

# Debert Fire Brigade Annual Banquet Held March 14

(Photos By Linda Harrington)



Front (left to right): Brandon Slack, Kyle Slack, Ian Jennings, Gordon Myers- Lieutenant, Frank MacMichael, Royce Totten, Gordon McCully; Back (left to right): Wade Jennings- Chief, Eric Barnhill- Secretary, Shane Slack- Deputy Chief, Randy Barnhill- Treasurer, Rob Stone, Adam Thomas, Bob Davis, Kevin Totten- Lieutenant.

By Linda Harrington

A delicious meal was being enjoyed by all when the alarm sounded and several of Debert Fire Brigade's Medical First Responders answered the call, running for the truck in their dress suits.

Members of Debert United Church provided a beautiful

roast beef dinner for the banquet.

The award presentation was put on hold until everyone was back at the hall, with Rob Stone filling in for Master of Ceremonies while Eric Barnhill was out on the call.

The Annual Report was presented by Chief Wade

Jennings. There were a total of 600 hours of training, 404 man hours for monthly meetings, 645 man hours for work nights and 801 man hours answering 112 calls for a total of 1996 man hours.

Three new members and one junior member joined this year.

The new 532 truck from Metalfab was received in July.

Chief Jennings represented Debert Fire Brigade at the CFFA meeting, sat on the executive as a representative to the Fire School, attended directors meeting at the Fire School and semi-annual and annual meetings of Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia.

There was 1 structure fire, 41 Medical First Responder calls, 41 Automatic Alarm, 5 Mutual Aid, 1 Motor Vehicle Fire, 7 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 2 ATV Accidents, 2 Flu Fires, 2 Ground Fires, 1 Residential Alarm, 5 Miscellaneous, 1 Electrical Fire and 3 Life Flights for the total 112 Fire Calls in 2014.

Gwen Davis presented the Ladies Auxiliary Report. Jean Slack, who passed away earlier this year, has been greatly missed by all.

Congratulations to the Debert Fire Brigade Curling Team (Rob Stone, Randy Barnhill, Eric Barnhill, and Derek Taylor) for their First Place finish in the Sunday Night Fire Fighters Curling League.

Special recognition for Charter Members Royce Totten, Frank MacMichael and Gordon McCully and also to retired Chief Ted Totten, who were all in attendance.

15 Year Service Awards were awarded to Don Geldart (absent) and Kyle Slack and a 25 Year Service Award to Eric Barnhill.

Fire Fighter of the Year was presented to Brandon Slack. Fire Officer of the Year was awarded to Don Geldart and The Wendall Barnhill Most Improved Firefighter Award was awarded to Mike Hepburn. These members have each won these awards, voted on by their peers, for the three years in a row.



Chief Wade Jennings presents Brandon Slack with the Firefighter of the Year Award.



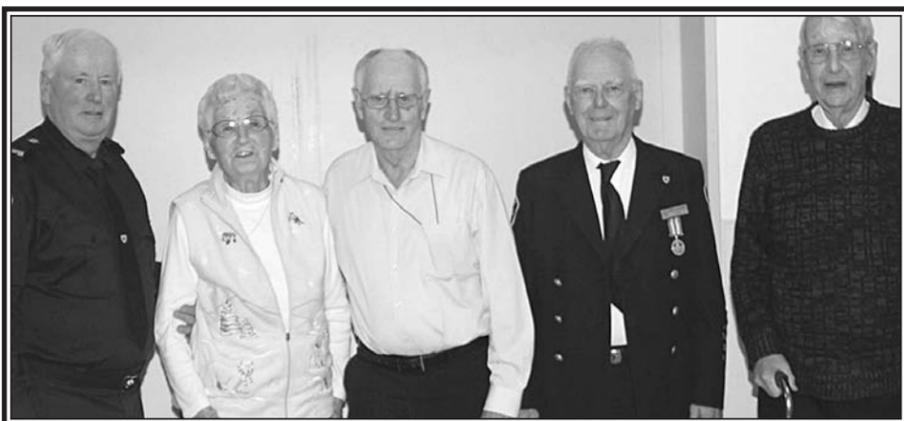
Fire Fighters always have each other's backs! Eric Barnhill shares his tie with Brandon Slack before the award presentation.



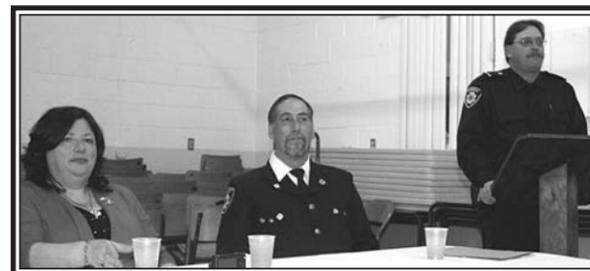
Chief Wade Jennings presents Eric Barnhill with a 25 Year Service Award.



Chief Wade Jennings presents Kyle Slack with a 15 Year Service Award.



Special welcome to Royce Totten (Charter Member), Fran Forman (Member of Ladies Auxiliary since 1973), Ted Totten (Former Fire Chief), Frank MacMichael (Charter Member) and Gordon McCully (Charter Member).



Rob Stone filled in as Master of Ceremonies, when an emergency call came in during the banquet.

## Appreciating Fire Fighters & Medical First Responders

By Linda Harrington

When the emergency alarm sounds, there is no hesitation for Fire Fighters or Medical First Responders, no matter where they are or what they are doing.

This was the case at the Debert Fire Brigade Annual Banquet, March 14. The meal had been served when the alarm sounded. Medical First Responders, including a couple invited guests, ran for the door... wearing their formal dress suits.

The celebration was put on hold until everyone was back, but the moment was cause for reflection on the importance of these volunteers throughout each of our communities.

Many night's sleep have been interrupted, family events

missed, work days interrupted and plans changed each and every time the alarm rings.

Emergencies don't just happen on beautiful sunny days. These volunteers head out in all kinds of weather, usually the worst kinds, without a word of complaint.

When we dial 911 in distress, we expect help to there. There are paid services within the urban areas but out here in rural Nova Scotia the first to come to our aid are local volunteers, who drop everything when the call comes in.

Time is of the essence during an emergency and having these services close by has saved many lives and many \$\$\$ in property.

Many of these volunteers have been doing this every day for years. There are a few new recruits, learning from these veteran members, but like all volunteer organizations the numbers are declining and new members would be welcomed and appreciated in all brigades.

Thank you to all Fire Fighters and Medical First Responders, and their families, for giving so much to our communities.

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