



Abbotsford Police Department

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Bob Rich
Chief Constable

"Protecting with Pride"

NEWS RELEASE

APD NEWS RELEASE:

APD FILE # 12 - 45531

RELEASE # 3

DATE OF RELEASE: December 21, 2012

Incident: CONNOR HOUSE REVEAL

Abbotsford: Almost four weeks to the day that Abbotsford police officers, Abbotsford firefighters, local businesses, and community volunteers began working on a house heavily damaged by fire, the elderly homeowners have moved back into the only home they have ever known just in time for Christmas.

Bill and Annie Connor have been without a home since November 11th when a fire that started in their chimney resulted in serious smoke, fire and water damage. Unable to obtain insurance because it required a costly chimney renovation that they couldn't afford, their future seemed uncertain.

In response to this, two Abbotsford police officers (Sgt. Judy Dizy and Cst. Paul Walker) and a local firefighter (Craig Bird) decided they wanted to help get the couple back into the only home they have ever lived in together. (Bill has lived in the house for over 80 years) What started with just a few people helping grew into an outpouring of community support with hundreds of volunteers and dozens of local businesses lending a hand.

"We are so proud of our community." said Abbotsford Police Sgt. Judy Dizy, who helped coordinate efforts. "I've always known Abbotsford is full of generous and caring people, but the response has been greater than I could have ever imagined."

Firefighter Craig Bird agrees. "I'm just so happy we were able to get this couple back into their home in time for Christmas. I really think this will help make the holidays more special for all those involved, it has for me."

Both Bird and Dizy credit the army of volunteers and local business support for making the project happen. "You name it, we had it offered." said Dizy. "A big big thank you to the corporate citizens in and outside of Abbotsford who contributed. We couldn't have done it without them."

For further information please contact Sgt. Judy Dizy (604-835-1316) or Firefighter Craig Bird (604-854-0911)

*Our Mission:
To make Abbotsford the safest city in B.C.*

Previous release:

Abbotsford – November 17, 2012.

As many people in Abbotsford and the Lower Mainland are aware a fire on November 11, 2012 left an Abbotsford couple homeless. The pair, both over 80 years of age, did not have insurance to cover the damage or repair costs. Since that date, many individuals and companies have come forward with offers to assist. So many offers in fact, that the Connor family has been overwhelmed with coordinating and assessing the offers and their needs moving forward.

Today representatives from the Abbotsford Firefighters Charitable Society and the Abbotsford Police Union met with the Connor family. A plan was created that will see the two emergency services assume the responsibility for coordinating donations and taking care of the immediate needs of the family. In addition, members from both organizations have volunteered their labour to the rebuilding of the Connor home.

Anyone wishing to donate to the cause is asked to call Sgt. Judy Dizy directly at 604-835-1316.

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