

Great Village and District Fire Brigade Annual Banquet

Great Village & District Volunteer Fire Brigade held their Annual Banquet and Awards Night at the Londonderry Community Hall. (Harrington photos)

By Linda Harrington

Great Village and District Volunteer Fire Brigade Annual Awards Banquet was held April 13th at the Londonderry Community Hall. The Brigade is in its 93rd Year of Service.

A Moment of Silence was observed for those who have fallen, with a second minute of silence in honour of those who were lost this past year, Pat Fleming, a past fire fighter, Chief David Lundie and Ladies Auxiliary President, Commission Member and Honorary Member Betty MacNeil.

Chief Larry Kinsman reported the Brigade answered a total of 109 calls in 2018, done from precious years. This was broken down in to 60 medical, 24 motor vehicle accidents, 6 Mutual Aid calls, 3 vehicle fires, 3 tree on power lines, 2 chimney fires, 2 fire alarms and the remaining miscellaneous.

The calls totaled 661 man hours and members also put in 661 training hours plus 490 man hours working on equipment and maintenance for a grand total of 1630 hours.

From January 2019 to present time, the Brigade has answered a total of 39 calls with 20 medical, 9 motor vehicle accident, 4 chimney fires, 1 Mutual Aid and 1 structure fire.

This year's Slate of Officers includes: Chief Larry Kinsman, Deputy Chief Gregg Kinsman, 1st Captain Joe Slack, 2nd Captain Chris Congdon, 3rd Captain Berrett Jenkins, 4th Captain Wade Rutherford, Lieutenant of Fire Police George Hudson, 1st Lieutenant David Slack and 2nd Lieutenant Gary Slack.

Special Brigade Awards included: Officer of the Year Award- Christopher Congdon, Firefighter of the Year Award- Kendell Soley, Claude O'Brien Fellowship Award- Christopher Congdon, Most Improved Firefighter- Lucas Watson, Junior Firefighter of the Year- Erik Stevens and Steve Francis Memorial Award- Terry Miller.

Service Awards were presented as follows: Barrett Jenkins- 5 Years, Kate Cameron- 10 Years, Christopher Congdon - 15 Years. The Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal for 20 Years of Service was presented to Kathy Simpson-Giles. Nova Scotia Fire Services Award for 25 Years were presented to Wade Rutherford, Gregg Kinsman, Joe Slack and Gary Slack.

Dave Westlake, Protection Services Coordinator for the Municipality of the County of Colchester was the guest speaker. He talked about the first decisions of fire fighters from making the decision to join a brigade, to their training, first calls and dealing with the first traumatic incident. He said these events all define a fire fighter and lead them down the path they are on and they should take the time to pat themselves on the back for all they do as a volunteer in the community.

Ladies Auxiliary President Kathy Slack noted the Auxiliary will be presenting a cheque of \$2000 to the Great Village Fire Commission. She presented a 20 Year Service Award to Cheryl-ann Slack and then made a very special presentation to Meredith Layton and Betty MacNeil (posthumously). Meredith, along with Past President Betty MacNeil (who sadly passed away just a few months ago), were honored for 50 Years of Service. They were both with the Ladies Auxiliary since it first began in September 1968. Kathy Slack and Betty Hudson presented Meredith and members of Betty MacNeil's family with a framed certificate and a beautiful painting of the Fire Hall, by Crystal Slack. Carla MacNeil was absent but was recognized for 30 Years of Service.

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Chief Larry Kinsman and Deputy Chief Gregg Kinsman present Chris Congdon with 15 Year Service Award.



Chief Larry Kinsman and Deputy Chief Gregg Kinsman present Chris Congdon with the Officer of the Year Award.



Chief Larry Kinsman and Deputy Chief Gregg Kinsman present Barrett Jenkins with a 5 Year Service Award.



Kathy Slack and Betty Hudson present Meredith Layton (centre) with a 50 Year Service Award.



Members of the Great Village & District Fire Brigade Ladies Auxiliary - Front (l to r): Sharon George, Meredith Layton, Audrey Fields, Kathy Slack (President); Back (l to r): Maureen Eagles, Betty Hudson, Carrie Adams, Cheryl-ann Slack.



Eric O'Brien presents The Claude O'Brien Fellowship Award to Chris Congdon.



Kathy Slack and Betty Hudson present Meredith Layton (centre) with a beautiful painting of the Fire Hall, painted by Crystal Slack.



Ladies Auxiliary President Kathy Slack presents Cheryl-ann Slack with a 20 Year Service Award.



Chief Larry Kinsman and Deputy Chief Gregg Kinsman present the Most Improved Fire Fighter Award to Lucas Watson.



Kathy Slack and Betty Hudson presented Past President Betty MacNeil (posthumously) with a 50 Year Service Award. Betty's sons Byron, Dale and Glen MacNeil accepted the beautiful painting and award on behalf of their mother.



Chief Larry Kinsman and Deputy Chief Gregg Kinsman present Kate Cameron with a 10 Year Service Award.



Chief Larry Kinsman and Deputy Chief Gregg Kinsman present Erik Stevens with the Junior Fire Fighter Award.

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