



January 23, 2026

To the Residents of the Municipality of Calvin,

As the year ends and a new one begins, as your Fire Chief and on behalf for the Calvin Fire Department, I would like to take this opportunity, to reflect on the past year and share some important updates with our community.

This year marked a significant personal milestone for me, as I was honoured to be hired as Fire Chief for the Municipality of Calvin. The Calvin Fire Department holds deep meaning for me. I am a third-generation member of this department, and my grandfather was the first Fire Chief in Calvin. Leading this department is not only a professional responsibility, but a personal commitment. I take great pride in the role and work tirelessly to ensure the fire department remains strong, progressive, and well prepared to serve our residents now and into the future.

Over the past year, several important improvements have been made within the fire hall itself. We have focused on modernizing our infrastructure to ensure reliability, safety, and operational readiness. A new VOIP, internet-based phone system has been installed, operating through Starlink. This system provides a constant and dependable connection between the fire department and our dispatch centre, complete with battery backup to ensure uninterrupted communication. In addition, the fire hall is now equipped with a Generac generator and automatic transfer switch, allowing the building to remain fully powered during all power outages.

These upgrades proved especially important in light of the severe storm that struck the Municipality and surrounding area on June 21. That storm was both serious and detrimental, causing widespread damage and extended power outages throughout our community. It tested not only our equipment and resources, but our ability to respond under extreme conditions. Despite the challenges, it also strengthened the bonds among our firefighters and highlighted areas where improvements were needed to better serve our residents.

As a direct result of the lessons learned during that storm, the Municipality invested in new forestry equipment, including chainsaws and forestry-specific personal protective equipment for the Fire Department. Council also recognized the need for faster,

more reliable and flexible response capabilities. This led to the purchase of a dedicated fast response vehicle — a 2025 Chevrolet Silverado 2500. This vehicle is a major advancement for the department and our community. It carries a second set of auto extrication tools, cribbing, rescue devices, strut kits, hand tools, power tools, chainsaws, forestry PPE, medical equipment, and search and rescue gear. Having this vehicle allows us to respond more quickly and effectively to a wide range of emergencies, especially in severe weather and remote areas.

This year also brought important progress in ensuring the health and safety of our firefighters. The Municipal budget along with funds secured from the Ontario government's Fire Protection Grant, provided the necessary funding to replace outdated bunker gear with new, modern sets designed with cancer prevention in mind. To further support firefighter safety, a dedicated gear washing machine was purchased to properly clean and decontaminate turnout gear after incidents. These investments reflect Council's and our funding partners' on-going commitment to protecting those who serve and protect our community.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our firefighters. The members of the Calvin Fire Department are hardworking, committed individuals who continually train to meet and maintain the mandatory firefighter certifications required in Ontario. They dedicate countless hours to training, responding to emergencies, and maintaining equipment, often balancing these responsibilities with full-time careers and family life. Their professionalism and commitment to this community cannot be overstated.

I would like to sincerely thank our residents for their continued support, patience, and cooperation. Your understanding during emergencies, storm events, and training activities plays a vital role in keeping both the public and our firefighters safe. I would also like to acknowledge Municipal Council and staff for their ongoing support of fire protection services and community safety initiatives.

As we move into the new year, the Calvin Fire Department remains committed to continuous improvement, preparedness, and service excellence. I am proud of where we are today and confident in where we are headed.

On behalf of all members of the Calvin Fire Department, I wish you and your families a safe, healthy, and happy New Year.

Respectfully,



Jordan Whalley
Fire Chief
Calvin Fire Department
Municipality of Calvin