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News Release

Long-Time Volunteer Fire Department Chief Retires

10 September 2024

BACK BAY – The Council for Eastern Charlotte announces the retirement of Battalion Chief Jason Hatt from Eastern Charlotte Fire Rescue (ECFR) as September 7, 2024. Battalion Chief Hatt advised ECFR Fire Chief Justin Johnston and Council of his decision to retire in a letter received in early August, citing medical concerns.

As of September 7, Hatt has served the community in firefighting for thirty-six years, as a member and later as Chief of the Fundy Bay Fire Department until the Province’s local governance reform created Eastern Charlotte, and the combining of local departments into Eastern Charlotte Fire Rescue.

“On behalf of the residents of Eastern Charlotte, I would like to sincerely thank Jason Hatt for over thirty-five years of service to the people of Back Bay and the wider area,” said Mayor John Craig. “From late night or early morning fire alarms, and with difficult and tragic calls, it is the group of dedicated individuals such as Jason who answer the call and keep our community safe. Thank you.”

Following Hatt’s retirement, Steve Leland will now take the senior leadership role for the Back Bay fire hall as District Chief. For the other fire halls, the District Chiefs are as follows: Lawrence Justason for Blacks Harbour, Greg Flemming for Pennfield and John Stevens for Second Falls.

At the St. George fire hall, Sean Morton is the Battalion Chief. The rank of Battalion Chief was created for the fire chiefs of the three former fire departments. With Hatt’s retirement, Morton is the sole remaining Battalion Chief in the fire service. Chief Morton also serves as Fire Chief for the St. Stephen Fire Department.



Retiring ECFR Battalion Chief Jason Hatt

All Battalion Chiefs and District Chiefs report directly to Fire Chief Johnston.

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