

Part Five
Anmore Alternative News March 5 2015 Retirement Interview
with Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department
Chief Larry Scott

Retirement is a time for reflection and for new beginnings. As you retire from so many fruitful years as the Chief of the Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department the Anmore Alternative News pays tribute to you and would like to ask the following questions.



1. Is there anything unique about the SVFD that you think absolutely needs to be preserved?

I think it would be a willingness to train to a level of being a professional firefighter, regardless of the lack of pay. The firefighters take training because it

will provide a better service. In other words, the members are motivated to do what it takes to do a professional job to the highest level.

2. If you could grant three wishes for the future of the SVFD what would they be?

- First, nobody gets hurt.
- Second, the demand on the firefighter for training and accountability can be managed within a normal lifestyle
- Third, membership in the SVFD continues to give back to the person more than they put in.



3. Do you have any special plans in your retirement from SVFD?

Sadly, my character will only fill it with something else. As the chief officer your discretionary time is non-existent. I still hear the sirens. I'm still awake. I pause, and hope everything's okay. They all have my cell number.

4. If your grandchild told you that s/he wanted to be a firefighter, what would you say?

Absolutely, do it! It is an excellent opportunity to learn life skills, and one of my favourites is situational awareness. Once you've learned situational awareness, you'll always be positioning yourself in a place that has a way out. It gives you an edge over someone who may have blinders on.



5. In closing, Is there anything you weren't asked that you'd like readers to know? Do you have any final thoughts to share with them?

Don't be intimidated by the fire department and do not feel that you can't contribute to the department in some way. If there is an opportunity to invest some of your time in the department, whether for short-term or long-term, it will probably be one of your more rewarding experiences. Please consider volunteering in this capacity. Hopefully you will feel a great sense of satisfaction and boost your own personal life.

AAN: When I talk to them, some young women are hesitant to join. Yet I have seen some of the most capable women that you could imagine in the SVFD. They set goals and they reach for them. I've seen one young woman choose her career path from being on the periphery of the department. What advice would you give to a young woman who is considering membership in the SVFD?

Chief Scott: I would give them the advice that I give to all recruits. I remember one female firefighter becoming the first training officer, the first EMA-FR3 first aid instructor, another taking her class three driving license to drive the trucks, and another telling me that she aspired to want my job, to which I said, "you're in".

We've had people say that they want to join the department, but are afraid of heights. My words would be to anybody. Don't let gender, age, disability, or a perceived lack of skill sets keep you from joining the department. Unless you are too young because of the law, we will attempt to meet your expectations. All we want is what's between your ears, your spirit, and your character.

