



# District of Lantzville

Incorporated June 2003

May 12, 2016

## MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

### **Special Lantzville Council Meeting May 16, 2016 to Honour Fire Service and Freedom of the Municipality Recipients**

**Lantzville, BC** – The District of Lantzville Council will hold a special Council meeting on Monday night to present Kenneth W. Spence and Thomas G. Whipps with Fire Service awards and, for the first time in the history of Lantzville, the prestigious Freedom of the Municipality honour.

On April 11, 2016, at a duly convened meeting with all members present, Council passed the following resolutions by unanimous vote:

THAT, in the pursuance of the powers vested in the District Council by Statute, the Freedom of the District of Lantzville, be, and is hereby conferred on Kenneth W. Spence in recognition of his distinguished service to the community and the Lantzville Volunteer Fire Department.

THAT, in the pursuance of the powers vested in the District Council by Statute, the Freedom of the District of Lantzville, be, and is hereby conferred on Thomas G. Whipps in recognition of his distinguished service to the community and the Lantzville Volunteer Fire Department.

To acknowledge their Fire Service achievements and this prestigious community service honour, a special ceremony will be held at:

WHAT: Special Council Meeting  
WHEN: 7:00 pm, Monday, May 16, 2016  
WHERE: Costin Hall, 7232 Lantzville Road, Lantzville, BC

The public is welcome to attend. The ceremony will be followed with light refreshments and music by the Tidesmen Chorus.

The presentation of the Freedom of the Municipality honour includes receiving an Honorary Freeman name tag and a framed certificate and photo, engraving on a plaque to be displayed at the District Office, and being known as an Honorary Freeman of the District. In practical terms, the honour gives the recipients the right to vote in Lantzville elections regardless of property ownership or residency in Lantzville, and being listed at the top of the voters' list. If the person is a Canadian citizen, the recipient is also deemed qualified to run for office as a member of Council.

The *Community Charter* provides the authority for Council, by a unanimous vote, to confer Freedom of the Municipality on a distinguished person or unit of the armed forces of Canada or another nation. This is the highest honour that a municipality may confer on an individual to recognize distinguished service to their community. This honour is awarded on rare and exceptional occasions, at the discretion of Council, to individuals of the highest merit and in accordance with the District's Freedom of the Municipality Honour policy.

The first District of Lantzville Freedom of the Municipality honour recipients are:

**Ken Spence**, a 67-year old Canadian citizen, resident of Lantzville since he was three years old, an explosives technician by trade, and a family man, who has served for over 50 years as a volunteer with the Lantzville Volunteer Fire Department - a truly remarkable achievement. Ken has served in every position within the Department, including as Fire Chief, Deputy Chief and several years as Training Officer. Some of his most significant contributions have been as the Department's historian and through his role in firefighter training and safety, mentoring over 330 firefighters who have come and gone during his service. In addition to his extensive service to community events through the Fire Department, particularly the Hallowe'en fireworks display, Ken was one of the original founders in 1976 of the annual Minetown Day and has been a fixture as the guy who drives the tractor that pulls the hayride! Ken Spence has been a tireless volunteer, role model, mentor and leader in our community.

**Tom Whipps**, a 67-year old Canadian citizen, resident of Lantzville for over forty years, retired mechanic and a family man, who has been a great ambassador, leader and tireless volunteer in our community. Tom has served the community across a wide spectrum of areas, including sports and recreation, civic duty, community volunteerism, social services and public safety. He is most recognized for his over 35 years of service as a volunteer with the Lantzville Volunteer Fire Department, where he has focussed on fire prevention education and served in all officer positions, including 12 years as the Fire Chief, a role from which he recently retired. In addition to his service with public safety, Tom has also served as a Scout leader for 19 years, softball coach, community hall supporter, Lantzville Community Association executive member, Parks Commission member, playground builder and Christmas Food Hamper Drive, Breakfast with Santa, Children's Easter Egg Hunt and family dance organizer.

Ken Spence and Tom Whipps are champion volunteers whose leadership and dedication continues to benefit and inspire our community today.

“From local pioneers, to athletes and artists, community leaders, entrepreneurs, and volunteers, Lantzville is comprised of dedicated people from all walks of life who have made our community what it is today. Volunteers are the heroes of our community,” said Mayor Colin Haime, “and Lantzville Council is proud to bestow the Freedom of the Municipality honour upon Ken Spence and Tom Whipps – two truly distinguished individuals. We are grateful for their service to the Fire Department and their commitment and dedication to our community.”

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