



# PELLATT UNITED FIREFIGHTERS

May, 2024 Newsletter

Pellatt United Firefighters RR #1, Box 1, Site 6B Keewatin, Ontario P0X 1C0 Emergency Number: **911**  
Main Hall Phone: 807-543-2601 E-mail: [pellattfire@gmail.com](mailto:pellattfire@gmail.com) Website: <https://www.puffire.com>

## Fire Chief's Report

By Chief Barry Bennett

Well folks, we have just come through one of the weirdest winters in history. The biggest snowfalls we had were in late October and then the end of March. In between those we had the equivalent of 3 years of spring and falls - abnormally warm, and rain instead of snow. With this weather it did put us in a very dry spring situation bordering on drought, but with recent rains and a few snow flurries the fire hazard is not quite as bad as we all were expecting. We still must be careful.

We had a quiet winter - a few automobile incidents due to slippery roads, as well as a few medical calls. On a good note, we had no structure fires this winter, which speaks to the prevention and education we do at PUFF.

The last of our Phase 1 renovation projects was completed, and the whole fire team is very proud of our firehall and equipment, as are the rest of the community in our protection area.

If you have not seen or been to our hall, please stop in if you see us there. We would be happy to give you a tour.

With the warmer summer weather there is an increase in outdoor activities. We want everyone to be safe and cautious with fires (bonfires, campfires).

If you use 911 for emergency assistance, please give your 911 address (blue driveway sign) and clearly explain your emergency.

Lastly, I would like to thank the PUFF Board of Directors and the PPUG Local Services Board for their commitment and assistance with funding and fundraising.

A big thank you to the fire team members for all their hard work and time in training, meetings, PR, ED events as well as call outs. You are The Best.

Also, I would like to thank the families of our team members. When we are at the hall or out on a call it is time that we are away from them.

So, folks, lets all have a fun and safe summer and enjoy ever little bit of this paradise.

Barry Bennett  
Fire Chief - Pellatt United Fire Fighters



## JOIN US FOR BINGO!

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024  
7 PM. AT THE PUFF HALL

## Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, May 19, 2024, 9 a.m.  
until noon.



Buffett style, adults \$10/children 10 &  
under \$7

Pancakes, sausage, wild blueberry sauce, strawberry sauce, syrup, coffee, tea, juice. There will be lots of presenters, including LCA environmental table, MNR, St John's Ambulance, Ornge and lots of activities for kids.

Credit Card payments will be  
accepted this year!

## Board Chairperson's Report

We have had a busy year at PUFF / PCC. Our newly upgraded and renovated fire hall and community centre building is getting lots of use. In the last year we hosted a number of weddings, family parties, celebrations of life, derbies and dances, and other fundraising events, and PCC is used almost daily for pickle ball during the winter months, with all proceeds going to support the fire and emergency team.

I would like to start by saying thank you to all the people in the community who make this possible. Firstly, to the fire and emergency response team, who devote countless hours to training and responding to emergencies. We had about 50 calls last year, about 70% of them medical emergencies. Team members are out at all hours of the day and night, keeping us safe, or helping us when we're in dire straits. Special thanks to Fire Chief Barry Bennett and Deputy Chief Todd Burkart for keeping everything running smoothly. To the board of directors and the many, many people who devote countless hours to running the fundraising events, thanks from the whole community.

Several people deserve special mention: Cam Hagen for the poker derby; Kerry Livingstone for the family fishing tournament; Jocelyn Mauthe for the pancake breakfast and bingo (and just about everything else!); April Preisntanz for what will be an annual Halloween Haunt dance; and the local Mennonite community for the always sold-out Fall Supper. Also, Ron Mauthe for the year-round recycling program; and Don Mathieson, who keeps the whole facility running like a well-oiled machine; and Janet Spencer for the monthly Coffee Shops. Last but not least, thanks to a few people who do a huge amount of essential background work – Rob Hrabec, our treasurer; Amanda Brabant of Pink Toad Studio, who looks after all our website and email; Linda Stevens who is doing those great social media posts you have been seeing; Norie Bennett, who collects untold amounts of money for events, and mothers us all along; and Barry Baltessen and the board of the Local Services Board who handle all our base funding. On behalf of everyone, thank you all!

Continued...



# Board Chairperson's Report continued from page 2

## Renovations Phase 2

We contracted with LBE Group, a local engineering firm, to do a building assessment. This allows us to project future capital requirements, and build a reserve fund to cover these eventual, inevitable costs. The report showed that in general the building is in very good condition, but also identified several matters that require attention. We are in the process of applying for an NOHFC grant to help us fund these upgrades and renovations. Specifically, if our grant application is successful, we will renovate or upgrade the following:

- All washrooms (men's and universal washrooms do not meet code).
- New windows in the community centre (many seals are broken).
- New stairs in the firehall (do not meet code).
- New flooring in the community centre, which is seeing greatly increased use from pickle ball and community social and fundraising events.
- Electrical upgrades, including new outside lighting for security and safety during evening events.
- Entrance area roof upgrades and new door in the community centre.
- A deck on the lake side of the community centre.
- A new storage shed to house the snow mobile and ATV we received from Lake of the Woods Search and Rescue.

We will keep you updated on this project as it develops.

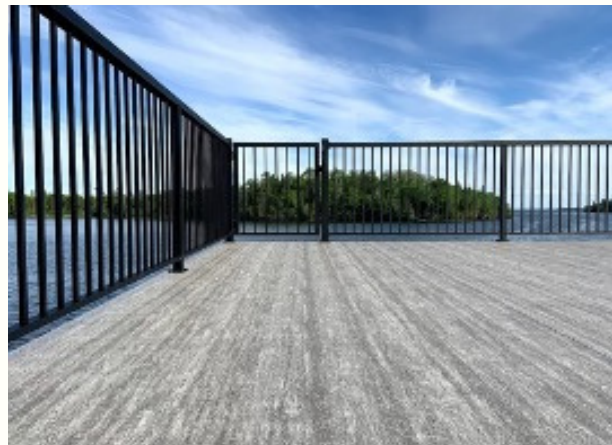
## Insurance

Most home insurance companies offer a reduced rate for clients who are within 13 km of a fire hall. This provision applies to most residents of our catchment area. Measure your distance from the firehall on the Laclu Road and check with your broker to be sure you are receiving this discount. Please be advised that the Oldford Hall substation is no longer a functioning firehall due to the lack of crew living in that area.

We have a new arrangement with a company called Fire Marque. They negotiate with insurance companies to ensure that PUFF receives funds from the insurance policy in the event of a structural fire. (This does not cost the homeowner anything. It is a normal provision in most policies). We have received some money to offset our running costs from two fires last year.

Again, thanks to everyone in the community for your ongoing support. We hope to see you at the Pancake Breakfast, and other upcoming events throughout the year.

Mark Simkin, PUFF Board of Directors Chairperson



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

PUFF / PCC runs a number of community events every year. These include: Pancake Breakfast, Symphony Bar, Bingo, Concession at Laclu Regatta, Concession at Terry Furgala Bass Tournament, Fall Supper, Snow Machine Poker Derby, Family Fishing Tournament. As well as being great community activities these events bring in about \$20,000 in revenue that helps offset the costs of running the fire hall and community centre, thus lowering everyone's tax bill. If you would like to help out even for a few hours at any of these events please let us know. [pellattfire@gmail.com](mailto:pellattfire@gmail.com).

To help with recycling call Ron at 807-543-3147