

Great Village Fire News

By Kathy Simpson-Giles

Many years ago, while my children were still young enough to be living at home, I clearly remember coming home from a fire call (one of 15 in a 13 day span) and having my son look at me and facetiously say "I remember you... You used to live here with us, didn't you?"

There are those times of leisure in the fire service and then there are the times where I'm sure all "heck" breaks loose. It is unlike any other volunteer organization. We know that we have scheduled meetings, trainings and work nights, but anything else is left unscheduled. In 12 years of being a member, I have missed a family dinner or two. We've had a Christmas Eve/Christmas morning fire. Many days, we've all gone to work with little or no sleep. There are no scheduled times or durations for emergencies. It's just part and parcel of the job that we do.

I had the privilege of seeing, on a weekend this past month,

one of those forms of dedication that we have come to expect of a firefighter. On a beautiful, sunny weekend in April, several of our members gave up their time (and for some, their golf games) to sit in the classroom, training. Our members, along with members of two other local brigades certified in various levels of First Aid. And they did us proud!

Congratulations go out to Gary Slack, Trevor Spencer, Pat Flemming and Larry Kinsman all of whom received their certification. I read a quote somewhere recently (I'm not exactly sure who said it) that said that "No education is ever a waste." Each new skill attained by one person is a benefit to us all. We would like to thank these people for their dedication and again, congratulations on a job well done!

By the time you read this, we will have had our Annual Banquet as well. Awards are given out at that time, but a pat on the back to the whole Brigade. There have been many training sessions above and

beyond our in-house training throughout the year, both certification and not, that some members have attended. The training they received and the information that they brought back to us can only serve to make us better.

The members receiving awards this year are as follows: Officer of the year: Chief Dave Lundie, Firefighter of the year: Chris Congdon, Most Improved: Trevor Spencer, Junior Fighter of the year: Brandon Shipley, and the Claude O'Brien Fellowship Award was a tie: Terry Francis and Gordie Shipley.

The Brigade had a new award to present this year. The Steve Francis Memorial Award is in memory of Steve who for many years served tirelessly as our radio operator. Steve had a strong sense of community and, as such, the award is to be presented each year to a member of the business community who has supported the efforts of our Fire Brigade. It was a difficult choice, because so many have made contributions, but this year, the award goes to the Masstown Market.

Great Village Garden Club Notes

By Linda Shears

On March 23 the Great Village Garden Club held its regular monthly meeting at Faith Baptist Church. President Patti Sharpe recalled that one year ago our March meeting had been cancelled due to snow conditions. Members were given packages of this year's trial annual, the Uproar Rose Zinnia. We will try our luck with them and bring samples of the results to our September meeting.

Arthur Haskins reported that the pruning workshop was held on March 20 at the Community Orchard. The apple trees were showing a lot of flower buds but also showing telltale signs of pruning by deer. In spite of the sunny, warm weather, the number of people who turned out to adopt trees was down from last year.

Plans and arrangements are being made for this year's Perennial Sale to be held on Saturday, May 15, at 10 a.m. in the Great Village Elementary School Gym.

To coincide with Earth Day on April 22, our Garden Club is again donating gardening books to each of the five schools in our area in order to foster an interest in Nature and gardening.

Guest speaker for the evening was Kim Langille from Healthy Habits (Truro health food store). She began her presentation on sprouts by offering samples

of a delicious salad she had brought, made from several types of sprouts, organic broccoli, spicy peppers and seeds.

After that sample tasting, she had our full attention and one taster declared she could easily have eaten the whole bowl of salad, it was so good. Kim explained the nutritional benefits of eating sprouts; they are the freshest and most nutritious of all vegetables. There is an amazing increase in nutrients in sprouted foods when compared to their dried embryo.

Sprouts provide all the

essential vitamins and minerals; they are rich in enzymes and vitamins and are easily digested. Kim noted that growing sprouts is a great way to introduce children to producing their own food. Materials needed to grow sprouts are simple — a wide-mouthed jar, a piece of screen, sprouting seeds and water. With a little patience, we can grow our ingredients for our salads year round, without a greenhouse.

Our regular monthly meetings are the fourth Tuesday of the month, at 7:30 at Faith Baptist Church. New members are always welcome.

Tidbits about Nova Scotia Weather

continued from page 1

March 26, 1830 - One of the most violent snow storms and gales in 20 years struck Halifax. It was called a "perfect hurricane". High tide waters rose to an unusual height, covering wharves and sweeping away everything before it. The lower floors in most houses were flooded. A distillery with its wharf and several buildings were submerged. Several fine horses were drowned.

April 20, 1946 - An Easter storm with heavy snow and gusty winds inflicted considerable hardship and suffering across the Maritimes. Between Salisbury and Amherst 80 to 100 utility poles fell over. Gas pressure

dropped so low in Moncton that gas "went out". Heavy drifting meant highway snow fighters ploughed well into the night.

May 9, 1972 - Spring blizzard with record snowfall of 25cm in Halifax and Sydney hammered Nova Scotia. Drivers, thinking that winter was, over had removed snow tires and highway crews had converted snowploughs, salters and graders to spring maintenance vehicles. A 3km line up of vehicles developed when a transport truck jack-knifed and left the road near Halifax International Airport.

I hope that you now are appreciating our "decent" weather!

Londonderry Community Council News

By Sally Richard

The annual meeting was held on April 11. The election of officers were as follows: President Peggy Mattix; Vice-President Sally Richard; Secretary Amanda Mattix; Treasurer Reid MacVicar; Building Superintendent Amanda Langille. Reid MacVicar stepped down as President after 10 years of serving our community.

Under Reid's leadership the community centre underwent extensive renovations and established a healthy operating and maintenance fund. In appreciation of Reid's service the members offered up a hardy round of applause.

Extensive work is being carried out on the ballfield. The grass on the infield was dug out and the soil raked and leveled. The new bleachers are in place and repairs are planned to fix the fence along the road. Behind the backstop a site was picked for a skating rink. Dan Mattix leveled the site with his excavator making it ready for preparation of the rink. It is great to see the young people taking an interest in these projects.

Our annual fundraiser roast pork dinner was held April 18. The Council wishes to thank those who attended for their support and to all who helped in any way. The fundraisers are the main sources of our income to keep the center operating and in repair. On Friday, April 30 a Penny Sale will be held as another fundraiser. This is a popular event especially for children. Tickets will be on sale at 6 pm and draws start at 6:30 pm. Donations can be left with any

member or Debbie McMullen for the event.

The Council has donated the facilities of the Center to the Girl Guides of Canada, Debert on May 8 for a Mother's Day Brunch. The brunch will start at 8:30 am until 11 am. The Guides are raising funds to attend a summer camp in Ontario.

Guides are involved from the communities of Londonderry, Great Village, Debert and Onslow under the leadership of Becky Taylor. Come out and enjoy a great breakfast served by the young ladies.

Peggy and Dan Mattix enjoyed a trip to Dominican Republic recently also Glenn and Dennise Miller took their annual trip south to Florida. Birthday wishes to Rose Gamble, Alma Vaughan and

Marjorie Hayward who celebrated another year this month. Best wishes to Fred Gamble who has not been in good health lately. Shep Scott, Sutherland's Lake reported that the two geese are back on his lawn again this year. They arrived last spring, fed daily on Shep's lawn, nested at the Lake and left. During the many years of living at the Lake, last spring was the first time Shep has ever seen geese next there.

Our final monthly meeting for the season will be held on May 2 at 7 pm and will resume in September. New members are needed. Card parties are held on Monday nights at 7 pm. Tea, coffee, cheese and donuts are served. Contact Amanda Langille for hall rental inquiries (668-2300).



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