



Annual Report 2017

2017 was a significant year for HIFR. We changed fire chiefs, moved into a new fire hall, acquired a new apparatus, picked up 5 new recruits, and while doing all of that, did the most calls in our history. We survived a conflict resolution process and emerged as a stronger team. We did a traumatic call that had a lasting effect on our people and attended several other scenes involving the deaths of community members and friends. We saved a house and had our helicopter landing zone reinstated as a direct result of our hard work. Although trying at times, 2017 contained much to be proud of.

Callouts and activities

The Department recorded the following summary of volunteer time for regular training and incidents for 2017. This summary doesn't account for informal time in unrecorded training and home study:

	Practices(hrs)	Incidents(hrs)	Courses(hrs)	Total(hrs)	Incident #
2017	1844	1025	140	3,009	179
2016	2499	898	472	3,869	140
2015	2164	824	275	3,263	129
2014	2171	918	236	3,325	130
2013	1790	585	220	2,595	102
2012	2197	983	576	3,755	130
2011	1922	1018	390	3,330	114

Our incident breakdown for 2017 with a total of 179 calls:

- 131 Medical
- 18 Duty Officer
- 3 Structure fire
- 5 Brush/beach fire
- 4 MVI
- 5 Hydro lines down
- 4 Chimney fire
- 1 Walk-in First Aid
- 1 Missing person
- 2 False alarms
- 5 Public Service

Medical calls accounted for 73% of our incidents in 2017. This percentage varies by 5% each year but the increase in average age seems to indicate that this number should continue to rise.

Recruitment and Retention

This fall's class of new members was our biggest in recent memory with five new members, all of which are still on the roster. In addition to the new recruits we saw the return of two previous fire fighters who had left the department. It's not clear what led to this welcome influx but some contributing factors could be the prospect of operating from a new building, change in chiefs, or an increase in person to person recruiting. Our roster at the end of 2017 included 11 fire fighters, four members close to taking their fire fighter exams, and five new members undergoing training.

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Our auxiliary program suffered this year with all but one member fading out. This could be due to us focusing more resources on getting the nine new members through the training program to become full fire fighters.

Training

Quana Parker and Faroe DesRoches have developed a twist on the traditional training model that we have used for years. They have front loaded the program with training in skills that don't necessarily tick the IFSTA module checkboxes, but will impart skills needed to be useful on a fire scene. This will let us give them pagers and have them come out to calls even if they are operating in a limited capacity.

Quana has resigned as HIFR Training Officer. Faroe DesRoches has agreed to take on the role. Thanks to Quana for his time as T.O.

This year, members attended the following off island courses:

Air Brakes Endorsement – 1 member	JI Examiner Workshop – 2 members
Basic Auto Extrication – 1 member	LAFC – 1 member
Fire Service Instructor – 1 member	Hazmat Operations – 5 members

An increased focus was put onto building a training facility. The proposed training tower was cut from the new fire hall plans in order to save money. In order to fund a new facility we cut back on sending members to off island training opportunities and used that saved money to buy five shipping containers. These containers will be shipped to Hornby in 2018 and assembled to create a training facility in the back lot of the fire hall property.

Fire Prevention

Scott Towson has signed on to take over inspections from Iain Palmer. Scott and Iain have done a few inspections together and hope to increase the frequency this year. This is a voluntary inspection service focused on helping building owners and managers improve the safety of their buildings and operations.

The Department annual Fire Cadet Camp was well attended during Spring Break, with 18 children attending. This has proven to be a popular program which raises fire safety awareness for the children as well as their parents.

The Department continues to provide several successful initiatives such as the free smoke alarm program and school visits.

Community Engagement

Our web site (www.hifd.org) is a useful tool in reaching people with information on the latest activities in the Department. Facebook and Twitter have also proven to be useful in getting information out to the public.

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When BCAS and Helijet shut down night time operations on the airstrip we were able to generate a large amount of community good will by leading the efforts to have it reinstated. Temporary landing lights were loaned to us through community connections, then new lights were purchased through engagement with the Hornby Island Co-op. The groundwork at the airstrip was partially funded through a grant from the Hornby Island Community Fund.

Finance

The Operations budget for 2017 was \$194,282 with a Protective Gear and Equipment budget of \$8,500. The Department ended the year with a surplus of approximately \$3900.

Fire Hall Completion

We were expecting to be operating in the new building at the beginning of 2017 but it turned out to be the very end of 2017. There are still significant projects that remain to be completed by the fire department membership such as the completion of the outside storage room, the pressurized truck fill water system, the front walkway, deck covering, and landscaping.

The fine tuning of how we operate in the new building is an ongoing process and will continue for a year or more. A grand opening and community open house is scheduled for Feb 11.

Superiour Tanker Shuttle Accreditation (STSA)

The new tender was delivered in September and was put into service almost immediately. The Fort Garry / Freightliner rep has been out on several occasions to fix some minor deficiencies and our own Captain Zielinski has done a huge number of improvements on the “new 63”.

We have much training and practice to do but I am hoping that HIFR can be in a position to challenge the STSA test before summer.

Thank you to everyone for their patience and tenacity throughout the past year. It was hard on all of us and our families. However, we are coming out on the other side as a stronger team. We have much to be proud of and much to look forward to. I’m excited about what the upcoming year will bring and looking forward to working with all of you.

Doug Chinnery
Fire Chief