

**For Immediate Release**

**Deep Bay Fire Chief, George Lenz Awarded Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal**

Bowser, BC, April 26, 2012. Volunteers are the **heroes** of our community. They give freely of their time and energy that others may live well.

On behalf of the Governor General of Canada, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Tom Plensky, Chair of the Deep Bay Improvement District (DBID), presented George Lenz with the Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal at the DBID Annual General Meeting. This medal, created in 1985, honors fire service members who have given 20 years of service, at least 10 of which must be “in the performance of duties involving potential risk.” This medal recognizes equally paid or unpaid service. The fact that George has given 20 years of unpaid volunteer time to the fire service makes this award all the more meaningful.

20 years ago, George did his civic duty and responded to the call for firefighters. Since then, he has seen many volunteers come and go. It is a challenging job, both physically and mentally, with call-outs for first responders, fires and traffic accidents at all hours of the day or night. Most volunteers last only four or five years. George stayed on and has held officer roles for over ten years. He is still often the first person at the hall for a call-out.

George became an advocate for the department and the community long before he was chief. He has been an active recruiter of new members, and even now, as Chief, often calls on new residents to encourage involvement.

The experience and continuity that George brings to the department is invaluable. Not only does George know all the fire systems inside and out, he also knows the community and all the different or difficult access areas. His expertise can save critical minutes when time matters.

George is highly respected by the members of his department. When the previous, much loved Fire Chief passed away unexpectedly in 2010, George stepped in and guided his team through the difficult mourning period. His personal commitment to his team and the department resulted in continuous exemplary fire and rescue service to the community,

As volunteer Fire Chief, George’s dedication brings credit to himself and his community. Tom concluded the presentation by saying, “Wear this Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal with Pride. **You** are one of our **heroes**.”

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