

1909-1970

74 cm. of textual records

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In 1889, Town By-Law 245 established that the Fire Department would consist of the Chief of the Department, two assistant chiefs, an engineer for the steam fire engine and sixty firemen, forming two hose companies. The Chief was given power, subject to the approval of the Fire, Water, and Light Committee, to make any rules and regulations for the Department. All property and apparatus of the Department was under the control of the Fire, Water, and Light Committee, however, in the event of a fire, the Chief, or officer in charge had control over all apparatus and appliances.

It was one of the Chief's responsibilities to keep a record of all fires and to report this information annually to the Fire, Water and Light Committee.

In 1913, By-Law 245 was repealed and By-Law 1118 established the rules and regulations of the Department. The Chief was given control over the Department and was responsible to the Commissioner or Council for its proper management. Both the Chief and the Assistant Chief were required to inquire into the cause of all fires and to keep a record of the same.

In 1938, By-Law 1118 was repealed and By-Law 2254 was passed. This By-Law further established the rules and regulations of the Department. The Chief was given control over the Department and was responsible to Council for its proper management. One of the Chief's duties again included the reporting of all accidents by fire.

It appears that there was a Fire Committee in 1960 (see By-Law 4581 – one of the Standing Committees of Council) and a Traffic, Fire and Safety Committee in 1966, (See By-Law 5445).

Upon amalgamation of the Cities of Fort William and Port Arthur in 1970, control of the Port Arthur Fire Department was handed over to the new City of Thunder Bay.

The series consists of four volumes of fire reports. The first volume covers the period 1909 to 1922. The next two volumes were maintained for the Court Street Station and cover the period 1922 to February 1970. The last volume was maintained for the Hodder Avenue Station and covers the period 1956 to February 1970.

The information recorded in these reports includes the date, time, location and description of the property, the owner, occupant, monetary loss and insurance coverage/loss; equipment used and types of alarms received. Monthly and yearly statistics were also included for the number of calls, types of fires, equipment used, monetary loss and insurance coverage.

Handwritten, Typescript

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Further accruals are not anticipated.

These records are fairly fragile and should be handled with care.