

Celebrating 40 Years

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By 1986 the Brigade had the following Honorary Members: George Hingley, Altie Geldart, Paul Forman, Sid McCully, William Beal and Royce Totten. Charter Members were defined as any member who joined between March 1972 and March 1973. A Brigade Lobster party was held in June, 1986. A 23,000 sq. ft lot adjacent to the hall was purchased. The Brigade assisted with the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting.

On Nov. 17th, 1987 a report of a house fire in Londonderry area was radioed from a Lands & Forest helicopter to the Debert Airport but the pilot could not pinpoint the exact location. Local pilot Don Rogers flew to the scene and directed Great Village and Debert Fire Brigade's to the home of Ken McGee. The house could not be saved but the fire was kept from spreading to nearby buildings.

Seventeen new style helmets were received in April, 1988.

A frame for a new port-a-tank was received and installed on #2 in 1989. Civic address numbering system was established in the summer. A parade of trucks and Open House was held on Oct. 15th, during Fire Prevention Week. Chief Ed Hingley attended a First Responders Course in Halifax.

Debert Fire Brigade hosted the CFFA on May 5th, 1990. A motion was passed to purchase a new Equipment Van for a maximum cost of \$80,000.

New steel-clad insulated doors were installed on the front of the hall in 1991. A JEPP Grant of \$4000 assisted with upgrading the communication system to interface with the new 911 system. A radio room was completed, thanks to the Totten Family's generous donation. Sid McCully was recognized for his enormous contributions to the Brigade over the last 20 years. Two teams entered the Firefighters Dart League.

A stain glass window was made and donated by Wendell Barnhill to mark the 20th Anniversary in 1992. The Debert Fire Brigade curling team were the CFFCA Champions for 91/92- Skip Randy Barnhill, Mate Eric Barnhill, Second Royce Totten, Lead Frank MacMichael and Spare Ed Hingley. A 20th Anniversary Banquet was held on June 20th, with a picnic at McElmon's Pond for children.

Two furnaces, windows in the auditorium and the roof were all replaced in 1993.

Former Chief Wendell Barnhill suggested a trophy be established for the Most Improved Firefighter. This was awarded for the first time to Chris Gamble.

The Brigade handled parking for the Antique Car Club's Show and Shine in May, 1994 and attended a Training Exercise on plane crashes. Central Dispatch was operational in Nov., 1994.

Ten new pagers, grid capable mobile radios and a portable pump were purchased in 1995. A pancake supper was held in April.

In 1996, Debert FB took over fire protection coverage for CFS Debert. Construction began April 1st on a new addition to the hall. Truck #1 was sold for \$2000. An alarm system was installed.

A new pumper/tanker was purchased from Metalfab in

1997 at a cost of approx. \$180,000. Surplus equipment was received from CFS Debert. A new meeting room table was donated by Royce Totten in memory of his father Lester Totten.

Other equipment has been added over the last 15 years, the latest purchase was a 2011 Ford F550, 4x4, with 12 foot rescue body.

Wade Jennings has continued as Chief since 2009. Randy Barnhill holds the record for highest number of years in an executive position, a total of 24 years, including 18 years as Brigade Treasurer.

(Historical notes taken from the 25 Year History of the Debert Fire Brigade written by Wendell Barnhill)



MIA Karen Casey congratulated Chief Wade Jennings on the Brigade's 40th Anniversary.



Members of the Debert Fire Brigade Ladies Auxiliary pose for a photo. Front (l to r) Betty Jennings, Jean Slack, Anne Geldart, Fran Forman; Back (l to r) Gwen Davis, Marcia Myers, Cheryl Myers, Rosaleen Smith, Dianna McKenzie, Wanda Wallace, Deb Howell.

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on your 40th anniversary.
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