



# FIRE DEPARTMENT OF NORTH HURON ANNUAL FIRE REPORT 2021



**Blyth  
Fire Station**

**Wingham  
Fire Station**





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## Mission Statement

The North Huron Fire Department is committed to the enhancement of the quality of life through the protection and preservation of life and property within the jurisdiction of the Township of North Huron from the effects of fire and other emergencies.

Our mission will be accomplished through the delivery of fire prevention, public education and professional emergency response programs to all who work, live and play within our community. We will work to educate people in fire safety in order that they may protect themselves and their families.

We will strive to minimize any adverse effects on individuals, families and businesses as a result of these emergencies and work to safeguard the environment. Through this effort we will protect our lifestyle and the general economic welfare of the community.

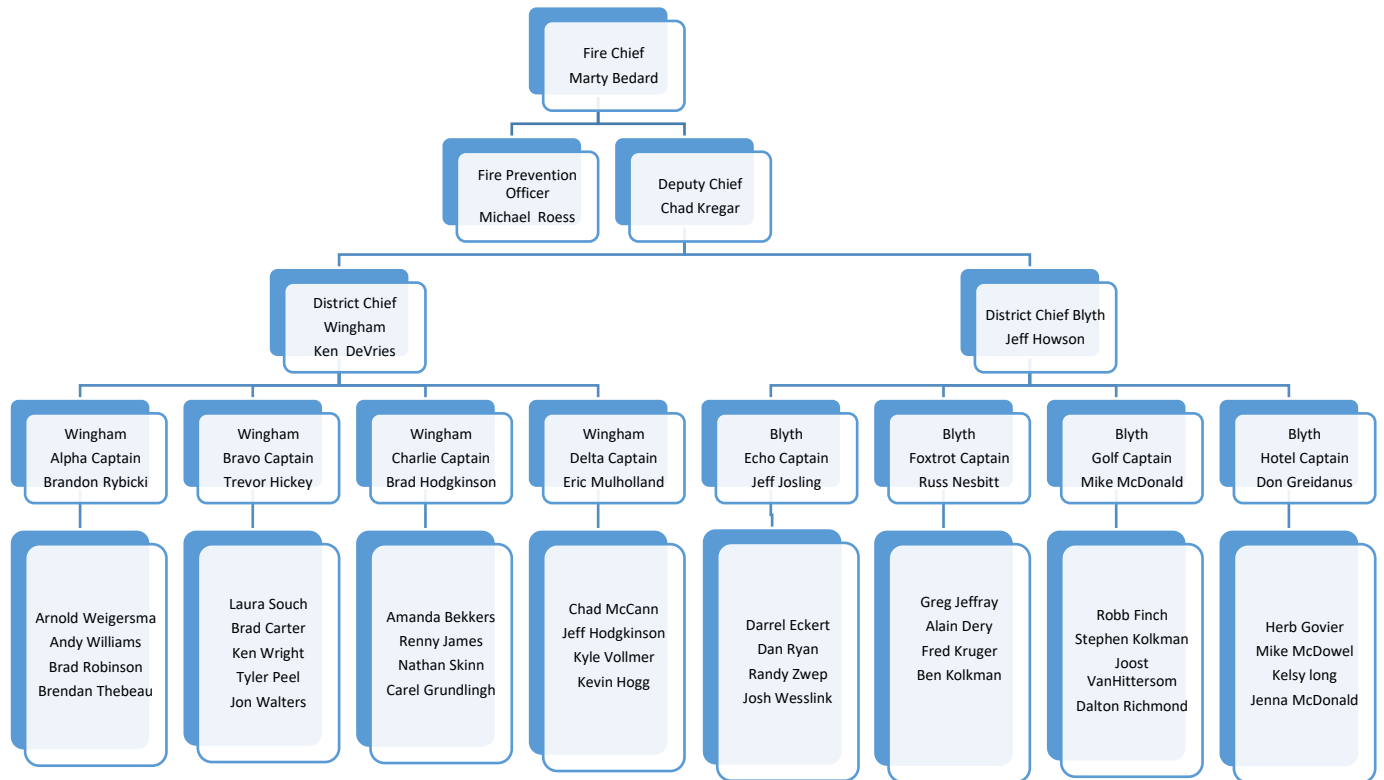
## Goals

- 1) Provide for the safety of the public and the firefighters.
- 2) Identify and review the fire service requirements of the municipality
- 3) Provide the administrative process consistent with the needs of the department.
- 4) Ensure that firefighting equipment and operating personnel are available within the municipality to provide adequate response to a citizen's call within a reasonable time.
- 5) Provide departmental training to an accepted standard which will ensure the continuous upgrading of all personnel in the latest techniques of fire prevention, firefighting and control of emergency situations and to cooperate with other departments of the corporation with respect to assistance and other programs.
- 6) Provide a maintenance program to ensure all fire protection apparatus, including allied equipment, is ready to respond to emergency calls.
- 7) Provide an effective fire prevention program to:
  - a) Ensure, through cooperation with the building department and inspection compliance with applicable municipal, provincial and federal fire prevention legislation, statutes codes and regulations.
  - b) Reduce and/or eliminate fire hazards.
- 8) Develop and maintain an effective public information system and education program with particular emphasis on school fire safety programs.
- 9) Ensure that in the event of a major catastrophe in the municipality, assistance to cope with the situation is available from outside departments and agencies.
- 10) Develop and maintain a good working relationship with all outside agencies related to the protection of life and property.



# FIRE DEPARTMENT OF NORTH HURON ANNUAL FIRE REPORT 2021

## Organization Chart





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## Core Services

Fire Department of North Huron provides a wide range of fire protection services to our residents. Fire protection services means a range of programs and services designed to protect the lives and property of the inhabitants of the Township of North Huron, Central Huron and Morris-Turnberry from the adverse effects of fires or exposure to dangerous conditions created by individuals or nature.

These services include:

- structural fire suppression and rescue
- motor vehicle firefighting
- fire prevention activities including Fire Code enforcement and inspections
- fire safety education \*
- communications
- technical rescue operations including extrication of patients from motor vehicle accidents and industrial accidents
- farm accident rescue
- awareness level hazardous materials response
- awareness level confined space rescue
- awareness level trench rescue
- shore based ice/water rescue
- emergency medical first response
- training of persons involved in the provision of fire protections services rescue and emergency services and the delivery of all those services

This list of services was developed by the Councils of Central Huron, North Huron and Morris-Turnberry during the formation of the department during the fall of 2009. It represents the services that the residents of the communities expect their fire department to perform.

\*The FDNH does not perform this service for the Municipalities of Central Huron and Morris-Turnberry.





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## Public Education

This was a difficult task to complete this year due to the pandemic. We had to focus on our social media platforms to ensure our fire safety message continued to be delivered.

## Fire Prevention

### FIRE PREVENTION IN NORTH HURON AND HURON EAST AND ASSOCIATED AREAS 2021 RECAP

Fire Prevention in 2021 was significantly impacted, as it was in 2020, by the Covid 19 pandemic, as were most fire departments and municipalities in Ontario. Routine inspections and fire drills of vulnerable occupancies such as long-term care facilities were modified to minimize exposure to occupants and staff. Fire Prevention had to perform virtual inspections or rely on annual service records of the fire protection systems to ensure compliance with the Ontario Fire Code. Fire drills were performed in house by the staff and management at each facility in conformance with the Ontario Fire Code fire drill requirements.

In 2021, 14 Building Department inspections were conducted in conjunction with the Building Departments of each municipality. These inspections were for newly constructed buildings or modifications to existing buildings performed under building permit. Our involvement is to ensure proper fire safety measures have been put in place as required by the Ontario Building Code.

During a late year slowdown in Covid 19 restrictions, all the Vulnerable Occupancies, such as long-term care and retirement homes were fully inspected and timed fire drills were conducted to test staffing levels and staff training.

Numerous site plan reviews were conducted to provide developers insight into proper fire safety. Items such as hydrant locations and fire route access road are verified as being in conformance with the Codes. The Building Permit process will ensure all fire safety aspects of a building are addressed during construction.

Two fire investigations were conducted in North Huron and Huron East. These investigations are normally done in conjunction with the Ontario Fire Marshal's office or Fire Insurance Company investigators. Investigations are performed to determine the origin and cause of a fire and can be used as good training sessions for firefighter wanting to learn the scientific methodology behind fire cause and origin determination.

Prior to the Covid 19 lockdowns 8 request inspections were performed to address occupant fire safety concerns about specific features or procedures within their building. Most of these inspections were performed for supervisory staff in the building wanting to ensure the staff fire procedures are sufficient.

Training sessions were given by Fire Prevention to the firefighters at their stations. Training sessions would include discussion about fire protection systems in various buildings and how to recognize what type of system and how to work with it in a fire situation.



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The Ontario Fire College had offered numerous online training sessions to Fire Prevention Divisions across the province to further educate Officers and update on constantly changing rules and regulations within the Province. I participated in numerous virtual training sessions such as the revised Inspection Order rules and methods of issuing Orders.

Twelve Fire Safety Plans were reviewed in 2021. Fire safety Plans are official documents requiring approval from Fire. Fire Safety Plans are the instructional rules of staff procedures within a building during an emergency situation. These Plans are enforceable under the Ontario fire Code for lack of implementation.

The creation of the new North Huron website involved numerous training sessions and research to create the proper input for the Fire Department section of the site. Attention to detail to ensure accuracy and understandability by the reader was essential.

Throughout the year numerous requests from outside sources (such as lawyers request for building conformance status) are received. These requests are generally file search requests or building inspections for real estate transactions to protect the purchaser from unknown issues with the building.

For 2022, Fire Prevention will continue to maintain fire safety standards within North Huron, Morris-Turnberry and Huron East with any method available during this pandemic situation. We take all necessary precautions as dictated by the Health Departments and the Province.

Yours in Fire Safety

Michael Roess, Fire Prevention Officer



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## Training Division

The training division is one of the most important areas of the FDNH, as we thrive to be the best and ready for any type of emergency, we have ongoing training in areas of medical response, auto Extrication operations, and fire suppression techniques.

### 2021 Highlights of Training Activities:

- Training every Monday and Thursday evening
- Ongoing Medical first response patient care training
- DZ course completed with 1 firefighter getting there DZ
- New recruits FDNH truck ready program
- Firefighter 1 course started for the firefighters that needed it
- Relay pumping/tanker ops
- Portable pump operation
- Hose lays /tag hydrants
- RIT operations
- Firefighter survival
- Fire ground communication/ initial size up
- Air management
- Medical training
- Apparatus pump training
- Fire equipment orientation

For 2021 training has been difficult to say the least. usually there are 46 weekly training sessions for each station resulting in 92 individual regular training sessions. Due to the pandemic we had to modify our schedule for personal safety and shift our learning to small crew based and on-line learning.





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## Mechanical Division

The Mechanical Division is one of the busiest of the department. We have record keeping procedures, maintenance schedules and other documentation to ensure our equipment is always in ready shape.

Mandatory equipment testing on our equipment was completed and repairs / replacements made. This included the testing of our fire engine pumps, six-month ongoing testing of our breathing air compressors, visual and hydrostatic testing of our SCBA cylinders, flow testing of the SCBA packs, ladder and hose testing.

Most of these are for compliance with having a Respiratory Protection Program as required by the Ministry of Labor. We also fit tested all of our personnel and supplied them with individual face masks.

In summary, we continue to take pride in our equipment and its imperative that all equipment is ready and in excellent working condition as it's never known what condition we are approaching at a moment's notice.

### **Fire Department North Huron Blyth Station has 5 Pieces of apparatus:**

- E6 – 2021 Rosenbaur Engine (front line Rescue/pumper)
- R7 - 1996 Freightliner Rescue Truck
- U10 – Cub Cadet with skid unit for grass fires which also tows rescue sled
- T8 - 2004 Freightliner Tanker that holds 3000 gal of water
- T9 – 2012 Pierce Sabre Tanker with on board pump

### **Fire Department North Huron Wingham Station has 4 Pieces of apparatus:**

- E1 -2008 Pierce Engine (front line pumper)
- L2 -2004 Pierce Ladder Truck (2nd pumper with 105' ladder)
- T4 -2016 Freightliner Tanker with pump that holds 3000 gal of water
- Dodge Ram 1500 Car 2 Command Vehicle





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Throughout the year there are always some repairs that are ongoing some we can do in house and other we must source out. Those were:

### **Apparatus and equipment Repairs included:**

- Annual pump test
- Annual safeties and service
- Annual aerial test
- Annual hose testing

### **PPE**

- replaced all bunker gear that was going to be outdated with the 10-year life expectancy rule. Five (5) complete new sets of bunker gear were purchased. Each set sized to the individual Firefighter.
- Numerous pairs of gloves, boots & balaclavas were replaced due to damage or wear. Note: even though the life expectancy is 10 years for these items they rarely meet that date. Firefighting operations are such that damage often happens to these items.
- We had 1 PPE practice early in 2021 in which all Firefighters went through their gear with Captains signing off that everything was acceptable. Hoping in 2022 to accomplish this twice roughly 6-7 months apart. This will depend on our training schedule.
- All spare turnout gear was washed through our extractor then labeled and stored in the storage room at the Blyth Station.

Each station has a bunker gear washing machine (extractor) and the gear is to be cleaned in house by each firefighter after they are exposed to smoke from a fire. It will be sent away if it's exposed to Hazardous Materials or needs repairs. Bunker gear will be sent away once per 2 calendar years to be professionally cleaned, inspected and tested. When it is sent away it does get inspected at a higher level than the firefighters can do – they can only do a visual inspection. The cleaning company does other tests on the gear like testing the thermal barrier of the coat and they will do repairs as needed.



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## FDNH 2021 INCIDENT SUMMARY

	NORTH HURON		MORRIS-TURN.		CENTRAL HURON		ACW		MUTUAL AID		TOTAL
<b>JANUARY</b>	\$ 2,728.54	6	\$ 288.50	1	\$ 181.82	1	\$ -	0	\$ 336.13	1	\$ 3,534.99
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	\$ 2,122.06	4	\$ 5,887.37	4	\$ 3,085.40	5	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ 11,094.83
<b>MARCH</b>	\$ 485.81	3	\$ 1,355.52	4	\$ 4,537.06	5	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ 6,378.39
<b>APRIL</b>	\$ 904.90	4	\$ 2,597.15	5	\$ 9,933.63	6	\$ -	0	\$ 5,890.92	3	\$ 19,326.60
<b>MAY</b>	\$ 10,048.83	8	\$ 786.09	2	\$ 724.90	2	\$ -	0	\$ 1,668.39	2	\$ 13,228.21
<b>JUNE</b>	\$ 2,951.71	8	\$ 520.96	3	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ 259.24	2	\$ 3,731.91
<b>JULY</b>	\$ 1,685.64	11	\$ 581.96	2	\$ -	0	\$ 321.55	2	\$ 2,357.00	3	\$ 4,946.15
<b>AUGUST</b>	\$ 3,727.72	12	\$ 1,023.31	2	\$ 4,760.01	4	\$ -	0	\$ 225.46	1	\$ 9,736.50
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	\$ 5,486.70	12	\$ 1,286.27	2	\$ 899.28	1	\$ 1,688.99	1	\$ 715.05	3	\$ 10,076.29
<b>OCTOBER</b>	\$ 3,291.16	8	\$ 787.56	1	\$ 470.65	1	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ 4,549.37
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	\$ 13,527.03	14	\$ 1,844.16	4	\$ 548.71	2	\$ 2,017.22	4	\$ 832.93	1	\$ 18,770.05
<b>DECEMBER</b>	\$ 3,153.99	9	\$ 11,460.65	8	\$ 388.71	4	\$ 438.17	1	\$ 128.78	1	\$ 15,570.30
<b>TOTALS</b>	\$ 50,114.09		\$ 28,419.50		\$ 25,530.17		\$ 4,465.93		\$ 12,413.90		\$ 120,943.59

<b>Total Calls</b>	99	38	31	8	17	193
Fire - Strut/Veh	15	7	6	0	16	
Outdoor Fire	5	6	5	1		
Alarm System	22	5	1	1		
MVC	10	7	4	3		
Medical	40	9	12	2		
Other	7	4	3	1	1	
<b>TOTALS</b>	99	38	31	8	17	193

NOTES: Alarm System includes alarm malfunction, accident, preceived, CO, Smoke alarm activation  
 Other includes lightning no fire, other pre fire conditions no fire, gas leak or spill, ruptured pipe, call cancelled, hydro lines arcing



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## Financial Statement

The following Reconciliation Report shows the Fire Department having a 2021 budget surplus of \$22,102.53. This surplus has been transferred to the Operation Reserve Account.

In 2021 the Fire Department expenses were over by \$10,638.75. This overage is mainly created by the Holiday Pay commitment Council made where firefighters were back paid for 2 years for Holiday Pay. The Fire Call expenses were also over however this is recovered in the revenue where each agreement partner pays for calls in their own municipality.

The Reconciliation Report also shows a Capital Reserve balance of \$3,103.49. The Capital Reserve was used to purchase the new Pumper for Blyth Station in 2021.



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Township of North Huron			
2021 Fire Department Reconciliation			
	Actuals	Budget	Surplus
<b>Revenue</b>			
Donations	4,000.00		4,000.00
Revenue - Other Municipalities	334,071.54	333,010.00	1,061.54
Revenue Recovered - Fire Calls	108,529.69	95,000.00	13,529.69
Revenue Recovered - Fire Marque	14,600.38	10,000.00	4,600.38
HST Rebate on Fire Fighters Allowance			-
Transfer from Reserves	633,650.36	600,000.00	33,650.36
			-
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>1,094,851.97</b>	<b>1,038,010.00</b>	<b>56,841.97</b>
			-
<b>Expenses</b>			
			-
Fire Department	700,822.75	690,184.00	10,638.75
			-
Wingham Hall	10,865.39	14,491.00	(3,625.61)
			-
Blyth Hall	14,111.94	20,036.00	(5,924.06)
			-
Sub-Total	725,800.08	724,711.00	1,089.08
			-
Capital	633,650.36	600,000.00	33,650.36
			-
<b>Total Operating + Capital</b>	<b>1,359,450.44</b>	<b>1,324,711.00</b>	<b>34,739.44</b>
			-
Capital Transfer from Reserves			-
			-
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,359,450.44</b>	<b>1,324,711.00</b>	<b>34,739.44</b>
Projected Deficit	264,598.47	286,701.00	
Net Surplus - Transferred to Operating Reserve			<b>22,102.53</b>
<b>Capital Reserve</b>			
Balance Forward as at December 31, 2020	436,753.85	CR	
Transfer to Reserve -2021 Budget	200,000.00	CR	
Transfer from Operating Reserve		CR	
Transfer from Reserve - New Truck	(633,650.36)		
<b>Balance as at December 31, 2021</b>	<b>3,103.49</b>	CR	
<b>Operating Reserve**</b>			
Balance Forward as at December 31, 2020	78,363.94	CR	
Transfer to Capital Reserve		DR	
Sub-total	78,363.94	CR	
2021 Surplus applied to Operating Reserve	22,102.53	CR	
<b>Balance as at December 31, 2021</b>	<b>100,466.47</b>	CR	



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## Message from the Deputy Fire Chief

The Fire of Department of North Huron continued to experienced Covid-19 operating issues as many of the other fire departments around the world. I personally found 2021 just as challenging to ensure both stations were continuously meeting all new Federal and Provincial restrictions and requirements. There were weeks the government was changing the restrictions and requirements on a daily basis. It was a busy time to ensure the safety of the Firefighters, safety of the community, met all restrictions and requirements while also always being available for emergencies day or night.

I am proud of our Firefighters as we continued to support the community through unrepresented times and still maintained business as usual within both stations. I continued to formally meet with Captains monthly to discuss issues and concerns and also to communicate changes and requirements as they occurred. There were also many impromptu meetings to ensure changes were timely communicated. I also maintained availability for all 44 Firefighters as questions arose about the pandemic, our current situation from a federal, provincial and municipal standpoint, and of course any general question and concerns as usual. I have ensured our equipment was always maintained and available for service. Ensured our training was up to date and fresh as well as ensuring we maintained our minimum compliment and replaced those Firefighters who left for retirement.

The community is another responsibility for me as you can imagine it's challenging to always be available for 44 of your staff members, but then add the community members, it seems I'm the person to turn to when it comes to the Fire Department. I have an oath to be available to my community and therefore, calls continue to flood in and responses to burn complaints, controlled burns, questions about regulations within the municipality, questions about smoke detectors, carbon monoxide alarms, and there have even been several calls directly to my phone about emergencies rather than calling 911.

In addition, I am called upon by neighboring Fire Departments for advice, training aids which I have created and delivered, and generic discussions to ensure we are aligned and working together on either mutual aid, or opportunities for improvements such as our communication methods.

It was certainly an overwhelming year for creating work around processes to ensure business as usual was maintained, but our Firefighters were engaged and involved as changes arose and I couldn't be prouder of their ability to adapt to our new world.

Sincerely,

Chad Kregar, Deputy Fire Chief – FDNH



# FIRE DEPARTMENT OF NORTH HURON ANNUAL FIRE REPORT 2021

## Summary

The Fire of Department of North Huron did have another challenging year due to the Pandemic as did all other departments. I am proud of the work that our Volunteer Firefighters do every day and dealing with the ups and downs and regulation changes of the pandemic just added to those challenges. We will continue to operate and keep business as usual even during these unusual times. A huge shout out to Deputy Chief, Chad Kregar for his dedication, commitment and support to the Fire Department. Without Chad, all that was accomplished would not have been possible.

Staffing remained unchanged in 2021 and the District Chiefs are fitting into their roles from the organization changes made in 2020.

The process of ordering a new fire apparatus is a lengthy one and I am very proud to inform you that the new pumper for the Blyth Station was delivered at the end of 2021. Many thanks to all personnel who took the time over the holidays to familiarize themselves with the new truck and conduct the necessary driver training before it could be put into service. The truck was put into service early in 2022.

On behalf of the 45 Officers and Firefighters that make up FDNH, I would like to thank all Council members and the Community for your on-going support. The Department continues to work hard towards maintaining the requirements of the Fire Prevention and Protection Act, continuing to promote Public Education and Fire Prevention and of course continuing with Fire Suppression and Emergency Response.

It always amazes me the dedication and commitment volunteer firefighters put into the Department and we are very fortunate to have a great group in North Huron.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marty Bedard". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Marty Bedard  
Fire Chief