

## Hospice completes fire safety training

The volunteer Christmas potluck started to look a bit different this year at Hospice North Hastings when North Hastings Fire Services chief Pat Hoover dropped off a 150-pound training manikin. Fire prevention and safety training is not something that should be overlooked so chief Hoover has been working with the hospice to ensure they are fully equipped for any fire-related emergencies. With a fully operational sprinkler system now working in the house, multiple fire extinguishers similar to those that can be seen [here](#), and a full fire safety plan approved by the North Hastings Fire Service, there was one more hurdle to jump. And this hurdle seemed much easier to conquer with a table of delicious food waiting as the reward.

With the help of fire prevention officer Matt Musclow, the hospice staff, volunteers and board members learned how to remove a patient if there was a fire in the Hospice House. Step by step, volunteers were coached on how to transfer the patient to a sheet and then safely move them out of the building. The expectation was that one person would have to work alone to move the patient in case of a fire emergency.

With the clock ticking and Matt Musclow watching, the hospice team got to work and passed the test with time to spare. It was done safely and with only a few grunts, groans and at the end ? a big cheer.

With the manikin safely resting at the foot of the stairs, the hungry hospice crew enjoyed a delicious meal, shared stories and enjoyed some excellent jokes that were provided by volunteer Fay Henry and board chairwoman, Betty Coutu. Gifts were exchanged and everyone gave thanks for being in such great company.

A complete fire safety plan has also been completed and approved for the Bancroft Village Playhouse and with these steps completed, both buildings meet all the fire code standards.

To compile a [fire safety risk assessment](#), with constant checks, will help us be aware and keep up to date on practices, ensuring safety within our hospice.

"Working with Matt and chief Pat was such a pleasure," said hospice co-ordinator Heather Brough. "We appreciate having such great professionals in our community and we're happy to do what we can to make their job safer."

All those who attended the potluck feast agreed that the manikin was an excellent guest at the party ? saying nothing and leaving the delicious spinach dip for those who worked so hard this past year.

Submitted by Barbara Shaw