



## **FIRE SERVICE ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA - CONFERENCE - 2018**

The Annual Conference of the Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia was held in Truro on May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>; it was a record turn out this year, so much so that Saturday evening, at the banquet, we were left scrambling for seats (for a moment!).

This year's theme was "Emergency Response & Dealing with the Unexpected" and we were fortunate to have a great line-up of speakers. The day kicked off at 8:00am with a very efficient registration team, I might add. After an hour of mingle time with our suppliers and manufacturers, Dr. Marnie Wood, from the Medical Examiner's Office made a presentation on "street drugs." Eyes were opened to hear about street drugs from Dr. Wood's perspective. Following a break, Scott Hawkes and Paul Schnurr, of DNR, took to the floor and made a joint presentation on TMR Challenges & Wildland Fires; in particular, the challenges they faced in dealing with the fires that started down the South Shore of the province and in other areas of the province in 2016. Then we heard the latest news at the Office of the Fire Marshal from Doug MacKenzie, Assistant Fire Marshal.

After a few lucky folks won door prizes it was time for a delicious lunch put on by the amazing team at the Holiday Inn, a huge thank you to Calvin and his team in catering, they ensured a hungry crowd got fed.

George Muise was next on the agenda and his presentation was aptly titled Flood Emergency Response - CB Floods. He stepped the crowd through the challenges of that day, starting with a slide of having to leave his buddy, the Thanksgiving turkey in the sink holding his beer can. On a serious note, it was a severe situation and he was able to show, through several detailed slides, all the challenges he faced with dealing with the flooding and the consequences that came from that.

CISM then held a "Town Hall format" meeting, with the group, on the future of mental health support in the fire service, in an effort to get a feel on which direction their clients wish to go. The responses were very encouraging and it showed CISM that the group truly supports what they do. The MFAP concept was discussed and we will proceed with helping FSANS to obtain a program for every firefighter in the province. PTSD was discussed as well and the options for treatment within the program.

The afternoon consisted of more mingle time and Kirk Janes, from the Office of the Fire Marshal's Office stepping the group through the process of applying and qualifying for the ESP Fund.

The evening activities were as follows, cocktail hour at 6:00pm then off to enjoy a delicious buffet of carved roast beef with all the trimmings or a salmon dish. Mouth watering cheesecakes were served up for dessert, if there was room left! Also, thrilled to report this year the Office of the Fire Marshal presented five awards:

Mr. Daniel Gaudet - Office of the Fire Marshal Training Award

Mr. Claude Gaudet - Office of the Fire Marshal Training Award

Mr. Yvon Thibodeau - Office of the Fire Marshal Training Award

Mr. Troy Wilson, T-Wilson Investments, *Wendy's*, 300 Welton St. Sydney - Tim Hortons - Office of the Fire Marshal Partnership Award

Mr. Jack Hatcher - T-Wilson Investments, *Wendy's* 300 Welton St. Sydney - Tim Horton's Office of the Marshal Partnership Award

*"WELL DONE GENTLEMEN!"*

Jason MacDonald, a very talented musician from St. Peter's Cape Breton, then took to the stage, hauled out his guitar and entertained us with a good mix of tunes, what a voice and what a talent. What a day!

Sunday was a later start which helped those who wished to sleep in. Coffee, tea and mingle time got underway at 8:30am.

The day was shorter but still informative with the FSANS Business Updates, along with Paul Maynard and his updates from Public Safety and Field Communications. Greg Down also provided updates from EHS. The day wrapped up with Jody MacDonald, from Antigonish, winning the 50/50 draw, his take was \$210.00, congratulations Jody. A collection was taken for the NS Burn Treatment of \$224.70 (thank you for that). The final door prizes were given out and then a tasty hot Italian lunch was served before the conference officially came to an end. FSANS would like to thank everyone who came and supported the conference, a big thank you to the speakers, sponsors and wonderful staff at the Holiday Inn.

Hope to see you again in 2019!

Sincerely,

Beth Edwards, Chair, FSANS Conference Committee