

SIMON GRYPMA

With the department 1976-78 as a volunteer and 1978-present on staff, including 2008-present as chief:

“The Kerr block [January 2011], as it represented the saving of so many lives, and the fact that the fire department, during the time I worked at the station, was responsible for the many safety features and upgrades to the building that resulted in no injuries or deaths.

“The second was the Aimee Beaulieu fire in April 1992, one of the first residential fires over the past 20 years totaling the loss of eight lives. Any fire with a loss of life has a profound impact on the fire department. These fires set the stage for an aggressive fire prevention program in the city.”



RANDY BRIETER

*With the department 1978-2007,
including chief 2003-07:*

“The biggest and most memorable was the Kootenay Forest Products plywood plant [July 1987]. I was the captain on shift that night. We were running short and I responded by myself. By the time I got down to the corner of Front and Ward, I could see the flames licking up over Fairview. I knew we had something pretty big.

“To approach that as one fireman and one fire truck, there was not much you could do. It reminded me of the *Hindenburg* when it crashed. People up the lake were finding pieces of charred plywood around Four Mile.”



HARRY SOMMERVILLE

Volunteer 1953-58 and on staff 1967-1992, including acting chief 1978-79 and chief 1982-92:

“I think it would be Blaylock mansion [July 1981]. That was out of our jurisdiction. We had to phone all six councillors to get permission to respond, but we saved the building. Otherwise there would have been nothing left. It was a severe fire and quite a challenge. It was very suspicious.”

