



Emergency Services
Bldg. (780) 632-2254
Fax (780) 632-2629
www.vegreville.com
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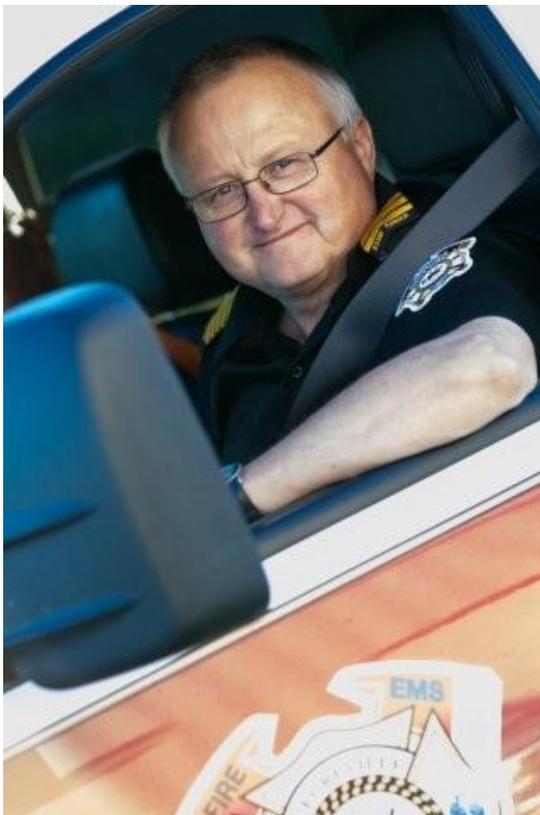


Emergency Services
"Ordinary People Doing Extra Ordinary Things"

5100-60 Street
Box 640
Vegreville, Alberta
T9C 1R7

Press Release - For Immediate Release

Long Serving Fire Chief Retires after 25 years of service



Vegreville, Alberta, June 30, 2016 – **"Better to Best"**, for twenty five (25) years, Vegreville Emergency Services has been a part of Jerrold Lemko's life and this is the motto he created and lived by for Vegreville's fire service. On June 30, 2016, that will all change as Chief Lemko hangs up his hat to spend more time with his wife of 40 years, Anita and his two (2) sons, and three (3) grandchildren.

"Jerrold set high standards for his department. Rather than forcing us to meet those standards, he has led in such a way that we wanted to exceed his goals. Jerrold has never held anyone back from reaching their own successes but rather ran beside us and helped us individually." Incoming Fire Chief Phil Rowe said.

"Jerrold understands that leadership cannot be a one man show, no man can do it all himself. He taught me that it is "the team" that makes the organization a success. Leaders do not force behaviours from others, but rather empower them and give them the tools they need to grow and succeed."



MISSION
WE ARE...A HIGHLY-SKILLED EMERGENCY SERVICES TEAM PROTECTING LIFE, PROPERTY AND THE ENVIRONMENT
ENSURING THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF THE CITIZENS OF VEGREVILLE AND SURROUNDING REGION.



Jerrold joined the department as a volunteer firefighter on December 1, 1991. He was elected the Fire Chief in April 1998 by the department ranks and was hired as Emergency Services Manager in 2008. Chief Lemko accomplished all of this while working with ATCO Electric as a Power Systems Electrician and Health & Safety Advisor for four decades. He has a passion for the fire service and all men and women that have served the community of Vegreville with him over the years. Jerrold was the leading force behind one of the first official junior firefighter programs incorporated into the school work experience program and brought a formal health & safety program into the department.

When Chief Lemko assumed the role of Fire Chief in 1998, the current fire station was just opened and basically an empty building. Over his eighteen (18) years of service, the building is now a station filled with pride, honour, integrity and a showcase of the communities' fire history. During his service with the Town of Vegreville, Jerrold ensured that the communities first responders were equipped with the tools and equipment needed to meet the national standards of fire response and in 2008 built an ambulance service for the town to ensure the highest quality of emergency medical care for the community was met.

Jerrold's record of achievements continued to grow over the years. In 1998 he was selected as the Town of Vegreville Volunteer of the Year for his contributions to the community, not only in the fire service but all his other volunteer contributions to community groups and events. Between 2003 and 2011, he was bestowed with the Queen's Golden Jubilee medal. The Alberta Fire Service medal, STARS of the Millennium Volunteer award, Vegreville Fire Department employee of the year and the Fire Service Exemplary Service medal for 20 years of fire service. In 2005 he was inducted into the Alberta volunteer hall of fame. 2013 saw him receive the Hockey Canada – Order of Merit for outstanding contributions to Canadian Amateur Hockey. In 2014 Chief Lemko was selected by the CAFC (Canadian Assoc. of Fire Chiefs) as the Canadian volunteer Fire Chief of the Year. He was honoured in 2015 with the Lifetime Achievement award from the CVFSA (Canadian Volunteer Fire Services Association), the first Albertan to receive this honour. These awards of recognition were all well-deserved for a lifetime of dedicated volunteerism.

Town of Vegreville Community Services Director Laurie Evans stated regarding the Chief's retirement. *"Jerrold has been the backbone of the Emergency Services Department and his tireless commitment to serving our community is highly regarded by Council, staff and the citizens of the Town of Vegreville. It has been my pleasure and honour to work alongside Jerrold for many years and I wish him the very best as he embarks on this new chapter in his life."*

Interim Chief Administrative Officer Cliff Craig echoed the sentiments of staff on the Chief's pending retirement. *"I had the privilege and honour to work with Jerrold in the establishment of the Ambulance Services for Vegreville. His work plan, thoughtfulness, and attention to detail was paramount during this process. Jerrold's professionalism and integrity was evident every day in all that he worked on and accomplished. On behalf of the Town staff, I would like to congratulate Jerrold on his retirement as he can spend time with Anita and their family"*

Mayor Myron Hayduk's message to Chief Lemko is this, *"First of all I would like to wish Jerrold and his family all the best in his new endeavours and retirement. I have known Jerrold for many years and have observed him to be a sincere and honest person. He is someone who took his responsibilities and duties very much to heart. Jerrold cared about this town and I am sure he still does. It is my hope that he is not leaving us totally, rather that he will still be available from time to time to share his knowledge and advice. Jerrold has done very well for the Emergency Services Department and I am hoping that he will not have to be missed, meaning that when called upon, he will assist."*

Looking forward, the Town will miss the dedication of Chief Lemko and his love for the fire service but wish him the very best for a wonderful and healthy retirement. Jerrold plans to remain active and involved in the fire service through his role as the Alberta Director for the CVFSA (Canadian Volunteer Fire Services Association) and with his long time passion for sports as a board member for Hockey Alberta. Hockey Alberta Executive Director Rob Litwinski echoed the sentiments of all of us , *"We'd like to congratulate Jerrold on his retirement! Now sitting on Hockey Alberta's Board of Directors, Jerrold has been a valued member of Hockey Alberta for over 20 years in his roles in Development, Team Alberta and many special committees. His humble and hard working approach has made him a great role model for volunteers and staff of Hockey Alberta. Jerrold has formed lifelong friendships while being a part of Hockey Alberta. Simply put, there is no better*



person to work with than Jerrold.” Jerrold plans to fish a little more, spend time camping with his wonderful wife Anita and his precious family, seeing sights around the world and just enjoying all the life has to offer.

Contact: Laurie Evans, Community Services Director
Ph: 780.632.2606
levans@vegreville.com