

Wentworth Volunteer Fire Fighters Recognized at Banquet



Joe Patriquin and Vernon Sprague attended the annual banquet organized by members of the Wentworth Volunteer Fire Department held at the Wentworth Recreation Centre. Both Patriquin and Sprague were honoured by having a symbolic fire helmet placed on a panel at the Fire Hall for 35 years of service. Both men have served 39 years. (Hope Bridgewater Photo)

By Hope Bridgewater

The Wentworth community salutes the Wentworth Volunteer Fire Department for their courage, friendship, and caring for the people of all ages whom they voluntarily help at all hours of the day and night when a call comes in. When asked by a community group, the Wentworth volunteer firefighters will do a presentation stating their mission, its volunteer work attending community problems (fires, storms, accidents and other problems), its equipment and how to use it (a defibrillator, a medical oxygen bottle kit, a blood pressure kit, a firefighter bunker suit, an ice rescue suit, a self-contained breathing apparatus, and fighting in a darkened room with lighted straps on their uniforms). At times, their mascot, Sparky the Dalmatian dog, appears and tells how past Dalmatian dogs ran with horses hauling Fire Carriages.

Not only do the Wentworth Firefighters enlighten adults about their mission, but they also educate students at the Wentworth Consolidated Elementary School about their volunteer work. Once a parent told me her son asked her to obey the firefighters about fire safety and how she should be careful to obey all the rules. This may be why, if other Wentworth students are watching their parent's behaviour as well, there are not as many house flue fires as there were in the past.

Wentworth volunteer firefighters do the following activities for the Wentworth students: give lessons on fire safety and safety during Fire Prevention Week; teach snowplow safety; in winter bring a fire hose to make a school skating rink with ice; give monetary scholarships to grade six students to buy school supplies for junior high school in Pugwash; accept invitations from the school principal to attend graduation ceremonies, school concerts, and a special tea for volunteers; serving at Christmas and

Thanksgiving dinners with food prepared by the students' parents; hiring a Santa Claus and giving out treats to the students; holding a Halloween Trick or Treat for all young ages (including elementary school students), and their parents at the Fire Hall. The Wentworth volunteer firefighters, as well, continue at all times to be mentors and friends with these elementary school students outside in the community.

Each year, the Wentworth voluntary firefighters ask the Wentworth United Church to cater to their annual banquet at the Wentworth Recreation Centre. UCW members working in the kitchen in order to supply a roast pork supper with dessert were Rev. Brian DeLong (honourary member and Wentworth United Church minister), Debbi DeLong, Martha Wilson, Betty Duizer, Marie Duranceau, Twila McMaster, and Richard Logan. Those serving the meal to the firefighters and their invited guests were Rev. Brian DeLong (supervisor), Barbara Palmer, Stuart Palmer (teenager), Jessica Palmer (teenager), and Winston Patriquin

The roasted pork supper with trimmings was also served with a variety of pies. Drinks were punch, tea, coffee.

Out on the floor, Edison Lynds, as Master of Ceremonies, began by asking for a moment of silence for all those who had passed on and asked firefighter member, Rev. Darryl Dykens (Wentworth Baptist minister) to say the blessing for the meal. A round of applause was given to those who had prepared the meal. Jean Wood on behalf of the widows of past firefighters (Betty Curry, Carol Hanson, Ella Patriquin, Marian Gower, Ethel Gilroy, and herself) thanked the firefighters for always inviting the widows to the annual banquet.

Current members of the Wentworth Volunteer Fire Department are: Norman Gower, Joe Patriquin, Vernon Sprague (former Fire Chief), Dale Patriquin, Alton Crawford, David Ogilvie, Bill Baker, Kevin Sprague (Fire Chief), Arden Little (Deputy Fire Chief), Edison Lynds, Orland Carter, Carson Dares, Carl Black, Glen Rushton, Conor Scallion, Jeremy Tattrie, Todd Seymour, Al McLellan, and Darryl Dykens.

At the banquet meeting, introductions included Justin and Andrea Rushton (Westchester Fire Department), Ian and Nancy MacDonald (Tatamagouche Fire Department), Paul Leblanc (Wallace Fire Department), Penny Henneberry (Director of Planning and Development, Fire Protection Services, and Firefighter Widows)

Training remarks were delivered by the Department Secretary and training officer Conor Scallion. Many interesting awards were given out: perfect meeting attendance: Vernon Sprague, Norman Gower, Orland Carter, Kevin Sprague, Conor Scallion, Arden Little; ten year member: Carson Dares; twenty-five year member: Edison Lynds; thirty-five year member: Alton Crawford; These ten, twenty-five and thirty-five year awards included presentations from Wentworth Volunteer Fire Department, Office of District 6 Councillor Bill Baker, Office of Nova Scotia MLA Jamie Baillie, and Office of Federal MP Scott Armstrong. The Wentworth Firefighter of the Year Award was presented to Al McLellan. Penny Henneberry expressed acknowledgements on behalf of the Cumberland County Municipal Office. Closing remarks were delivered by Kevin Sprague, Wentworth Fire Chief.



Ava Purdy gives her grandmother, Gail Hines a hand at the Debert Legion's Christmas Craft Sale on Nov. 2nd. (Harrington Photo)



Sue Taylor can brighten any room with her beautiful floral arrangements. She had a nice selection on display at the Debert Legion's Christmas Craft Sale and she is always happy to take orders. (Harrington Photo)

Clifton 4-H Club Report

By club reporter
Gillian Blackburn

On November 5th, our Clifton 4-H club starts off a new year with 52 members and 19 leaders. With a new start, Teresa McNutt, one of our two general leaders, along with Scott Masters, gave a brief intro for our new members.

Our new executive for this year are President Marla McNutt, Vice President Ella McCurdy, Secretary Jelisa Waugh, Treasurer Taylor Masters and Club Reporter Gillian Blackburn. There were no club meeting reports, new or old business presented.

The general leader's report started with the handing out of the '4-H Bible'. These booklets contain all the info for most 4-H events throughout the year and basic info for anything 4-H.

The 6th Annual Colchester County 4-H Awards and Auction Night was on November 9th. There were lots of great items for the silent auction and live auction, and some wonderful awards to be won for top members. We would like to say a huge thank you to all of those who gave donations and/or bid and won items at the auction, we made over \$5,100!



Clifton 4-H is also hosting lots of fundraisers too, center pieces will be made by volunteers in December for the club and the Christmas Index program, orders due by Nov. 27.

Cookbooks are being sold around the county and a bottle exchange is being hosted by the club at Subway. The NS 4-H Council has a new fundraising initiative selling subscriptions for Rural Delivery, Horse and Pony,

Atlantic Forestry and Atlantic Beef, good for new and renewal subscriptions. Contact any of our members to purchase any of these items

Congrats to all members who went to and received awards at the NS Provincial 4-H Show and to our very own three members, Taylor Masters, Holly Masters and Lane Yuill who went to the Royal!

Jonathan Baha'i Gets Bunker Ownership Papers



Jonathan Baha'i (center) was pleased to offer free tours of the Debert Bunker to local Veterans and their families on Remembrance Day. Mr. Baha'i recently received a clear deed to the property and is looking forward to moving forward with exciting plans for the facility. (submitted)

By Linda Harrington

Finally, a year after purchasing the Debert Diefenbunker at a County tax sale, Jonathan Baha'i has his ownership papers in hand.

The court rejected an application by Anton Self's Dataville Farms Ltd., for an order allowing him to redeem ownership of the bunker.

The Municipality of the County of Colchester put the site on the auction block last November when an \$18,000 tax bill was not paid. Jonathan Baha'i purchased the Debert Diefenbunker and adjoining parking lot for approximately \$35,000 but the transfer of the deed was held up when Self applied to the Supreme Court, taking both the Municipality and Baha'i to court.

"I am not surprised by the decision, because we were clearly on the side of the law," says Baha'i. "It is bitter sweet that it took this long to get settled and cost me several opportunities to start operations at the bunker that could have had hundreds of jobs right now. I am anxious to get things going there and bringing the bunker back to life."

When Baha'i purchased the bunker he says it was in no condition to operate as a data center but he has continued with clean-up, working towards providing high security cloud storage and other data services worldwide.

Once certain standards are reached, to ensure uptime operations, Baha'i expects to bring on new workers, creating over 150 new jobs at the bunker.

"This only accounts for a portion of the bunker", he says. "The

rest of it we are offering to the public via our Crowd Fund."

The Crowd Fund allows those who make a contribution in support of the bunker to suggest and vote on programming on a month to month basis. Baha'i calls this community based programming and hopes to bring new and exciting activities and events to the bunker.

In 2013, part of the bunker was used to film an independent movie, Bunker 6. It was also used for paintball and airsoft games.

Free Bunker Tours were offered each weekend throughout the month of November for Crowd Fund supporters. A Doomsday zombie event was held around Halloween, as well.

"The activities will hopefully increase tourism to the region, while at the same time bringing much needed repairs and maintenance to the bunker, which has been denied for so long. Anybody who wishes to join us with these plans can go to www.savethebunker.com," says Baha'i.

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