



VAUGHAN FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

2020 ANNUAL REPORT





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MESSAGE FROM

Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua

I am pleased to extend my sincere appreciation to every member of the Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS) for their commitment to keeping our families, friends and neighbours safe, especially now as we continue to respond to COVID-19. On behalf of all Vaughan citizens, we recognize the sacrifices you make each day in the line of duty and are thankful for all you do.

Emergency services are vital to healthy, safe and active communities. Members of the VFRS work around the clock to respond to our residents' needs. At the onset of the global pandemic, this team of dedicated professionals answered the call of service, delivering emergency kits to our most vulnerable citizens. Every day in every way, they demonstrate honour, compassion and humanity, which is what earned the VFRS an unprecedented 100 per cent satisfaction rating from the people of Vaughan. This is a testament to the important work firefighters undertake to safeguard our communities.

VFRS continues to be recognized in Ontario as a leader in emergency service delivery. To support our rapidly growing community, Vaughan's 10th fire station opened last year. With the addition of Fire Station 7 - 4, we are bringing vital emergency services closer to home for Kleinburg residents. This state-of-the-art, 10,000 square foot building has three drive-through bays, living quarters for the on-shift crew and was built in alignment with current Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) standards.

In 2020, the Rick Hansen Foundation awarded Fire Station 7-4 and Fire Station 7-10 with a Gold Certification for Accessibility — the highest recognition the foundation can bestow. These two Vaughan fire stations are the first in Canada to receive this coveted recognition. This is a truly remarkable accomplishment that reflects Vaughan's commitment to accessibility and inclusion.

Above and beyond rapid emergency response, members of the VFRS are always present in our city — volunteering their time to raise awareness and educate the public about fire safety and prevention.

We are proud and grateful for the exceptional team of firefighters we have in Vaughan. Once again, I wish to recognize every member of the VFRS for their unwavering dedication, determination and compassion. Thank you for serving our city with pride and honour.

Sincerely,


Hon. Maurizio Bevilacqua, P.C.
Mayor



MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Nick Spensieri

On behalf of the City of Vaughan's Senior Leadership Team – Executive, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS) members for their continued work every day to keep our communities safe.

As COVID-19 persists, the ongoing dedication of Fire Chief Andrew Zvanitajs and members of VFRS as first responders to Vaughan citizens is admirable and reflects the very best of delivering Service Excellence.

I also want to extend my thanks to former Vaughan Fire Chief Deryn Rizzi. The City benefited from her strong leadership and experience, particularly during these unprecedented times.

Throughout 2020, the City of Vaughan's employees have not slowed down. The global pandemic abruptly changed the traditional way of doing things – but the City was well-prepared. Across the organization, every department has risen to the challenge to continue city-building and provide the quality services people rely on, and VFRS is a prime example of this resiliency and tenacity in the face of challenges.

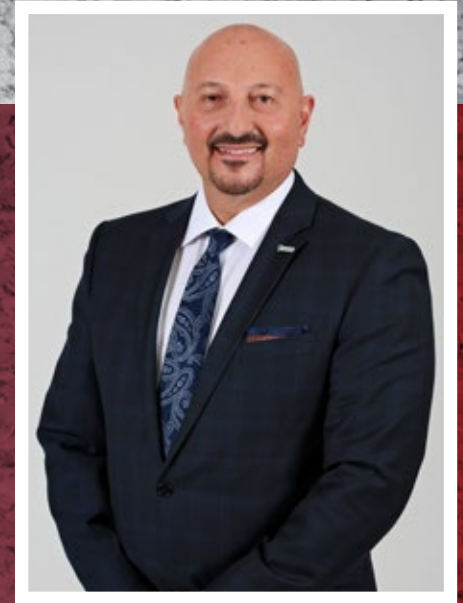
From March to October 2020, VFRS distributed more than 1,500 COVID-19 safety kits to vulnerable community members, continuously monitored alerts from several utility and environmental stakeholders and assisted with the procurement of personal protective equipment. In addition, VFRS

conducted a critical infrastructure review and training for more than 200 members of the emergency management team that continued in the months that followed, among other initiatives you will read about in this annual report.

Vaughan's administration is proud of VFRS's work in 2020 and is grateful for their continued efforts in ensuring Vaughan's resiliency throughout the global pandemic and beyond.



Nick Spensieri
City Manager, City of Vaughan
On behalf of the Senior Leadership Team – Executive



MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE FIRE CHIEF

Andrew Zvanitajs



Without question, 2020 was a challenging year for our service. The COVID-19 global pandemic tested our policies, personal protective equipment (PPE) and staffing levels, all while maintaining the level of service our citizens have come to expect.

Although the pandemic has changed the way we implement our technical initiatives, we have not lost sight of the ultimate goal of being a leading fire service in the province. Every aspect of our business is being evaluated to ensure efficiency and alignment with the industry's best practices.

I want to acknowledge former Fire Chief Deryn Rizzi. Chief Rizzi led the Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS) through its most challenging year and her leadership kept a steady hand on an otherwise turbulent period. We thank Chief Rizzi for her 20 years of dedicated service to the citizens of Vaughan.

All divisions within the VFRS continue to demonstrate dedication and devotion to their profession, like no other. Whether it's answering 9-1-1 calls, keeping the fire trucks mechanically sound, inspecting long-term care homes, or training our firefighters and supporting day-to-day operations, our staff continue to go above and beyond the call of duty to keep our citizens safe.

As one of the fastest-growing cities in Canada, the VFRS team is ready, willing and able to excel when met with the challenges of an evolving city.

I would also like to thank Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua and Members of Council for their continued support and leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic.


Fire Chief Andrew Zvanitajs
Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service

VFRS MANAGEMENT TEAM



*Deputy Fire Chief
Grant Moffatt*



*Deputy Fire Chief
Mike Doyle*



*Deputy Fire Chief
Rob Grimwood*



*Assistant Deputy Fire Chief
Michael Ing*

OUR MOTTO

PRIDE AND HONOUR

OUR MISSION

To provide programs to protect lives, property and the environment from adverse effects of fire, medical emergencies and other dangerous conditions.

PHILOSOPHY OF OPERATIONS

- **Success** is dependent on providing citizens with what they need, when they need it—always.
- Fairness, integrity, and trust as essential **qualities** of ethical emergency service.
- Progressive thinking and learning through employee involvement and **teamwork**.
- **Citizens** as customers, deserving the highest quality of service.
- Duty-bound through perseverance and commitment to **excellence**.
- Our **trademark** caring about people with dignity and respect.





VFRS SENIOR COMMAND TEAM

PLATOON CHIEFS

A Platoon - Brian Culp
B Platoon - Jason Salisny
C Platoon - Robert Wilk
D Platoon - Peter Maynard

DISTRICT CHIEFS

A Platoon - William Smillie
B Platoon - Jerry Nicosia
C Platoon - Michael Gorveatt
D Platoon - Jack Benbihy

Training Division - Chief Training Officer

Michelle Moulton

Fire Prevention Division - Chief Fire Prevention Officer

Darren Lynch

Mechanical Division - Chief Mechanical Officer

Chris Dennis

Communications Division - Supervisor

Andrea Alexander





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



2020 was a year filled with challenge. From lock downs to personal protective equipment requirements, VFRS staff were called upon to work in a very different environment. From an altered frontline service delivery model to showing our flexibility in procurement, inspections, and education, we had the opportunity to demonstrate our ability to pivot on a moment's notice and showcase our skills and commitment to service excellence nearly every day over the last year.

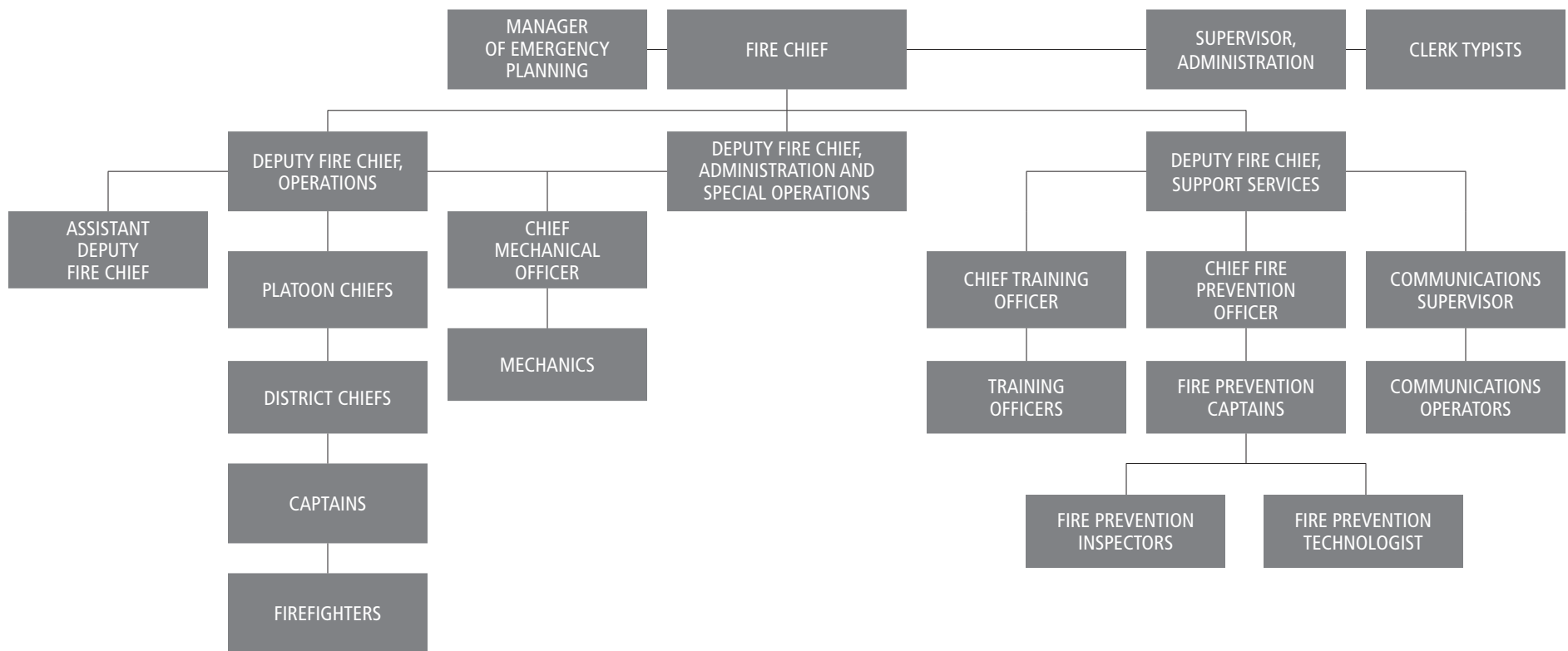
Despite the pandemic, VFRS continued to play a role in city building. Our Fire Prevention Division assisted to help Canada's first smart technology hospital close out major construction in preparation for an early 2021 opening as well as inspecting and examining plans for growth in the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre, Vaughan's new hub within the Highway 7 corridor. In early 2020, the VFRS was also proud to open Station 74 to serve the Nashville-Kleinburg community.

While still attending over 10,000 incidents in 2020, we adapted almost daily in the early days of the pandemic to be able to deliver our frontline services uninterrupted. This ability to adapt and be flexible allowed medical emergencies, fires, and specialized rescues to all receive full responses despite new measures to help protect our staff and citizens. This annual report not only highlights some of these moments and accomplishments but the people that made them possible.



VAUGHAN FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Organizational Structure



2020

Highlights



3,372 public
educations events (**198** fire
prevention events + **3,174**
Alarm for Life)



3,174 homes
visited for Alarm
for Life



1,230 Inspections
CLOSED



10,033
ALARM CALLS



972
PLAN
EXAMINATIONS
CLOSED



OUR STRATEGIC DIRECTION

VFRS continues to use an Objectives and Key Results (OKRs) framework to track its departmental goals and outcomes. This helps support the alignment of resources, priorities, processes and technology with Vaughan's 2018-2022 Term of Council Service Excellence Strategic Plan. This also helps align annual budgets (both operating and capital), program areas, key activities and programs to deliver on the City's goals.

OBJECTIVE 1

- Shorten response time through an upgraded pre-emptive traffic technology pilot program in partnership with York Region.

OBJECTIVE 2

- Continue to provide a comprehensive fire protection program through public education and fire prevention within the city.

OBJECTIVE 3

- Build a new fire station for operations in 2023.

OBJECTIVE 4

- Implement Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911) system.

OBJECTIVE 5

- Strengthen capacity to manage emergencies that align with the mandatory elements of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act and its regulations.



Term of Council Service Excellence Strategic Plan 2018-2022

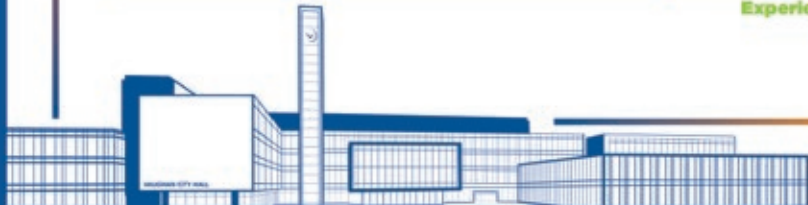
Mission ● —
Citizens first
through Service
Excellence.

Vision ● —
A city of choice that promotes diversity,
innovation and opportunity for all citizens,
fostering a vibrant community life that is
inclusive, progressive, environmentally
responsible and sustainable.

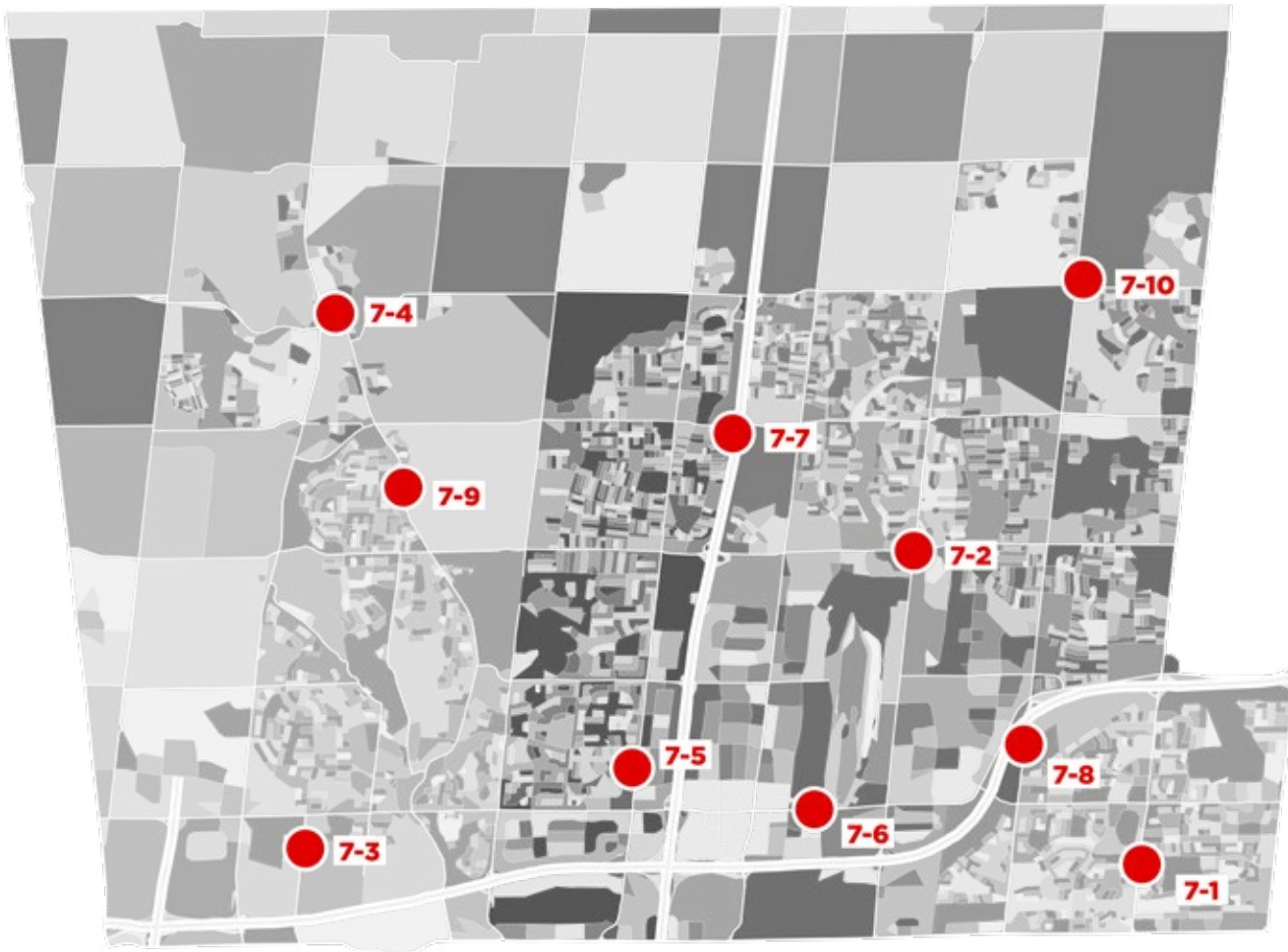
Values ● —
Respect
Accountability
Dedication

The 2018-2022 Term of Council Service Excellence Strategic Plan reinforces the City of Vaughan's mission, vision and values, representing the core of how the administration will go above and beyond to deliver on Council's priorities through Service Excellence.

The Strategic Plan identifies the strategic priorities that the administration will focus on to support the City of Vaughan in being a City of Choice for both residents and businesses.



VFRS RESPONSE AREA MAP



STATION 7-1

835 Clark Ave. W.

STATION 7-2

9290 Keele St.

STATION 7-3

7690 Martin Grove Rd.

STATION 7-4

835 Nashville Rd.

STATION 7-5

2 Fieldstone Dr.

STATION 7-6

120 McCleary Crt.

STATION 7-7

40 Eagleview Hts.

STATION 7-8

111 Rocco Pky.

STATION 7-9

9601 Islington Ave.

STATION 7-10

10800 Dufferin St.



#ff

Our Community Fire

GIVING BACK



The Vaughan Professional Firefighters Benevolent Fund, which began in 1992, is the charitable arm of the Vaughan Professional Firefighters Association. The Benevolent Committee and its members aim to support local charities through donations and volunteer support. Annual events include Muscular Dystrophy Boot Drives with incoming recruit classes and an inter-department 4-on-4 hockey tournament. To conclude our \$100,000 pledge to the Cortellucci Vaughan hospital, the Committee organized a golf tournament in the works for summer of 2020 with a long list of sponsors. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions on public gatherings, almost all events were put on hold. We participated in a virtual food drive last spring and we were able to present the food bank with a cheque presentation at Easter.

The Committee's Movember team managed to shift the annual Movember campaign virtual, and it was a success! Exceeding the goal of \$4500, over \$5100 was raised in support of men's health, even creating VPFPA/Movember face masks to help with cause. We have missed not being out physically giving back to the community over the past year and are excited to continue our support of local charities in 2021.





FIELD SUPPORT UNIT AND



Volunteers play an essential role within the Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service. Both our Field Support unit and the Honor Guard attended many events and incidents over the past year. The Field Support Unit attended 5 structure fires throughout the year, assisting the crews with rehabilitation. We also attended Concerts in the Park, The CP holiday train supporting the Vaughan food bank and the Remembrance Day Ceremony in Woodbridge. This vehicle is manned by Volunteers which consists of five current staff and retirees from the department. The Vaughan Fire and Rescue Honor Guard were also busy this past year attending the Recruit Graduation ceremony, Funerals, events at Vaughan City Hall for the Mayor and Counsel and the Remembrance Day Ceremony in Woodbridge. The Honor guard consist of approximately 14 current and retired Firefighters, Captains and Communications operators of the department. Both the Vaughan Honor Guard and the Field Support Team always remain at the ready and prepared to assist the Department, the Mayor and Council, and the citizens of Vaughan whenever called upon. Pride and Honor.



In 2020, our staff handled the global pandemic with dignity, efficiency and professionalism. In 2021, I look forward to continuing the Service Excellence the city of Vaughan has come to expect.

**Deputy Fire Chief
Mike Doyle**

HONOUR GUARD



COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION



Spring 2020 brought the arrival of the current global pandemic and over the last year, it has shifted the way VFRS has conducted business and served citizens. Increased health and safety protocols in the communications centre and additional call screening questions have been implemented to protect firefighters and citizens alike.

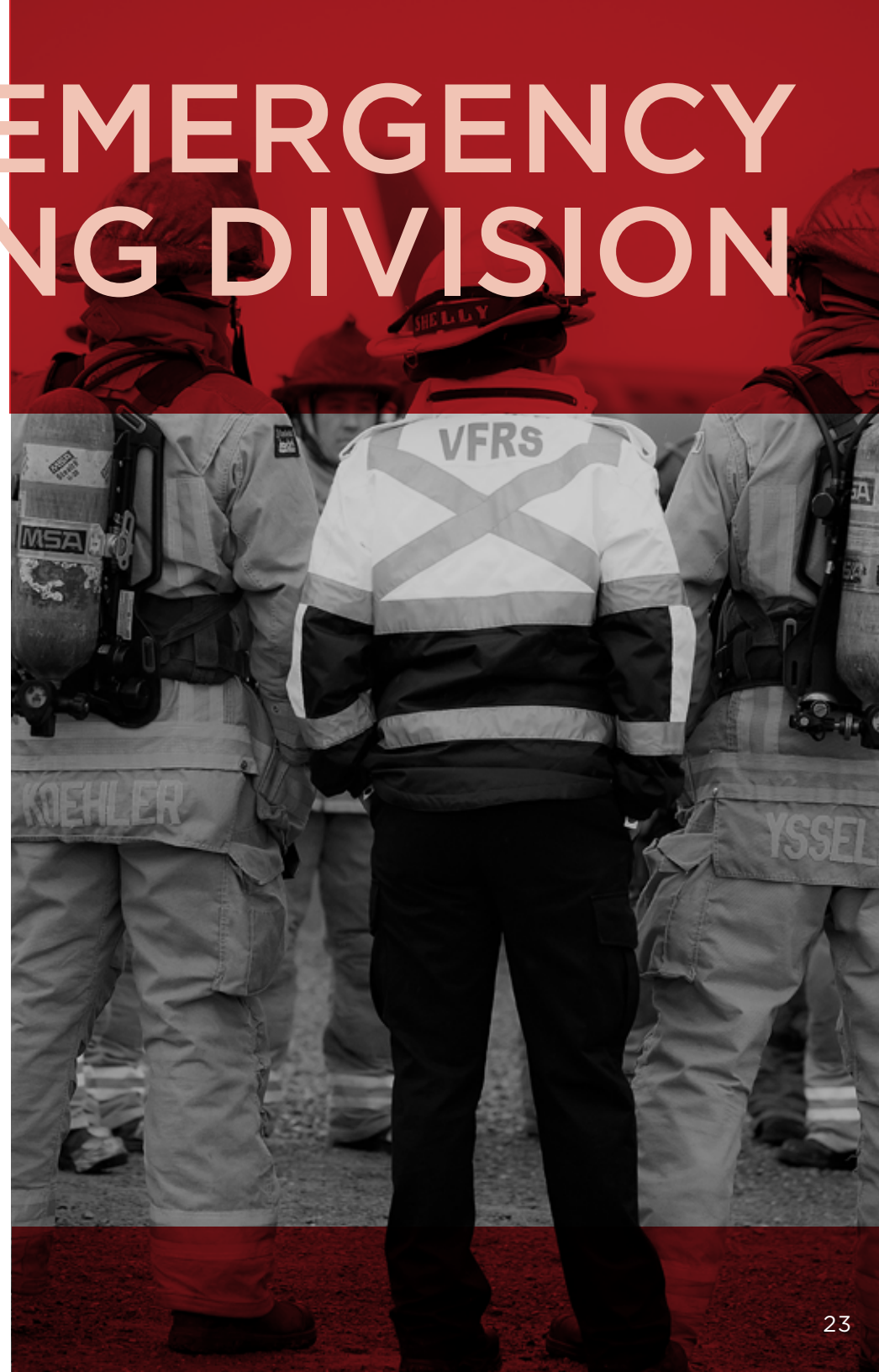
The Communications Division continues to strive towards Service Excellence and is in the midst of preparing to transition to Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911) over the next two years. This enhanced 9-1-1 technology will replace our current system to better meet our needs going forward.

EMERGENCY PLANNING DIVISION

The primary focus for the Program in 2020 was the COVID-19 pandemic. The year began with monitoring through routine operations; the global situation as the virus spread rapidly across the world. As the case counts grew, emergency management operations moved to enhanced monitoring in late January and then to activation of the emergency plan and emergency operations centre in March. An emergency was declared on March 17, 2020 by the Mayor that continues to be in place.

Prior to the onset of the pandemic in Canada, a comprehensive review and update of business continuity plans was facilitated by the Program. The updates to the business continuity plans ensured that departments had strategies in place to maintain delivery of critical services during the first and second waves.

Early in the response, it was identified that research on the response actions and issues from around the world, and data and analytics specific to the City's situation were needed. In coordination with the Office of Transformation and Strategy and Vaughan Public Libraries, subject matter experts were recruited from different departments to form two Teams - Research and Data and Analytics. The ongoing efforts of these teams provided the Emergency Management Team (EMT) with necessary local data and best practices and lessons learned from across the globe to make evidence-based decisions to manage the emergency and protect the safety and health of our citizens.





The pandemic emergency is very different than most hazards and threats that the EMT manages. Unlike emergencies such as fires, severe weather, power outages and hazardous materials incidents, a pandemic does not have a site or clearly visible presence. To see how we were progressing, we had to rely heavily on data and analytics.

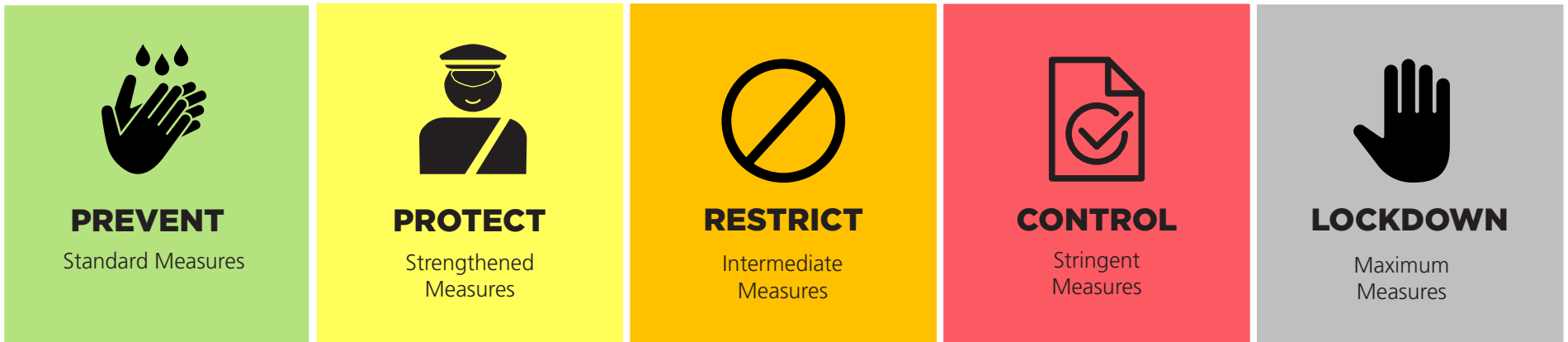
To gather our own lessons learned in a timely fashion and develop continuous improvements, staff from the Office of Transformation and Strategy worked with the Program to conduct interviews and surveys to evaluate our response to the pandemic at strategic points during the first and second waves of the pandemic. The evaluations conducted resulted in four action reports that identified 30 recommendations to further enhance our emergency management capabilities.

The City emerged as a hotspot in both the first and second waves of the pandemic. Through years of training and exercise, the EMT had the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively respond. The EMT adapted operations to the Three Stage Reopening Strategy as we began to emerge from the first wave in a cautious manner as data identified spikes in new cases that correlated to Mother's Day, Victoria Day and Canada Day.

The onset of the second wave in October saw case counts rise to six times higher than in the first wave. The EMT adapted operations to Stage 2 and then to the colour coded new COVID-19 Response Framework to Help Keep the Province Safe and Open issued by the Government of Ontario in November.

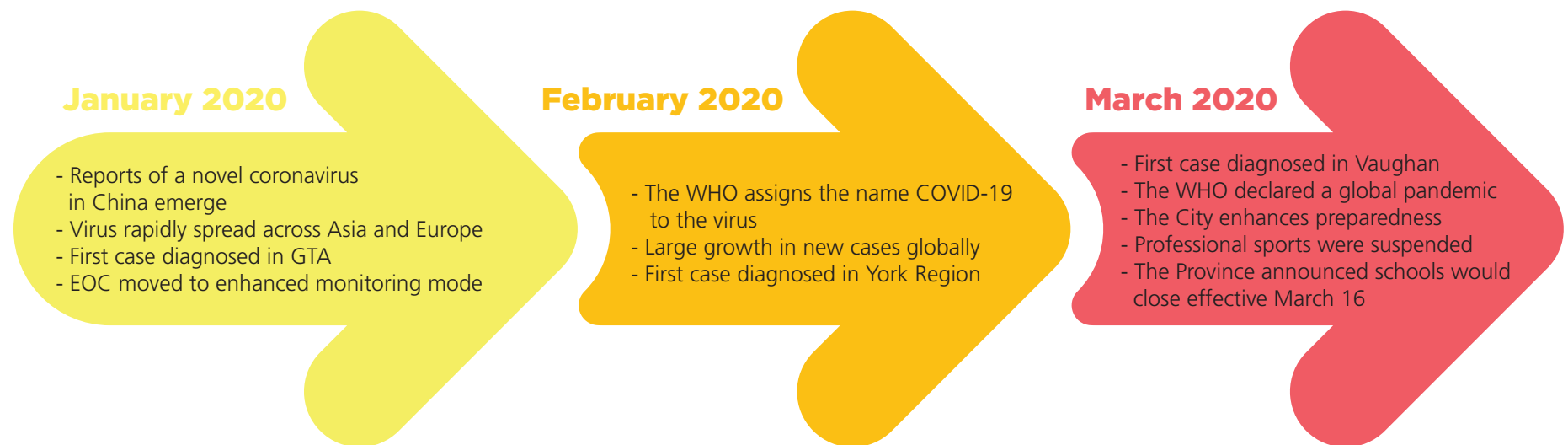
Restrictions were reinstated for the Red Control Zone in November and shortly after, for the Gray Lockdown Zone. As the year was coming to an end, the Province issued a stay at home directive that took effect on December 26th which necessitated closure of some City facilities. The second wave of the pandemic brought with it mutations to the virus creating three new Variants of Concern; the United Kingdom (B.1.1.7), South Africa (B.1.351) and the Brazil (P.1) that transmitted more efficiently than the original virus.

December also brought a glimmer of hope to citizens and the EMT as Health Canada approved two vaccines to help us in our fight against COVID-19. Distribution of both the Pfizer BioNTech and Moderna vaccines was initiated through the Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital and Long-Term Care facilities.



Restrictions were reinstated for the Red Control Zone in November and, shortly after, for the Grey Lockdown Zone. As the year was coming to an end, the Province issued a stay-at-home order that took effect on Dec. 26, resulting in the closure of some City facilities. The second wave of the pandemic brought with it three new Variants of Concern: the United Kingdom (B.1.1.7), South Africa (B.1.351) and Brazil (P.1) that transmitted more aggressively than the original virus.

December brought a glimmer of hope to citizens and the EMT as Health Canada approved two vaccines to help Canadians in the fight against COVID-19. Distribution of both the Pfizer BioNTech and Moderna vaccines initiated through Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital and long-term care facilities.



FIRE PREVENTION



The Fire Prevention Division is committed to providing Vaughan citizens with the first two lines of defence: public education and fire inspection code enforcement. Currently, VFRS employs nine fire inspectors, two fire protection technologists/plan examiners and two fire prevention captains under the supervision of a chief fire prevention officer.


Members of the team:

- review building permits with fire detection and suppression systems.
- conduct fire safety inspections of new existing buildings.
- implement enforcement tools under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act.
- provide fire prevention cross-training to the Operations Division.
- investigate fires to determine the origin and cause.
- deliver fire safety public education through organized events, media, door-to-door campaigns and training sessions.

FIRE PREVENTION INITIATIVES

The Fire Prevention Public Education Division came up with new initiatives to serve the community. They collaborated with Vaughan Public Libraries (VPL) and read a Robert Munsch book called “The Fire Station” for VPL’s Story Time Program. They also teamed up with technology students from Tommy Douglas Secondary School to create six videos about changing smoke alarm batteries. Three of the six videos aired on City TV on March 6, 2020. All videos were shared on the City’s social media channels. Seven videos were produced to promote Fire Prevention Week, one of which featured Mitch Marner, Alternate Captain for the Toronto Maple Leafs, who spoke about fire safety. All the videos were shared on the City’s social media channels.

The Public Education Division continues to look for new ways to share fire safety messages with the community. The team is working with Corporate and Strategic Communications on an educational video series to share with schools and teachers in September 2021.

A large graphic on the right side of the page, featuring a red background with a blue L-shaped border. Inside the border is a quote in white italicized text. The quote is flanked by two large red quotation marks. Below the quote, the name of the Fire Chief is written in white bold text.

Our fire prevention division had to adapt quickly during the pandemic by providing virtual inspections and educational opportunities to help keep everyone safe. In 2020, the Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service worked closely with our Emergency Management team to ensure continuity of service in all types of weather and conditions during the pandemic. Our Joint Health and Safety Committee members continued to work hard every day to keep all of our staff safe by constantly evaluating processes and ensuring that they met current requirements set out by the Federal, Provincial and Regional governments.

**Fire Chief
Andrew Zvanitajs**



ACHIEVEMENTS

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, a virtual fire inspection program was developed to meet the needs of the community and keep Vaughan's most vulnerable citizens safe. The program enabled retirement homes, nursing homes and other care facilities to have their annual fire drills and inspections witnessed and completed by an inspector working remotely through a live two-way video feed using video conferencing.

Fire prevention plan examiners and inspectors completed all fire protection system reviews, tests and inspections for Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital. The hospital was granted occupancy in 2020 and is the first new hospital in York Region in more than 30 years. It is the first hospital in Canada to feature fully integrated "smart" technology.

TOP FIVE IGNITION SOURCES IN STRUCTURAL FIRES IN 2020:

1. Open flame ignition tools and smokers' articles
2. Cooking equipment
3. Miscellaneous
4. Other mechanical
5. Electrical distribution equipment

Open flame ignition sources include lighters, matches and cigarettes as well as salamander heaters, cutting and welding equipment and blowtorches.

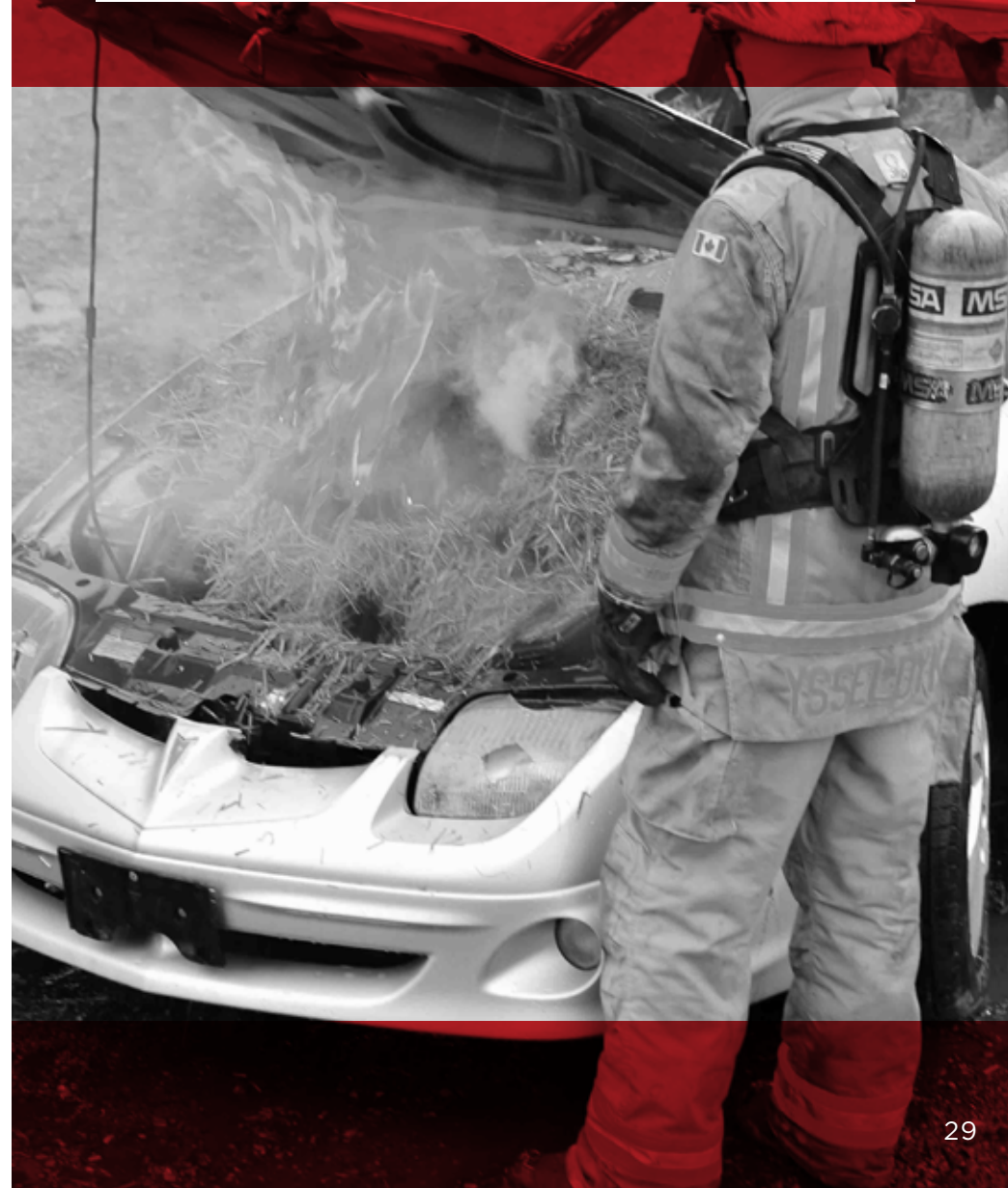
FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

During 2020, VFERS members worked diligently to safely conduct in-depth investigations of fires and explosions resulting in injury or significant property loss. By investigating the cause, origin and circumstances of these events, valuable data is collected and helps to further inspection protocols, enforcement and public education strategies. VFERS's investigators continue to work tirelessly to develop and maintain the skills required to complete investigations that exceed industry standards. In 2020, VFERS's investigators conducted 22 in-depth investigations related to fires that caused eight civilian injuries and an estimated \$10,314,000 in property loss.

The investigation team also achieved the following:

REPORTED FIRES BY PROPERTY CLASSIFICATION	
A - Assembly	8
B - Care and detention	1
C - Residential	65
D - Business and personal service	5
E - Mercantile	9
F - Industrial	17
Structures/properties not classified	14
Vehicles	72
Total:	191

2020 INVESTIGATION RESULTS	
Accidental fires	16
Intentionally set fires	2
Undetermined fires	4
TOTAL NUMBER OF INVESTIGATIONS	22




MECHANICAL DIVISION



With 2021 proving to be another year of challenges for all of us the Vaughan Fire Rescue Mechanical Division has had to adapt to these changes as we all have. Online training has become more of the norm than ever before. We have been able to adapt and communicate with staff virtually allowing us to make calculated decisions on running repairs as well as scheduled services keeping COVID-19 protocols in check. With the skill sets required not only to stay current in this everchanging mechanical demographic we are keeping up recertifications and education. The technicians in this division all hold a motor vehicle and heavy truck technician certification enabling them to perform highly specialized repairs and maintenance on truck apparatus. With the addition of new Fire trucks and other vehicles annually we need to stay current not only with Fire Apparatus and the advanced electronics but Green technology as well. Citizen safety as well as Firefighter safety are key when performing preventative maintenance service, general repairs and annual safety inspections.

In 2020, we introduced a Spartan Smeal Rear-Mount Platform. Designated Platform 767 is quartered at fire station 7-6. The Mechanical Division devoted hours to driver training and operational readiness to prepare this unit for service.

The Mechanical Division oversaw the retirement and reception of many vehicles in 2020. A few of these additions to the VFRS fleet, included 2020 Toyota Corollas for Fire Prevention and 2020 Ford Explorers and Toyota Highlanders for Fire Administration.



Within the last 20 years, we have seen great advances in our personnel protective equipment. Introducing the MSA G1 self-contained breathing apparatus in 2020 to the VFRS team was a great win for us.

**Deputy Fire Chief
Grant Moffatt**

OPERATIONS DIVISION



While faced with the 2020 global pandemic, the dedicated Operations group of firefighters rose to the challenge and continued to deliver a high level of service. From fighting fires, providing vehicle extrications, or simply reassuring the citizens of Vaughan, VFRS was here 24/7 - 365 days a year. Despite the challenges that were faced from COVID-19, the Operations Division continued to evolve and meet the needs of the City of Vaughan.

STATION 7-4

On Jan. 22, 2020 the City of Vaughan and VFRS were proud to officially open the City's 10th firehall – Station 7-4, located at 835 Nashville Rd. Vital emergency services are now closer to home for the Kleinburg community.

This 10,000 square foot fire station will better enable firefighters to serve Vaughan's growing population for years to come. It features three drive-through bays and living quarters for the crew on shift. The building meets current Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act standards and is designed with LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver Certification standards. Energy-saving features include water-conserving plumbing fixtures, high-performance windows and direct/indirect lighting with occupancy sensors. The Rick Hansen Foundation awarded Fire Station 7-4 with GOLD Certification for Accessibility. This is the first fire station in Canada to achieve this GOLD certification from the foundation.

PLATFORM 767

The newest addition to Fire Station 7-6 is a 2020 Spartan Smeal 30 Meter/100 foot Rear Mount Aerial Platform. This will allow greater aerial coverage in the core of the city, while servicing the VMC and Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital. This apparatus is a valuable addition to the current aerial fleet. The vehicle brings many firsts to the City of Vaughan, including Independent Front Suspension (IFS) and Air Ride rear suspension for ride control and increased maneuverability. It also features the ability to flow 8,000 litres per minute (LPM) exceeding any other unit in the current fleet.

Unique features:

- IFS and Air Ride rear suspension for ride control and increased maneuverability – a first in the VFRS fleet
- A 30-metre/100 foot vertical reach heavy-duty rear-mounted aerial platform capable of flowing 8,000 litres per minute (LPM) exceeding any other unit in our fleet.
- Distinctive red roll-up doors on the apparatus body – it's the first VFRS unit to have this feature.
- An 8,000 LPM fire pump with 1,500 litres of water onboard with storage for over 300 metres of large diameter hose.





The number of high-rise building responses is increasing. These structures have increased in numbers and height, and it is important to make sure we are well equipped and trained to handle these emergencies. In 2020, we actively tested various types of new equipment, reviewed, and improved our response plans to handle these incidents. A department-wide training initiative will be delivered in 2021.

**Platoon Chief
Brian Culp**



Fire Loss Over \$500,000

Location	District	Property Type	Date
Napier Street	74	Residential	March 23
Doughton Road	76	Commercial	March 29
Sassafras Circle	78	Residential	May 12
Huntington Road	73	Commercial	May 24
George Gale Road	77	Residential	June 10
Freshway Drive	76	Commercial	June 20
Calista Street	77	Residential	July 6
Centre Street	71	Commercial	August 3
Galen Crescent	74	Residential	August 25
Greenbrooke Drive	77	Residential	November 12

TRAINING DIVISION



VFRS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The importance of professional development should never be underestimated. It is a career-long commitment for VFRS members. Professional development benefits the members, the profession and the citizens VFRS serves and protects.

On an annual basis, the Training Division sends out a professional development package to enhance the knowledge and skills of its members. In 2020, an assortment of internal courses were offered, including firefighter career development and specialty training.

INTERNAL COURSE OPPORTUNITIES:

- NFPA 1041 Level 1 – Fire Instructor
- NFPA 1021 Level 1 – Fire Officer
- Blue Card – Company Officer (Incident) Command
- Live Fire training
- Auto Extrication
- Technical Rope Rescue

Over the last couple of years, the training division has recognized the importance of adding online studies to our professional development package. Online development courses offer the firefighter flexibility to complete their studies at their own pace as well as working logistically for management as classroom time and scheduling is not affected.

ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES

- NFPA 1041 Level 1 – Fire Instructor
- NFPA 1021 Level 1 – Fire Officer
- Blue Card

IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

In 2020 VFRS transitioned from the MSA Firehawk to the MSA G1. These new packs offer many safety upgrades that will keep firefighters safe during incidents. The G1 SCBA is enabled with a speaker module that amplifies the user's voice to help with clear communication, seven new buddy lights, a new low air alarm that sounds at 33% and new facepiece that weighs 1.5lbs. VFRS has also switched over to 45mins SCBA cylinders, from 30 min cylinders, for added safety.

IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW TOOLS

- Shut Gun - when utilized can effectively shut down a sprinkler head that has been activated, minimizing water damage to the effected building.
- Ring Kit - contains tools to safely and efficiently remove a ring on a finger that requires extrication in an emergency situation.



It has been a challenging year for everyone, but as expected, B Platoon stepped up and tackled enormous challenges with hard work and honour. B Platoon has responded to various structure fires, motor vehicle collisions (MVCs) HAZMAT calls and numerous COVID-19 calls while also stepping up and taking our specialty training to a new level. Everyone went above and beyond to ensure our training was maintained at the highest level! Crews have been out conducting rope rescue training, stokes basket training, water rescue training, auto extrication training, confined space and trench rescue training, HAZMAT training and foam and nozzle training. In the past year, B platoon welcomed many new amazing leaders to the team, while also saying goodbye to many firefighters and captains who retired. Even though the year ahead looks promising, I know B Platoon will be ready to tackle any new challenges that lay ahead.

**Platoon Chief
Jason Salisny**





COVID-19

From the onset of COVID-19, the Training Division has played a vital role in the safety of our firefighters and citizens. They are responsible for implementing alternative options for personal protective equipment for firefighters, such as half-mask respirators and face shields. They also kept firefighters informed on changes to COVID-19 screening tools and COVID-19 related changes provided by the Ministry of Health. This division developed innovative ways for firefighters to train while maintaining physical distancing rules. Technology like Skype and Microsoft Teams was used to message firefighters. To ensure COVID-19 physical distancing recommendations were met during other training, research into virtual learning opportunities was done and the new online platforms were applied to fire-related learning.

TARGET SOLUTIONS

In 2020 the VFRS Training Division introduced a new online training module called Target Solutions. This program allows the Training Division to assign training to firefighters and post videos, PowerPoints, lesson plans and quizzes. Target Solutions is an online platform that can be accessed from any computer or tablet, allowing firefighters to complete theory training from anywhere. The next phase will be to use Target Solutions to enhance firefighter communication by hosting memos, directives and operating guidelines.

LIVE FIRE

Live Fire 2020 was a memorable one and not even COVID-19 could stop it. Extra safety measures were put into place to implement the Live Fire training successfully. Live Fire was an opportunity for firefighters and captains to practice foundational skills like search and rescue, water supply and fire attack. The amazing feedback from the crews will be used for the 2021 Live Fire training.

DRIVER/PUMP COURSES

Over a two-week period, our newest firefighters learned and demonstrated how to safely drive and operate VFRS fire trucks and were also given an extensive mechanical lesson.

AUTO EXTRICATION

Auto Extrication training took place over two weeks in November. The practical training included advanced stabilization, full side removals, roof ram, dash lifts and roof removals. The training also included a theory portion on high-pressure lift bags and practical setup for a high-pressure lift on a light passenger vehicle.

TRENCH RESCUE

Thirteen firefighters received four days of technical trench training with Mississauga Fire Service. The firefighters were able to utilize the newly acquired Partech equipment, which will increase safety during a trench rescue as a rescuer does not need to enter the pit to lock off struts.





HEALTH AND SAFETY

The members of the Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service Joint Health and Safety Committee are committed to the overall safety of the entire VFRS team. In 2020, the focus was on the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuring VFRS firefighters were properly trained and equipped to continue providing high-quality front-line services safely. This included managing the procurement, distribution and use of personal protective equipment and masks, implementing additional training and safety protocols, infectious disease transmission training and education and how to safely deliver patient care while minimizing the risk of exposure and transmission.

The committee continues to advocate for firefighter safety in areas such as cancer prevention, mental health support, respiratory protection and fireground survival.

In the early stages of the global COVID-19 pandemic, VFRS was faced with many unknowns. All members of the Operation Division were confronted with an ever-changing series of threats and challenges brought on by COVID-19. As Platoon Chief, I am very proud to recognize the ceaseless efforts put forth by all the members of C Platoon who met these challenges head-on! Thank you for your tireless efforts during this difficult time. Well done.

Platoon Chief
Robert Wilk





PEER SUPPORT

The Peer Support Team is a group of peer-elected volunteers available to staff within the department. They remain a group of dedicated people working to ensure access to a variety of programs and services that can be utilized to improve self-care and manage stress throughout a demanding career in public service.

The Peer Support Team has been working hard to support our brothers and sisters throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. They have remained readily available for VFRS staff and have been able to listen and help connect members with local services as required. Peer Support have assisted in a variety of incidents from single traumatic calls through offering suggested resources within the community to manage personal challenges.

The team continues to face the same challenges many are experiencing around the world with respect to limited and delayed access to ongoing training. The Peer Support members have adapted to the current climate and are utilizing Zoom meetings as they continue to work towards improving service to our members through virtual training and improved access to resources.

The VFRS Peer Support Team remains dedicated to offering a range of services. From helping to find local resources or connecting members with crisis services, they are dedicated to ensuring needs are being met with confidentiality, care and compassion.

VFRS modified procedures and policies to overcome the challenges of delivering Service Excellence to Vaughan citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic. This meant long hours dedicated to learning new skills and acquiring the right equipment to allow for safe service delivery.



Over the past year, members of D Platoon have been proud to support the development of the rope rescue and trench rescue specialty programs. They look forward to the continuation of the creation, development, refinement, and implementation of all our specialty programs, including confined space and hazardous materials response. D Platoon has strived to maintain high training standards to remain proficient in all levels of service to our citizens, despite all the restrictions brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Platoon Chief
Peter Maynard**





VAUGHAN FIRE & RESCUE

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COVID-19 DONATIONS LIST



The COVID-19 pandemic has made life difficult for all Canadians. Firefighters quickly had to adapt procedures and policies for overcoming the challenges of delivering our citizens with the same excellent service they have come to expect. This meant long hours and days of wearing new personal protective equipment as well as learning new skills and equipment to enable us to continue with business as usual.

Vaughan businesses stepped up in a big way to support the Vaughan Fire & Rescue Service. Whether they provided a meal, offered up PPE, or simply thanked us for our service during the crisis, we were grateful and want to acknowledge their support. Your generosity allowed us to pivot and made our job just a little easier. The businesses listed donated their support in one form or another to the City and its firefighters. We want you to know that we truly appreciated your support in 2020! On behalf of all VFERS members, we send our gratitude and thanks.

- Additive
- Arista Homes
- A&W Canada
- Benjamin Moore
- CanClean Products
- Clear Trust Mortgages
- CS Coffee Services Inc.
- Dove in collaboration with Global Medic
- D-Lite's Restaurant
- Emanuele Furniture Design
- Fieldgate Homes
- Finkelberg Financial Services
- Francesco Del Guidice
- Freshstone Brands Inc.
- Grazi Ristorante
- Harvey's in collaboration with Richard Gaggi
- La Grill
- Little Caesars
- Marner Assist Fund
- Mastro Roberto Trattoria
- MEGA-LAB Manufacturing Co. Ltd.
- Nove Ristorante
- Oh So Sweet
- Paradise Developments
- Pretty Little Cupcakes
- Proctor & Gamble
- Procter & Gamble in collaboration with Global Medic
- Rafat General Contracting
- TACC Developments
- TOPS Scaffold & Shoring Supply Ltd.

Thank you!





SERVICE RECOGNITION

2020 PROMOTIONS

Jack Benbihy – District Chief
Vince D’Agostino – Captain
Curtis Fensom – Captain
Carmine Gallo – Captain
Matt Kenney – Captain
Travis Kreuger – Captain
Mike Lines – Captain
Kelly MacGregor – Captain

Brian Mitchell – Captain
Trevor Pulcins – Captain
Marco Ritacca – Captain
Jason Salisny – Platoon Chief
Gianmarco Solimena – Captain
Kevin Wilson – Captain
Tony Watson – Captain

RETIREMENTS

Elliott Chewins – Operations
Silvio Conte – Operations
Lynn Dasti – Fire Prevention
Gerard Finlay – Operations
Allan Grant – Operations
Ken Hamilton – Operations

John Krasnokutsky – Operations
Ken LaGrandeur – Operations
John Ricottone – Operations
Patricia Swainson – Communications
Don Wagg – Operations

FIRE SERVICES EXEMPLARY SERVICE MEDAL RECOGNITION

Christian Alidervis	Wayne Hall
Paul Caines	John Laird
Vince D’Agostino	Bruno Leclerc
Lynn Dasti	Stephen Lee
Mike Doyle	Jim MacDonald
Damien Garel	Jeff Plouffe
David Giancola	Steve Rollich
Daniel Guida	

ONTARIO FIRE SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

John Leggett	Trevor Pulcins
Michelle Moulton	Steven Westergard
Andrew Murray	John Wilmot





LOOKING AHEAD



VAUGHAN
DEPARTMENT OF
FIRE & RESCUE

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TECHNOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS

Technology has helped VFRS overcome some of the obstacles related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The need for physical distancing and safety protocols has become essential for the department. In 2020, VFRS technology launched an online cloud-based program used for online training, scheduling, asset management and compliance. The online training has allowed staff to complete training programs at their fire stations, which provides more flexibility and eliminates in-person meetings. This also allows the fire training staff to track course records electronically.

Furthermore, the department is planning on leveraging this software to assist with the asset management plans for the City. It will track the age of critical assets such as fire trucks, hoses, bunker gear and helmets, create reports and alert staff when items are due for replacement. It will help maintain records and guide decision-making for replacements based on historical information of the asset.

Lastly, VFRS is in the process of implementing critical technological changes that have the potential to alter how information is received, processed and transferred in the future. The Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) regulates telecommunications service providers that supply the networks needed to direct and connect 9-1-1 calls to emergency call centres. It mandated that existing 9-1-1 systems completely transition to the NG9-1-1 with networks ready to provide NG9-1-1 voice services and text messaging services, and must be made available through a system called Real-Time Text (RTT), allowing for a conversational flow of communication.



TRAFFIC PRE-EMPTION

In 2020, VFRS trialed the latest GPS traffic pre-emption technology at one Vaughan intersection (Highway 7/Creditstone Road). VFRS will keep 'line of sight' infrared (formerly Opticom) technology and use the new technology to enhance response capability. Ultimately, this will change traffic signals sooner, requiring VFRS apparatus to stop/start less often. The analysis of the data was positive. Therefore, the team has installed the necessary hardware on all staffed heavy apparatus. The Regional Municipality of York owns 75 per cent of the traffic signals in Vaughan and will now be programming all remaining intersections along the transit rapidway (Highway 7/Centre Street/Bathurst Street). VFRS will soon be investigating the feasibility of enhancing City-owned intersections with this technology.



2021 BUDGET AND 2022 FINANCIAL PLAN



VAUGHAN

FIRE & RESCUE

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service delivers timely and effective mitigation of emergencies to ensure fire code compliance and to promote prevention, education and preparedness for emergency situations for the citizens of Vaughan.



2021 BUDGET AND 2022 FINANCIAL PLAN

(\$M)	Budget	Budget	Plan
Revenue			
User Fees	1.1	0.9	0.9
Total	1.1	0.9	0.9
Expenditures			
Labour	50.7	51.8	53.7
General Maintenance, Repairs, Utilities	1.3	1.3	1.4
Communications	0.4	0.4	0.4
Other	0.7	0.9	0.9
Total	53.1	53.5	55.5
Net Operating Budget	52.1	0.9	0.9
Capital Plan	6.9	8.3	6.1

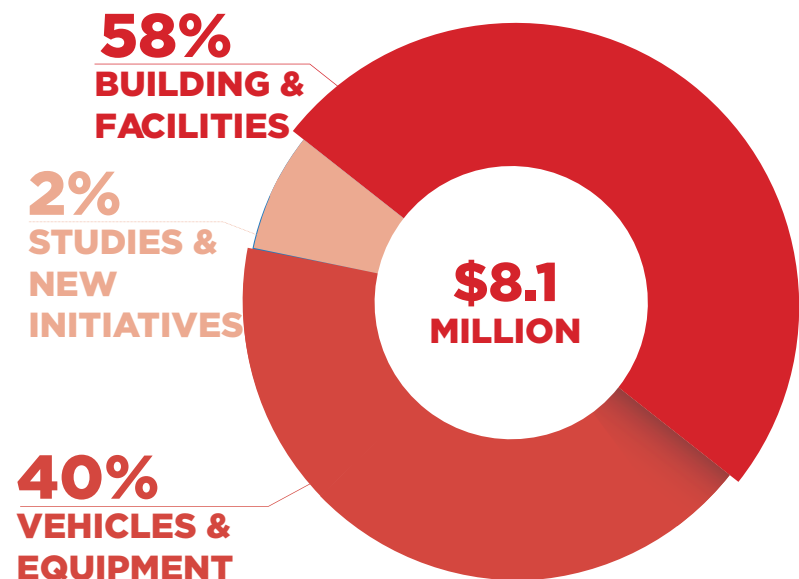
Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service continues to use data and analytics to guide our decisions. This includes an evidence-based approach that is fact-based to ensure the safety of citizens and minimize risks.

*Assistant Deputy Fire Chief
Michael Ing*

2020 KEY RESULTS

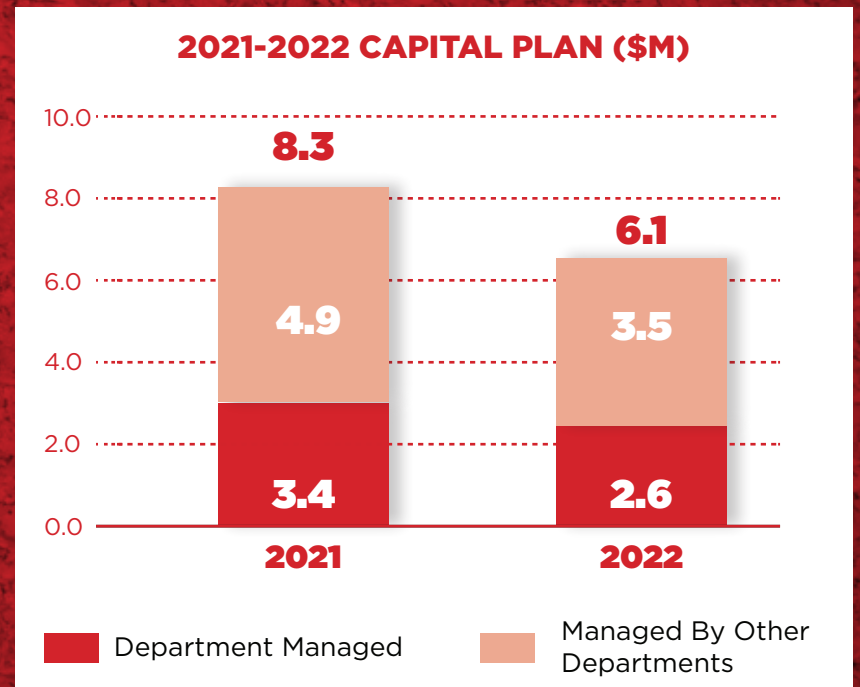
- VFRS has been a key stakeholder in the Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital since the planning stages. We have played a major role to date in the planning consultation, site plan design, plans examination approval, site inspections, systems acceptance testing, site orientation and training implementation.
- Pre-emptive traffic technology trial has been completed and city-wide rollout took place late 2020.
- Expanded our support programs for the vulnerable communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Purchased land for Station 7-11.
- Purchased a 30-metre rear mount Aerial Platform allowing greater aerial coverage for the VMC.
- Awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) for a project partnership on "COVID-19: Building disaster preparedness and resilience in a pandemic – Case of Vaughan, Ontario."

2021 CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST



2021 KEY OBJECTIVES

- Launch a city-wide preemptive traffic technology pilot in partnership with York Region.
- Continue to provide a comprehensive fire protection program through public education and fire prevention within the City.
- Provide VFRS subject matter expertise on the design and build of Fire Station 7-12.
- Provide VFRS subject matter expertise on the implementation of NG911 to address the changing needs of emergency communications and service delivery.
- Strengthen the Emergency Management Program to maintain compliance with the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act.
- Design two new engines encompassing latest advancements in green technology to eliminate the idling of fire trucks on scenes.





Total capital plan includes \$3.4 million in capital projects that will be managed and reported on by the Fire and Rescue Service department. Another \$4.8 million is managed by Facilities Management on behalf of Fire and Rescue Service and \$200,000 is managed by Transportation and Fleet Management Services on behalf of Fire and Rescue Service.

2021 - 2022 CAPITAL PLAN (INCLUDING OPEN PROJECTS BY STRATEGIC PLAN)

(\$M)	Open	2021	2022
Service Excellence Strategic Plan			
Active, Safe and Diverse Communities	7.3	6.5	4.4
City Building	0.8	-	0.2
Environmental Stewardship	-	1.1	1.1
Good Governance	-	0.4	-
Operational Performance	-	0.3	0.4
Grand Total	8.1	8.3	6.1







CITY OF VAUGHAN
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