



Annual Report 2018

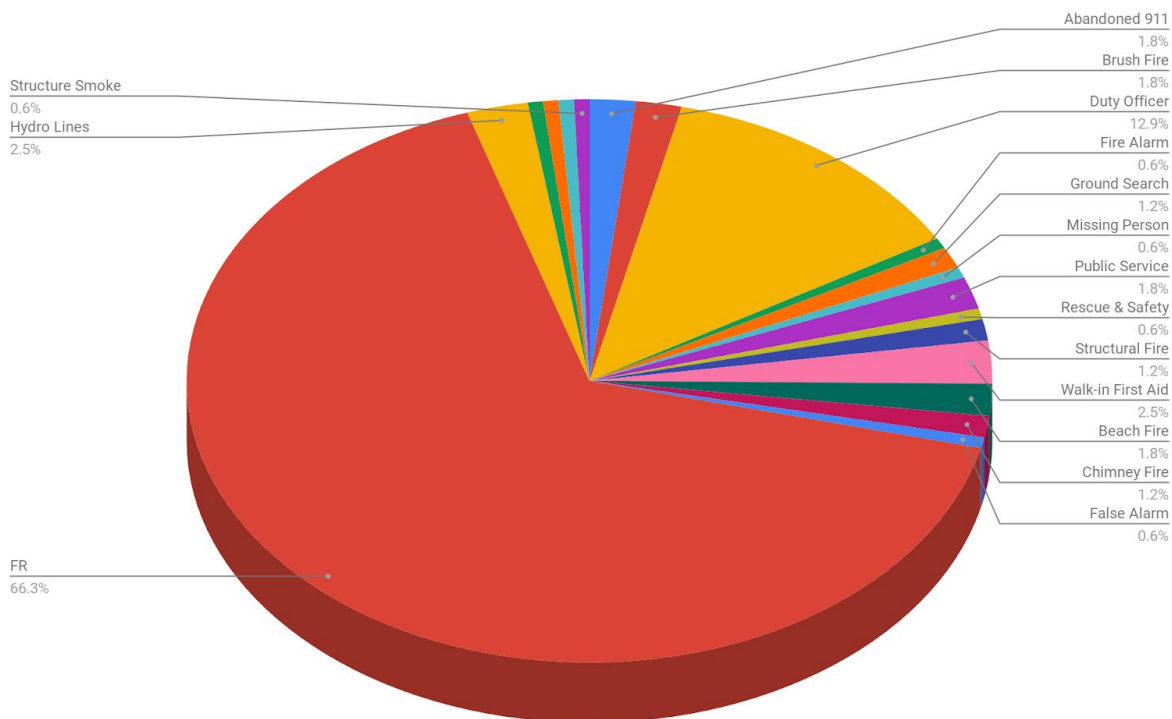
2018 was the year that we delivered on our promise to repay the community for building our new fire hall. Our biggest accomplishment in years was to successfully challenge the Superior Tanker Shuttle Service Accreditation, putting to rest a decade of planning, training, and practice. Other milestones like Lewis and MacCaskill becoming firefighters, Ortwein and Fletcher joining, the progress with the landscaping, and our two structure fire saves may fade into the shadow of the STSSA but are still great achievements.

Callouts and activities

We recorded the following summary of volunteer time for regular training and incidents for 2018. This summary doesn't account for informal time in unrecorded training and home study:

	Practices(hrs)	Incidents(hrs)	Courses(hrs)	Total(hrs)	Incident #
2018	2943	1069	293	4,305	163
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 2018 with a total of 163 calls:



HORNBY ISLAND FIRE RESCUE

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|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| - 108 Medical (FR) | - 21 Duty Officer | - 4 Walk-in First Aid |
| - 4 Hydro Lines | - 3 Brush Fire | - 3 Beach Fire |
| - 3 Abandoned 911 | - 2 Ground Search | - 2 Structure Fire |
| - 2 Chimney fire | - 1 Fire Alarm | - 1 Missing Person |
| - 1 Rescue and Safety | - 1 False Alarm | - 1 RCMP Assist |
| - 1 Rope Rescue | - 1 Structure Smoke | - 3 Public Service |

Medical calls accounted for 66% of our incidents in 2018 which is a significant drop from 2017. This percentage varies by 5% each year but this year seems to be a particularly low percentage.

Recruitment and Retention

All of our new members are still with us and we added two more in 2018. Quana Parker left our ranks for an indefinite long term leave. Quana served as our Deputy Chief, training officer, and did much of our training. I would like to thank Q for his many contributions to HIFR and wish him well in his projects. Iain Palmer retired in 2018 after 30 years of service to our community. Our roster at the end of 2018 included 11 firefighters, two members who have begun the in-house exam process, five new members about to become exterior firefighters, and two brand new rookies.

Our auxiliary program continues to sit on the back burner although the school fire showed the value in having a list of knowledgeable, retired firefighters that we can call on during larger events.

Training

The modified first year training program that Faroe and Quana developed in 2017 proved to be a success and we are repeating the process with the new rookies. We're hoping to give pagers to the new recruits before the end of January, enabling them to experience calls if maybe at a limited capacity.

The extra training courses that our members took part in this past year are:

Class 4 driving license – 1 member	FR Instructor Course – 2 members
Basic Auto Extrication – 2 members	LAFC – 1 member
SCBA level 2 technician – 2 member	Emergency Scene Management - 1 member
FR attendant - 4 members	Conflict Mediation - 1 member

After putting the lion's share of our training budget into acquiring the shipping containers for our training facility, we will begin to reinvest in off-island training. In 2019 the money that goes toward the training center will come from a capital requisition and won't be taken from operations, allowing for more off-island training opportunities.

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Fire Prevention

Rob Lewis has signed on to take over inspections from Iain Palmer. 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 21 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 website (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.

The fire hall is becoming a community resource with many activities taking place in the building, such as Community Paramedic talks, Health Society meetings, blues workshops, and the kid's Christmas Faire. I feel it is important to community ownership of the building to open it up to events whose purpose is of benefit to the community and the schedules can work within our constraints.

Finance

The Operations budget for 2018 was \$195,366 with an extra protective gear and equipment budget of \$8,500. The Department ended 2018 with a surplus of approximately \$1000

Fire Hall Completion

Some major headway was made on projects to complete the new fire hall. The front walkway was completed, the rain catchment cisterns were plumbed in, and the hardscaping was completed for the fire hall front yard.

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, deck covering, and landscaping.

Superiour Tanker Shuttle Service Accreditation (STSSA)

Since we achieved our accreditation in October I've received many phone calls thanking us for saving the homeowners anywhere from \$75 up to \$3000. It was an incredible achievement for us and something that we can be proud of for years to come.

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The New 64

For as long as I've been going to officer meetings we've been talking about replacing our 1981 International rescue truck. Next year was the year that we were going to spend \$180,000 to acquire a new truck. This year we came into the opportunity to take over the previously enjoyed duty officer vehicle from Oyster River Fire Rescue at a vastly reduced cost of \$10,000. We have another \$15,000 available to put into it to turn it into a custom replacement for the old 64.

In Conclusion

For HIFR, the one truly tragic event of 2018 was the death of Chief LaRose. There is much to be said about Giff's vision and the execution of that vision. It was incredibly ambitious and far-reaching. That he could stay with something like the fire hall renewal project for two decades says so much about his tenacity and drive for the safety of his community and the betterment of his department. His untimely death and his great legacy will remain high in our memories.

To me, 2018 was a year that felt like we were all pulling in the same direction. We achieved great things and helped many people. We are poised to add another five members to the rank of firefighter making our roster the biggest that it has been in over a decade. The community is behind us and even our detractors have been phoning to say thanks for lowering their insurance premiums.

Thank you to everyone for your hard work and long hours of community service. Each and every one of you is making a positive difference in our community.

Doug Chinnery
Fire Chief