

Effective teamwork is the key to success for Potton’s emergency services team

By Mable Hastings

Few would disagree that the COVID-19 pandemic has transformed life as we know it. For Potton’s firefighters and first responders the pandemic has given an opportunity to reflect upon how effective teamwork is a vital ingredient to the success of any group or task. Motivating all members of a team keeps the group strong, establishing regular and open lines of communication and taking note of feedback acknowledging the contributions and achievements of all as one team succeeding together creates a cohesive bond.

“The word team only consists of four letters,” explained James Bouthillier, Potton’s Fire Chief and Preventionist. “It is however a major focal point when you are a part of an emergency response team. We must remember that the team is bigger than ourselves, bigger than our department and extends to the community as well as to the other fire departments who often collaborate side by side with us,” he added.

The support received from the Potton municipal council members as well as the mayor and staff have been imperative for Bouthillier, who assumed the role of Fire Chief for Potton a little over a year ago. He could not be happier with his team consisting of Alex Bechard



(Lieutenant), Myriam Bernier, Charles-Antoine Biron, Dominic Bouchard, Bruno Cote, Shannon Derby, Alexandra Ducharme, Jean-Sebastien Ducharme, Jonathan Ducharme(Lieutenant), Jennifer Gardner, Stephane Gauthier, Jean-Francois Giroux (Lieutenant), Melissa Harrison, Emilie Hebert-Larue, Mathieu Laplume, Michael Laplume, Eve Milanovic, Stephen Nicholson, Rejean Neron (Lieutenant), Lydia Pouliot, Shawn Pouliot (Captain),

Monica St.Onge, Alexis Stogowski, Paul Stogowski.

While some team members are both firefighters and first responders, some members of this team are first responders only. Bouthillier was quick to state that it is the entire team that forms the emergency response unit that keeps Potton citizens safe. He also notes the new members who have recently joined the team.

Some of the accomplishments of Potton’s fire and first responder department over the past year include: three new defibrillators being installed in Potton including one at each local elementary school where the department plans to hold training sessions for the students in teaching them how to use the units. Upgrades were made to the Jaws of Life unit to increase efficiency and the first responder equipment has been upgraded making their services more efficient as well. Bouthillier also participated on the Civil Security Committee of the municipality of Potton throughout the pandemic working alongside the municipal

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We would like to thank our frontline and essential workers for their invaluable service throughout the year, especially during 2020.

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