

# Rod Nielsen - A View From The Chief's Perspective

By Debbie Brown

Rod Nielsen, chief of the Brookfield Fire Brigade says the most pressing problem of his brigade is "Having sufficient time to manage our membership properly". Nielsen has been involved with volunteer fire fighting for over three decades and the last 13 years has been spent as chief in Brookfield. "Training for more types of incidents and at a higher technical level than before", says Nielsen when asked about major changes

over the years. Speaking about what home and business owners face in order to be proactive with fire prevention in such things as grease fires, chemical spills and overall hazards, what volunteer fire fighters face when they arrive on the scene, Nielsen said, "We run about 200 calls per year; 40% are medical, 19% motor vehicle crashes and 23% are responding to assist other departments with their responses".

He continued, "We do not

have many structure fires; in 2015 we were fortunate and we did not have any. 10% of our district fire related calls involved vehicles, grass, forest & brush, trash and smoke conditions. The remaining 8% are made up alarm calls, hazmat and public assists". In today's environment, Nielsen says, for property owners their number one concern should be, "To have alerting systems in place and working. The contents in today's homes contain a higher amount of synthetics, there are more items in the homes, and the homes are larger and more open the older homes" He continued, this increase in fuel load and the open design increases the speed of fire spread, to the point occupants have very little time to escape after a fire starts. It is key to have working detection and alerting systems to provide the

occupants as much time as possible to escape. The fire service dream would be to have all residential structures sprinklered to stop the fire immediately after it starts.

Looking ahead five years, he feels the main concern of Fire Departments and their ability to help communities be safe will be having enough members available for daytime calls.

Brookfield is lucky in that it has strong members comprising 44 members, who are recognized annually with an annual awards banquet, Christmas dinner, and summer family BBQ. As chief for 13 of the 33 years he has been involved in fire fighting, he is most proud of being part of and observing members mature, develop technical and relationship skills, become leaders and enjoy helping others.

## Wade Jennings

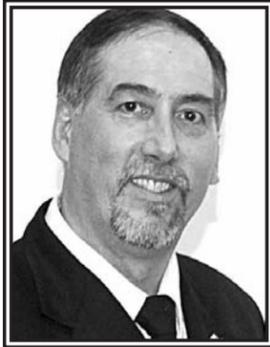
CHIEF OF DEBERT FIRE BRIGADE FOR 7 YEARS

Member of Debert Fire Brigade for over 30 years and has held every office on the list.

Equipment recently purchased includes a new set of eDRAULIC® Hurst Jaws of Life, rescue struts for extrication and a new equipment/rescue truck.

Future equipment will be a new van to hold equipment and man power for mutual aid calls and updating radios.

In 2015 Brigade members put in a total of 3057 man hours, with 780 training hours, 135 calls totalling 1080 man hours, 640 hours for work nights at the hall, 432 man hours of monthly meetings and 125 man hours for other meetings. This year



Wade Jennings

one member has recently completed the Level 1 course.

There are currently 27 members and the Brigade is always looking for new members.

## North River Planning "Open House" October 15<sup>TH</sup>

By Debbie Brown

This past summer, the North River & District Volunteer Fire Brigade, acquired a new vehicle for its fleet - A 2016 Dodge Walk Around Rescue Truck.

This vehicle's primary uses will be for Medical First Response, Motor Vehicle Accidents, Structure Fires and Mutual Aid.

The volunteer members of the Brigade are proud to be

able to continue to increase the services they can provide for the community. Currently the brigade has 37 members and 1 junior member on its roster

The annual banquet is held in February. North River Brigade is having an open house during fire prevention week.

Tentatively scheduled for October 15th.

## Building Camp Debert for WW II Had Huge Impact on Colchester

By Dale Ellis

Debert Airport has been the home of the Truro Flying Club since 1972. However, long before it became a civilian airport it was a military aerodrome. The aerodrome was adjacent to an army base called Camp Debert and the history of the two establishments are closely linked.

The brief history of the site, published on line by the Debert Flight Centre, one learns that in the fall of 1938 the Department of National Defense purchased a piece of land to construct a Royal Canadian Air Force aerodrome. Less than two years later in the spring of 1940, the Department of National Defense acquired an adjacent piece of land to construct a Canadian Army camp. Construction of both projects began in November 1940 and was completed in April 1941.

During World War II, the Royal Canadian Air Force aerodrome was used as a British Commonwealth Air

Training Plan facility for training aircrew.

The army camp was capable of accommodating over 20,000 fully equipped troops and was used as an overseas staging area for armed troops awaiting Halifax embarkation and also as a training center for formed units. It also housed a large ammunition storage area.

The building of Camp Debert during WWII had a huge impact on Colchester County. On Saturday, October 22, Elinor Maher and Stacey Culgin will give an illustrated presentation, at the Historeum, Young Street, Truro, about the transformation of this quiet rural area to a military base covering over 80 sq km (31 sq mi.)

Photographs and items on loan from the Debert Military Museum will be featured and help tell the story of how 6000 civilians and thousands of members of the military brought about these changes and the altered communities.

## Debert Legion Notes

By Dan Martell

Here is a breakdown of the Bar Hours for the Fall and Winter months (subject to change). Sunday, Monday and Tuesday closed. Wednesday 4:30 to 10:30PM, Thursday 4:30 to 8:30PM, Friday 3:00 to 12:00AM and Saturday 2:00 to 9:00PM (depending on functions). If there is a function going on in the Branch, hours are from 2:00PM to 1:00AM). Hall rental applications are available at the bar.

Members Night is on Friday from 4:30 to 6:00PM.

Friday Night Supper will have started up on Friday the

30th of September and it will be Fish (Haddock Fillets), from 4:30 to 6:00PM.

Chase the Ace has started up again and the hours are Saturday's from 2:00PM to 4:00PM for the sale of tickets. The draw will be at 4:15PM and you must be here to win.

Executive Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month and start at 7:30PM sharp! General Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month and start at 8:00PM sharp! All members are encouraged to attend the General Meetings and have a say in the running of your

Branch.

Crib is held on Wednesday evening and gets underway at 7:30PM sharp. All are welcome. Darts starts doubling in on Friday night at 8:00PM sharp and all are welcome.

All dues paying members are advised the dues for 2017 have risen to \$45/year. This is necessary so as to cover the rise in the per capita tax charged by Dominion Command. To the pot wollopers at the Branch, those two new sinks look like the cat's meow. They should be just the thing for those cranky pots and pans.

To all those people saving and dropping off the pull tabs, thank you very much. To

Bobby Pash, our President, get well soon. We are pulling and praying for you.

Happy Anniversary wishes for September are passed along to Wendy and David Totten, Paula and Bill Wood and Dianne and Carmen Milner. Happy Birthday wishes for September are passed along to Marcia Eastcott, Barb Warren, Tina Cooke, Donnie Totten.

Please don't forget to thank a Veteran, it is because of their sacrifices that we are able to enjoy our freedom and our Country. Please say a prayer for our troops who are serving in foreign countries and their families.



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