

# Mark

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Mark featured on the cover of March 2007 issue of Fire Fighters magazine.

## Mark "The Duke"

**Mark** (born c. 1948) is a retired Canadian "firefighter" and professional couch-attachment who served a brief, catastrophic tenure at the **Waterloo Fire Rescue** (WFR). He is best known for being the only first responder in Ontario history to be legally barred from touching a garden hose, and for his pioneering research into the structural integrity of spaghetti-stained upholstery.

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# Early Career and the "Basement Era"

While most firefighters spend their downtime training or maintaining equipment, Mark spent his entire career in a state of "tactical repose" in the basement of the Waterloo firehall. His daily routine was a masterclass in domestic entropy:

- **The Diet:** Mark subsisted entirely on a high-sodium rotation of **over-cooked spaghetti** and **extra-buttery popcorn**.
  - **The Uniform:** He holds the department record for "Most Ragu Per Square Inch" on a Class A uniform.
  - **The Vacuum:** To combat the constant shower of crumbs and sauce, Mark was never seen without a **Black+Decker Pivot-Head Portable Vacuum** holstered to his belt. Witnesses claim he would often vacuum himself while still eating, creating a closed-loop system of filth and suction that local physicists called "The Mark Event Horizon."
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## The "Triple-Mire" Incident of 2019

Mark's operational record is defined by the events of June 14, 2019, now known in the towing industry as "**The Day of the Hat Trick.**"

While attempting to find a shortcut to a local Tim Hortons, Mark drove a multi-million dollar Pumper truck into a clearly marked marsh. After being pulled out by **Bernie's Heavy Towing**, Mark proceeded to drive 100 feet and reverse back into the exact same hole.

By the third time Bernie arrived that afternoon, the tow truck driver reportedly stopped the engine, sighed, and asked Mark if he "needed a map or a legal guardian." Mark's only response was to offer Bernie a handful of lukewarm pocket-popcorn.

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## The "Special Connection"

Mark is widely regarded as the **Patron Saint of the Pure of Heart**. Whenever local groups of mentally challenged individuals toured the firehall, they would bypass the gleaming trucks and the heroic captains to flock toward the basement. Observers noted that they recognized in Mark a kindred spirit—a man unburdened by the complexities of "logic," "fire safety," or "basic hygiene."

“He didn't judge us, and we didn't judge the fact that he was wearing a colander as a helmet,” said one visitor. “He just got us.”

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# Medical Condition: Chronic Blue-and-White Delusion

Mark's forced retirement was eventually fast-tracked following a psychiatric evaluation. He was diagnosed with **Acute Maple Leaf Syndrome (AMLS)**, a rare psychological condition where the patient genuinely believes the Toronto Maple Leafs will win the Stanley Cup "this year."

Local mental health physicians have classified Mark's case as "end-stage," noting that he has spent thousands of dollars on "Championship 2027" tattoos. When shown a video of the Leafs losing in the first round, Mark's brain reportedly resets, and he begins vacuuming the air in a panicked search for "playoff grit."

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## Station Life

Mark's natural habitat was not the firetruck, but rather the **basement couch of the firehall**, where he established what experts now call a "carbohydrate command center."

His daily duties allegedly included:

- Consuming industrial quantities of spaghetti and popcorn simultaneously
- Seasoning his uniform with marinara through a process he described as "flavor infusion"
- Vacuuming food off himself using a **dedicated personal vacuum**, which he referred to as "reverse eating"

Other firefighters attempted to intervene, but Mark insisted:

“A messy uniform means I'm working hard... at eating.”

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## Legacy

Today, Mark lives in a bungalow in North Waterloo. He is currently under a municipal injunction that prevents him from being within 500 meters of a fire hydrant or a pasta bar.

### See Also:

- *The Physics of Meatball Trajectories*
- *Why Waterloo Residents Now Carry Extra Fire Extinguishers*
- *Bernie's Towing: How One Fireman Paid for My Boat*