



Photo submitted

DRAW WINNER — Melvin Oates of Roaches Line, (centre), accepts his prize from Bay Roberts Fire Chief Clarence Russell, (left) and Terry Tuttle, vice president. Sponsored by the Bay Roberts Volunteer Fire Department, the draw took place at the Beaver Plaza Dec. 21, 2002.

Chief still in control

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However, just before the meeting was to take place, the president was called by the chief and without an explanation, then ordered not to have a meeting that night and no papers were going to be issued.

Nothing that, "that type of attitude on behalf of the chief towards the fire department has been building, over the years," he said, "that's really the straw that broke the camel's back."

Bay Roberts town manager, Ed Fradsham said there are two or three firemen who are looking to take over and have everybody be his own boss. "That can't be the case—there's got to be one person in control," he said.

Mr. Fradsham said he felt confident of a "peaceful ironing out" of the controversy.

Noting that no decision can be made until council meets, the town manager stressed, "until that

time, everything is still under the control of the fire chief and it has to be."

Asked if there was any talk of the chief retiring, Mr. Fradsham said he understood the chief planned to retire in March, when his term ends. "This is what makes it a bit upsetting—that the boys would want to take such action when only two or three months away, he would have been retiring anyhow."

When contacted by the *Compass* on Monday, Mr. Baggs seemed to be surprised to be asked about the controversy. The chief would make "no comment whatsoever" when asked about the calls for his resignation.

Questioned about his possible plans for retirement, he said, "I don't expect to last forever."

Including the chief and town manager, the Bay Roberts Volunteer Fire Department has 27 members.