## Firefighters recognized for years of service, retirements, new recruits welcomed to Howick Fire Department

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Towick Fire Chief Shawn HEdwards hosted an outdoor awards ceremony on July 6 at the Howick Fire Department, presenting awards for years of service and retirement gifts, as well as welcoming new recruits and presenting their helmets.

Different levels of government and associations give awards, Edwards explained. The federal government issues a medal for exemplary service at 20 years. The provincial government issues long service medals at 25 years and bars at 30 years, and every five years after that.

The Howick Firefighters Association issues a framed 25 years, an acrylic flame at charge of health and safety.



Firefighter Kevin Stewart receiving Firefighter Bil Graham receiving his

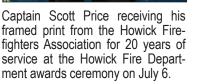


his 30 years of service bars at the 25 years of service medal at the Howick Fire Department awards Howick Fire Department awards cerceremony on July 6. Stewart works emony on July 6. Graham is retired print at 20 years, a plaque at at Molesworth Feeds, where he is in after a long career with Bell Canada.



Deputy Chief Doug Harkes receiving his 25 years of service medal at the Howick Fire Department awards ceremony on July 6.









New Recruit Kyle Dickert. Dickert is New Recruit Cassandra Hamilton. an operator/labourer with the County of Huron roads department, based out of Wroxeter.

30 years, and a watch at retirement after 30 years.

Several firefighters had al-ready received their gifts privately from the association, ment. but Edwards said, "we were "On behalf of Howick counplaying catch up with the cil and staff, I would like to to COVID."

comed the new recruits. Hard- ing said



Hamilton is a graduate from Lamb-ton College Pre-Service Fire program and currently works as a vet tech in Listowel.

ing also commented how he is pleased to see so many young people joining the depart-

medals and service bars due congratulate Firefighter Larry Kuepfer for 10 years of ser-Howick Township Reeve vice, Firefighter Scott Price Doug Harding presented sev- for 20 years of service and eral awards to Edwards and Firefighter Jamie Stewart for complimented the team for 30 years of service on the Hotheir dedication, and wel- wick Fire Department," Hard-



years of service.



morial Hospital.





New Recruit Bobbie Loughran. Loughran is a nurse at Listowel Me-

"I would also like to congratulate Fire Chief Edwards on receiving his Certified Municipal Manager Level III with fire service executive, fire suppression professional and fire training professional enhancements from the Ontario Municipal Management Institute," he added. "Howick Township council and staff appreciates all the volunteer firefighters and all they do to keep everyone safe."

Absent from the ceremony were Kuepfer and Stewart.



Retiring member Rich Dolson with Retiring member Shawn Jankura his plaque that now holds his helmet with his plaque that now holds his front patch. Dolson is retiring after six helmet front patch. Jankura is retiring after six years of service.



New Recruit Madelyn Yungblut. Yungblut is currently completing the Police Foundations program at Mohawk College and currently works as a Park Warden at a local provincial park

According to the township's website, the Howick Fire Department has provided full fire protection services to the residents of Howick since 2010. The department also runs recruit training programs.

"In a time where the average service time of a volun-



Fire Chief Shawn Edwards. Edwards has 16 years of service as a firefighter, that they have worn since they starting as a volunteer in West Grey. He has been Howick's fire chief since joined the fire department," he June 2012. He has recently completed his Certified Municipal Manager said. "I have the plaques made (CMM) Level III with Fire Service Executive, Fire Suppression Professional, up locally and mount the hel-

Edwards said.

the Advance Times in October sue it." 2020.

teer firefighter is three to five On July 6, Edwards wel- ship.

20-plus years of experience," completed all the components for NFPA 1001 Firefighter I & The department lost three of II," Edwards said in an email.

Edwards went on to say how

## 2021 Award Ceremony Recipients

YEARS OF SERVICE Kevin Stewart – 30 years Jamie Stewart – 30 years Bil Graham – 25 years Doug Harkes – 25 years Scott Price – 20 years Larry Kuepfer – 10 years

> RETIRING **FIREFIGHTERS** Rich Dolson Shawn Jankura

**NEW RECRUITS** Kyle Dickert Cassandra Hamilton Bobbi Loughran Madelyn Yungblut

am very fortunate to lead this group of professional volunteers," he said.

Edwards has gone above and beyond for his team, including creating a unique memento for his retiring firefighters.

"There is no standard issue retirement gift that I am aware of," he said when asked about the gift. "Until recently Howick only presented a watch for retirement after 30 years, which is a long time.'

"I decided to take it upon myself to start giving everyone who retires after five years of service a plaque that has Cory Bilyea Photos their helmet front patch on it met front on them myself, and present them upon retirement." Howick Fire operates from its station located at 2005 Nelson St. in Gorrie.

The department comprises a fire chief, deputy chief, three fire captains, a training officer, a mechanical officer, and 18 volunteer firefighters.

To learn more about Howick Fire Department and its recruitment process, contact Edwards at howickfire@ howick.ca.

its volunteer firefighters - one "Provincial certification testto retirement, and two moved ing will be made available to on – according to a report by them should they wish to pur-At that time, the department much he values his team and was looking for three recruits. their dedication to the town-

years, Howick Township is comed four new recruits to "The dedication and comextremely fortunate to have a number of firefighters with the Howick Fire Department. This year's recruit class has firefighters is fantastic and I