

Debert Brigade holds 52nd Annual Banquet

PhotoBy Linda Harrington

The Debert Fire Brigade Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, May 31st at the Debert Hospitality Centre. 2024 is the 52nd year of fire protection for the Debert Brigade.

Eric Barnhill acted as emcee for the evening and introduced the head table including 97 year old Frank MacMichael, who he introduced as the "Most Experienced Firefighter" present at the banquet. Also at the head table were Rick MacMichael, Councillor Marie Benoit, Chief Shane Slack and his wife Wanda, Mayor Christine Blair, MLA Tom Taggart and his wife Zylpha.

Charter Members are original members who had continuous membership in the Debert Fire Brigade from 1972-1982. Frank MacMichael and Ed Hingley were two Charter Members present at the Banquet, and they are also Life Members. Lifetime members Randy Barnhill and Bob Davis were present along with three former Debert Fire Brigade Chiefs Aubrey Gamble, Ed Hingley and Wade Jennings.

Chief Shane Slack welcomed everyone and presented his report, thanking all the members for their dedicated services, saying the Brigade just continues to get better and better. "It is not an "I", it is a "we", and it has taken a lot of team effort." He gave a special thank you to Danny, Charlie and Charles who he says are the unsung heroes of the Brigade, keeping things running behind the scenes.

Members put in total of 1210 hours of training, 98 calls totaling 960-man hours, monthly meetings 310-man hours, other meetings-678 hours, work nights 724-man hours, duty weekends-1885-man hours for a grand total of 4237 hours.

A new back-up generator was installed at the Hall this



The 2024 Debert Fire Brigade Officers include (left to right) Lieutenant Fire- Colin Jennings, 1st Captain Gordon Shipley, Chief Shane Slack, Deputy Chief Adam Thomas, 2nd Captain Ian Jennings, and Lieutenant Medical First Responders- Peter Dellwell.

past year. The attic was cleaned out and new insulation put in, resulting in lower heating costs.

The 98 Call Outs this year included: 0- Flue Fires, 3-Ground, 3-Electrical, 1- MVA fire and 7- MVA injuries related, 20-Commercial False Alarms, 22- Mutual Aid, 2- Structure Fires, Air Show- 2 days, 37- Medical First Responders, 1- Residential

Alarms, 1- Public Assist.

The 2024 Debert Fire Brigade Officers include Chief Shane Slack, Deputy Chief Adam Thomas, Lieutenant Fire- Colin Jennings, 1st Captain Gordon Shipley, 2nd Captain Ian Jennings, Lieutenant Medical First Responders- Peter Dellwell, Secretary- Dan Weatherbee and Treasurer- Tracy McLennon.

Councillor Marie Benoit passed along her appreciation for the Brigade, thanking members for going above and beyond and always being available at a moment's notice.

Mayor Christine Blair thanked the fire fighters for all their volunteer hours and to their families, also. She passed along a note of

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MLA Tom Taggart



Mayor Christine Blair



Councillor Marie Benoit



Some of the honorary guests included Ed Hingley (Charter Member, Life Member and former Chief), Wade Jennings (former Chief), Frank MacMichael (Charter Member, Life Member), and Aubrey Gamble (former Chief).



The head table included (left to right) Frank MacMichael, Rick MacMichael, Councillor Marie Benoit, Chief Shane Slack and his wife Wanda, Mayor Christine Blair, MLA Tom Taggart and his wife Zylpha.



Thank you for your many years of service in helping to protect our community

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