

Debert Fire Brigade 2026 Annual Banquet

By Linda Harrington

The Debert Fire Brigade Annual Banquet was held on Sunday, March 10th at the Debert Hospitality Centre. 2026 is the 53rd year of fire protection for the Debert Brigade.

Eric Barnhill acted as emcee for the evening and dedicated this year's banquet to one of the original Charter Members Frank MacMichael, who passed away recently. At the head table were District 9 Councillor Marie Benoit, Chief Shane Slack and his wife Wanda, Colchester County Mayor Christine Blair, and MLA Tom Taggart.

Charter Members are original members who had continuous membership in the Debert Fire Brigade from 1972-1982. Ed Hingley was the only Charter Members present at the Banquet, and he is also a Life Member. Lifetime members Randy Barnhill



The Debert Fire Brigade Executive (left to right): Rob Stone- Steward, Dan Weatherbee- Lieutenant MFR, Ian Jennings- Captain Fire Scene, Adam Thomas- Deputy Chief, Shane Slack- Chief, Colin Jennings- Captain Fire Scene, Peter Dellewell- Lieutenant Fire Scene, Tracy McLennon- Treasurer, Britney Lesser- Secretary.

and Bob Davis were present along with two former Debert Fire Brigade Chiefs Ed Hingley and Wade Jennings.

Chief Shane Slack welcomed everyone and presented his report, thanking all the members for their dedicated services.

Members put in total of 6414 man-hours with training- 1284 hours, 128 calls totaling 1715 hours, monthly meetings- 532 hours, other meetings- 469 hours, work nights- 1740 hours, duty weekends- 214 hours, general maintenance- 460 hours.

A few of the highlights this year included an upgrade to the radio system, upgrades to the SCBA's, Fire Prevention at the School with Touch a Truck and Fire Extinguisher Training at Debert Court.

The 128 Call Outs this year included: 28-Commercial False Alarms, 17- Mutual Aid, 52- Medical First Responders plus the remaining 31 included calls such as structure fires, grass fires and MVA's.

Deputy Chief Adam Thomas passed along a lengthy list of thank you's and notes of appreciation for many members of the Brigade who step up and do so many different tasks.

Councillor Marie Benoit

passed along her appreciation for the Brigade, their families and Fire Brigade Members and their families in neighboring communities who lend their support to the local area.

Mayor Christine Blair thanked the fire fighters and noted the importance of the new Support for Fire Protection Service Act to standardize fire services across the province.

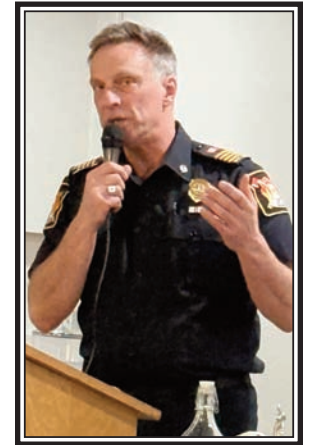
MLA Tom Taggart passed along his appreciation and noted the importance of the new Support for Fire Protection Service Act to standardize fire services across the province.

The Wendell Barnhill Most Improved Fire Fighter was awarded to Dan Weatherbee. Fire Fighter of the Year Award was awarded to Adam Thomas.

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Bible Hill Deputy Steve Currie was the guest speaker for the Banquet, and he gave a very informative talk on the Rapid Intervention Team stationed out of Bible Hill who currently cover Debert, Brookfield, Great Village, Hilden, Onslow Belmont. This highly trained team of five responds to help Fire Fighters to a structure fire page. Along with their individual expertise they bring extensive rescue gear dedicated only to assisting fire fighters who may have an on-scene emergency. At a fire scene, they unload their gear close to Incident Command but out of the way. They get reports from the Incident Commander, monitor radio traffic and do their own surveillance. Training is essential, making sure the team can respond to any conditions encountered during a Fire Fighter MAYDAY call. An amazing service to provide emergency support and care for those putting their lives on the line for their community.



Bible Hill Deputy Steve Currie was guest speaker at the Debert Fire Brigade Banquet on March 10th. He gave an informative overview of the Rapid Intervention Team, a five person team who head to an emergency scene to provide emergency support specifically for Firefighters.



Randy and Eric Barnhill present the Wendell Barnhill Memorial Award for Most Improved Fire Fighter to Dan Weatherbee.



Debert Deputy Chief Adam Thomas presents Dan Weatherbee with the Fire Fighter of the Year Award.



Debert Chief Shane Slack presents Adam Thomas with the Fire Officer of the Year Award.



Group photo of present members, former Chiefs and Life Members of the Debert Fire Brigade present at the Banquet on March 10th.



Chief Shane Slack presents the Debert Fire Brigade's Chief Report.



Deputy Chief Adam Thomas had a lot of people to express appreciation on behalf of the Debert Fire Brigade.



Councillor Marie Benoit passed along her appreciation to Brigade Members and their families as well as Members of Brigades in neighbouring communities for their courage, commitment and dedication to protect the people who live in the community.



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