



PROCLAMATION
First Responders' & Volunteers' Day
May 27, 2026

Recognizing the Anniversary of First Responders' and Volunteers' Day and Honouring the Community Response to the Barrington Lake Wildfire

WHEREAS on May 22, 2024, the Council of the Municipality of the District of Shelburne issued a proclamation declaring May 27th as *First Responders' and Volunteers' Day*, to recognize and honour the exceptional dedication, bravery, and service of those who answer the call in times of crisis; and

WHEREAS this date holds profound significance for our municipality, marking the anniversary of the Barrington Lake wildfire—the largest in Nova Scotia's history—which struck our region in May 2023, causing widespread devastation, evacuations, property loss and hardship across our communities; and

WHEREAS our volunteer firefighters, community volunteers, and municipal staff responded with unwavering courage and compassion, working tirelessly to protect lives and property, providing critical support services, and helping guide our community and the victims of the fire through recovery in the months that followed; and

WHEREAS the response to the Barrington Lake wildfire stands as a powerful testament to the resilience, unity, and spirit of our community—neighbours helping neighbours, and volunteers stepping forward in extraordinary ways to meet extraordinary challenges;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Municipality of the District of Shelburne reaffirms May 27th as *First Responders' and Volunteers' Day*, in recognition of the heroic contributions made during the Barrington Lake wildfire and in gratitude to all those who continue to serve our community with dedication and heart.

Let this day serve as an enduring symbol of our appreciation and as a reminder of the strength we find in one another during our most difficult times.

Date

Warden Penny Smith