

Message from the Fire Chief

On September 15, 2008 the City and Pickering Fire Services reached a new milestone which ensured all residents within the City have access to full-time emergency protection 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.



For the first time in the history of Pickering Fire Services, the citizens living in the Village of Claremont and the surrounding rural hamlets have full-time firefighters able to respond in a timely manner to fires, motor vehicle accidents and emergency medical alarms, etc., without having to wait for crews responding from the south urban area.

It is ironic that full-time staffing of Claremont has occurred exactly 100 years from the time the Claremont Fire Department was born.

In May 2008 interest arbitration was awarded from negotiations with the Pickering Professional Firefighters Association (PFFA). The award was for the period 2006-2009 inclusive. The arbitration provides for an updated collective agreement and allows for building a positive relationship between labour and management.

Promotional examinations for acting officers took place in 2008. Five new Acting Platoon Chiefs and eight new Acting Captains were successful in the examination process. These acting officer positions provide a basis for career planning within Pickering Fire Services.

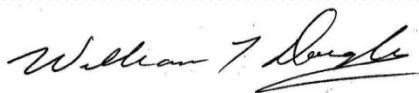
As well, the newly created ranks of Chief Fire Prevention Officer and Chief Training Officer were filled by Fire Prevention Officer Rex Heath and Training Officer Michael Gamba respectively.

In recognition of our expertise on the subject of methamphetamine drug lab fires, the Research and Statistics Division of the Department of Justice has requested our Fire Services to assist them in a study to develop national training standards and protocols for first responders to these types of alarms.

As always, Mayor David Ryan and Members of Council continue to support myself and Pickering Fire Services in our commitment to provide our residents with the very best fire and emergency protection possible.

Our Chief Administrative Officer, Thomas J. Quinn and Everett Buntsma, Director, Operations and Emergency Services have provided invaluable guidance to me from day one.

The residents of Pickering never fail to show their appreciation to our staff for the service we provide them. It is such a pleasure that we can now provide our rural residents the same emergency response as everyone else in the City. Our collective leadership in this regard will save many lives and property over the coming years.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William T. Douglas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

William T. Douglas
Fire Chief