

Fire Prevention presentation to area students



Firefighter Wade Rutherford of Great Village Fire Brigade answers questions from students at Great Village Elementary School during a Fire Prevention Week visit. (Submitted)

By Kathy Simpson-Giles

On October 8th, I had the pleasure of visiting the Great Village Elementary School to do the annual Fire Prevention presentation. This is one of the highlights of the year for me. The students are really a great bunch of people and this year they had a new focus not seen in previous presentations. One of my helpers this year was Molly. Molly is four year old Dalmatian belonging to Firefighter Larry and helped me in my talk to the students.

Besides "Molly the Fire Dog", I was joined by Chief Dave Lundie, Captain Larry Kinsman and Firefighter and MFR Wade Rutherford. I would like to extend my thanks to them.

I hope that you have changed the batteries in your smoke detectors and have your escape routes with your families. This



year's theme for Fire Prevention was "Smoke Detectors, A Sound You Can Live With".

Having had some questions about the Dalmatian as a Fire Dog, I did some research this week on their origin. The Dalmatian was originally used as a carriage dog in the horse and buggy days in England. They would run with the horses and, at day's end, rest with them as well. In a time when there was a concern about horse thieves, the Dalmatians acted as guards for the horses and would chase off anyone who did not belong there.

Dalmatians were brought to North America as a working dog. This time, they were companions for the horses that drew the fire apparatus before motorized vehicles. When the alarm sounded, the dogs would run with the horses or perch on the wagons. At the scene of a fire, the dog's job was to keep the horses calm and watched over them until the fire was done.

Although we no longer need to use horses, the Dalmatian is still a symbol of the Fire Service. "Sparky the Fire Dog" brings us messages

Great Village Fire Brigade's Captain Larry Kinsman poses with Molly the fire dog following a visit to Great Village Elementary School. (Submitted)

of fire safety today.

Our Auction took place this month and we would like to thank all of you in the community for your continued support. As always, we couldn't do it without your donations and participation. Once again, it was a success because of the help of the community. Thanks to the members who worked tirelessly as well especially Gregg Kinsman for his efforts as coordinator.

As we are into the cooler temperatures, I'll take a moment to remind you to check your chimneys and keep them clean.

A last note... do you have a civic number posted at the end of your driveway? If not, you can order yours by calling 668-2314. The cost of the sign is \$20.00 with the post, or \$15.00 without. That's not a lot of money to ensure that you can be easily identified in any emergency.

Great Village Fire News

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Deadline for the January issue of

The Shoreline is December 14
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10 Church Street, PO Box 1068
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Halifax
1718 Argyle Street, Suite 510
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