

IT'S OFFICIAL!

Practise makes perfect! Councillor Roughley "cut the firehose" to officially declare the new Firehall open. Looking on is Honourary Fire Chief Ted Bulpit (left) and new Fire Chief Ted Mendrek (right).



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It's Official!



Retiring Fire Chief Ted Bulpit receives a plaque from Mayor Bill DePeuter, in recognition of his years of service.

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About 200 people turned out under sunny, hot, skies to watch an obviously proud Mayor DePeuter officially open Bradford's new \$1 million-plus Fire Hall.

And, as MPP Bruce Owen noted, "You did it yourselves", without grants from any level of government. Funds for the Fire Hall were raised entirely by debentures.

Among those on hand to congratulate the town were MP John Cole, Simcoe County Warden Don Bell, County Fire Co-ordinator Chief J. V. McAllister, Fire Chairman Dennis Roughley, and Fire

Chiefs from across the County.

Several Councillors from West Gwillimbury township, which receives Fire Protection services from the Bradford Fire Dept., and which owns one of the Department's tanker trucks, were in the audience.

Opening remarks included a brief look at the history of Bradford's Fire Department, which began in 1858 as the Bradford Fire Protection Company. In those days, all a volunteer needed was a 25¢ membership fee and a bucket to be a firefighter.

While the Department is still comprised largely of volunteers, the 25 firefighters no longer rely on buckets and fire hose houses, but are trained to use highly

sophisticated equipment. And the same "unprecedented growth" that led Bradford Council to approve the construction of the new Firehall last June, has also led to the hiring of a full-time Fire Chief.

The Opening was Chief Ted Mendrek's first official public appearance in that capacity. As part of the ceremony, retiring Fire Chief Ted Bulpit was honoured for his forty-nine years of service, eleven of those as Chief, and received a plaque and the title of Honorary Fire Chief, from the Mayor.

Despite some minor glitches - the dedication plaque not arriving on time, with blame attributed to the trucker's strike - everything went well, from the speeches of



Kids and fire trucks just naturally go together! Megan Pearsell, 2, tries out the equipment at the Official Opening of the new Firehall last Saturday.

welcome, to the traditional hose-cutting. Public and invited guests then stepped inside for refreshments and a tour of the new facility.

The Hall, constructed by Inducon Design Build, houses 10,000 sq. ft. of apparatus space and administrative offices, including a 57' high training and hose-drying tower and garage space for up to eight vehicles.

It replaces the old Firehall on Holland Street East, built in 1984, and in fact, has been occupied by the Fire

Department since late January. It is unlikely that the new facility will become obsolete as quickly as did the old. The potential for adding a second storey means that the new Firehall can service a population of up to 30,000.

All in all, it was a perfect day for the Fire Department. The rain held off until after the ceremony, the Hall met the highest expectations, and although two vehicles and five firefighters were on standby, no emergency calls marred the Opening.