



**MCKENZIE  
CLEARWATER  
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

# SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER

## Introducing the new Rescue 65 The Newest Addition to the McKenzie Clearwater Fire Department Fleet

Thanks to generous community donations and fundraising, the McKenzie Clearwater Fire Department (MCFD) now proudly owns a new Ford 550 Rescue Truck, designated Rescue 65. It is equipped with Jaws of Life, medical rescue equipment, winches, supply bars, and more.

The previous Rescue 65, a 1995 GMC 3500 diesel truck donated by Rick Suche in 2015, had become unreliable with electrical issues, rust, and space limitations. As MCFD's responsibilities grew beyond basic auto extrication to include ambulance assists, heavy auto rescue, and ice water rescue, the old truck could no longer carry all necessary equipment. MCFD also needed a vehicle capable of towing its fireboat, Pumper 62, and its snowmobile, Rescue 63.

Initially, the Board considered replacing only the chassis, but the 30-year-old body's deficiencies made a new truck the better choice. Purchasing a stock unit from Fort Garry Fire Trucks reduced delivery time to six months instead of two years.

***The new Rescue 65 nearly doubles MCFD's equipment capacity, with extra room for future expansion.***

Slide-out drawers provide easy access, and 12v power outlets support battery-operated tools. The truck's 360-degree scene lighting enhances safety at emergency sites.

Firefighter Bree Haney praised the truck's functionality, saying, "We each organized a section. I arranged the medical equipment from minor to major injuries. We have full sections for auto extrication, ice water rescue, backboards, and rescue sleds. The truck was an amazing purchase!"

Rescue 65 is deployed for medical calls and highway accidents, where visibility is critical. Firefighter Coral Johnson summed it up: "I absolutely love it! Not worrying whether the truck will start and knowing we can jump in and go really improves our efficiency."



## Response report MCFD year of 2024

<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
FIRE STRUCTURE	OUTDOOR FIRE	WATER RESCUE	FALSE ALARMS	HWY/VEHICLE EXTRACTION	MEDICAL CALLS	DAY BURNING COMPLAINT	ASSIST OTHER DEPARTMENTS

### New Volunteer Fire Fighters are always needed!

Join our fantastic team: learn new skills and make new friends (wouldn't your Mama be proud?!)  
To learn more contact Fire Chief Dale Charbonneau at [firerescue@mckenzieclearwaterfire.ca](mailto:firerescue@mckenzieclearwaterfire.ca).



# Proud to be Canadian

## Join us for the Annual Firefighters' Fundraising Dinner

McKenzie Clearwater Fire Department

SATURDAY JULY 5

Cocktails at 5PM Dinner at 6PM

Live Auction hosted by Gregg Maidment

Ash Rapids Lodge



Tickets available now for \$250 each  
[mckenzieclearwaterfire.ca](http://mckenzieclearwaterfire.ca)

## 2025 CALENDAR

Saturday, May 17 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

### Season kickoff Pancake Breakfast at the Firehall

Tuesday, May 20 7 p.m.

### MCFD Regular Board Meeting

Contact [info@mckenzieclearwaterfire.ca](mailto:info@mckenzieclearwaterfire.ca) to register

Sunday, June 22 10 a.m.

### MCFD Annual General Meeting

Clearwater Bay Firehall

Saturday, July 5 5 – 10 p.m.

### Annual Firefighters' Fundraising Dinner

Friday, October 31

### Halloween Trick or Trunk

Saturday, November 29

### Kenora Christmas Parade

## Free Pancake Breakfast!

Don't miss the season kickoff Pancake Breakfast, happening on May 17 from 9AM - 12PM at the MCFD Firehall on Hwy 17 W.

Bring the whole family and check out the new fire truck—Rescue 65!



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## FIREFIGHTER PROFILE

### Coral Johnson

A passion for helping others and being first on the scene led Coral Johnson to volunteer with McKenzie–Clearwater Fire Department (MCFD) in 2021. She joined without knowing anyone and now considers her 21 fellow firefighters a second family.

Beyond ongoing MCFD training, Coral's schooling and work experience give her confidence at rescue scenes. After high school in Winnipeg, she worked ambulance shifts for a stretcher service handling non-emergency patient transfers. Five years ago, she moved to Clearwater Bay, completed a year of paramedic school through Seven Gens, and now works occasional shifts as an Ambulance Communication Officer for Lake of the Woods District Hospital. Her full-time job is in Patient Services for the Sunset Country Family Health Team. With MVCs and medical calls making up most of MCFD's responses, her medical background has been invaluable.

***Coral, 26, is one of three female firefighters on the team. She finds MCFD welcoming and has “made so many friends and connections.”***

Last summer, she was dispatching a fire call for a burning boathouse, then 15 minutes later, off duty, she joined the MCFD team on scene. The boathouse was connected to a cabin by a staircase, which firefighters chainsawed in half to stop the fire from spreading. After hours of work, they saved the cabin.

Coral has long been passionate about community. In grade eight, she started a hockey tournament that ran six years and raised \$120,000 for children's charities. She also applauds MCFD's participation in Heroes Week at Zig Zag Yacht Club, where kids interact with firefighters and equipment, possibly inspiring future careers.

Outside of firefighting, Coral enjoys boating, fishing, swimming, and relaxing on the dock. A lifelong dog lover, she goes everywhere with Scout, her rescued companion of three years. Her motto: “Be there on someone's worst day to make it a little bit better!”

## Introducing MCFD New Administrative Manager

Renée Demaré has joined the team at the McKenzie–Clearwater Fire Department as the Administrative Manager. Renée is a long time Lake of the Woods resident, first at her parents' cottage on Deception Bay and now at her own family cottage on Shoal Lake. Thus, she is very pleased to contribute to the important work of our volunteer Fire Department.

Renée's duties include maintaining corporate and accounting records, organizing board meetings, assisting with grant applications and participating in fundraising activities such as ticket sales and donations for the MCFD Annual Fundraising Dinner.

If you have any questions or comments about the work of the MCFD, don't hesitate to reach out to us at [info@mckenzieclearwaterfire.ca](mailto:info@mckenzieclearwaterfire.ca) and Renée will get back to you.

*Coral with Scout, a three year old rescue dog, part German Sheppard and part Husky. Coral has been a dog owner her whole life.*







## MCKENZIE CLEARWATER FIRE DEPARTMENT—

# 8 Years of Gratitude and Counting

*By Sheldon and Penny Bowles,  
McKenzie Portage Fire Road II*

For 45 years Penny and I drove by the Clearwater Fire Hall and hoped we'd never be in a major accident, or have a cottage fire and need MCFD's support. Our support for MCFD though was spotty. Just not top-of-mind.

Then, eight years ago, Penny fell down our cottage steps, cracked her head several times on the way down, and, as the doctor put it, turned her left wrist into a smashed eggshell plus a major nasty to her left ankle.

I heard the tumble, found her, and as she came round, she wasn't able to move. I called an ambulance for help.

First on the scene was the MCFD. With expertise, compassion and gentle skill they saw her loaded onto a stretcher and into an ambulance. As quickly as they arrived, they were gone—truck to the firehall and themselves, no doubt, back to family and dinner. We don't know who they were but we do know the difference they made and we remain deeply grateful to them. They were amazing.

You may never need MCFD yourself, but they respond to more than 100 emergencies every year. Chances are someone you care for will need them. Since Penny's tumble we've been grateful annual donors. I hope you will join us supporting MCFD's volunteers saving lives, making a difference.

## 2024–25 Board of Directors

Rick Suche, Chairperson  
David Reid, Vice-Chairperson  
Ted Sherritt, Treasurer  
Dorothy Chase, Secretary  
Gordon Pritchard, Director  
Jason Cousin, Director  
Ailbe Prendiville, Director  
Dale Charbonneau, Director  
Todd Skene, Director  
Keith Dixon, Director  
Shannon Johnson, Director

The McKenzie–Clearwater Fire Department is looking for motivated individuals to join our volunteer Board of Directors. Help guide MCFD mission to serve and protect our beautiful cottage country by bringing your leadership skills and passion for public safety to the table.

**To get involved, email**  
[info@mckenzieclearwaterfire.ca](mailto:info@mckenzieclearwaterfire.ca)

## 2025 Donation Form

The important rescue work provided by the MCFD is done by **volunteer Firefighters**. The **majority of the MCFD budget is generated through donations and fundraising** efforts by the Board of Directors and volunteers including the Firefighters. **Less than half of the cost of providing fire and rescue service** is paid by fees collected by the LSB on your property tax bill.

Please give generously.

Name of Donor(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Name for Official Donation Receipt: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \$

Mail your donation to MCFD, Box 20, Clearwater Bay, ON P0X 1S0  
Thank-you! Your generosity is sincerely appreciated.



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