



Tarali Griffith

(1973 -)

Growing up on Silvermere Lake, surrounded with a plentiful, active family, Tarali Griffith was adventurous and curious from the time she could move. Swimming, boating, catching frogs and climbing trees were all in a summer day's fun, while tobogganing, skating, and building campfires were winters activities. She and her sisters would build forts, mowed the lawn, chopped firewood from their earliest years, so it is little wonder that Mission's first female career fire captain knew very young that she wanted to be in emergency services.

In school, Tara enjoyed her studies, but school was also filled with sports such as basketball and volleyball. After school there were chores around the house and hanging out at the lake or in the forest. Travelling was a huge part of life for Tara's family including sailing adventures and skiing trips. After graduation, Tara took a year to explore Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and the Cook Islands. She became an advanced open water scuba diver. Then, the waves took her home and Tara started pursuing her dream career. At the Justice Institute she immersed herself in fire science, fire math and auto-extrication training. At UFV, she worked towards an English major as she believed it would either help her achieve a position in the fire service, or it would give her a career as a teacher. It was in 1995 Tara became a paid-on-call volunteer firefighter, with Fire Hall 3 in Silverdale.

After months of rigorous training, Tara, as a 20 year old, rookie firefighter, had her fire pager in hand and waited eagerly for the tones that led her to car fires, medical calls, vehicle accidents, and lengthy structure fires. Tara was fulfilling a dream. She continued to study and volunteer for the fire department as well as respond to fire calls until 2005 when she took parental leave for the birth of her twins, Megan Alexa and Benjamin Matthew, and 18 months later her youngest daughter, Sydney Dawn.

She was back in turnout gear in 2007 and quickly began fire officer training. Mission Fire Rescue Service became a composite fire department in 2009, and Tara's training and hard work paid off as she was hired as an alternate for the first team of four career firefighters. A year later, she secured a permanent spot in the second platoon of four career fire fighters hired. These years were some of the most exciting and rewarding thus far for Tara. In 2016, she became Captain Tarali Griffith and the first female suppression captain in the district.

Tara credits her husband, Ryan, with having supported her through all the long hours the fire service requires. Ryan is an amazing parent, all while he balances a full time career himself. Her whole family is proud of all she has accomplished and supports her by dropping by the fire hall for community events and fund-raisers. Tara believes her greatest accomplishment is her children and being able to raise them with her loving husband. Guided by values instilled by her parents, Alex and Vivian, Tara aspires to "being a positive role model" and "a kind, approachable person."

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