

# *Kennebecasis Valley Fire Department Inc.*

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Fire Chief  
Bill Ireland

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Phone (506)848-6601 Fax (506)848-6608

Deputy Chief  
Dan McCoy

## Change of Command Symbolizes Key Milestone for Department

**Kennebecasis Valley, NB Wednesday, April 21, 2010:** The Kennebecasis Valley Fire Department held its formal Change of Command Ceremony this evening at Fire Station One in Rothesay. Dignitaries, special guests, family members and firefighters of the Kennebecasis Valley Fire Department were in attendance to honour the long-standing service of Chief Larry Greer and bear witness to the passage of his leadership role to incoming Chief Bill Ireland.

In keeping with tradition, outgoing Chief Larry Greer initiated a final salute to his department, with the Honour Guard leading the formal parade consisting of companies representing both career and volunteer firefighters. Shortly after the procession, the Change of Command from Chief Larry Greer to Chief Bill Ireland was signified by the passing over of the ceremonial key, symbolizing the transfer of responsibility, authority, and accountability from one Fire Chief to another.

“The effective leadership of the Kennebecasis Valley Fire Department would not have been possible without the knowledge, expertise and advice of Chief Greer,” said Patrick Ervin, Chairman of the Joint Board of Fire Commissioners for the Kennebecasis Valley Fire Department. “During the course of his leadership over the past two and a half decades, the fire department experienced tremendous growth and change under his guidance.” Larry Greer has been a life-long resident of the KV. He began his service with the Rothesay Fire Department as a volunteer firefighter in 1968 – 42 years ago. In 1978, he became a full-time professional firefighter, and was promoted to Chief in 1985.

Said Larry Greer, “After twenty-five years as Chief and over forty years in the service, it’s time to pass the torch and allow new ideas to surface that will continue moving this department into the future.” It has truly been an honour to serve the residents of the KV and surrounding community.”

“We are all familiar with the expression of having big shoes to fill, and I can honestly say that it feels like I’m walking in the footsteps of giants,” remarked incoming Chief Bill Ireland. “I humbly and gratefully accept the challenge of continuing to build upon the fine reputation that this department has so rightfully earned.” “We are well-positioned thanks to the leadership of Chief Greer and the members of this department to assume our rightful place as the model composite fire service,” further explained Chief Ireland.

“The tradition of strong leadership at the KVFD will continue,” remarked Patrick Ervin. Chief Bill Ireland recently served as the Divisional Chief of Fire Prevention and Training for the KV Fire Department. Bill brings over 15 years of firefighting experience and training in fire service administration and leadership, and is currently pursuing his Bachelors of Fire and Safety Studies through the University of Victoria.

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## Backgrounder Attached

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## Backgrounder

The Kennebecasis Valley Fire Department (KVFD) traces its roots back to 1924, when the village of Rothesay Fire Department was formed. In 1966 the fire department officially began to provide services to the entire region of six municipalities. It remained a volunteer force until 1967 with the hiring of its first two career firefighters.

The KVFD was formed to protect the amalgamated communities of Quispamsis, Rothesay, and parts of three Local Service Districts. Collectively, the department protects roughly 30,000 residents and property values of over \$2 billion, in a response area spanning 112 square kilometers.

The KVFD is a composite organization comprised of a Chief; Deputy Chief; Divisional Fire Chief; 28 full-time firefighters; 6 casual firefighters, and 25-30 volunteer firefighters. On average, the department responds to approximately 700 calls per year, and is often called upon in a mutual aid capacity as a member of the Zone Two Mutual Aid Association.

The fire department is governed by a Board of Commissioners representing the Towns of Quispamsis and Rothesay.

### **Bio – Outgoing Chief Larry Geer**

- Born in Saint John, second son of Newman & the late Jean Greer
- Lived entire life in Kennebecasis Valley with all but 2 years being in Fairvale
- Married to Gail (Kindred) September 1973
- Two sons, Michael & Matthew and 1 grandson Tyler (all living in the Valley)
- Began career in the fire service as a volunteer with the Rothesay Fire Department in 1968
- Started on the job as a full-time firefighter in 1978
- Promoted to Lieutenant in 1982
- Promoted to Chief in 1985
- Past president of the Royal Firefighters Association
- Past chair of the Royal Firefighters Zone Two Mutual Aid Association
- Member of the New Brunswick Fire Chiefs Association, currently sitting on the Regional Fire Service Dispatch Committee
- Member of the NB Association of Fire Prevention Officers
- Member of the New Brunswick Permanent Chiefs Committee
- Member of the Maritime Association of Fire Chiefs
- Active member and past secretary and vice president of the Valley Cruisers Car Club
- Owns 2 antique vehicles, one of which is currently a restoration project
- Actively involved in the Rothesay Living Museum as vice-chair, specializing in Fairvale history
- Additional pastimes include assisting in KV minor baseball and hockey, dog sitting and bird watching

### **Bio – Incoming Chief Bill Ireland**

Bill Ireland was born and raised in the small Ontario town of Burk's Falls. In 1987 Bill moved to Toronto to study for his Bachelors of Business Management at Ryerson University. In September of 1990 he was hired as a firefighter by the Toronto Fire Department. During his Toronto Fire career Bill held the positions in both the fire suppression and fire prevention divisions. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 2000. From 2000-2002 Bill also held a part time position as the Director of Fire and Emergency Services for the Township of Central Frontenac which is a 100+ member fully volunteer service. Bill resigned from both of his Ontario positions in 2002 to move to his wife Anne's home town of Truro, Nova Scotia where he took the role of Superintendent of the Truro Fire Service. Bill held that position until April 2004 when he decided to join his wife as broker/owners of Century 21 Market Realty in Truro. In March of 2009, Bill rejoined the fire service by becoming the Divisional Chief of Fire Prevention and Training for the Kennebecasis Valley Fire Department.

Bill holds numerous academic and professional certificates including diplomas in Fire Service Leadership and Fire Service Administration from Dalhousie University, Emergency Preparedness and Response,

Emergency Operations Centre Management, Fire Prevention Technology, National Fire Protection Association Standard 1001, 1002, 1021, 1026, 1031, and 1041 competencies, and is currently completing his Bachelor of Fire and Safety Studies from the University of Victoria.

Bill and Anne recently celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and are looking forward settling into their new home in the Valley.







