



## **FIRE SERVICE ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA - CONFERENCE - 2017**

The Annual Conference of the Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia was held in Truro on April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. With close to 150 in attendance, consisting of members, suppliers and guests; it's fair to say it was the largest crowd yet!

The theme of the conference was "Dealing with Special Needs and Unique Situations" and Saturday kicked off with a presentation by Barry Manual from HRM Fire on how best to deal with displaced animals. There was reference to how things were handled during Hurricane Katrina as well as locally with the forest fires outside Dartmouth in the Porter's Lake area a few years ago.

Paul Maynard then gave his update on Public Safety and Field Communications and that was followed by Thys Molenaar with the CISM update. Fred Jeffers, our new NS Fire Marshal then took to the podium to give the group the news from his office.

After door prizes were drawn and lunch was finished RCMP member Cpl. Al Hamilton and his K9 partner, Elvis were up next. Cpl Hamilton gave the group an excellent overview of how he and his K9 partner get the job done as well Cpl. Hamilton spoke of how working with members of fire departments has its own unique challenges; and he spoke of what works and where there are areas for improvement, there were many questions from the group which were all addressed. Elvis was loose in the room for a while until he decided the scraps on the trays were of interest, he then settled down by Cpl. Hamilton's side with his ball.

After break time with the suppliers Vicki Harvey, Community Outreach Coordinator with Autism NS gave her presentation of Autism and First Response, Fire Fighters as a Focus, it was a great presentation and gave those present some insight as to how best handle individuals with autism at emergency scenes and Vicki also educated us on how someone with autism looks at life through their very special and gifted lens.

Saturday evening everyone enjoyed a delicious buffet meal put on by the Holiday Inn and we were once again, this year, entertained by the very talented Ross Rankin.

Sunday we were given updates by Kara McCurdy with DNR and Rob Merchant with EHS. The day wrapped up with the final presentation before lunch, which was Jason Defosse with Code 4 Fire & Rescue, Jason and his team went to work on a car outside with equipment and power tools and also showed the group on how best to deal with new car technology.

Thanks to everyone who attended and a special thanks to Reg Casey, with Motorola, who made a generous donation towards the conference. Thanks also to the Office of the Fire Marshal for their generous donation. Thank you to the suppliers for attending and their donations for really good door prizes. Thanks to Shannon Mury, Alternate Director for Richmond County for really nice donations for the swag bags. Thanks to Ross Rankin for the wonderful music on Saturday evening and thanks go out to the whole FSANS Conference Committee for their efforts.

Last, but certainly not least, a big thanks to the catering staff and sales and marketing staff at the Holiday Inn; they never disappoint in their efforts to please us and keep everyone happy while at their hotel.

Hope to see another fantastic turnout in 2018 and the dates will be announced early in the Fall of 2017.

Have a great summer everyone.

Sincerely,

Beth Edwards, Executive Director