

Support for Families of Missing, Murdered Indigenous People

A renewed partnership between the Province of Nova Scotia and Government of Canada will ensure that more families of missing and murdered Indigenous people have help when they need it most. The agreement provides more funding for Nova Scotia's Family Information Liaison Unit, a program co-ordinated through provincial Victim Services. A portion of funding also goes to the Nova Scotia Native Women's Association for its work on community outreach and prevention.

With the additional funding, the unit will add a full-time case co-ordinator with

Victim Services and a full-time community outreach position at the association.

"Through Nova Scotia's Victim Services, we strive to provide supports that are culturally responsive and easy to navigate so that people can access justice and move toward healing," said Attorney General and Justice Minister Becky Druhan. "The Family Information Liaison Unit is an important resource for Indigenous families, and I'm so pleased to see it continue and expand."

The unit provides specialized support services to families of missing and murdered Indigenous people in a family-cen-

tred, culturally grounded and trauma-informed manner. It helps gather information from government sources about the family's loved one, including assistance in addressing unanswered questions, and also makes connections between family members and cultural advisors, Elders and other culturally grounded community supports.

The funding is provided by Justice Canada through the Federal Victims Strategy's Victims Fund. The new agreement provides a total of almost \$2.2 million over five years, an increase of almost \$800,000 from the previous five-year agreement.

History of the Great Village and District Fire Brigade

(Taken from the Great Village and District Gazette)

Great Village and District Fire Brigade was organized in February of 1925, to provide property holders better protection against fire after a series of devastating losses. The Great Village Fire Brigade was initially organized to protect the businesses, assets and property of the citizens of Great Village proper. On February 4, 1965, the fire brigade was expanded to include Glenholme, Londonderry Mines, Londonderry Station and Highland Village, creating a shift to the Great Village and District Fire Brigade. During the same meeting, our now fire hall, formerly a Texaco fuel station, for \$2000.

The first brigade meeting took place in the fire hall on October 5, 1965. On April 6, 1966, the first fire truck was purchased from Goodspeeds Ltd. for \$1729.00. A new pump was purchased from King Seagraves for \$1550.00 and the truck put into service on September 6, 1966.

The fire auxiliary was organized in April of 1968. April of 1968 also saw the addition of Folly Lake into the fire district, along with the implementation of the fire tax, which was set at a rate of \$1.00 per dwelling. December 28, 1968, a special meeting was held to determine the brigades next steps after a fire burned the fire hall to the ground, losing all apparatus and equipment inside, on Christmas eve, 1968. The brigade was awarded \$6000 in insurance funds to cover the fire hall and its contents.

January 3, 1969 saw the first appointment of the fire commission, along with Bible Hill Fire Brigade loaning out a portable trailer pump until we could obtain a replacement.

In March of 1969, Cicely Nelson, the local telephone operator, took over the responsibility of initiating the fire brigade's response over the telephone. Members connected to party lines would hear one long ring, those fortunate enough to have private lines, heard three short rings. Cicely would provide the location of the fire to the firemen and the first man to the hall would mark the location on the blackboard at the hall. In May of 1969, the brigade purchased a 1952 Bickel Seagrave through war assets.

In October of 1971, a tanker truck was purchased and put into service. 1973 saw some big changes for the brigade with the acquisition of the Londonderry substation. The building was purchased from the Londonderry Athletic Association for \$1500 and moved to the lot where the Londonderry substation still resides today. The hall needed

some equipment, and a third truck was added to the fleet, a 1966 one and a half ton truck, for \$288.

1974 saw the brigade incorporated under the Rural and District Fire Association, along with the introduction of portable CB radios, while fire calls continued to be dispatched by phoning 668-2222, and continued into the early 1990s. 1993-94 saw the implementation of Colchester County Dispatch and the implementation of 911.

1975 saw the organization of mutual aid protocols, with the brigade becoming an active member.

The early 2000's saw rapid growth, expansion and investment in our equipment, training, membership and community service provision. 2002 and 2003 saw major transformations in infrastructure, with additions including a kitchen, radio room and work area, an accessible washroom and housing for three trucks. These additions were possible through extensive volunteer labour from the membership and lessened the financial burden for the brigade considerably.

Over the years, trucks have been upgraded and replaced. In 2004, the brigade had bought and paid for 5 trucks; a rescue unit, two tankers, a mini pumper, and an equipment truck.

Through the dedication of the membership, skills, training and opportunities continued to expand. Members completed training in medical first response, purchased a defibrillation and a set of jaws to further protect and serve our community.

Much of this growth would not have been possible without fundraising efforts and the support, leadership and generosity of the ladies auxiliary.

Fire Chiefs throughout the years include: E. G. McColough 1925-1931; James Peppard 1932-1945; Norman Bowers 1946; D. R. (Bun) Adamson 1966-1969; W. M. O'Brien 1969-1971; Carl Williams 1972; Robert Layton 1973-1974; Richard Ross 1975-1981; Harry Chase 1982; Donald Frizzle 1983-1984; Dan Farnham 1985; Harry Chase 1986; Tim MacKay 1987-1990; Charles Smylie 1991-1993; David Lundie 1994-2018; Gordon "Larry" Kinsman 2019-2022 and Gregg Kinsman 2022-Present.

Presidents of the Ladies Auxiliary have included: Mrs. Ella Shelby 1968-1969; Mrs. Audrey Congdon 1970; Mrs. Verna Cock 1971; None Listed 1972-1980; Mrs. Phyllis Chase 1981-1982; Mrs. Diane Lundie 1983-1984; Mrs. Phyllis Chase 1985; Mrs. Betty MacNeil 1986-2019 and Katherine Slack 2019-Present.

Also see 100th Anniversary story on page 1 and 10.



Pictou County Berry Ltd was one of the exhibits at the WBPANS Field Day.



MLA Scott Armstrong, WBPANS Executive Director Peter Burgess and Minister of Agriculture Greg Morrow had a chance to chat about some of issues currently facing the Wild Blueberry Industry. See the story and more photos on page 11.



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- 5) Highway Median Mower** - BMM-5 median mower is a combination of 2 mid-mount 5-foot side mowers mounted on left and right sides of 90 HP tractor unit and 2 five-foot heads with 1 four-foot head mounted under a tow frame with a total cut path of 21'6". All heads are independently raised and lowered.
- 6) DBE Electronics** - We offer contract electronics manufacturing with an emphasis on product quality and on time delivery. Manufacturing capabilities include electronic assembly, printed circuit boards and cable assemblies for prototype to production run quantities. No quantity is too large or too small.
- 7) Cranberry Harvester** - This is the latest addition of Doug Bragg Enterprises's lineup of custom manufactured products. This machine is intended for dry picking cranberries with as little waste as possible and with virtually no damage to the bog. The ground pressure with the recommended setup is less than a foot print of an adult of average size.

