



PELLATT UNITED FIREFIGHTERS

May, 2025 Newsletter

Pellatt United Firefighters RR #1, Box 1, Site 6B Keewatin, Ontario P0X 1C0 Emergency Number: **911**

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Please Note: There will be no printed newsletter this year

Fire Chief's Report

By Chief Barry Bennett

Well folks it's that time of the year again. Spring is in the air, and we hope everyone had a good winter.

At the time of writing there is still ice on the lakes, but most of the snow has melted nicely and we have had a couple of nice little rains.

This past winter PUFF was not too busy. We had a couple of small structure fires, none of them homes and no injuries, a couple of vehicles incidents due to road conditions and a truck fire, and a few medical response calls.

The fire team practiced every week throughout the winter except for a short Christmas break.



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We also had some more renovation and upgrades done to the hall and everyone is happy with the great progress.

We invite everyone to come to the Pancake Breakfast May 18/2025 and look at the changes.

On the fire prevention side of things please remember there is no day burning from April 1/2025 thru to November 1/2025. Check your smoke and CO2 alarms, batteries and operation, check your fire extinguishers, know where they are.

Also, if you have an emergency incident use the 911 phone number as well as your 911 address (the road you are on as well as the blue house number). This system works great and speeds up response times for all agencies. Some folks still have the old address numbers out on the homes and driveways and are using them, which can be confusing at times. It would be nice if all the old numbers were taken down. It would make things easier for us.

In closing we hope everyone has a safe and fun summer, whether you are a resident, cottager, guest or just passing through our piece of paradise.

Barry Bennett
PUFF Fire Chief

911

**KNOW YOUR 911 NUMBER.
TO AVOID CONFUSION,
PLEASE REMOVE OLD
PROPERTY DESIGNATIONS,
AND WHEN CALLING FOR
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE
USE YOUR BLUE AND
WHITE 911 NUMBER.**



Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, May 18, 2025, 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 a raffle for a piece of Melissa Jean art. You can see her work [HERE!](#)

Credit Card payments will be accepted.

**VOLUNTEERS
ALWAYS WELCOME!**

Email: pellattfire@gmail.com

Board Chairperson's Report

Happy Spring to all residents of PUFF's catchment area. We hope you had a good winter. To our seasonal residents, welcome back!

This report is an update on all the business and social aspects of our vibrant organization. Fire Chief Barry Bennett's report in this newsletter informs you of all the activities of PUFF'S Fire and Emergency Response Team.

We had another very busy year at PUFF. Last year we commissioned a capital needs assessment from an engineering consulting firm to determine what we need to preserve and enhance the great community asset that is the PUFF firehall / Pellatt Community Centre in Laclu. Using the recommendations of this report we applied for and received a second grant from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation. As you will see from the accompanying photos, we have substantially improved the facilities at the hall. All our electrical panels were replaced to mitigate an identified fire hazard. The stairs in the fire hall were replaced to bring them to code. The floors in the men's and universal / handicapped washrooms were levelled to meet code, and all the washrooms were completely renovated and modernized, with motion sensor faucets installed to conserve water. All the floors in the community centre and washrooms were replaced with industrial quality flooring that should last decades. Permanent lines were painted on the community centre floor for the pickleball court. The dishwasher in the kitchen was replaced with a commercial quality unit. A three head split air heat pump was installed in the community centre to reduce heating costs and provide air conditioning in the hall. All the windows in the building are being replaced as many of them have broken seals in the sealed units. A new door is being installed in the community centre, and the roofing over the entrance ways is being replaced to match the colour of the main roof. A new deck on the lake side of the community centre will greatly enhance the space for social events. A new storage shed has been installed beside the parking area to house the rescue snow machine and sled and the side by side ATV that we inherited from Lake of the Woods Search and Rescue. With these renovations, thanks to generous support from the NOHFC and the whole community, we will have invested \$600,000 in upgrades over the last six years. *(continued on page 3...)*

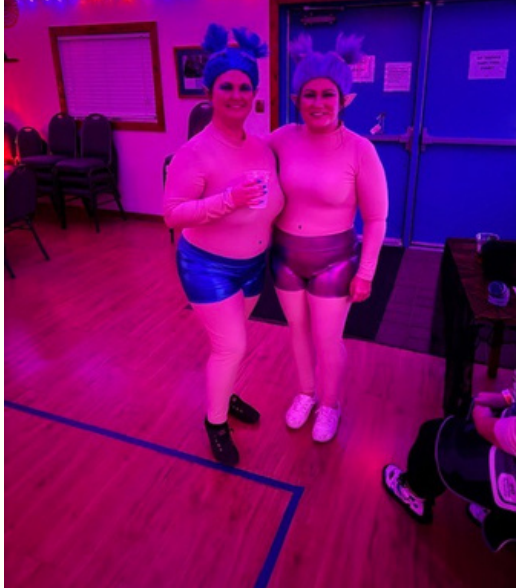


Ron and Jocelyn Mauthe, shown here receiving an Ontario Government Award for decades of Community Service, are leaving us for points west. We are very sorry to see them go, and wish them all the best, with profound thanks for everything they have done at PUFF / PCC over the years.

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This has been a very busy year socially. Our 15th annual snow machine Poker Derby was our largest and most successful ever. The family fishing tournament was well attended, in spite of difficult weather conditions. Our always sold-out fall supper, Halloween Haunt Social, and Appreciation Dinner for the Fire and Emergency crew are annual events. The pancake breakfast is coming up on the Sunday of the May Long Weekend. We hope to see you all there! We will also be serving at the July long weekend Winnipeg Symphony concert, and running the concession at the Laclu Regatta, and our annual August Long Weekend Bingo. Pickleball is a great success, with the court in use seven days a week. We will have an online booking system in place in the near future. We are holding monthly coffee house events for everyone to meet and socialize through the long winter. The Community Centre continues to be a busy venue for celebrations of life, weddings, and other social events.



PUFF is in the process of building up a \$250,000 Capital Needs Fund to cover future building repairs and fire vehicle replacement costs. Donations and revenues from fundraising social events not required for running costs are being channeled to this fund.

I especially want to thank the members of the Fire and Emergency Response Team for the countless practice hours they put in, and for their readiness to keep us all safe in all weather at any time of day or night.

I also want to thank everyone in the area for your ongoing generous support of PUFF.

And last but not least, thank you to our hardworking board of directors, and to everyone who volunteers so consistently to make all our events possible and so successful.

One final note: We are endeavouring to recruit new firefighters / emergency responders so that we can once again open the Oldford Hall fire station as an active hall.

If we can help you in any way please contact us at pellattfire@gmail.com. Have a great summer everyone!

All the best.

Mark Simkin - PUFF Board Chairperson

