



Vancouver Retired Fire Fighters



NEWSLETTER

2025 May

PRESIDENT

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President

John Hudson

Well Brothers and Sister,

I have had a great deal of difficulty putting words to paper this time around. We have lost several of our brothers in recent months. While all deserve recognition, and your Retirement Committee always tries its best to attend all Memorials, the firefighter loss that stands out for me is the loss of Tony. It has taken the wind out of my sails and the thing is, I knew it was coming. Tony's memorial was well done by all speakers sharing stories of an amazing man and human being, if we could all strive to be like Tony I am sure our world would be a better place.

The loss of Tony, the longtime President of our Retired Fire Fighters' Association leaves a gap to



fill. So, at this time the President and the Recording Secretary positions have just been reaffirmed, and the simplest solution is to move the remaining executive board members into the President's spot until the term is up for reelection. This is quite a common thing to do when a position becomes vacant due to the absence of the originally elected person.

So, for now I have accepted the position of President until the term expires. When the term expires it will become available to anyone who would like to be nominated.

I will try and keep up the high standards that Tony set, it will certainly a challenge.

As a result of me moving up, my Recording Secretary's position has now become available. This was as in the President's position, just been newly renewed and we will follow the same procedure. Gord Ditchburn has expressed some interest in joining the board so for now we will appoint Gord as the Recording Secretary until the position is up for reelection.

I am sure if anyone has any concerns regarding the two positions that they will contact the current Board members or attend the next meeting on June 5th at #17 hall.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, I wish you all a good, peaceful summer for the fishers... tight lines, the water skiers... smooth waters, mountain bikers... great trails and for all the activities that we all get up to, be safe.

Yours in Brotherhood,
John Hudson



Vice President

Albert Drinovz

I would be remiss if I didn't start my report with some information about Tony. As we all know by now Tony passed away on April 13, 2025. He suffered with cancer of the bile duct for about the last 18 months. As it is not a presumptive cancer Tony still put in a WorkSafe claim anyways. The claim was denied initially but Tony appealed that decision and the decision of denial was overturned in the appeal process and accepted. This means his death is considered a Line of Duty Death. His name will go on the wall in Colorado Springs as well as the memorial that is held in Victoria. It also has some advantages for the family. Thank you to Tony for all the hard work he did for our members and to make our association what it is today. RIP Tony, we've got it from here.

I hope that by the time this newsletter reaches you spring will have sprung. It seems like the new norm is a few days of nice weather then back to a few days of rain again. I suggest you get out all of your toys (rv's, fishing gear, boats, etc) and get them dusted off, tuned up and ready for the upcoming summer. 2025 is predicted to be warm, but not as hot as a few years ago when we had the heat dome. We'll see.

Since our last newsletter the following members passed away: Ted Lawson, Gary Dahl, Tom Leslie, Jim Adams, Carl (Bud) Kellet (at 104), Tony Neratini, John Mramor, Patrick Hayes and John (Doc) Cumbers. Some of the families have already had a service, some are not having a service, and some are yet to announced. As soon as we are informed of services we will notify everyone via email. Your executive attempts to attend all of the services as possible. I would like to thank the Honour Guard for attending many of the Celebrations of Life. They do a tremendous job of showing respect for the fallen.

New Retired members so far in 2025: Ross Burden, Alberto Burrero, Scott Berda, Michael Hatcher, Wade Tabata, Richard Kitchner, Brandon Kellner, Tim Dee, Bruce Murray, Tony Eidher, and Kevin Trott.

Congratulations to all. If I missed anyone please notify me.

Since the last newsletter I attended:

- meeting at #1 with regards to WorkSafe and retired members
- our Associations Sept. meeting at #15
- our annual dinner
- C.O.L. for Gary Dahl
- the BCPFFA fallen firefighters memorial in Victoria
- our associations March meeting at #15
- Retired FF's Wellness meeting
- 314 Fraternal Benefit Society meeting
- a zoom meeting with Howie and John
- C.O.L. for John Mramor
- C.O.L for Tony Neratini

OUR NEXT MEETING:

- **June 5, 2025**
 - 10:30 am
 - #17 firehall

If you would like to get medals mounted for your dress tunic Andrew Siwy does this. He can be contacted at: victorymedals@gmail.com

Stores is now carrying the retired flasher that go on the arms of your dress tunic.

If you are on Facebook please join the retirees group (Vancouver Fire Retirees) that Bob Hollier has created and administers. There is a lot of information on this page that will keep you up to date.

Please update your personal information (new address, email, phone number(s), etc.) with John, Howie or myself. If you haven't already supplied me with your email address please do so. A lot of information is sent out by email on such things as meetings, deaths, celebrations of life, pensions, this newsletter, etc. There are still about 30 retired members who we don't have email addresses for. **If you receive the newsletter in the mail from Canada Post, you are one of those 30!**

If there is a change to your beneficiary notify all parties (ie: pension board, banks, insurance companies, us, etc.).

Albert Drinovz

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Treasurer

Howie Brown

The end of another era; Tony is no longer here to give, to lead, as he has successfully done for so many a year. From Santa Claus to Local 18 executive and table officer, President of both the Credit Union and Retired Association, with other projects between, Tony has always given much of himself. You will be missed my friend.

With the untimely passing of Tony Camley and Jim Bathurst so many years ago, Tony was faced with continuing the work of the association with very little knowledge of what was required. Caring and diligent, Tony's focus and passion was speaking with, and assisting widows of the fallen. Spending hours on WorkSafe claims, appeals, and tribunals, Tony excelled. He assisted many families file successfully for the "Memorial Grant Program for First Responders," and won his personal claim in appeal. Your current executive will strive to fill the legacy Tony has left behind.

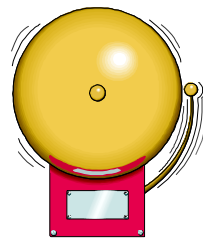
Gord Ditchburn, recently appointed as a trustee on the Municipal Pension Benefit Trust, was also acclaimed as President of the Municipal Pension Retirees' Association (MPRA) at the biennial convention. Also elected to the provincial executive were Mike Joy as Secretary, and myself as 1st Vice President. For those unaware, the MPRA is your voice regarding pension and benefits issues, promoting the interest and welfare of its members. First year free, group travel and home insurance through BelAir Direct. Check the website at: www.mpra.ca and join today.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- Our annual banquet will again be at the Sheraton Guildford, **October 20, 2025**.
- Rooms will be available for \$195.00, plus tax, per night. More information and tickets will be available near the end of August.

Howie

Last Alarm



Captain Ted Lawson	75	parkinsons
Captain Tom Leslie	80	natural causes
Captain Gary Dahl	72	cancer
Battalion Chief Jim Adam	88	natural causes
Chief TO Bud Kellet	104	natural causes
Battalion Chief Tony Neratini	74	cancer
Battalion Chief John Mramor	74	cancer
Div. Chief Comm Patrick Hayes	76	aneurysm
District Chief John (Doc) Cumbers	99	natural causes





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