Shelburne Fire Chief Ralph Snyder recognized for 20 years of service

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Shelburne and District Fire Department Chief Ralph Snyder has been recognized for a milestone career achievement, receiving a medal in honour of 20 yearsof service.

Chief Snyder was presented with the Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal on Tuesday (April 5) in an intimate gathering at the Shelburne Fire Hall ahead of the department's monthly fire board meeting.

?He is a jewel for us with his experience, and the fact that he's worked with a neighbouring municipality,? said Coun. Walter Benotto, chair of the fire board. ?He has made quite a change in this department since he's been here and he seems to get on quite easily with our volunteers. An excellent fire chief, and I'm glad he's finally got this 20-year medal from the Governor General for his services.?

Established in 1985, the Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal honours members of a recognized Canadian fire service who have completed 20 years of service, ten of which have been served in the performance of duties involving potential risks.

Chief Snyder began his career in fire services as a volunteer firefighter with the Adjala Tosorontio Fire Department in 2001. Over 13 years, he volunteered with the Adjala Tosorontio Fire Department holding positions including Captain, Assistant District Chief, and Deputy Chief before becoming the department's Fire Chief in 2014.

Snyder joined the Shelburne and District Fire Department in late 2020, becoming the department's second full-time chief.

?It's been a long time coming. I've done a lot of things that I never thought I'd be able to do and it's a very proud moment for me because I never dreamed of ever making it this far in the fire services,? said Chief Snyder. ?I'm proud to be here and awful happy to be working with this fire department, it's just an amazing bunch of guys and girls to work with.?