

Parksville Deputy Fire Chief Marc Norris Awarded 2010 Trainer of the Year

Earlier this month, the British Columbia Fire Training Officers Association (BCFTOA) awarded Deputy Fire Chief Marc Norris the designation of 2010 Trainer of the Year. Deputy Norris was recognized for outstanding contributions to fire service training in British Columbia. The BCFTOA, in partnership with the Justice Institute of British Columbia Fire and Safety Division awarded Deputy Norris the top honour of the Association.

Chief Doug Banks said, "To say that Marc is deserving of this award would be an understatement. The dedication and effort that Marc puts in to ensure that members receive the training that enables our department to provide the quality service that the community deserves. This is a well-deserved recognition and combined with his twenty years of service with the Parksville Volunteer Fire Department, truly makes this a banner year for Marc."

"The dedication and vision to the field of training makes Deputy Norris a unanimous choice for this award," said Dean Colthorp, BCFTOA president.

Deputy Norris demonstrated initiative in training that includes firefighter and fire officer programs developed using a coaching and mentoring approach to assist members of his department reach desirable fire service levels. In addition to Parksville Volunteer Fire Department training, Norris is also responsible for inter-agency training as well as department procedural changes to assist with responses with neighbouring fire departments in the Parksville area. Marc also assisted the BCFTOA as a zone representative and at the recent 2010 annual general meeting, was elected secretary and a member of the executive of the BCFTOA.

Chief Banks also said, "A testament to the training that Marc strives to provide is the fact that four current and three past members who benefitted from Marc's training programs, have either moved on or are moving on to careers in the fire service."

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