

# Bass River Fire Brigade Notes

By Peter Christensen

Hello from the Fire hall.  
A sad time at the hall these days, as we have lost another veteran fireman to the last call. Bob Abbott was his name, Fire Brigade and Chev's were his game.

He was always there anytime I called, to help at any event, and his response was always the same.

As the years rolled on by, he still showed up to help out,

From keeping his other brothers and sisters safe at a fire scene, keeping traffic in its place, he was always in the kitchen, keeping the boys up to date on how to drive a race.

Ask him how he was, he would always reply to me, "Still vertical Peter, still vertical".

And if I asked him on his opinion of my truck, he was always truthful, he would never lie. "I would never get in that darn truck of yours he would say, you know it is a Dodge, don't you?"

Thanks for your honesty, Bob. You will be missed.

The hall is gearing up for

our annual pancake and sausage brunch, upcoming in the near future. Keep looking for future information.

Well today was mighty cold, and I think the old wood stoves were all fired up, for sure. Just a reminder, when the ash box gets full and you have to empty it, if it is too blustery and fierce out at the time and you are going to put it in something make sure it is a steel box or bucket.

Never anything else. Please make sure the bucket is safe away from combustibles, because the bucket may get hot as well. So when taking your ashes out, please be safe.

A big congratulations to our brothers and sisters from the Onslow-Belmont Fire Brigade who are celebrating their own fiftieth anniversary this year. Have fun with your year, get lots of pictures for the next fiftieth.

A special thanks to all who contributed to the Shoreline article on our brigade's 50th Anniversary update.

Until next month, it's Fireman Pete saying goodbye from the firehall.

Arthur Dickie recalls the first "bonfire" after the picnic. "Lester Card and I built a shack and hauled it down to the beach. We put a stove in it and had a bucksaw fastened to the building. Lester dressed as the wife and I was supposed to be the husband. We acted out a skit, where the house caught fire and a bucket brigade, using tidal water was going to put out the fire. The buckets were actually filled with stove oil and boy did that house go up in flames really fast," laughs Artie, saying it was all just in good fun.

Tom Grue says the Dominion Chair Factory Fire in February, 1989 was probably the biggest fire the Brigade has had to deal with in the 50 year history. "It was a big one for sure. I was stationed up in Portapique directing traffic around the fire. Traffic had to go over Portapique Mountain and come out on the other side of the bridge," he says. The fire completely destroyed the plant's main building and facilities.

The Bass River Fire Brigade has continued to be a focal point in the community over the last 50 years. There have been expansions added to the hall, including a new kitchen, truck bays and the roof was once raised. A truck purchased

from the Truro Fire Dept. was later sold to the Five Islands Brigade.

There are now five fire trucks in the hall and thousands of dollars of equipment. Two portable generators are located at the hall, in case the community needs a place to go in case of an emergency. Firemen's new turnout gear has been purchased as well as upgrades to radio and communication systems.

A helicopter landing zone was built on Arthur Dickie's property in Saint's Rest, making it possible to land a Life Flight Helicopter in the area.

Annual events such as the Trail Ride, Pancake Breakfast, Firemen's Picnic and Fall Auction continued to be well supported by the community and good sources of necessary funds to supplement money received annually from the County fire tax. The Brigade has managed to pay off all but a small debt accumulated recently when a new truck and an addition to the hall came at the same time.

Those serving as Fire Chief over the years include: Harold Corbett (1959-64); Artie Dickie (1965); Don Fulton (1966); Bob Taggart (1967-70); Clayton Lewis (1971-72); Harold Corbett (1972-



The annual Bass River Firemen's Picnic was looked forward to each year, with plenty of fun, good food and fine entertainment. These events were helpful fund raisers for the Brigade. (scanned photo)

76); Arnold Chaplin (1975-75); Earl Rutherford (1977-78); Chesly Faulkner (1979-80); Keith Johnson (1981-83); Mike Taggart (1984-88); Keith Johnson (1989); Steve Brown (1989-90); Mike Taggart (1991-94); Donald

Cooke (1995-98); and Chief since 1998, Alfred Grue.

Information taken from the 25th Anniversary Speech by Rachel Wilson, Brigade Minutes, photos and clippings on file at the hall and input from members.



A Bass River Fire Truck takes part in a community parade back in the early 70's. (scanned photo)



Some dedicated members of the Bass River Fire Brigade. (Facebook photo)

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### Are you 90 or 90+?

The Shoreline Journal is planning a special celebration for all residents in our coverage area, who will be celebrating their 90<sup>th</sup> or 90+ birthday this year.

In order to complete our plans we need to know who in our area fits into this category. So that we do not miss anyone, we are asking relatives or friends to register these special residents with us.

Simply send the person's name, birthdate, and contact coordinates. Deadline for registering is March 31, 2011.

The special event will be held in late spring.

Send details to:  
Maurice Rees, Publisher

**The Shoreline Journal**

Box 41, Bass River, NS B0M 1B0  
PH: 902-647-2968, or  
E-mail: [maurice@theshorelinejournal.com](mailto:maurice@theshorelinejournal.com)

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**Congratulations To  
The Bass River Fire Brigade  
On Your 50th Anniversary**