



MLA Karen Casey presents Deputy Chief Roger Roode with a 25 Year Long Term Service Award.



35 Year Service Award was presented to Douglas Congdon by Chief Dave Lundie and Deputy Chief Roger Roode.



Great Village & District Fire Chief Dave Lundie congratulates Roger Roode on receiving the Junior Fire Fighter of the Year Award.



The Steve Francis Memorial Award was presented by JJ Francis to Tony van den Hoek of Lowland Gardens.



Patrick O'Brien presents Pat Flemming with the Claude O'Brien Fellowship Award.



Maureen Eagles serves Serena Blenkhorn and Michael Santos a piece of 85th Anniversary Cake at the Great Village Firemen's Spring Auction on April 30th. (Harrington Photo)

Great Village Establishes Fire Commission January 1969

By Linda Harrington

A special meeting of Great Village fire brigade was called for December 28th, 1968 in the Legion Hall to discuss the rebuilding of the Fire Hall, which had been destroyed by fire in December 24, 1968.

The first Fire Commission was appointed on January 3, 1969 with Ivan Johnson as Chairman, Treasurer- William Dodsworth, Secretary- F.J. Welch and Commissioners- Earl Gray and John Geddens.

A portable trailer pump was loaned to the Brigade from the Bible Hill Fire Brigade until a fire truck could be obtained.

The local telephone operator, Cicely Nelson, took on the task of setting off the Fire Alarms on March 6, 1969. On party lines, one long ring and on private lines, three short rings, let everyone know there was an alarm. The first man arriving at the hall would mark the fire location on the blackboard.

In May 1969, a 1952 Bickle Seagrave Fire Truck was purchased, with a water capacity of 500 gallons, a 1025 GPM pump and two booster reels.

The first meeting was held in the newly built Fire Hall on January 7, 1970. Reconstruction was made possible by insurance money, fund raising efforts, volunteer work by citizens of Great Village and students from the Vocational School in Truro (who helped with the brick work). Fire Chief was William O'Brien and Deputy Chief was Carl Williams. The Ladies Auxiliary donated \$2000 to help purchase a furnace, they bought flooring and paint for the meeting room and later on they purchased an overhead door, as well.

A second truck was purchased from Brookfield Foods and made into a tanker truck by October, 1971.

1972- Fire Chief Carl Williams and Deputy Chief Robert Layton; 1973- Fire Chief Robert Layton and Deputy Chief Carl Williams.

1973- A piece of land was purchased in Londonderry to establish #2 Fire Hall. A 1966 1 ½ ton Ford truck was purchased for Londonderry and the Athletic Association building was bought for \$1500 and moved to the Fire Hall location.

Firefighting equipment continued to be added over the years as funds permitted. The first portable radios were purchased for the trucks in 1974.

Richard Ross was elected Chief in 1975, with Foster Smith, Deputy Chief. Mutual Aid for Colchester County was being organized.

The kitchen was built in 1976 and a fire escape finalized. Mutual Aid Training courses were held in 1976.

Richard Ross continued as Fire Chief into 1977, with Claude O'Brien as Deputy.

The Ladies Auxiliary provided funds to purchase a resuscitator in 1977. The Great Village & District Fire Brigade hosted the Annual Colchester County Fireman's Field Day in Londonderry on June 25th, 1977.

1978- Richard Ross, Chief; Ivan Johnson, Deputy Chief.

A new radio system was

installed in March, 1978 with most firemen equipped with pagers. Betty MacNeil received the fire calls and passed on the pages to the members. Lester Spencer was Radio Operator at the Firehall.

1979- 1980 saw Richard Ross re-elected as Chief and Claude O'Brien as Deputy. A new Hi-cube Van was purchased for \$10,600 and outfitted. This was paid off by July, 1980.

Richard Ross continued as Fire Chief in 1981, with Lee Patriquin as Deputy. A new 1981 GMC one ton, four wheel drive Mini King Pumper was ordered for a price of \$28,700. This was stationed in the Londonderry Fire Hall.

1982- Fire Chief, Harry Chase; Deputy, Lee Patriquin.

1983- Fire Chief, Donald Frizzle; Deputy, Richard Ross. Ladies Auxiliary donated \$600 to purchase two hand held radios. Ten dress uniforms were ordered for the senior members. The Mini King Pumper truck was paid off.

1984- Fire Chief- Donald Frizzle; Deputy, Douglas Congdon. A third truck was ordered- a 1984 Chev cab with a 427 engine, equipped

with a Hale 625 GPM pump. Total cost was \$68,600. Five members are qualified as Level 1 Firefighters. The Brigade suffered another setback when Graham's garage burnt destroying one of their fire trucks which was stored inside.

1985- Fire Chief- Harry Chase; Deputy, Donald Frizzle. The Brigade marked its 60th Anniversary with a banquet and presentation of awards. Robert Layton and Kenneth Congdon received 40 Year Service Awards.

1987- Fire Chief, Danny Garnum; Deputy, Scott Lundie.

1988- Fire Chief, Tim MacKay; Deputy, Douglas Congdon.

1991- Fire Chief, Chuck Smylie; Deputy, David Lundie

1994 to present the Fire Chief has been David Lundie, with Roger Roode as Deputy Chief.

The 75th Anniversary was celebrated in March of 2001 with a banquet and dance. Dave Lundie, the grandson of E.G. McCollough (the Brigade's first Chief) was Chief that year.

There was an addition added to the Fire Hall in



Change in season! The Great Village Fire Brigade held their annual auction on April 30th this year. It had been previously been held in the fall. (Harrington Photo)

2002 and a new Fire Hall was built in Londonderry in 2009.

Fund raising continues with the overwhelming support of the Ladies Auxiliary and the local community. Lobster Suppers have been held for 40 years with volunteers serving up 300 meals, which means cooking over 600 lobsters. This year's supper will be held on July 1st.

There have been Variety Concerts, Fashion Shows and memorable July 1st Picnics and Parades and of course the annual Fire Brigade Fall Auction (which is being held on April 30th this year).

A new truck purchase is planned for the coming year. Lantz Truck Body Limited, of Port Williams, will be outfitting a Dodge chassis as a

Medical 1st Responder Vehicle. The Great Village Fire Commission recently requested Colchester County Council guarantee a loan for \$128,000 to purchase and outfit the new truck.

The Brigade has recently dug a new fire pond, in addition to the one on the Londonderry Station Road. These ponds have a quick connect system for the trucks to hook the hose into. Dennis Spencer donated time and machinery to dig the latest pond.

The Brigade has been extremely impressed by the donations of goods and services over their 85 years. "We couldn't keep going without this support," says Robert Layton.



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Great Village Fire Brigade
on 85 years of excellent service.

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