

Firefighters receive federal, provincial and local recognition

By Bill Rea

Firefighters are always called upon to put their lives and well-being on the line, including in Caledon.

The community was recently presented a time to offer some thanks.

The town hosted Canadian and Provincial Exemplary and Long Service Medal Presentations.

"We are here to celebrate and recognize selfless individuals," commented Pastor Jeff Enns, chaplain of Caledon Fire and Emergency Services.

"We're all extremely proud of our men and women in the fire service," Mayor Allan Thompson remarked.

He added it's important to recognize all the firefighters do in the community, as it's more than just putting out fires. They also attend at road accidents, medical calls and are often out raising funds in the community.

"It's part of the community," he said. "I want to thank you for that. You're always stepping up."

"It's important to be recognized," said Fire Chief David Forfar. "That's why we're here tonight."

The event took place a couple of days before Forfar officially retired.

"It's tremendous bench mark in you life," the Chief told the medal recipients, as he urged them to wear them with pride. He also urged the fire fighters to look out for each other.

"People need support, especially in this profession," he said. "Keep an eye on each other. Keep an eye on loved ones."

Those receiving 20-year Federal Exemplary Medals were Chief Darryl Bailey, Captain Gord Brimblecombe, Firefighter David Currie, Captain Phillip Donovan, Firefighter Donald Hilson, Captain Kevin Hunt, Firefighter Jon Maciewicz, Captain Don Rea and Firefighter Ralph Sugg.

Receiving 25-year Provincial Long Service Medals were Captain Mike Bracken, Assistant District Chief Scott Jay, Firefighter Terry Bray, Firefighter William Davis, Assistant District Chief William Dixon, Firefighter Michael Melnyk and Firefighter John Kelly Judge.

District Chief David Nash received the 30-year Provincial Long Service Bar.

District Chief Mike Denreyer was presented with the 35-year Provincial Long Service Bar.

District Chief Brian Zimmerman got his 45-year Provincial Long Service Bar.

Firefighter Peter Thompson received his 55-year Provincial Long Service Bar.

Zimmerman received Town recognition for 45 years service.

Denreyer was recognized by the Town for 35 years.

Those receiving recognition from the Town for 25 years were Bracken, Jay, Bray, Davis and Dixon.

Recognition for 20 years from the town went to Hilson and Wayne Everett.

Those recognized for 15 years were Brian Ewles, Dwayne Jackson, Glenn Maclachlan, Scott Miller, Stephen Henvey and Todd Hillhouse.

Receiving recognition for 10 years service to the Town were Bruce McClure, Darryl Thompson, Frank Bajc, Pamela Hall and Kevin Hunt.

Five-year recognition went to Bryan Whyton, Daniel Hamlett, Jeffery Cowan, Shannon Hughes and Tomasz Junik.



Mayor Allan Thompson and Fire Chief David Forfar congratulated District Chief Brian Zimmerman on his 45 years of service.



Darryl Thompson, president of Local 4686 of the Caledon Professional Fire fighters' Association, made a presentation to retiring Chief David Forfar, accompanied by Mayor Allan Thompson, Chief Darryl Bailey and Deputy Chief Mark Wallace.