



NORTH LAKES *News*

A Publication of North Lakes Fire & Rescue

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NORTH LAKES NEWS is written by Chief Darren Woods. (Twelve hours of editing, design, layout, and formatting has been donated to North Lakes Fire & Rescue by former FF Connie Tucker. Star Design & Marketing, Madawaska Lake. Phone 896-3093.)

Welcome to the third edition of North Lakes News! We are 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 continue to grow and learn through training and certification classes. We hope you will read with interest and celebrate the success of our newest fire and rescue team established **TO SERVE AND PROTECT!**



Firefighter Training



Advanced Extrication Training

Completed Trainings

North Lakes Firefighters continue to grow and learn both in the department and outside our areas, which results in a more professional organization for the benefit of our citizens.

- New Firefighter 1 & 2 certifications were awarded to Capt. Kirk Ward, and FFs Natalie Adams-Collin, Adam Olmstead, Terry Thibodeau, Jesse Belanger, Bryan Forbes, and Dan Forbes following the Fire Academy class held in Caribou.
- Asst. Chief Ben Pelletier, Capt. Steve Belanger, Capt. Kirk Ward, and Lt. Josh Belanger completed Fire Instructor 1 & 2 training held in Presque Isle.
- FF Jesse Belanger completed Emergency Medical Technician-Basic (EMT-B) Training at NMCC.
- Lt. Josh Belanger and FF Dan Forbes completed a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT), specialized firefighter rescue training in Orono. RIT's firefighters will create region-wide coverage, responding to other communities in our area.
- Dan Forbes, Bryan Forbes, and Jesse Belanger completed the Basic Wildland Firefighting course S130/190 with the Maine Forest Service at UMFK.
- Lt. Josh Belanger and FF Adam Olmstead completed an advanced extrication class at the Western Maine Fire Attack School.

North Lakes members continue to advance education

- Lt. Josh Belanger and FF Adam Olmstead are currently enrolled in the EMT-B program at UMFK.
- FF Natalie Adams-Collin is currently enrolled in the EMT-B program at NMCC.



Muster in Ashland

Time to Muster!

NLFD participated in the Aroostook County Fire Chief's Firefighter Muster again this year. This is always a great time for firefighters to compete in fun games and to keep contact with one another. This is also a chance for our families to have some fun with us.

Promotions

Sinclair's Asst. Chief Dave Ouellette resigned in 2010. Chief Woods advertised that opening within the department, received and reviewed resumes, and candidates were interviewed by Asst. Chief Langley, Asst. Chief Bouley, and Chief Woods. Each applicant was scored, and what resulted was two promotions. Capt. Ben Pelletier was promoted to asst. chief, and FF Steve Belanger was promoted to captain. Congratulations to both officers!

New Firefighting Gear

NLFD was again awarded a grant for a few sets of new gear from Maine Municipal Association. With this purchase we are over half way to our goal of obtaining new, safer firefighting gear for our entire department.



New SCBA filling station

NLFD was the recipient of a Fire Act Grant that funded the purchase of a new Scott Air SCBA refilling station. This replaced our older Bauer system in Cross Lake, and will be a great benefit to us for both fire calls and training at our live fire training facility.

Driver training

After 4 NLFD firefighters certified in Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVO), we went on a mission to get all of our members trained. We now have over 90% of our firefighters certified as EVO drivers and intend on making it 100% this summer.

SCBA masks & bags

Thanks to a donation from Caribou Fire, we are now able to issue our members their own SCBA masks. Following this donation, the Chief purchased some new soft mask bags for firefighters to keep them in. The masks must be checked off monthly to ensure they are in good condition.



Communications on the move!

- A radio antenna tower was donated to NLFD from Gil's Sanitation in Presque Isle. Aroostook Roofing donated the use of their crane to both take it down from its location in Presque Isle and to put it up atop our Madawaska Lake Station. We are grateful to Kirk Ward, Bryan Forbes, Dan Forbes, and Gary Langley for helping install the new tower, which will greatly improve the radio signal in that area.
- NLFD also received a Homeland Security Grant for 2 pagers and 6 new portable radios, helping to meet the new FCC Requirement for Narrowband compliance.



Maine Forest Service vehicle

The Maine Forest Service (MFS) has located a 1-ton mini-pumper at our Stockholm facility. This vehicle's primary function is to provide a water source to fight woods and grass fires but is available for use at any incident by our personnel. In return, NLFD has agreed to keep the vehicle ready and to respond with it when requested by MFS.

SHAPE Award

In October of 2010, all the NLFD stations as well as all files and paperwork were subject to inspection by the Maine Bureau of Labor Standards. During this inspection the NLFD walked away with a 100% clean record for safety and training. This is almost unheard of and is an accomplishment we are proud of. Following this inspection we

received our second Safety and Health Award for Public Employers (SHAPE) from the Maine Bureau of Labor.

Chief continues to set the standard

- Congratulations to Chief Darren Woods on receiving the American Legion's Award for Firefighter of the Year, awarded based on accomplishments at NLFR, Caribou Fire, Maine Fire Training & Education (MFTE), and Aroostook EMA.
- Chief Woods was notified in January that he is promoted to State Fire Instructor 3 status. There are few instructors who can achieve this, the highest level of fire instructor designation within the MFTE system.



"LAST"

Capt. Kirk Ward has been appointed leader of a newly forming Local Assistance State Team (LAST) in Aroostook County, a national program from the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, which comes to the aid of departments, firefighters, and their families in the event of a line-of-duty death. This team is critically important to all involved and can help deserving families with things like ceremonial support and applying for benefits offered by local, state, and federal governments.

Web site

Our Web site is changing again! Lt. Josh Belanger, who works very hard for us to keep our Web site up to date, has made some big changes and created a new look for the site—things like weather alerts, fire danger levels in our area, and much more! Check us out at

www.northlakesfireandrescue.org. AND visit us on Facebook <http://on.fb.me/northlakes>

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Donations

- We received a \$500 donation from State Farm Insurance.
- We received a \$1,000 donation from FF Natalie Adams-Collin.

New building at Cross Lake

At Cross Lake Station, you'll see the new addition of a 12 x 24 mini-barn. This was purchased with donated funds from Natalie Adams-Collin in memory of her late husband, Charles, and matched with funds from the NLFD Inc, so this addition came at zero cost to the taxpayers. The building is dedicated to the memory of Charles Collin.

Snowsled rescue

NLFD now has 2 snowmobile rescue sleds. A RescueBoggan is located in Cross Lake, and a converted dog sled is located at our Madawaska Lake Station. The second sled was given to us by Caribou Fire & Ambulance.

New Additions

- Lt. Josh Belanger and his wife, Jessica, are expecting their second child in September.
- FF Jesse Belanger and Heidi Ayotte are expecting their first child in April.

[Chief's Note: Congrats to both! Is it just me, or does this look like a brotherly competition? Ha ha!]

North Lakes Firefighters do their part for the budget

North Lakes Fire Inc's only mission is to raise money for the good of our organization, which is run by a board and registered with the State of Maine. Here is a brief overview of what our organization, made up of NLFR Firefighters, has been up to over the past few months:

- **Kayak Raffle** – Through the generosity of Old Town Canoe, we were able to hold a raffle for an Old Town Dirigo Kayak. This is a high quality kayak that folks really responded to and supported by purchasing tickets.
- **Gun Raffle** – With the assistance of the Caribou Trading Post, we were able to hold a raffle for a .22 cal Henry Golden Boy rifle. This is a beautiful gun, made in the USA, and is a top quality product.
- **Hunters Breakfast** – We held our first-ever hunters breakfast in Cross Lake at the Seniors Center next to the fire station. This was a great success, everyone had a great time, and all those who came were very pleased with both the quality of the food and the size of the portions.
- **Portable Letter Sign** – Using funds that we raised, NLFD Inc. purchased a lighted portable letter sign that will assist us in advertising our fundraisers along with other public information at any of our three substations.



(L to R) Kayak Winner, Mark Gagnon, Capts. Steve Belanger and Kirk Ward



Gun Winner, John Thornton (L), and Chief Woods



Hunter's Breakfast

All stations enjoy much-needed "sprucing up" by volunteers

Sinclair, Cross Lake, and Madawaska Lake Stations received significant renovations and repairs this year, with much of the work done by volunteers.

Sinclair Station enjoys a fresh look with an updated kitchen and training room.

Cross Lake's truck bay walls were replaced with sheet metal after water damage made them unsightly.

Madawaska Lake's newly acquired facility, the former DOT Stockholm Garage, underwent exterior painting, new metal trim, a new training area, and a satellite office for Chief Woods. A washer and dryer and freshly painted, spruced-up kitchen complete with stove, sink, and refrigerator rounded out the effort—all items and supplies were donated.



Madawaska Lake kitchen



Sinclair kitchen



Madawaska Lake office



Sinclair training room