

# Debert Fire Brigade 2025 Annual Banquet

By Linda Harrington

The Debert Fire Brigade Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, March 22nd at the Debert Hospitality Centre. 2025 is the 53rd year of fire protection for the Brigade.

Chief Shane Slack opened the presentation of his report with a moment's silence for those who passed away over the last year, including honorary Charter Member Royce Totten. He recognized Charter member Frank MacMichael at the head table who is 98 years young! He then welcomed everyone and presented his report, thanking all the members for their dedicated services, along with their spouses or significant others and extended families for their support. A special note of thanks was passed along to Charles,



Members of the Debert Fire Brigade present at the Annual Banquet pose for a photo.

Charlie and Danny, the unsung heroes who keep the trucks, building and law in great condition.

Chief Slack also thanked those who have participated in all the training events and to the crews who keep checks on the trucks and equipment.

Three new members

joined the Brigade this year- Brittney Lesser, Danika Harrington and Michael Hause. Two members achieved MFR qualifications. Thank you to Eric Barnhill and crew for organizing the Fire Prevention visit to the school and the Open House at the fire hall.

Members put in total of 969 hours of training, 94 calls totalling 1238 man hours, monthly meetings 384 man hours, other meetings 426 hours, work nights 832 man hours, duty weekends 202 man hours for a grand total of 4051 hours.

94 Call-outs included: 1 Flue Fire, 3-Ground Fires, 2-MVA fire and 11- MVA injuries related, 18-Commercial, 6- Mutual Aid, 1- Structure Fire, 1-Smoke Conditions, 43-Medical First Responders, 4- Residential Alarms, 1-Miscellaneous.

Deputy Mayor Laurie Sandeson passed along regrets from Mayor Blair who was unable to attend and thanked the fire fighters for all they do and for their courage and selflessness. She noted how fortunate Colchester is to have 17 volunteer Fire Brigade protecting the communities.

Councillor Marie Irving Benoit passed along her



One special honorary guest at the Debert Fire Brigade Annual Banquet was Frank MacMichael, 98 years young and a Charter Member/Life Member.

gratitude to each and every one of the volunteers for all the hours they spend in training, responding to calls and Mutual Aid and also thanked their families. She passed along her appreciation for the community support from all the local Brigades during community events.

The 2025 Debert Fire Brigade Officers include: Chief Shane Slack, Deputy Chief Adam Thomas, Cap-

tain Gordon Shipley, Captain- Ian Jennings, Lieutenant Peter Dellewell, Lieutenant Colin Jennings.

The Wendell Barnhill Most Improved Fire Fighter was awarded to Josh Myers (who was away working). Fire Fighter of the Year Award was awarded to Mike Hepburn. Fire Officer of the Year Award was awarded to Adam Thomas for the fifth consecutive year.



The 2025 Debert Fire Brigade Officers include (left to right) Lieutenant Fire- Colin Jennings, Captain Ian Jennings, Captain Gordon Shipley, Chief Shane Slack, Deputy Chief Adam Thomas, Captain Ian Jennings, and Lieutenant- Peter Dellewell.

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