

2007
ANNUAL REPORT
STRATFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT



April 2008

His Worship Mayor Dan Mathieson and
Members of City Council
City Hall, P.O. Box 818
Stratford, Ontario
N5A 6W1

Mayor Mathieson and Members of Council:

On behalf of Stratford Fire Department members, I am pleased to present the Department's 2007 Annual Report, outlining the activities and accomplishments from the past year. I welcome and encourage City Council to visit Stratford's fire stations at any time. We would be pleased to demonstrate any of the apparatus and equipment.

As an all-hazards response organization, we know the importance of responding quickly, competently and compassionately in order to make a difference in people's lives. The dedicated men and women of the Department are committed to continually improving and adapting to the challenges of our ever-changing environment in order to provide the best possible service to the citizens and guests of Stratford.

We recognize that success depends on earning the respect, trust and confidence of our residents, team members and political leaders. It is vital that we never compromise our commitment to provide the services you expect and deserve.

If you would like further information on any items, I would be pleased to be of assistance.

Richard Young
Fire Chief

STRATFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

FIRE CHIEF

R. YOUNG

DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

M. GORNYICZKI

DIRECTOR OF TRAINING AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

P. BUTSON

DIRECTOR OF FIRE PREVENTION

VACANT

FIRE INSPECTORS

T. ADAIR

B. CHADWICK

"A" GROUP

Capt. A. Paul
Lt. L. Landreth
Lt. B. Wakelin
F.F. K. Aitcheson
S. McCormick
R. Niezen
S. Petrie
K. Cobb
B. McCann
K. Hare

"B" GROUP

Capt. T. Martell
Lt. R. Micks
Lt. P. Boudreau
F.F. T. Cottenie
S. Dekok
C. Gaylor
M. Lukachko
R. MacDonald
B. Fairweather

"C" GROUP

Capt. B. Dahms
Lt. J. McCaffery
Lt. W. Adair
F.F. R. Mazzanti
T. Hislop
C. Beach
T. Schieckoff
M. Handley
R. Steele

"D" GROUP

Capt. R. Petrie
Lt. M. Salt
Lt. J. Mavity
F.F. E. Schuett
K. Smith
J. Lane
J. Canning
S. Ford
G. Ankenmann
J. Allen

CIVILIAN DISPATCHERS

M. Hansford
K. White
R. Murphy
P. Edwards

SECRETARIES/DISPATCHEERS

J. Franks
J. Paterson
S. Core

PERSONNEL CHANGES

- Captain W. Clarence retired March 31, 2007
- Director of Training R. Petrie transferred to Fire Suppression as Captain June 7, 2007
- Director of Fire Prevention P. Butson transferred to Training Division as Director of Training and Education August 5, 2007
- Fire Fighter B. Chadwick transferred from Fire Suppression to Fire Prevention Division as Fire Inspector August 5, 2007
- Lieutenant J. Byatt retired September 30, 2007
- Fire Fighter P. Boudreau promoted to Lieutenant October 7, 2007

C.P.R. INSTRUCTOR

M. Lukachko

B. McCann

CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES

CMM III Fire

Prevention Professional

-

M. Gornyiczki

Certified Municipal Manager III with

Fire Prevention Professional Enhancement

City of Stratford Corporate Training

Unionized Environment

Dealing with Problem Employee

Media Relations

-

M. Gornyiczki

-

R. Young

Ivey Leadership

Training Program

-

M. Gornyiczki

-

R. Young

Ontario Fire College



- **T. Adair**
Fire Safety Plan Evaluation
Advanced Fire Prevention Theory
Transition Training on the Application
of the Objective-Based Fire Code

- **K. Aitcheson**
Emergency Response Communications
External Agency Roles
Post Incident Evaluation, Documentation & Stimulation

- **B. Chadwick**
Specialized Rescue Operations
Hazardous Materials
Comprehensive Review & Exam
Public Fire & Life Safety Educator



- **T. Cottenie**
Specialized Rescue Operations
Hazardous Materials
Comprehensive Review & Exam

- **S. Dekok**
Application of Adult Education Principles
Fire Prevention Theory
Fire Inspections
Public Education

- **T. Hislop**
Fire Prevention Theory
Fire Inspections



- **R. Mazzanti**
Emergency Response
External Agency Roles
Post Incident Evaluation, Documentation & Simulation

Ontario Fire College Continued



- **S. McCormick**
Fire Prevention Theory
Fire Inspections
Public Education

- **K. Smith**
Fire Prevention Theory
Fire Inspections

- **R. Steele**
Recruit Training Program

- **K. White**
Fire Service Communicator's Workshop



Fire Fighter R. Steele and Deputy Fire Chief M. Gornyczki

TRAINING DIVISION REPORT

Director of Training and Public Education Paul Butson

In 2007, this Division was responsible for the development and implementation of training programs for the Stratford Fire Department. The majority of the training evolutions were designed to complement the requirements outlined by the Ontario Firefighter Standard. This Standard identifies the job-related performance objectives, which along with the Ontario Firefighter Curriculum (which provides the knowledge-based objectives) form the basis for firefighter training in Ontario. The competencies contained in the aforementioned Standards reflect the entire spectrum of the firefighter role.

One of the objectives was to educate fire suppression personnel to perform fire ground operations by conducting size up, requesting assistance if needed, searching for, rescuing and evacuating individuals. Inclusive with the aforementioned training was the protecting of exposures; confining, controlling, and extinguishing fire and the salvaging and overhaul of structures and their contents. Meeting these objectives help to limit property loss and minimize damage to the environment.



Firefighters also received training which enabled them to perform emergency patient care in the field. Important aspects included the stabilization of the scene, managing the care of the patient and preparing the patient for transport to a medical care facility.

Stratford Fire Department personnel were educated to perform to the hazardous materials awareness level which included the confinement and/or isolation of hazardous materials to prevent injury or loss of life. As a secondary benefit, this training should result in the minimizing of damage to both property and the environment. Fire crews participated in safe working practices such as incident management, personal accountability, and maintaining a safe and secure workplace. The outcome of this training ensures that the safety of the firefighters is maintained in accordance with any of the applicable legislation, standards, policies, guidelines and procedures.

Training sessions were designed and implemented to ensure that the maintenance and operation of our emergency response apparatus met with the scope and structure of the Highway Traffic Act. The vehicle's design parameters were also reviewed to ensure that the apparatus was used safely and effectively with the additional benefit of preventing mechanical breakdowns.

Training Division Report Continued

Instruction was provided on the tools and equipment used in fire fighting and rescue operations including the proper maintenance procedures through checking, inspecting, testing and cleaning thereby providing a high level of readiness. This knowledge helps to extend the useful life of the equipment and ensures safety through familiarization with the tools.



Fire suppression personnel participated in training to address the primary facets of fire prevention. Topics included inspecting for fire hazards, fire detection systems and fire protection systems so that an acceptable level of public safety is promoted and maintained. Training initiatives enabled firefighters to perform public education and public relation activities such as fire safety presentations to community groups, performing demonstrations and participating in special activities. These opportunities assisted the department in projecting a professional image in order to promote public fire and life safety and enhance the public's perception of the fire service.

Individual firefighters were evaluated through a testing process to ensure that the necessary requirements had been achieved for promotion from classification to classification (i.e. 3rd class to 2nd class). Exams were also developed and administered to those individuals wishing to qualify for the position of Captain. Exams were comprised of both written and oral questions which along with an assessment of their emergency scene performance and station duties determined their capability to fulfill the position.

Participation by all members of the Stratford Fire Department in our training regimen allowed our fire service to maintain a high degree of capability. We are confident that our firefighters have received the necessary education in order to provide the level of professional service our community deserves while maintaining compliance with the applicable legislation, standards, guidelines and procedures.



Auto Extrication Training

PUBLIC EDUCATION REPORT

Director of Training and Public Education Paul Butson

Public Education is one the most valuable tools in fire services' arsenal to combat the devastation caused by fire. Through on-going analysis, the Stratford Fire Department has identified fire concerns for which programs have been designed and implemented to address the issues. Seniors and children have been recognized as groups who are the most vulnerable. The "Adopt-a-School" and "Adopt-a-Senior's Residence" programs were developed as a direct response to resolve these identified concerns. Firefighters delivered safety presentations at schools and seniors' homes, helping those people identify and correct fire hazards.



Public fire and life safety education programs were provided at various community events throughout the year. They included the Festival City 10km Run, Fire Prevention Week (Canadian Tire), Crime Stoppers Night (Stratford Festival Marketplace), and the Fire Safety Council Days (Canadian Tire). We also attended Boy Scout and Girl Guide clubs as requested and the Children's Aid Society to deliver fire safety education.

The Home Fire Safety Safety Program is an important part of the Stratford Fire Department's public education initiative. Firefighters visit residents' homes to offer a free inspection, provide information on new smoke alarm requirements and fire safety information. The goal of this project is to reduce accidental fire deaths and injuries in the home.

The program applies to all private dwellings within the City of Stratford. These residences include detached, semi-detached and townhouse units. Apartment buildings or housing units over commercial establishments are not included.

Public Education Report Continued

Firefighters visited homes in the community, door-to-door, to speak briefly with the homeowners or tenants and offer a complimentary inspection. Upon completion, the household was left with various fire safety brochures containing educational topics such as:

- Cooking Safety – Stove Top Fires
- Carbon Monoxide Detectors
- Nuisance Alarms – Make It Stop!
- Emergency Preparedness

If no one was home, the firefighters left an envelope, complete with safety brochures along with contact information, should they want to request an inspection at a later date.

In 2007, Stratford firefighters installed **30** smoke alarms and **27** batteries. Under the Ontario Fire Code, every home in Ontario is required by law to have a working smoke alarm installed to protect each sleeping area and on each storey including basements and walk-up attics.

The policy of our Department is -

"We do not leave a house without a working smoke alarm."

Information packages, containing pamphlets on smoke alarms, carbon monoxide and a return questionnaire, were distributed to **747** residences. Inspections were conducted in **448** homes and the following are the results:

Number of working smoke alarms found in the homes - 586

Number of smoke alarms not working - 27

***Number of homes completing smoke alarm
maintenance programs - 249***

Number of homes with Fire Escape Plans - 257

Number of homes with carbon monoxide detectors - 214



The objective of this program is to educate and empower the homeowner/tenant to accept the responsibility for maintaining a fire-safe home.

The Home Fire Safety Plan was started in 1999 and is conducted annually from the first of May till the end of August. All firefighters participate four nights a week from the hours of 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

As a result of the new legislation (March 2006) requiring smoke alarms on every storey of the home, a larger number of residences were found to be in contravention of the law and a number of violation notices were issued.

The Stratford Fire Department is committed to protecting the lives and property of our residents. Fire prevention, fire suppression, and public education will remain the fundamental cornerstones in order to achieve this mission.

FIRE PREVENTION REPORT

Director of Fire Prevention Tim Adair

It has become more evident now than ever, that through fire prevention, the protection of persons and property has become a total departmental effort. From the Chief to the Dispatchers/Secretaries and back again, the success of any fire prevention program is not just dependent on a select few.

The Stratford Fire Department has become a leading example through our programs in place today. Our Department is one of a few where the firefighters perform annual in-service inspections. These inspections provide us the opportunity to identify and have corrected any fire code deficiencies. Current information is obtained regarding the premises and entered in our records management system.

In 2007, our Fire Prevention team inspected over 1,400 properties. It is these annual inspections that allow this Department to assist building owners and tenants to maintain their buildings in a fire-safe condition.

These inspections will:

- Maintain and improve adequate detection of fire, as early warning is paramount to life safety
- Maintain and improve containment of fire therefore reducing the spread of fire, heat and smoke
- Reduce fire occurrence by identifying and removing potential fire hazards
- Confirm means of egress to ensure quick and safe escape from fire
- Verify fire suppression systems to potentially extinguish fire before it spreads
- Ensure appropriate fire safety planning for all buildings

This Bureau investigated numerous fires in 2007. It is important to find the cause so that we can target towards specific perils in our community. If the post-fire analysis uncovers faulty equipment, the information is forwarded to the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office where the issue is distributed throughout Ontario. A product recall may be ordered to prevent a similar unsafe situation.

On November 21, 2007, the revised Fire Code 213/07 was implemented. Learning this document is in addition to the on-going education the Fire Prevention Bureau participates in each year. Along with Ontario Fire College courses, the Bureau also attended the Ontario Municipal Fire Prevention Officers' Conference in Richmond Hill and the Ontario Municipal Fire Prevention Officers' Seminar at the Ontario Fire College in Gravenhurst. It is with this continued commitment to education that allows the Stratford Fire Prevention Bureau to remain up to date with fire safety issues that affect us all throughout the Province.

Fire Prevention Report Continued

In 2007, the Fire Prevention Bureau continued to educate the community. With the use of local media and our own staff, the public was introduced to many fire safety programs relevant to the audience. Last year, the Department participated in the following activities:

- Fire Prevention Week
- Canadian Tire Summer Watch Program
- Canadian Tire Autumn Smart Program
- Christmas Fire Safety Message
- Fire Extinguisher Training (855 people trained)
- Learn not to Burn Program for Elementary Schools
- Older and Wiser Program for Seniors



The Fire Prevention Bureau is involved in several committees as well:

- TAPP-C (The Arson Prevention Program for Children)
- Site Plan Review Committee
- Utilities Coordinating Committee
- Bed and Breakfast Review Committee
- Stratford Summer Music Committee

The Stratford Fire Prevention Bureau will continue to achieve a high level of fire safety for our City. In order to maintain this status, the Fire Prevention Bureau will carry on with the 'TEAM' attitude and approach. It is my contention that, through **FIRE PREVENTION**, each and every employee in this Department and residents of Stratford are an integral part of fire and life safety. With this dedication to prevention, our Department will continue to assist the community to remain protected from the cause and effects of fire.



Fire Inspector B. Chadwick and
Director of Fire Prevention T. Adair

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Deputy Fire Chief Michael Gornyczki

Through the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, the City of Stratford has developed and implemented an Emergency Management Program. City Council passed By-law 129-2004 adopting our Emergency Response Plan. This plan governs the provision of necessary services during an emergency and the procedures in which employees of the municipality and other persons respond to a disaster.

Maintaining compliance with the Essential Level of Emergency Management requires the completion of a multi-step process on an annual basis.



Throughout 2007, the Tecumseh Sector reviewed and shared information. Guest speakers provided participants with current data relating to various types of emergencies.

The planning for a progressive pandemic exercise that is to take place in 2008 began in May, with the formation of the Pandemic Exercise Design Committee, consisting of Christel Hollinger; Barb Westlake-Power, County of Perth; Donna Taylor and Dale Lyttle, Perth District Health Unit; Gladys Brindley, Huron Perth Health Care Alliance; Steve Beatty, Emergency Management Ontario, and Michael Gornyczki, Deputy Fire Chief/CEMC, City of Stratford. The Committee's objective is to design an exercise to test the Perth County Influenza Pandemic Plan. The scenario would involve stakeholders from the City of Stratford, the Town of St. Marys, the County of Perth and member municipalities.

On February 12, 2008, the City of Stratford received confirmation from Emergency Management Ontario (EMO) that we completed all of the steps required for conformance with Essential Level Emergency Management legislation in 2007.

The responsibility of submitting the required documentation to EMO annually lies with the Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC). Deputy Fire Chief Michael Gornyczki became the Primary CEMC in 2006 after completing the required Provincial training. Fire Chief Richard Young is the Alternate.

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Co-chairs of the Committee are Deputy Fire Chief Michael Gornyczki and Fire Fighter Rod MacDonald. Members include Fire Chief Richard Young, Lieutenant Byron Wakelin, Fire Fighters Chris Beach, Brad McCann and Rick Niezen. Health and Safety certified members are Richard Young, Michael Gornyczki, Paul Butson, Brent Chadwick, Byron Wakelin and Chris Beach. The Department's Designated Officers are Fire Chief Richard Young, Fire Inspector Brent Chadwick and Fire Fighter Kevin Aitcheson.

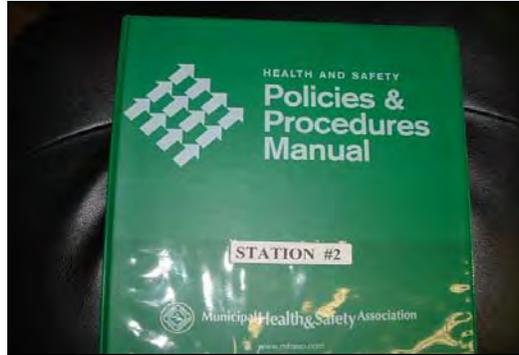
Listed are the major health and safety issues and concerns, which were discussed and addressed over the past year:

- The City of Stratford Health and Safety Policy
- The Terms of Reference
- Turnout clothing inspections conducted by the Director of Training
- Workplace inspections were carried out
- All completed accident report forms were reviewed
- Breathing air compressor, filters and fill system were maintained in accordance with applicable standards
- Discussions regarding baseline blood testing took place
- Gear bags were made available to staff for transporting bunker gear from station to station in their personal vehicles
- A radio repeater was installed on Pumper #1 in an effort to improve radio transmissions and reception from portable radios within certain occupancies in the north end of the City
- The aging 6-KW emergency generator at Station #2 was replaced with a new 20-KW unit. In an effort to reduce noise, the new emergency generator was installed outside of the building

Five personal injury accidents were reported in 2007, accounting for three lost shifts.

There were three vehicle incident/accidents, which resulted in minimal property damage and no personal injury.

Health and Safety Continued



The City of Stratford's new Health and Safety Policy & Procedures Manual was implemented

The annual Ontario Professional Firefighters' Association Health and Safety Seminar was attended by JHSC members Chris Beach and Rod MacDonald.



Jersey barriers were added at the rear of Station #1 to protect the fuel dispensing pump from vehicular traffic

Our Joint Health and Safety Committee is committed to working together in order to eliminate all accidents and injuries in the workplace.

FACILITIES

Deputy Fire Chief Michael Gornyczki

The Stratford Fire Department operates from two strategically situated stations within our corporate boundaries.

- Station #1, constructed in 1968, is located at 388 Erie Street
- Station #2, erected in 1979, is situated at 44 McCarthy Road West

As a result of our aging facilities, we are constantly monitoring the infrastructure that is provided at each of our two locations and implementing the necessary repairs, replacement, alterations or up-grades.

The communications room located at Station #1 was provided with an LG-LS090CP- 9,000 BTU ductless air conditioning unit in order to provide a regulated temperature during the summer months for the sensitive electronic equipment located in this area.



The original hot water boiler and 50-gallon hot water heater at Station #2 were replaced with a 90% AFUE high efficiency-boiler/domestic hot water system.



Also incorporated in the project to replace the Station's original 6-KW emergency generator with a new 20-KW emergency generator was the installation of a new storage shed and cement repairs. (The original generator was located inside the building while the new generator is located outside.)



Facilities Continued



The main entrance to Station #1 became barrier-free and fully accessible after the completion of renovations to the concrete sidewalk (widening and ramping) and the replacement of the front entrance door with a power-assisted unit.

Our Department is committed in continuing on an annual basis to further upgrade our facilities in an effort to create barrier-free environments for the citizens of our community.

In preparation of the delivery of the Department's new Mobile Fire Training Unit (MFTU), renovations began to the concrete block building located at the Public Works' site on Frederick Street. The MFTU will be located next to the building which will be utilized, allowing an increase in the amount of possible live fire ground scenarios. Also in preparation, a fire hydrant was installed at the site.

The purchase of this unit will enable Fire Department staff to further enhance their skills learned at the Ontario Fire College in Gravenhurst and departmental training.

ALARMS RECEIVED

	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	TOTAL
911	20	23	12	14	36	28	21	29	10	16	24	15	248
Ambulance	71	78	62	61	91	87	77	86	76	69	64	77	899
Police	4	4	3	1	3	4	5	5	4	7	3	0	43
Direct Connect to Fire Dept.	11	10	6	7	5	11	7	3	4	8	3	2	77
Still (Verbal to Station)	0	0	2	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	1	9
Telephone Fire Dept. Dispatch	11	18	16	8	35	14	17	11	11	10	12	19	182
Telephone From Other Emerg. Prot.	7	17	9	5	13	8	8	9	9	12	11	12	120
Other	2	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	1	2	1	11
TOTAL													
2007	126	150	111	97	183	156	137	143	116	124	119	127	1589
<i>2006</i>	<i>127</i>	<i>121</i>	<i>243</i>	<i>175</i>	<i>149</i>	<i>134</i>	<i>166</i>	<i>141</i>	<i>132</i>	<i>144</i>	<i>122</i>	<i>130</i>	<i>1784</i>



Fire Station #1
388 Erie Street



Fire Station #2
44 McCarthy Road

RESPONSE TYPES

		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Fire/Pre-Fire	2007	5	10	6	8	11	21	17	12	6	11	8	15	130
	2006	9	4	13	15	13	10	11	11	12	11	14	4	127
Explosions	2007	4	9	8	5	10	6	8	7	3	6	8	11	85
	2006	3	10	8	7	3	5	8	2	2	8	9	4	69
Public Hazard	2007	0	1	0	1	0	2							
	2006	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	6
Rescue	2007	85	82	71	67	108	102	88	95	85	75	78	80	1016
	2006	78	67	71	73	98	78	100	89	84	80	77	85	980
Medical	2007	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
	2006	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	2	7
Vehicle Fires	2007	32	46	24	16	54	26	24	29	22	32	25	21	351
	2006	37	40	149	80	33	40	47	39	33	45	20	32	595
Other Responses	2007	126	150	111	97	183	156	137	143	116	124	119	127	1589
	2006	127	121	243	175	149	134	166	141	132	144	122	130	1784

CAUSE OF ALARMS

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Acetylene Torch/Propane	0	1
Arson/Vandalism	3	8
Automatic Alarm Activation	173	194
Bomb Scare	1	0
Candles/Lighters/Matches	1	3
Careless Smoking	8	4
CO Detectors	38	76
Cooking/Grease/Oven	11	13
False Telephone Calls	16	24
Fireplace/Chimney/Incinerator	3	4
Flammable Liquid Spills	7	5
Hazardous Material	23	4
Machinery/Appliances Overheat	26	20
Miscellaneous	115	110
Rescue/First Aid/Medical Assist	986	1018
Rubbish/Grass	41	31
Smoke/Gas/Odour Investigations	291	23
Other Fire Related	34	46
Vehicle Fires	7	5
TOTAL	1784	1589

EQUIPMENT USED IN 2007

Aero Fog	1
Extinguishers	12
Extrication Equipment	7
Ladders	18
Portable Generator (Lighting, etc.)	8
Portable Pump	16
Pumping from Hydrant	4
Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus	537
Slik Wik Absorbent Pads	54
Smoke Ejector/Tempest Power	45
Tarps	14
Thermal Equipment	49
Vapor/Gas Detectors	110
Water/Ice Rescue	9
Water Vac	2
Medical Equipment –	
• Defibrillators	3
• First Aid	179
• Oxygen	134

HOSE USED

38mm	1,035m
45mm	120m
100mm	307m
Trash Line	360m
Hose Reel	1
Garden Hose	1

VEHICLE MILEAGE



1992 Aerial 11,250 mi.



2007 Mini Pumper 9,186 km



1999 Pumper 72,058 km



1995 Pumper 39,759 mi.

1976 Pumper 32,955 mi.

1946 Pumper 12,719 mi.

1923 LaFrance Pumper 6,040 mi.

1987 Rescue 41,320 km



2003 Car 33,260 km

1999 Car 89,728 km



2006 Van 11,860 km

2001 Van 69,635 km

1997 4x4 Pickup 52,556 km

PROPERTY CLASSIFICATION OF ALARMS

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Assembly	113	157
Business and Personal Service	70	65
Industrial	87	88
Institutional	72	45
Mercantile	38	41
Residential	1129	940
Other Than Buildings	275	253
TOTAL	1784	1589

TYPES OF STRUCTURES

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Brick	1386	1227
Concrete/Cement Block	69	66
Frame	6	7
Metal	11	8
Siding	21	19
Stucco	1	0
Wood	3	3
Other Categories		
Open Area	183	183
Vehicle	104	76
TOTAL	1784	1589



FIRE LOSSES IN 2007 OVER \$30,000

99 Taylor Street

577 Erie Street

74 Mowat Street

1 Wellington Street

101 Milton Street



ESTIMATED LOSSES

Buildings/Contents	\$574,645
Vehicles	\$ 21,000

ALARMS AND LOSSES FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ALARMS</u>	<u>LOSSES</u>
1998	633	383,016
1999	1,203	621,305
2000	1,230	345,200
2001	1,258	165,000
2002	1,261	309,300
2003	1,320	2,524,340
2004	1,427	431,700
2005	1,558	219,875
2006	1,784	1,665,660
2007	1,589	595,645

***Message from Chaplain's Desk
Reverend Terry Hastings***



**Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong.
Let all that you do be done in love.**

(1 Corinthians 16: 13)

I suspect if I had to choose a 'theme' scripture for fire fighters, this would be it. Certainly, the first line sounds like a job description for those who serve in emergency services. Being alert, courageous, strong, standing firm in the face of fear and danger, are all necessary qualities for this type of work. These are the character traits I have encountered in the fire fighters of the Stratford Fire Department whom I have the privilege of serving as their Chaplain.

But it's the second line - Let all that you do be done in love – that gives it all significance. When someone is motivated by love, then every aspect of their duty takes on a deeper meaning. The ability to be inspired in your work by a sense of compassion for the people you serve – by a spirit of concern for those who are in need – by a desire to aid whomever you encounter – brings a sense of dignity to human life. When what we do is done out of love, we are affirming that every person we meet, every person we encounter, every person we work with, is worthy of respect. And it doesn't matter whether you are a fire fighter on the front line, a parent in the home, a nurse in the OR, a clerk at City Hall, a worker on the assembly line, or a minister in the pulpit.

Anyone can come, do their job, and collect their pay ... and be quite good at what they do. But it is the ability to do what we do out of a spirit of love and compassion that manages to raise the value of us all that much higher.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve with the fire fighters. I am grateful for the confidence and support of the Chief, Deputy Chief, and the crew. But most of all, I am grateful for the chance to witness people who do what they do out of a spirit of love – for the men and women they work with; for the lives of the people they rush to save; for the good of their community; for their families and friends.

May they know the support and love of those they serve in return – and may the love and protection of God be with them always.

*Message from
Fire Chief Richard Young*



The Ontario Fire Marshals' Office developed a Fire Safety and Protection Model identifying three lines of defense in providing public fire protection.

- Public Education and Prevention
- Fire Safety Standards and Enforcement
- Emergency Response

Stratford Fire Department personnel have been working pro-actively with all sectors of the community using this model to increase awareness of fire and life safety while, at the same time, preparing themselves and resources for an untimely emergency. This commitment by our members and the progress made in 2007, highlighted below, will bring Stratford closer to our goal of making our community one of the safest in Ontario.

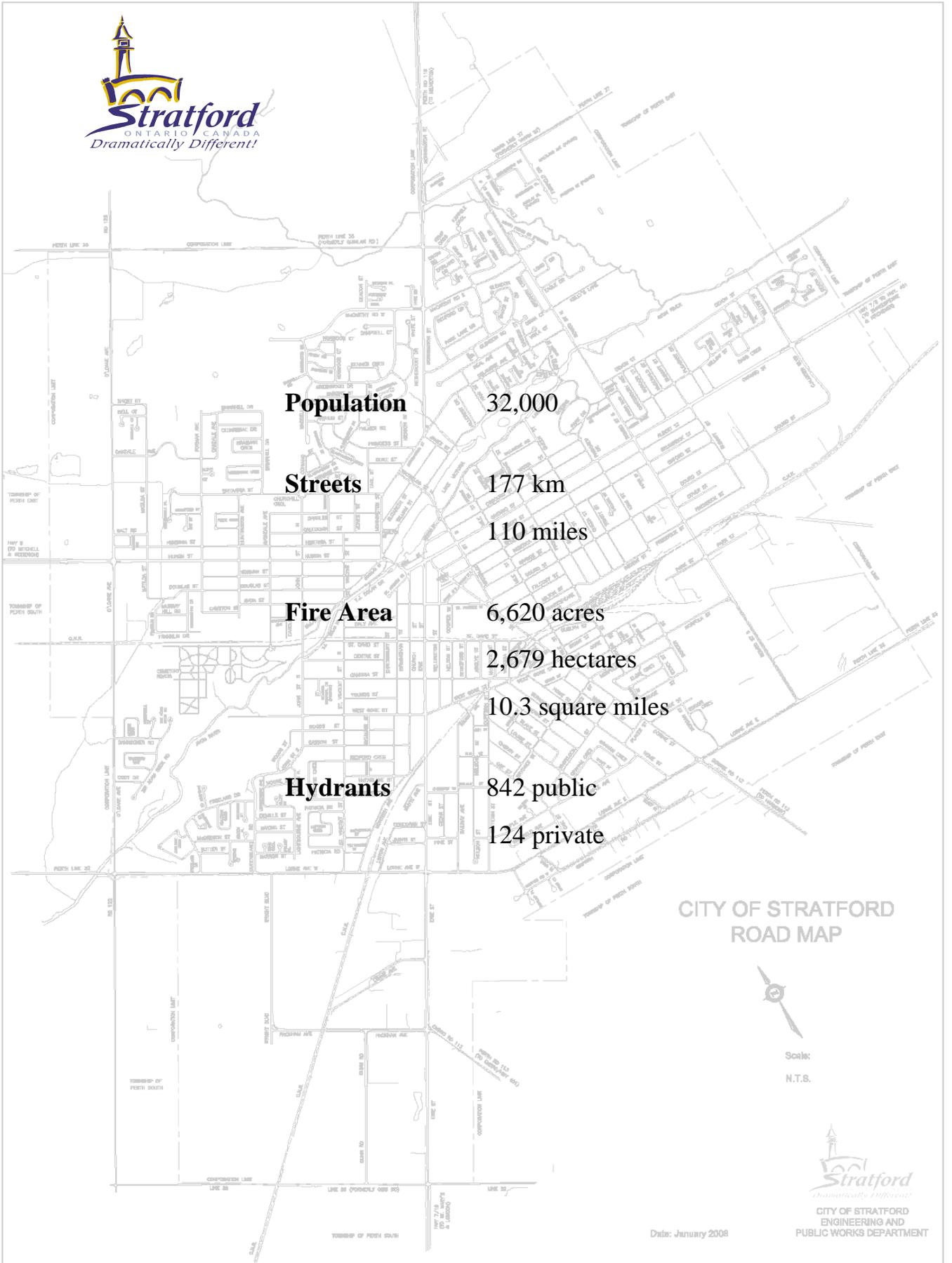
- ❖ A new public education program, entitled Adopt-A-Senior's Residence, teamed up each fire-fighting platoon with one or two homes for the aged focusing on medication awareness, smoking habits, cooking and fire escape planning. We have increased our accessibility to the public by providing a barrier free front entrance ramp and automatic door at Fire Station #1.
- ❖ The Fire Prevention Division has worked with hotel operators and owners in meeting the requirements of new Ontario Fire Code retrofit legislation regulating these occupancies.

Fire extinguisher training has been extended to smaller businesses and groups that do not have adequate training space through the use of our new training area at the Public Works yard and inclusion with other larger facilities such as Stratford General Hospital.

The recent rash of fire deaths in Ontario homes highlights the importance of using fire code enforcement to ensure residents have a working smoke alarm on every level of their dwelling. We will continue to issue tickets for not complying with this legislation whenever there is a fire in an affected residential property.

- ❖ City Council approved the hiring of an additional recruit in 2007, bringing our compliment up to 41 fire fighters and a step closer to meeting the OFM staffing guidelines. Our Vehicle and Equipment Committee completed the specification for a new pumper/rescue tendered for delivery in 2008. This unit will be equipped with Class A and B foam, including a high pressure application system. Emergency response safety has been increased through a driver training program which involves the mandatory use of seat belts and speed restrictions.

The Stratford Fire Department is committed to advancing life safety through educational programs, fire code enforcement and emergency response.



Population 32,000

Streets 177 km
110 miles

Fire Area 6,620 acres
2,679 hectares
10.3 square miles

Hydrants 842 public
124 private

**CITY OF STRATFORD
ROAD MAP**



Scale:
N.T.S.



Date: January 2008