



NORTH LAKES *News*

Published Quarterly by North Lakes Fire & Rescue

July, 2009

NORTH LAKES FIRE & RESCUE
DEPARTMENT
158 Sweden Street
Caribou, Maine 04736

Phone: (207) 493-4328
Fax: (207) 493-4357

www.northlakesfireandrescue.org

darren@aroostookema.com

DARREN R. WOODS
Fire Chief

DAVID OUELLETTE
Asst. Chief
Sinclair Station

A. DAVID BOULEY
Asst. Chief
Cross Lake Station

GARY LANGLEY
Asst. Chief
Madawaska Lake Station

WAYNE DIONNE
Captain
Sinclair Station

BEN PELLETIER
Captain
Cross Lake Station

KIRK WARD
Captain
Madawaska Lake Station

JOSH BELANGER
Lieutenant
Rescue Team

RICHARD ROSSIGNOL
Safety Officer

Welcome to the first edition of North Lakes News! This is our way of sharing the news, accomplishments, and activities of the newest fire department formed in Aroostook County—North Lakes Fire and Rescue. North Lakes comprises Sinclair (Long and Mud Lakes) Fire Station, Cross Lake (formerly Guerette) Fire Station, and the newly established Madawaska Lake Fire Station.

We hope you will read with interest and celebrate the success of our newest fire and rescue team established TO SERVE AND PROTECT!

Completed Trainings

Firefighters in this department have been very busy, not only with calls and training within the department, but also outside of our regular schedule.

- Chief Darren Woods completed State Fire Officer 1 & 2 Training.
- All officers have completed the National Fire Academy program in house called "Preparing for Initial Company Operations."
- Chief Darren Woods, Asst. Chief Dave Ouellette, Capt. Ben Pelletier, Capt. Kirk Ward, Lt. Josh Belanger and FF Steve Belanger all completed the National Fire Academy class "Fireground Tactics and Strategies T-T-T."
- Capt. Kirk Ward, Asst. Chief Gary Langley, Lt. Josh Belanger, and FF Steve Belanger completed the ICS 300 & 400 Advanced Incident Command training.
- Capt. Wayne Dionne, Lt. Josh Belanger, FF Steve Belanger, FF Steve Theriault, FF Ron Cyr, FF Peter Smith completed training with the Maine Department of Conservation's S130/190 wildfire class.
- Chief Darren Woods, Capt. Kirk Ward, & FF Terry Thibodeau attended Cold Water Rescue Class at Caribou Fire & Ambulance.

Announcements

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of Janet Bouchard on May 14, 2009. Janet, who worked at the court-

house in Caribou, was the wife of FF Dale Bouchard. A devoted mother and grandmother, Janet was a very active and fun person to be around. She will be sorely missed. Our members offered FF Bouchard our support by attending her wake at Mockler's Funeral Home on Sunday, May 17.

Pending Grants

- Fire Act Grant for an air compressor system
- Fire Act Grant for a fire truck
- State Farm Insurance Foundation for a \$500 donation

Grants Awarded

- Firefighter Safety Foundation Grant for rescue equipment
- Maine Municipal Association Grant for a hose tester

Budget Accomplishments

We have been able to budget for the following so far this year:

1. We did well watching our spending last year and because of that, Chief Woods was able to make a few purchases recently. They are:

- New Smoke Ejector Fan, and door hanger
- Needed extra traffic cones (8)
- Compliant traffic vests (8)
- Uniform name tags
- (2) 1 3/4 inch attack nozzles
- Cash match for the hose tester

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

2. Chief Woods is making arrangements to put temperature guards in each station. This will eliminate the need for us to rely on residents to call us when they see a red light flashing. This device will be set up to call Chief Woods, dispatch, and the heating guy directly in the event that the temperature falls below where it is set. This will cost us about \$1,000 to accomplish, but is certainly less than what it would cost us if one of the buildings and trucks froze up.

Community Outreach and Education

Informing the community and residents of our service area is an important part of our mission to serve and protect.

Chief Darren Woods spoke to the Madawaska Lake South Shore Road Association at their annual meeting recently. He stressed, in the interest of public safety, the importance of the use and placement of clear, readable proper 9-1-1 house numbers on all residences on the lake.

Chief Woods also told lake residents that because of current database information structure, Madawaska Lake residents must report any emergency to the 9-1-1 dispatcher as:

- 1) the nature of the emergency (fire, injury, etc.);
- 2) the 9-1-1 address—NOT lot number; and
- 3) the location as T-16, R-4, *not Madawaska Lake*, which is not recognized on current 9-1-1 maps.

Upcoming Events

- County Firefighters Muster – This will be held in Mapleton this year on June 27, 2009.
- Basic Pumps I – Training will be held in Sinclair, July 18 & 19. Call Chief Woods for details.

Chief's Notes

I first want to thank all the members of this department for all of their time and dedication. We have come a long way in providing emergency coverage to the citizens in our townships, and I'm very proud of all we have accomplished.

Some of our more recent calls required us to send our equipment and crews in different directions to handle multiple calls at the same time. We found ourselves pulled apart and our assets spread out, but we handled it and you successfully maintained a level of protection throughout our entire coverage area.

You should all be very proud of yourselves. If you ever doubted the existence of our presence, these calls should have made that doubt disappear. Of the calls, two of them could have caused a lot more destruction to lives and property had it not been for your efforts working with the Maine Forest Service. There is no price ever put on what you saved; you only see the costs of what you lose in this type of business, but I can say with certainty there are trees and structures still standing today because of you. And...not one single injury to any of our people tells me that you are all looking out for each other, which is terrific!

Turnouts for these calls were great, and you all acted calmly and professionally. I know we are a small department, but you all showed our citizens and the Maine Forest Service what you are made of. I could not have been more pleased with what you accomplished.

Great job to all, and that you for all that you do!

Get to Know Us—Our Firefighters

Captain Kirk Ward



"Cap'n Kirk" is captain of the Madawaska Lake Substation. Kirk came on board in June 2007. He lives at Madawaska Lake with his wife, Debra, and they have two adult children, Heather and Ryan. Kirk is a State Farm Insurance agent in Presque Isle. He was born and raised on a farm in Limestone and earned a degree in animal sciences at the University of Maine at Orono in hopes of becoming a veterinarian. This did not come to pass, but Kirk is a certified farrier (blacksmith) but he has not practiced the trade for several years. He still has the forge and horse-shoeing tools. Hobbies include: motorcycling, snowmobiling, boating, camping, hunting, fishing, carpentry, mechanics, travel, showhorses, and stock car racing.

Steve Belanger



Steve works out of the Cross Lake Substation. He is certified Firefighter 2. Steve's experience working for the Aroostook County Sheriff's Department and as proprietor of Mainely Magnetos makes for a unique blend of people skills and mechanical expertise. There is a story of him stopping a car because it had no tail lights and then fixing it for them on the spot so they could continue on their way! Whatta guy! Steve lives in Cross Lake Township with his wife, Debbie. They have three adult children including Joshua, who is also a firefighter with North Lakes. Steve's leisure time is spent boating, kayaking, snowmobiling, and snowshoeing.

Asst. Chief David



Ouellette

Dave has been a volunteer firefighter since November 1986 with the Sinclair Substation. Dave is certified Firefighter 1. He works as a supervisor and lives with his wife, Tina, in Sinclair. They have four children: Danielle, 24; Eric, 21; Alex, 20, and Libby, 17. Dave's hobbies include boating, computers, and electronics.



Natalie Adams-Collin

Natalie joined the department in May 2008 and works with the Cross Lake Substation as a volunteer firefighter and rescue team member. She has been fascinated with firefighting as long as she can remember. Recently widowed, Natalie lives in Soldier Pond. She has five children from age 21 to 6. She says she loves to laugh, is a good listener, and "can put a smile on a person's face, even if they don't feel like it!" Hobbies include hiking, gardening, and animal activism. She works as a residential care/training specialist in Eagle Lake, and she is a full-time student at UMFK and a part-time student at USM. She hopes to practice psychology after her graduation in May 2010.

NOTE: We will continue to feature our firefighters in every future issue.