firefighter
C. Petrie
Hose Drag

TRAINING

The Fire Chief is responsible for planning and implementing training. Hundreds of hours are spent each year training in-house and through attending specialized courses. We have successfully aligned our Department to meet the National and Provincial standards in qualifications. Part of this position includes succession planning to prepare staff for future advancement, providing them with some of the tools needed to make life and death decisions. The Department is proud of the staff and the commitment demonstrated to successfully complete Provincial and National accredited programs.

Firefighters have actively pursued various firefighting and fire officer courses over the last three years.

These include:

- NFPA 1021 Fire Officer Level I
- NFPA 1041 Fire Service Instructor Level I
- NFPA 472 Hazmat Awareness
- Legislation
- Ice/Water Rescue
- EMR

Our in-house trainers are certified in the following courses:

- Ice Water Rescue
- Swift Water Rescue





INCIDENTS

Average response times en route to on scene

Year	Time in minutes
2018	6.24
2017	7.18
2016	7.49

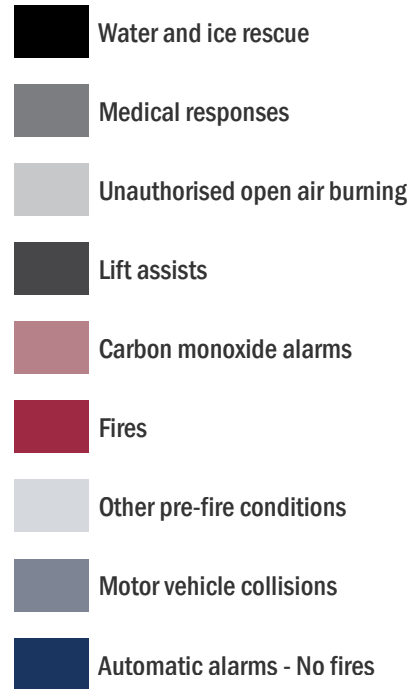
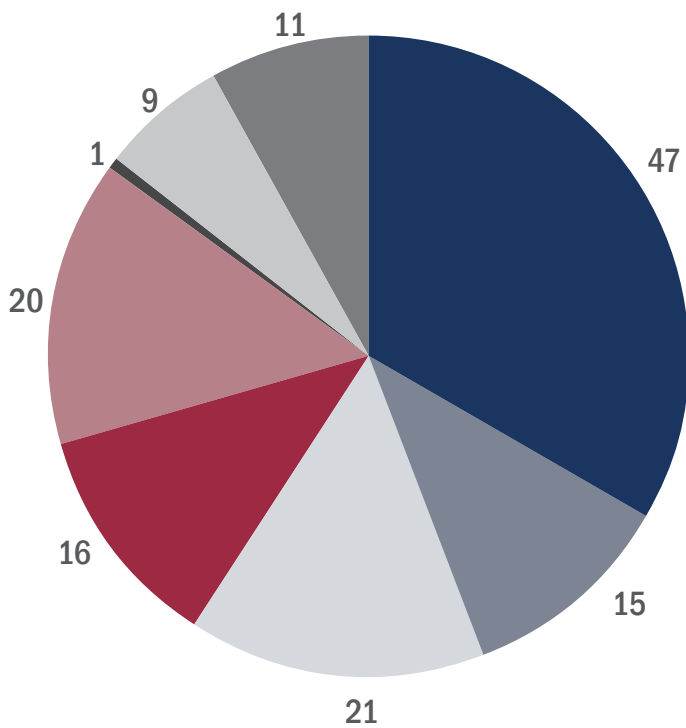
St. Marys and Perth South dollar loss

Year	Dollar loss
2018	\$2,125,000
2017	\$3,364,000
2016	\$638,000

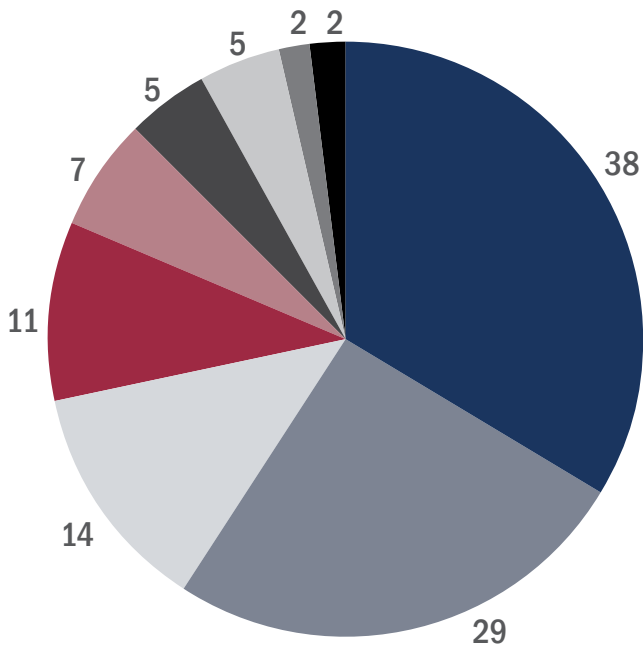


INCIDENT STATISTICS

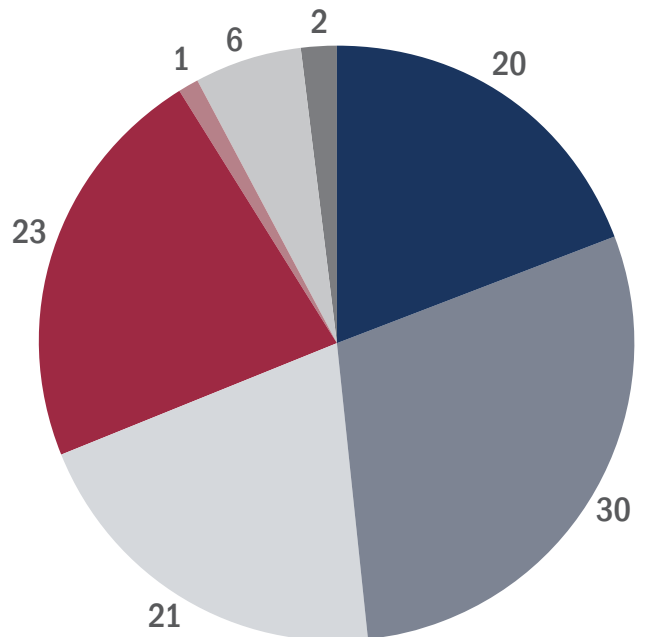
2018 - 140 incidents



2017 - 113 incidents



2016 - 103 incidents



PREVENTION

The Fire Prevention Division is represented by the Fire Prevention Officer (FPO). In many respects, he is the face of the Fire Department and the first point of contact with business owners, external and internal partners, agencies and members of the public. He handles many requests throughout the year and his dedication to prevention and fire safety is evident. Our Prevention and Public Education programs support and enhance safety for the community and residents of St. Marys. The annual inspections completed by the Fire Prevention Officer are a key component in enhancing our community's fire safety and knowledge.

Inspections or reports completed by the Fire Prevention Officer include the following:

- Public Requests
- Complaints
- Fire Investigations
- Licensing
- Fire Safety Plan Reviews
- Safety Concerns
- Retrofits
- Bed and Breakfasts
- Record Searches
- Attend Fire Safety Drills
- Site Plan Review/ Meetings
- Alcohol Gaming Agency Letter of Approval
- Public Education
- Municipal Freedom of Information Requests
- Emergency Management Planning
- Part 1 Tickets
- Business License Review



Fire Safety Tips from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

LOOK

Look for places fire could start. Take a good look around your home. Identify potential fire hazards and take care of them.

LISTEN

Listen for the sound of the smoke alarm. You could have only minutes to escape safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Go to your outside meeting place, which should be a safe distance from the home and where everyone should know to meet.

LEARN

Learn two ways out of every room and make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily and are free of clutter.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Public Education is a key component of fire prevention. Fire Prevention and Suppression staff take part in educating residents of all ages, from school-aged children to senior citizens. Whenever firefighters are on scene, it is our policy not to leave a house without a working smoke alarm and/or carbon monoxide alarm.

Public Education Initiatives:

- Station Tours
- Fire Extinguisher Training
- Fire Safety Talks
- Fire Safety House
- Community Events
- Public Relations
- Home Fire Safety Program
- Fire Chief for a Day
- Door to Door Campaign
- TAPP-C (The Arson Prevention Program for Children)





EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

In the event that the Mayor declares a Town emergency, the St. Marys Emergency Response Plan ensures a coordinated response for the St. Marys community. The plan provides key officials, agencies and departments within the Town of St. Marys with a general guideline to the initial response to an emergency and an overview of their responsibilities.

Emergency Management Ontario (EMO) provides resources to support planning efforts, information about current emergency-related events, training opportunities, resources for educators, and more.

Emergency preparedness information

- 3 Steps to Emergency Preparedness
- Earthquakes
- Emergency Guide for People with Disabilities or Special Needs
- Emergency Preparedness Guide
- Farm Animals
- Floods
- Lightning Safety for Outdoor Venues
- Pocket Guide to Emergencies
- Power Outages
- Severe Storms

For more information please visit: www.perthcounty.ca/emergency



EMERGENCY EXERCISES

On Thursday, May 31, 2018, the Town of St. Marys brought together 11 organizations and over 100 staff to conduct an emergency exercise. Dubbed “Exercise Toto”, the scenario tested the community’s response to a simulated tornado touchdown in Rannoch and the west end of St. Marys.

The exercise involved the Town of St. Marys, Ontario Provincial Police, Perth County Paramedics, St. Marys Firefighters, Canadian Red Cross, Victim Services Bruce Grey Perth, Social Services, Salvation Army, Perth Department Health Unit, Stratford-Perth Humane Society, Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance and St. John Ambulance.

Around two dozen citizen-volunteers also participated, including students from St. Marys DCVI and residents from Kingsway Lodge. Acting as evacuees who had their homes destroyed, they were transported by Murphy Bus Lines to a mock Evacuation Centre at the Pyramid Recreation Centre.

The St. Marys Memorial Hospital also conducted their own table-top exercise to test their ability to care for patients after such an event.

The Town led a similar exercise in May of 2017. The 2017 scenario, known as “Exercise Hail Mary,” measured the Town’s response to a collision that involved a school bus and an oil tanker truck.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



**Annual Fire
Department
Breakfast**



**Lincolns
Emergency
Services
Appreciation
Night**



Employer Appreciation Night

Extinguisher training DCVI



Literacy day



Salvation Army Kettle



OPEN AIR BURNING BY-LAW

The Open Air Burning By-Law regulates the setting of open fires, including establishing the times during which open fires may be set. Here are some things you need to know about the Open Air Burning Bylaw 90-2017 (also known as Recreational Burning).

When is a recreational burn authorized?

- Between the hours of 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.
- No wind, rain, fog or smog
- Only burn clean, dry wood
- Fire no larger than 46cm wide by 46 cm long by 30 cm high
- Three (3) metres clearance from any building structure, property line, tree, hedge and combustible material
- Extinguishing agent readily available
- Fire is supervised

How do I get a burn permit?

If you wish to have an open air burn (camp fire) in the Town of St. Marys, a Burn Permit is required. It can be purchased at the Fire Hall (172 James Street South) during regular business hours.

What's the safest way to burn?

Use a pit like the one pictured below!



*Visit www.townofstmarys.com/en/living-here/Open-Air-Burning.aspx or see Bylaw 90-2017 for full details before burning

FIRE EQUIPMENT UPGRADES

The past three years have seen many upgrades to the department's fire equipment. Some of those upgrades include:

- Active 911 smart phone application
- MSA breathing apparatus
- Motorola portable radios
- FLIR Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC)
- Genesis battery operated rescue tools
- Ice/water rescue equipment
- Battery operated ram fan
- Flashhoods/extrication gloves
- Auto extrication cribbing
- Fire hose
- Air rescue bags
- Flammable liquid locker
- Rescue tools
- High pressure rescue bags
- Sparky suit
- Turnout gear and helmets
- Uniforms



Above: Turnout gear and helmets.

Below: Genesis battery operated rescue tools.

Left: Ice/water rescue gear.



VEHICLES



PUMPER



AERIAL LADDER



FIRE CHIEF PICKUP



From ancient Rome to present day

The history of the firefighter began in ancient Rome while under the rule of Augustus in the 3rd Century. Prior to that there is evidence of fire-fighting in use in Ancient Egypt.

The first Roman fire brigade was created by Marcus Licinius Crassus. He took advantage of the fact that Rome had no firefighters.

Since 1857, through two World Wars and on into the new millennium, the St. Marys Fire Department has been protecting property and saving lives. An impressive collection of historical artifacts will be on display at the St. Marys Museum from the 1st of July (see page 25 for details).

FIREFIGHTING HISTORY



Since 1990, a very special photo has hung at the fire department. Taken in 1935, it shows the familiar 1933 Ford Chassis Bickle Pump truck and fire department members of the day. The note on the rear of the photo says that the truck was the “first motorized fire truck for St. Marys,” and lists the names of those in the photo. Seated are Chief Billy Moyes and Driver George Thompson. Front row, from left, are John Chisholm, Joe Alberts, Joe Turnbull. Back row, from left, are Bill Richards, Jack Alberts, Nub Skelton, Si Bodfield, Jack Chisholm and Jim Chisholm.



Last fall, the current members of the St. Marys Fire Department recreated the photo as part of a Fire Prevention Week campaign. Seated are Fire Chief Richard “Andy” Anderson, Deputy Fire Chief Brent Dundas, and dog Bella. Front row, from left, are Rick Martin, Captain Dale Robinson and Todd Thibodeau. Back row, from left, are Brandon Dundas, Phil West, Justin Dundas, young Ben Becker, Josh Becker, Rob Wiffen, Captain Kevin Edwards and Jeff Sass.



Photo: William Moyes

ST. MARYS FIRE CHIEFS PAST TO PRESENT

Name	Years served
William Moyes	May 1885 – January 1900
T.T. Garner	Jan 1900 – April 1906
William Moyes	April 1906 – January 1936
John Alberts	January 1936 – November 1940
Ernie Skelton	November 1940 – January 1947
Hardy White	January 1947 – January 1950
Jack Marshall	January 1950 – December 1951
Scotty Chisholm	January 1952 – December 1958
Bill Bodenham Sr.	January 1959 – December 1963
Stan Skipper Sr.	January 1963 – October 1966
Bill Osgerby Sr.	November 1966 – November 1969
Allen Stubbs	November 69 – February 1970
James Hart	February 1970 – February 1972
Archie Near	February 1972 – February 1974
Don Swan	February 1974 – August 1992
Dennis Brownlee	September 1992 – December 2015
Richard “Andy” Anderson	May 2016 – Present

Fire Chief definition

A Fire Chief is a top executive rank or commanding officer in a fire department.

Starting July 1

View the Fire Department’s historical collection (1857 - 2018) at the St. Marys Museum

When

Beginning July 1

Where

St. Marys Museum
177 Church Street
St. Marys, ON N4X 1B6

Hours

Monday to Friday
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

June, July and August:
Open Saturday and Sunday,
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Admission

By donation



Remembering our past



Planning our future

St. Marys Fire Department

172 James St. S., St. Marys ON N4X 1B6

Emergencies	911
Fire Chief	519-284-2340, ext. 201
Fire Prevention	519-284-2340, ext. 301
Dispatch	519-284-1752

