

A NEWSLETTER
DEDICATED TO
MEMBERS OF HALIFAX
REGIONAL FIRE &
EMERGENCY



FeedLine

Serving Canada's Largest Composite Fire Service

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CAMP COURAGE



Photo courtesy of Camp Courage

WHAT IS THIS? – From left are Halifax Regional Police Constable **Amy Lissa MacKay**, Firefighters **Nadya Paré** of 2 Engine and **Andreá Speranza** of Station 8, and EHS Paramedic **Jean Spicer**. That's who they are. But what are they doing? Read the feature article on Camp Courage inside and find out.

STORY on page 4



**Chief Director
Michael Eddy**

Message from the Chief's Office

In this edition of *FeedLine* I want to tell you about two exciting events I had the pleasure to attend this past Saturday. On August 5th I travelled to Moser River and from there to Lakeside to take part in the grand opening of the new Moser River Fire Station and the graduation of 20 young women from the first class of Camp Courage.

The opening of the new fire station in Moser River became a reality after many years of discussion and hard work to acquire funding and site acquisition. The addition of the fire station in the community not only addresses the serious need to have an appropriate building to house fire apparatus but also allows the community to develop community centered programs in the old station thereby serving another need. The grand opening was very well attended as it was held in conjunction with Moser River Days. Chief **Michael Richardson** and his members did a wonderful job organizing the event and all went well. The deep fried turkey, hamburgers and other food was most appreciated by all who attended. Thank you to all who helped out and made the construction and grand opening a success.

After I attended Moser River I headed to Lakeside for the graduation of the first class of young women from Camp Courage. Graduation day began with families, friends and supporters viewing a few demonstrations put on by the graduating class. Camp Courage was created to allow young women the opportunity to experience the work of careers in policing, firefighting and emergency medical responding paramedics. The demonstrations were designed to showcase their new skills in all three professions. They did very well and all those who attended were quite impressed.

This program was conceptualized by Firefighter **Andreá Speranza** and although many of us have ideas it is those exceptional people that put deeds ahead of words. Without Andrea's tenacity and determination this positive event would not have materialized therefore, on behalf of all of us in Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency I applaud her leadership on this initiative and look forward to seeing Camp Courage grow into the future. We will always offer our support.

Summer is winding down as I write this and I want to wish all the best to you and your families as you enjoy the last few weeks of summer.

CO-ORDINATOR'S CORNER

While Darlene is working on the 2006 Annual Conference of the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, HRFÉ's Financial Coordinator Gerard Cotreau will be the "guest columnist".



by Darlene Ellis, Coordinator

Budget 2006/07

Submitted by Gerard Cotreau

On June 27, Regional Council approved the 2006/07 Operating and Capital Budgets. Included in these budgets for Fire and Emergency Services, was a net Operating budget of \$45,666,439 and a Capital budget of \$5,226,500.

Our operating budget has increased by just under \$3 million from last budget year. The vast majority (80%) of our operating budget goes towards the compensation and benefits of our 465 full time employees, and this category alone has increased just over \$3 million largely due to the nearly 8% raise in October for our IAFF members whose wages are now linked to the Police. In addition, we have been approved to hire 8 new firefighters. In most other non compensation categories, we received slight cuts.

On the Capital side, projects such as Opticom (\$80k), and Water Supply (\$388k) are ongoing. Council has also approved \$510k to address Fire Code and Occupational Health and Safety issues in Rural Fire Stations. Another new project resulting from a Federal/Provincial/Municipal cost sharing agreement (MRIF) has been approved for Potable Water in Rural fire Stations (\$500k over two years). Other approved capital includes:

Fleet apparatus replacement	\$3,080,000
Utility Vehicle replacement	\$ 230,000
Core Station Upgrades	\$ 233,000
Zone 4 (Fall River) New Station	\$ 400,000 *

* this is added to the \$1,700m previously approved.

FEATURE STORY

Camp Courage a Huge Success – Students Find New Friends, Mentors and Dreams

by Capt. John Giggey

“They are the most amazing people I have ever met in my life.”

That’s how 16-year-old **Rebecca Bessem** of Lawrencetown describes the police officers, firefighters and paramedics who guided her and 19 other teens through a week’s training in emergency services.

“They are mentors, not just instructors,” she says. “I can talk about my personal problems with them.”

The camp began with an idea in the mind of Engine 8 firefighter **Andrea Speranza**. She visualized bringing teenaged girls into a week-long summer camp in which they would receive instruction and training from people in all three emergency services: fire, police and paramedics. There were two goals. The most important was to instill a sense of confidence and self respect in the girls. The second was to perhaps encourage some of them to seek a career in emergency services.

Once word got out, the applications started coming in. As part of the process, each applicant had to write a brief essay on why they want to attend the camp.

Twenty girls from 15 to 19 were selected for the first and only class this year.

“It is an interesting mix of places where the girls are from,” says Speranza. “No one knew anyone else in the class. That’s what we wanted.”

“It was presented at my school and I thought about it. I always aspired to be a firefighter, like from birth I guess,” says

Rebecca. “I danced around my room and screamed when I was told I had been accepted.”

The dream of being a firefighter has become much more real to Rebecca who now knows she can do it.

“I know many of the volunteers in Lawrencetown now,” she says. “I’m going to start hanging out with them and apply as soon as I’m old enough.” She sees herself eventually making firefighting a career. “I’ll go to Holland College or the Fire School, whichever will get me there faster.”

As for the camp itself: “I’m just so glad to be here. The challenges are awesome. I have a really good relationship with the people here and have made a ton of new friends.”

Megan MacDonald, 15, of Blockhouse already knows what it is to fight an uphill battle to get what she wants. She joined the junior firefighters at the Blockhouse Volunteer Fire Department about two years ago.

“At first I had trouble with some of the older men; the idea of females being in the department,



PUTTING IT OUT – **Megan MacDonald** of Blockhouse practices with a fire extinguisher on the fire pan under the watchful eye of Capt. **Holly Weatherby** of Public Education during an exercise for the *Camp Courage* class at Station 7. Megan is already a junior firefighter with the Blockhouse volunteers and hopes to become an RCMP officer.

Photo by John Giggey

Continued on page 5

Camp Courage, Continued from page 4

that sort of thing." But she has stuck with it and says: "It's like one big happy family now."

Megan has always dreamed of being in emergency services because she already knows people who are police officers, firefighters or paramedics. "When I saw *Camp Courage* mentioned on the news one night I just sort of fell in love with the idea." She applied and was accepted.

"I like the hands on stuff the most. The police work. The simulated fire. The confined space trailer. They taught us about counterfeit money. That was awesome. And the fingerprinting. . . the **CSI** stuff."

The camp has helped turn Megan's dreams into goals.

"I definitely want to be a volunteer firefighter," she says. "But for a career, I'm leaning toward the RCMP. I'd really like to be in the musical ride. I love horses."

At the graduation ceremony on August 5, the girls and counsellors presented Speranza with a bouquet of 20 white roses, one for each girl in the program. In the centre was one orange rose. Orange is the camp colour because it signifies courage. They told Speranza that she was the middle one with the courage for all the girls.

But Speranza is quick to point out that the camp could never have worked without the tremendous amount of help and support she received.

EDITOR'S NOTE

On August 8th, as *FeedLine* was preparing to go to press, Firefighter Andrea Speranza and Chief Director Mike Eddy were called before City Council so the department could be given official recognition for the *Camp Courage* project. This also sets the stage for possible municipal funding for *Camp Courage* in the summer of 2007.

"The department provided a lot of time and resources. **Mike Eddy** was behind the project right from the very beginning and he provided not only support and resources, but encouragement as well.

"**Logistics** helped out like crazy, picking up and delivering things. **Training** division helped out. Firefighters at **Lakeside** and **Knightsridge** went out of their way to help. Five of the seven days were at Lakeside and Chief **James Belanger** went way out of his way to help.

"**A Platoon at Station 12** helped with Haz Mat. B Platoon at Station 7 were a big help. The extrication team worked all afternoon with the girls in the rain then came back to help them with the grand finale on graduation day."



GUESS WHAT I DID AT CAMP TODAY – *Camp Courage* student **Lindsay Stewart** of Bridgetown gets a bird's eye view 75 feet in the air at the top of an aerial ladder during a ladder exercise at the camp. Watching over her is **Kevin Reade** of 6 Engine. Many firefighters, police officers and paramedics volunteered their time to make the unique camp a success.

Photo courtesy of Camp Courage

Continued on page 6

Camp Courage, Continued from page 5

In fact so many members supported and helped the first *Camp Courage* it would be almost impossible to name them all. But on behalf of firefighter Speranza, **FeedLine** extends its heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to everyone who helped make this unique and worthwhile project such a big success.

Many of the 'mentoring' relationships mentioned by **Rebecca Bessem** will likely extend far beyond the camp. Several instructors and students exchanged phone numbers and e-mail addresses, so the instructors will be available any time the kids need them.

The friendships cemented by some of the emergency service workers and the teenagers are reflected in that picture from the front page of **FeedLine**.

The staff had to decide which students would be interviewed in the newspaper, or on radio or television. They ran a competition for the students, part of which involved a dance contest.

The kids got through it. But then they turned the tables on their instructors, saying if they had to dance, their teachers should too. **And that's what you see happening on the front page.**

More Camp Courage on next page



YUP! WE DID THAT – *Camp Courage* students (left to right) **Hannah Teasdale** of Goshen, **Tiffany Halliday** of Oxford, **Katie Skinner** of Hatchett Lake, and **Jocelyn Woynar** of Dartmouth pose around a car they just ripped apart with hydraulic tools. The exercise at Station 7 was done under the watchful eyes of the core extrication team led by Training Officer **Dennis Pitts**. The team can be seen in the background working with another crew of students.

Photo courtesy of Camp Courage



VOLUNTEER STAFF – Some of the firefighters who helped make *Camp Courage* work gather for a group picture. From left are **Annette Thompson**, **Andrea Speranza** of E-8, **Rhonda Brassard** of the Airport fire department, **Nadya Pare** of Engine 2, and **Leeann Meredith**. Thompson and Meredith have just graduated from the Waverley Fire School and are on HRFE's hiring list from the female recruitment program. Brassard has 27 years experience in the fire service and was one of the guest speakers. It was Speranza who came up with the idea of an emergency services camp for girls.

Photo courtesy of Camp Courage

The Results: Comments From First Class of Camp Courage Show Changed Lives, Fresh Confidence

At the end of Camp Courage the students were asked to do a course evaluation. Their words were moving and showed the powerful effect the week with emergency services mentors had on these young lives. *FeedLine* takes great pleasure in reprinting some of these comments.

"After this camp, I am more confident about what I know I'm able to do. A lesson I learned is never pick the easy wrong over the hard right." **Holly Roma, 16**

"I loved all the hands-on activities, even though some were soooo challenging. I enjoyed the challenges to overcome. It inspired me to take charge and make plans for my future. This camp has not only given me confidence to achieve any dream, but also a dream to achieve! I now feel like I have a purpose and future goal and this camp has given me the tools to obtain them." **Katie Skinner, 18**

"Be true to yourself and don't let anyone tell you 'you can't do it.'" **Cyndel Kelly, 15**

"(I will) apply patience, confidence and courage to each situation in my life." **Jenn Rowlands, 17**

"I gained more confidence in myself." **Megan MacDonald, 15**

"I like being able to do things most people can never say they've done before. Things you only dreamed of . . . became reality. My goals are actually achievable. I'll have confidence in the things I do." **Amanda Robar, 18**

"I had no confidence before and now I do." **Anonymous**

"I have loads of new respect for myself and others." **Anonymous**

"I wasn't sure what I wanted to be and then I heard about camp courage. I have so many more choices now. Camp courage was really fun. I made a lot of new friends, and I think I laughed more this week than anytime in my life. Some day I want to help out with this camp." **Quin Gallagher, 15**

"Thank you for putting this camp on! It has changed my life forever. Thanks a million!" **Tiffany Halliday, 16**

"When I came into camp I was shy and had no confidence now I get compliments on my confidence." **Amy MacLeod, 15**

"It has been one of the best experiences in my life." **Alicia Williams, 15**

"This was a wonderful and life changing event that I will remember for the rest of my life." **Emily Kent, 19**

(What inspiration did the camp give you?)

"Self motivation. Self realization. Things I never knew about myself. I also received the motivation to pursue the career of my dreams. It was fun! I want to save lives! It was just amazing! This was really the greatest week of my entire life. I'm going to start volunteering at a fire station near my house. Eventually, take schooling, and get into fire fighting." **Rebecca Bessem, 16**

"Respect for others and myself." **Amy MacLeod, 15**

"It has opened so many doors for me, and to follow my dreams and never give up." **Katherine Dent-Myers, 15**

"I can conquer my fears." **Renee MacLeod, 19**

(About the Mentors)

"The adults here at camp were so fun and nice."

"Andréa, Nadya and Graham were always there to push us to reach our potential."

"(They) made me believe that I'm capable of whatever I want to do."

"Amazing! They directed the path of 20 girls they didn't know prior to this camp."

"I am going to be successful in my life. Part of it is going to be from the mentors' inspiration."

And from the parents:

Several said they had been finding it difficult to communicate with their kids. All of a sudden the lines of communication were opening and they couldn't stop talking about the things they had done at camp that day. Some said instead of going out in the evening, their kids stayed home and went to bed early to get ready for the next day.

Canadian Fire Chiefs Told Their Membership Should Be A Reflection Of Their Community

by Capt. John Giggey

The issues of diversity and inclusion quickly moved to the forefront of the agenda as the annual conference of the **Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs** got under way in Halifax in August.

About 300 chief officers and others attending the conference were told fire departments have to be diverse: that is, their memberships need to reflect the communities they represent.

But it was also stressed that it's not a numbers game. Diversity has to involve inclusion. In other words diversity does not mean much if the minorities or females coming in are made to feel unwelcome or uncomfortable in what has traditionally been a white, male-dominated work place.

Dr. **Steve Robbins** of Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan, had an American father and a Vietnamese mother. His features are Asian. And he explained how easy it is to allow intolerance to affect our thinking.

Robbins doesn't like flying. But he does a lot of it. "When I get on a plane, I always like to have a look at the pilot. As if I knew what a good pilot looks like," he said.

"Usually the pilots are white guys. I always feel good seeing a white guy flying the plane.

"But one day I looked in the cockpit and saw a woman pilot. As I walked away I thought: 'Oh sh--.'"

Robbins said as he took his seat he realized, considering the business he is in, that wasn't a very good attitude. Sure enough, he learned that women can fly. He used this experience to help his audience understand that no matter who we are, we can sometimes get involved in what he calls 'unintentional intolerance'.

Larry Sagen, president of Fire 20/20, also stressed the need for inclusion, not just diversity. In fact his company acts as a consultant to emergency services groups with the stated goal of "recruiting and retaining qualified, inclusive, competent Fire/EMS work forces by the year 2020". His group advises fire departments and other groups on how to build successful diversified and inclusive work forces.

Sagen noted that the world is changing. Demographics are changing. People are changing. He said fire departments should

be part of that change, rather than simply reacting to it when they are forced to. He is trying to inspire the fire service to actively begin developing a new work force now, rather than waiting to see who shows up when they need someone.

Sagen said that involves a change to strategic rather than tactical recruitment. In tactical recruitment, the department needs new employees now and so starts a hiring process. In strategic recruitment, the department seeks out the new generation of firefighters several years in advance.

Sagen focused on initiatives launched by a few fire departments across the country to move in this direction, with special focus on the recent *Camp Courage* held in Halifax for teenaged girls.

Sagen and Robbins later chaired a panel discussion on the issue. Also on the panel were firefighter **Andreá Speranza**, who headed *Camp Courage*; **Quin Gallagher** and **Jenn Rowlands**, two graduates of Camp Courage; and Firefighter **Ali Duale**, hired in a designated recruitment drive for African Canadians a couple of years ago.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs began its annual four-day conference in Halifax Aug. 12, well after the normal FeedLine deadline. The conference was considered important enough that publication was delayed to allow at least one story on the CAFC which sets direction for departments across the country. Watch for comprehensive coverage of the conference in the September-October edition.

CAFC, Continued from page 8

Robbins again stressed the importance of inclusion. "It's not about being politically correct," he said. "It's not about numbers. It's about caring for other people. It's about realizing that their life is as important as your life. It's about letting people know they count."

The *Camp Courage* grads explained how just a week with the instructors and mentors from emergency services this summer changed their lives. Quin had never given serious consideration to what she wanted to do with her life. Jenn always dreamed of being in emergency services somehow: either with the police, fire department or paramedics.

Now both have clear objectives. They are both planning careers in the fire service and have the utmost confidence that they will make it. "I don't want an office job," Jenn told the panel. "I want to

help people." She said one of the most important things she and other girls at the camp learned was: "Never give up. You can do what you want to do."

That's the direction the camp instructors were taking. "We wanted them to have higher goals," says Speranza. "We want them to excel."

Ali Duale is a Muslim who immigrated to Canada just a few years ago from Somalia. He was working as a janitor for the Halifax school board when he heard about the designated hiring for African Canadians.

"I thought: 'If this is true, you're not the one they're looking for.' "

Nevertheless he did have the qualifications and so he decided to apply. "I thought: 'I will go until someone tells me I am not qualified.' " As he succeeded in

various parts of the process he was still convinced that he would not make it. He believed he would be dropped at some point because of his colour, or his accent, or his religion. But that never happened and he was hired.

"It is a gift from God that I have this job," he says.

As for diversity and inclusion, Duale says: "When I go to the fire hall there is no place to hide. I live there. The people there accept me. And I accept them."

He told delegates: "When I put on this uniform, I get respect." And he says as a firefighter he gets more respect from his fellow firefighters and from the public than he has ever gotten in his life.

"Diversity to me is not just about colour," said Duale. "It could be anyone. It could be your brother who's different. We need to accept one another."



FIREFIGHTER ALI DUALE makes a point during a panel discussion about diversity and inclusion in the fire service during the annual conference of the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs in Halifax during August. From left are Dr. **Steve Robbins** of Grand Valley State University in Michigan, an emergency services consultant; firefighter Duale; **Quin Gallagher** and **Jenn Rowlands**, students who graduated from Camp Courage; firefighter **Andrea Speranza**; and **Larry Sagen** of Fire 20/20, a consultant who helps Emergency Services organizations obtain diversity and inclusion in their membership.

Photo by John Giggey

Council of Canadian Fire Marshals & Fire Commissioners Hold Annual Meeting in Halifax

By Tom Silver

The Council's 85th Annual meeting was held during the week of July 9th as it brought some of the top fire officials in Canada together in one place. There were, of course, numerous working sessions but clearly one of the highlights of the week was the memorial service, at the Prince George Hotel, on Monday July 10th.

Our Honour Guard made our service proud with its sterling performance including the bell ceremony which featured Captain **Paul Edwards**.

Pulling the event together was the job of Deputy Fire Marshal **Frank Savage**, who from all accounts did an outstanding job, particularly his idea of staging one of our guys on the ladder to silently represent all the people in protective services whose job it is to maintain a constant vigilance over all of us. Another highlight was the update given by **Dr. Will Brooks** who is the president of the Canadian Firefighters Memorial Foundation.

Dr. Brooks is well known in Nova Scotia, having spent many years with the Truro Fire Brigade and spearheading the early work in critical incident stress training in this province.

The fire marshals and fire commissioners meet next year in Saskatchewan and the local organizing committee there will have a job equalling the effort made here!



Training Division

David Meldrum

Some New Challenges on the Training Ground

Dennis Pitts of the Training Division has completed some work on the training ground at Station 7 that will allow members to have some new interesting challenges during training exercises.

A maze simulating the top floor of a split entry home is just about ready for action. Some furnishings are being added. Everything is completely water proof. Firefighters can run simulated searches and flow water. They can also practice salvage techniques.

Several interior walls are hinged, allowing the layout of the maze to be changed so a variety of scenarios can be practised.

Work on the roof simulator is also finished. There are now two panels on the roof which can be cut during ventilation practice and quickly replaced with new panels. A spring-loaded door at the rear of the simulator will allow for forcible entry drills. There is now a window for firefighter escape practice, and two 'racked' windows for collapse training.



Cliff Messervey and **Bill McNeil** are also working on a plan for a small void search area inside the roof simulator.

There are also tentative plans for a sprinkler system to be mounted under the training tower, as well as two additional forcible entry simulators.



HI – Dennis Pitts of the Training Division looks out from the maze he spearheaded on the training ground at Station 7. It simulates the top floor of a residential home, but some walls can be moved to allow for other scenarios.

Photo by **John Giggey**

Human Resources

Audrey MacLean

Building A Diverse Foundation

The Outreach Committee has been reformed as the department looks to expand its diversity. Members of the committee are considering new and creative ways to present the "face" of the Department and help promote HRFE's diversity to the public. A key goal is to continue to encourage more females and minorities to consider a career in the fire service.

The names of the **Outreach Committee** members are posted on the internal web site. Members with suggestions on how the department can effectively represent its diversity to the public are invited to contact committee members with their ideas.

HR has met with the province's *Aboriginal People's Training and Employment Commission*. The department has been invited to join many other potential employers at a Career Fair

sponsored by the Nova Scotia Community College. (Date: TBA)

The Commission Representatives have requested HRFE to take a proactive role in educating Aboriginal children through the school system about firefighting as a career choice.

The Survey results are completed and were presented to Management at EMT in August. The Quality of Work Life Committee will receive Management's recommendations and develop strategies on how they can be implemented.

Work will begin this fall on the promotional routines coming next year. Members planning to apply for promotions are encouraged to visit the internal web site to review the qualifications and acquire necessary courses.



Senior HR Consultant

HR is preparing to hire at least eight new firefighters in October. Additional hires will depend on the number of retirements.

Secondments to the training division continue. Five members expressed an interest in training assignments and all will have an opportunity to perform a training role. Two members have also completed the interview process to become training officers and will now move on to the next stage by taking part in a work program in the Training Division. **HR continues** to welcome your suggestions and ideas on how we can best serve you to improve your workplace.

Quote: Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage.

Anais Nin

How would you like to be a male model?

We are looking for male firefighters to join our female QEII and IWK Burn Unit staff (nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, etc) as models for our first fashion show on November 16, 2006. The fashion show takes place at the CPO's Mess, Juno Tower, CFB Halifax. You will be modeling the latest in fashions for the holiday season, business, and casual fare. We promise you a fun filled time. Please call Joyce MacMullen at 473-2639 if you are available. We would love to have you. The proceeds from this fashion show will go to support the Nova Scotia Firefighters Burn Treatment Society supporting burn survivors and their families.

Fleet Division

Paul McCulley

Semi-Annual Full Service Checks Coming For City's Busiest Apparatus

Since amalgamation, all front line apparatus have been called in to Mechanical once a year for full preventive maintenance service.

Beginning this fall, the department's busiest trucks from core stations will be getting that service twice a year.

The upgrade in service is possible due to effects of the purchase of new apparatus, the success of the auxiliary maintenance shop at Middle Musquodoboit which is operated by emergency vehicle technician **Dave Kennedy** and the operation of Fleet mechanical from 196 Waverley Road which has improved shop productivity.

With most maintenance work for trucks from stations in Zones 1-3 being done at the

auxiliary shop, Mechanical is able to greatly improve service for the inner city vehicles that get the most use.

Fleet and Fire Department

representatives are to make pre-delivery inspections in late August of six new rescue pumpers from E-1 Canada and a new tanker from *Carl Thibault Ltd.* The rescue pumpers are going to Station 16 in Eastern Passage, Station 58 in Lakeside, Station 38 in Middle Musquodoboit, Station 59 in Bay Road, Station 10 in Sackville, and one will be the new alpha unit at Station 17 in Cole Harbour. The tanker will go to Station 55 in Seabright. With arrival of these trucks all vehicles ordered in 2004-2005 will have been delivered.

For 2006-2007, tenders have already gone out for one 75-foot



Quint, two rescue pumpers and five 15-hundred gallon pumper tankers. The process for the purchase of the 2006-2007 apparatus should be completed by November. Five light rescues are on order and will be delivered in late August; one for Zone 4, two for Zone 3, one for Zone 1, one CBRN and one Utility for Zone 2. The rescues will all be Ford F350's.

A 2002 Thibault tanker from Station 43 in Grand Lake is now at mechanical and being refurbished, after which it will be reassigned to Station 40 in Dutch Settlement. It will replace Dutch Settlement's old 1977 Ford tanker.

Burn Treatment Society Chairman Honoured

Dave Collier, a DND firefighter, has been chairman of the Burn Treatment Society for about 15 of the 20 years the organization has existed.

On July 7th at the Canadian Burn Survivor Conference in Halifax, CTV's *Live at Five* surprised Dave when he was presented with the TV station's *Maritimer of the Week* honour.

For anyone who knows Dave Collier and the work his society does, the honour is long overdue. More than one million dollars have been raised over the years by the Society to prevent burns, treat survivors and sponsor further education for nurses working in the field.



Fire Investigations

Larry Williams

HRM Hosting National Fire Investigators Conference

Halifax will host the annual training conference and meeting of the Canadian Association of Fire Investigators this fall.

The three-day event is being held at the Citadel Halifax Hotel beginning October 4th. This is a unique training opportunity and interested members, career or volunteer, can visit the main HRFE web site (<http://www.halifax.ca/fire/>) for information on applying to attend.

One of the key presenters will be **John Lentini**, author of "Scientific Protocols for Fire Investigation". He will be discussing *Sources of Error in Fire Investigation*, a new chapter in NFPA 921 called

"Origin", and reviewing some challenging case studies. NFPA 921 is "Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations".

Other speakers will include Dr. **Matt Bowes**, chief medical examiner for Nova Scotia, and representatives from the Ontario Fire Marshals Office.

Investigator **Wayne Chapdelaine** attended the International Symposium on Fire Investigation Science and technology in June. Over 40 papers were presented from around the world dealing with the latest science in fire investigation. The information and training will be invaluable to our department as we develop new and exciting programs.



Chapdelaine also had the opportunity to attend meetings with the NFPA 921 committee.

There's a lot more space at the Investigation Division now that renovations have been completed. There are now four separate work stations for investigators, who had been crammed into one small space.

A new portable X-ray machine is now in the hands of Investigators for a trial period. The XR-200 is portable enough for field use. It will be particularly valuable in checking electrical wiring and appliances in the course of investigation. The images can be developed in the field in one minute without the use of chemicals. The images can then be scanned and included in a report or e-mailed to other parties when necessary.



Photo provided by Investigation Division

BLACK TIE DINNER – Investigator **Wayne Chapdelaine** and **John Lentini** pose for a photo at a formal reception at an international fire investigation symposium in Cincinnati in June. Lentini, author of *Scientific Protocols for Fire Investigation*, will be a feature presenter at the Canadian Association of Fire Investigators this fall in Halifax.



THE OLD AND THE NEW – Investigators (left to right) **Wayne Chapdelaine**, **Steve Nearing** and **Bill Murphy** sit crammed into their small cubicle housing three work stations earlier this spring. At right is the new Investigation office with separate cubicles and work stations for four investigators.



Photos by **John Giggey** and **Investigation Division**



PORTABLE X-RAY – Investigator **Wayne Chapdelaine** uses a portable X-ray machine to look at an electrical component damaged in a recent fire. At right is the image the X-ray produced of the electrical wiring inside.

The unit, currently being evaluated, allows investigators to tell at a glance whether wiring and components inside an appliance contributed to the cause of a fire. It eliminates the need to disassemble items, possibly causing damage to evidence in the process.



Photos provided by **Fire Investigation**

Firefighters from Designated Female Hiring Process Graduate from Waverley Fire School

by Capt. John Giggey

At 4' 11" and 105 pounds, **Debra Archibald** had a lot of people tell her that she could never be a firefighter. "But I'm the sort of person who, if someone says I can't do something, I want to prove them wrong."

And as Debra stood proudly with her family July 7th with her Level 1 and Level 2 certificates in hand at the Waverley Fire School, she proved a lot of people wrong.

Debra was one of 16 women who successfully completed last summer's designated hiring program for females. Fifteen remain on the hiring list. She was one of

seven who completed their training at the fire school. The others either have acquired or are acquiring their Level 1 through other means, including the volunteer ranks and the Canadian Armed Forces.

The others on the list who graduated that day are **Sara Drysdale, Caroline Gibson, Leeann Meredith, Julie Read, Sherry Thibault** and **Annette Thompson**. They received a

loan from HRM to take the course, and they are not required to repay it until they are hired.

Despite her size, Debra, 32, has wanted to be a firefighter for years. She was encouraged by her husband, Stephen, and her brother-in-law, **FF Craig March**.

Continued on page 17



GRADUATION DAY – The seven female graduates from the Nova Scotia Firefighters School who go on HRFE's hiring list gather for a photo following ceremonies July 07. From left are **Sara Drysdale, Sherry Thibault, Debra Archibald, Julie Read, Leeann Meredith, Annette Thompson** and **Caroline Gibson**.

Photo by John Giggey

Fire School Grads, Continued from page 16

"Craig [now on D Platoon] wanted to be a firefighter all his life and always encouraged me. When he was hired on three years ago, he became more insistent. And when the female recruitment came along, he said: 'You have to do this!' My husband also told me 'If this is the path you want to take, now's the time.' "

Considering her size, getting through the CPAT was a big challenge and Debra hired a personal trainer to help her prepare.

When Debra walked into the gym for the CPAT a lot of eyes turned on her. "I thought: 'They don't think I can do this.' " But she did. And when she found out that she had passed everything and was on the hiring list "I cried, I was so excited."

Including the seven on the list, 15 other fire school graduates are getting their certificates today. There is one other female.

Nova Scotia Fire Marshal **Robert Cormier** is the guest speaker and as he looks at the graduates, a third of them women, he recalls a conversation he had years ago in university. "A professor of women's studies told me: 'There are no paid female firefighters and there never will be any paid female firefighters.' I'm glad to see that she was wrong."

The veteran firefighter also urged the graduates, as they find placements with departments in

Atlantic Canada or across the country, to never forget their number one lesson: safety.

"There is no property, no house, no building, no car that is worth even one ounce of your skin," he said. Cormier added that he can recall going to the funerals of friends who became apathetic about safety, perhaps failing to wear their mask too many times.

With their graduation behind them, the seven return to their normal routine of life, but now knowing that eventually they will serve on the department along

with the others on the list. For Debra, that means going back to being a stay-at-home mom who also works part time as a waitress to help make ends meet.

There are still 20 people on the hiring list from the 2003 recruitment. This list will have to be exhausted before hiring from the designated female list begins. Due to the wait, people on both lists will have to re-certify on the CPAT, pass new medical tests, and undergo a final set of reference checks before going on the job.



WITH THE FAMILY – Graduate **Debra Archibald** poses with her family after graduating from the Nova Scotia Firefighters School with her Level 2 certificate. Standing are her parents, **Frank and Rita Pottie**; her sister and her husband, **Craig and Kathryn March**; and Debra's husband, **Stephen Archibald**, far right. Sitting are Debra and her daughter, **Breanna**, 9 (left). Checking out the ceiling on the right is her son, **Brogan**, 6. **Craig March** is also a career member at Station 5, D Platoon. Debra joins six other female graduates on our department's hiring list.

Photo by John Giggey

BEDFORD and SACKVILLE



GETTING THEIR FEET WET – Core volunteer recruits at Station 8 in Bedford get some hands on live fire training in July. At left they attack a pan fire, and at right a vehicle fire. Their instructor, Lt. **Robert Andrews**, can be seen in the centre of each group (dark helmet).

Photo contributed by Robert Andrews



READY TO ROLL – A contingent of trucks from Bedford, Sackville and surrounding areas get set to roll in the annual Canada day Parade in Sackville July 01.

Photo by Robert Andrews

FEATURE ARTICLE

USAR's K-9 Team Nearing Certification

Story and Photos by Capt. John Giggey

Members of the Urban Search And Rescue team's K-9 squad take their work home with them.

The members train every weekend: rain or shine, snow or sleet. Then they train virtually every day in between – at home. In fact a minimum of eight to ten hours a week is devoted to training, and this does not include the time which must be spent exercising and playing with their dogs.

The work is paying off and the team, formed about a year ago, is expected to be certified as operational within a few months.

The results were obvious when the unit turned out for an exercise on June 30. A number of people from the department showed up to watch.

The dogs and their handlers demonstrated their skills in obedience, agility, tracking down

lost people, locating victims trapped in piles of rubble, and finding bodies. Their ability to follow a scent is so keen that handlers use just some soil that had once been in contact with a cadaver to simulate a body search.

The K-9 team handlers include both members of the department and civilians.



MEET THE PUBLIC – Following the exercise, the dogs and their handlers line up to meet their audience. From left are Station 16 firefighter **Brian McKay** and **Abbey**, Capt. **Ola Legere** and **Rudder**, **David Forrest** and **Nyla**, Station 2 firefighter **Matt Blouin** and **Cooper**, and **Doug Teeft** and **Maddy**.



File Photo

Absent that day were **Brandy** (handler **Kevin McNeil**) and **Sammy** (handler **Jamie Cooke**).



File Photo



THE WARMUP – Capt. **Ola Legere** of Station 3 and his dog **Rudder** go through the General Obedience part of the USAR team's K-9 demonstration in Burnside June 30. In the background is **David Forrest**, a private contractor, and his dog, **Nyla**. The K-9 team was put together about a year ago and is expected to reach operational level in a few months.



FUN TIME – **Kim Ashizawa**, formerly of Payroll, gets to meet Cooper and his handler, **Matt Blouin** of Station 2. All of the dogs are gentle around people.

FOUND – **Rudder** tries to pull Station 2 firefighter **Matt Blouin** from a box after locating him following a search. Members of the canine team train every weekend, regardless of weather conditions. Then they must train with the dogs at home between training days. They will average about 10 hours a week training time, plus play and exercise time.





THE ZIP LINE – Team member **Dave Forrest** has **Nyla** in a sling in the air and ready for transport. The sling can be used to transport a dog across rough debris or terrain to an area where it is needed.



I SEE YOU – **Rudder** has been circling the rubble pile for several minutes homing in on the scent of a victim 'buried' in the debris. He barks loudly to let handler **Ola Legere** know he's found his target, firefighter **Brian McKay** of Station 16.



AGILITY – Team member **Dave Forrest** puts his German Shepherd **Nyla** through the agility course. It takes from 1 ½ to two years of constant training before a dog and its trainer are ready to go operational.

COMBAT CHALLENGE

Submitted by **Robert Hebb**

The 2006 season has begun, and the Halifax Regional team is off to a great start. At the Maritime Regional in Moncton, Halifax claimed 4 gold in the team, individual, relay and over 50 categories. Congrats to **Mike Sears** and **Cyril Fraser** on their gold medal performances.

At the Newfoundland Regional in Stephenville, add another gold for Halifax in the team event, and another gold for Cyril Fraser in the over 50 category. Other highlights include **Jeff Clarke** and **Joe Barbati** breaking the two minute barrier on their way to personal best times, and the return to form by Andrew Foote on his way to a bronze in the individual event.

The Ottawa regional event continued the string of success for the team, as it won another team gold medal, with Mike Sears and **Rob Hebb** both unable to compete. In the tournament style relay event, the team brought home silver, **Adam McNeil** ran a personal best 1:31 en route to an individual bronze medal, and the ageless Cyril Fraser continued the gold rush with another gold in the over 50 category, by running the second fastest over 50 time ever run, a personal best 1:42! Witnesses say it was an exciting race as he narrowly defeated a much younger Joe Barbati. The record is 1:38.99, and Cyril has his sights set on that mark.

The team is busy preparing for the Canadian National Championships which are in Niagara Falls from the 14th -17th of September. Check out all the results on www.firefit.com!

Maritime Regional - Moncton

Mike Sears	1:33.24 (1 st) (PB)	1. Halifax #1	4:46.01
Rob Hebb	1:34.46 (3 rd)	2. Moncton	5:25.98
Bruce Mosher	1:38.31 (5 th)	3. Fredericton	5:30.06
Adam MacNeil	1:40.05 (8 th)	4. CFB Halifax	5:38.32
Andrew Foote	1:43.99 (10 th)	5. Halifax #2	5:41.52
Joe Triff	1:38.85 (6 th) (PB)		
Cyril Fraser	1:47.45 (1 st – over 50) (PB)		
Jeff Clarke	2:15.22		
Corey Pyke	2:33.81		
Ben Dupuis	2:34.84		
Andy Dennison	2:59.90		



2005 Combat Challenge Team

NEWS

Newfoundland Regional - Stephenville

Andrew Foote	1:31.25
Mike Sears	1:31.98 (PB)
Adam MacNeil	1:33.10
Bruce Mosher	1:41.44
Rob Hebb	1:43.66

Halifax #1	4:36.33
St John's	4:54.87
Waterloo	4:59.68
Conception Bay	5:04.37
Halifax #2	5:18.28

Joe Triff	1:39.12
Joe Barbati	1:48.48 (PB)
Cyril Fraser	1:50.68
Jeff Clarke	1:57.96 (PB)
Andy Dennison	2:06.82

Corey Pyke	2:06.95 (PB)
Vince Conrad	2:15.84

Ottawa Regional

Adam MacNeil	1:31.29 (PB)
Bruce Mosher	1:39.84
Cyril Fraser	1:42.26 (PB)
Andrew Foote	1:51.61

Joe Barbati	1:43.81 (PB)
Vince Conrad	2:01.80
Andy Dennison	2:02.36
Jeff Clarke	2:06.09

Team	4:53.39 (1 st)
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	5:47.97 (5 th)
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RURAL NEWS

NOW THAT'S CUSTOMER SERVICE

NOW THAT'S CUSTOMER SERVICE – Station 50 firefighter **Jason Squires** will even give his customers the shirt off his back – literally. The E-50 crew responded to a motor vehicle accident on the Hammonds Plains Rd. June 23rd where a rock was reported to have gone through the windshield of a car. He found **Carol Saldon** of Dartmouth sitting in her vehicle bleeding and covered in glass. She was able to get out of her glass-covered blouse and Squires gave her his uniform shirt to wear to the hospital. She showed up at Station 50 a few weeks later to give the freshly laundered shirt back to Squires. At right is Mrs. Saldon's car just after the accident. The granite rock, weighing about eight pounds, came off a truck coming toward her on the highway. Considering their combined speeds, it's believed the stone was travelling about 160 kph when it came through the windshield, just missing her head.



Prospect-Area Home Evacuated For Two Hours Following Chlorine Spill Scare

by Capt. John Giggey

Engines 52, 54, the district captain and Tactical 1 responded to a reported chlorine spill in the basement of a home in Brookside August 9th. The homeowners reported they had chlorine and bromine stored in the basement for a hot tub and pool. They reported a strong chlorine smell and a "cloud" or mist in the basement before evacuating.

Clockwise, beginning at right:

- Engine 52 firefighter **Mark Younker** is suited up by **Casey Rutte** of Tact. 1 in preparation for entering the home.
- District Captain **Ian Smith** reviews the floor plans of the house with the entry team before they make their way to the home. In the huddle from left are Capt. Smith, Incident Commander Chief **Barb Sawatsky**, and E-52 crew Mark Younker and Drew McCullough.
- The entry team reports back after confirming there was no spill and removing the containers of chemicals from the home. From left are Casey Rutte of Tact. 1, Mark Younker of E-52, **Patrick Greene** of Tact. 1, **Drew McCullough** of E-52, and Prospect Chief Barb Sawatsky.

A subsequent check of the air quality cleared the home for the residents to return.



Photos by Capt. John Giggey

FEATURE STORY

Moser River Celebrates Long-Needed New Fire Hall

by Capt. **John Giggey**

Moser River Chief **Mike Richardson** knew he was in desperate need of a new fire station more than 10 years ago, well before amalgamation.

The station they worked out of was not really a fire station at all. It was more like a large, two-door shed which two trucks could cram in to, with little room left over for anything else. Just getting into the trucks to respond to a call could be dangerous. With firefighters pressing their backs against the walls, there was barely room for the trucks to roll in or out.

There was no room to store anything. Some equipment was kept in a leaky barn across the road.

That's what made Richardson look ahead to amalgamation with a positive view. "We had a budget of \$28,000.00 a year. We couldn't run a fire department on that. I felt amalgamation would make it better."

It took some time. But Richardson was right. The city broke ground last fall for a new \$850,000 station. More than a hundred residents turned out for the grand opening August 5, just a few weeks after Richardson and his volunteers moved in. It is now Station 29.

But looking back, Richardson says it's all been uphill since amalgamation. "The first thing we

got was better training. We got better equipment. And we needed a working station. We never would have gotten it without amalgamation."

The new two-storey station has two bays with room for two full size trucks and a support vehicle. It includes a watch desk, chief's office, kitchen, a training/meeting room, an equipment room and two wash rooms. There is also a separate room for the emergency generator.

It's also a home for the new Sterling 15-hundred gallon pumper/tanker the department received last year. It could not fit into the old station next door and

has been stored at Station 33 in Three Harbours. The members have been operating with their 1976 Ford pumper tanker, which now becomes the second response unit. They also had an old '74 International water carrier with a pump while they were in the old station. It has since been taken out of service.

The department picked August 5 for the grand opening because it coincides with the annual Moser River Days. This brought a large parade by the fire hall just before the opening. Many onlookers and people in the parade returned to

Continued on page 25



IT'S OFFICIAL – The ribbon drops to the ground after being cut by Mayor **Peter Kelly** Aug. 05 to officially open Moser River's new station. From left are Councillor **Steve Streach**, Moser River Deputy Chief **Karl Naugler**, Chief Director **Mike Eddy**, Mayor **Kelly**, Moser River Chief **Michael Richardson**, and Nova Scotia Fisheries Minister **Ron Chisholm**, who is the MLA for the area.

Photo by John Giggey

Moser River, Continued from page 24

the station to watch Mayor **Peter Kelly** cut the ribbon as he stood alongside other dignitaries.

Residents were then invited inside for a slice of fire department cake. There were also burgers and dogs being barbecued out back.

And a special treat: deep-fried turkey done Texas style. Real Texas style.

David Robison and his family are from just outside Brownsville, Texas, and have been coming to Moser River to spend the summer for decades. Next door, and in Moser River 'next door' is a little way down the road, lives Chief Richardson. They've become friends over the years.

When Richardson found out that Robison had a portable broiler for deep frying, the whole family as pressed into service for the occasion. The turkey turned out to be the biggest hit on the menu.



UNVEILING – Mayor **Peter Kelly** and Moser River Chief **Michael Richardson** prepare to unveil a plaque commemorating the dedication of the New Moser River fire station following the ribbon cutting.

Photo by John Giggey



MOSER RIVER RESIDENTS and visitors watch as dignitaries prepare to officially open the community's new fire station.

Photo by John Giggey

More photos on next pages

Mosher River, continued from page 25

All photos by Capt. **John Giggey**



ONE OF SEVERAL FLOATS in the Mosher River Days parade rolls by the community's new fire station just before the grand opening Aug. 05



DESSERT TIME – Heather McKay of Human Resources helps Mayor Peter Kelly dish out pieces of a special Dedication Cake to visitors following the opening of the new Mosher River fire station Aug. 05.



EYEBALL TO EYEBALL – “Bobby the Boat” appears to look back at 18-month-old Austin Carver of Sheet Harbour during the opening festivities of the new fire station in Mosher River. Austin was enthralled by the radio-controlled tugboat which is being operated by Chief Michael Richardson in the background. The tugboat is owned by the Coast Guard Auxiliary and was on loan for the occasion.



TEXAS STYLE – David Robison, his wife Michele, and daughter, Elizabeth, use a portable deep fryer to prepare Texas-style deep fried turkey which turned out to be the hottest item on the menu following the opening of the Mosher River fire hall. The Robison's are from Laguna Vista, just outside Brownsville, Texas. The family has been coming to Mosher River to spend their summers for two generations. Their summer home is next door to Chief Michael Richardson who drafted them as cooks for the celebration.

Former Cole Harbour Chief, Dartmouth Firefighter Still Going – 40 Years Later

by Capt. John Giggey

Ross Smith was born in Harrigan Cove, just outside Moser River, but his parents moved to Dartmouth when he was small and that's where he was brought up.

He was working as a machinist with the old Fairey Aviation, a British Corporation, in Eastern Passage when he got married and decided to build a home in Cole Harbour. He didn't know it at the time, but that move was going to steer him into a career in the fire service that is still continuing more than 40 years later.

"The man I bought the property from was a volunteer firefighter," remembers Smith. "He hounded me and hounded me so finally I joined the volunteers too."

Eventually Fairey Aviation shut down. But in the meantime Smith had become the volunteer chief in Cole Harbour, and then the department's first paid firefighter. Eventually he became its first paid chief.

In time he applied to the old Dartmouth Fire Department where he served as a career member for 23 years before retiring. In the 1970's he built a cottage on property in Harrigan that he got from his father. And after a few years turned the cottage into a house and moved back to Harrigan, near where he was born.

Smith soon joined the old Moser River Volunteer Fire Department. For many years he would commute to Dartmouth to be a paid firefighter, then come home and be a volunteer. He remembers those tough years long before amalgamation.

"We didn't have much," says Smith, as he recalls how he travelled far and wide to gather equipment for Moser River.

"I picked up a lot of stuff from Windsor. Sometimes I would finish a shift in Dartmouth and drive to

the Valley to get gear. **Mike Eddy**, when he was chief in Eastern Passage, gave us a lot of stuff. Cole Harbour gave us stuff."

"We had a couple of trucks. We had one old Ford tanker that wasn't up to standard. And we had a truck we got from Lakeside. It was a good truck."

Smith says everything has changed since amalgamation; new equipment, new station. "It's improved a lot. We never would have seen this."

Smith has not been able to play a firefighting role in Moser River for some time. But he is still a member and is very active in support work. Why is he still hanging in after all these years?

"I like the people," he says. "Even when I was in Dartmouth, on duty, there is no way I could have had a better job. And I like being able to help the community."



FORTY YEARS IN THE BUSINESS – Moser River firefighter **Ross Smith** poses with Chief **Michael Richardson** (left) and Zone 2 District Chief **Dave Burnet** outside the department's new station on August 5th. At right, the same pose outside the old Moser River station next door. Smith still performs non-firefighting functions with the Moser River Department, continuing a career and volunteer fire service that started in the mid-sixties.

Photos by Capt. John Giggey

HAMMONDS PLAINS



LEFT: PRACTICING, WITH AN AUDIENCE – Members of the Hammonds Plains extrication team get some practice in during a shown'n'shine event at the Sobeys Mall in Tantallon July 08. Station 50 and the core team have been invited to compete at an international competition in *Burlington, Ont.* in September.

Photos by Capt. John Giggey

RIGHT: DRIVER TRAINING – Riley Bonia, 4, of Kingswood subdivision in Hammonds Plains, gets ready to take Grand Lake's new tanker for a spin during a show n' shine at the Sobeys Mall in Tantallon July 08. Checking on him through the window is his dad, **Roy**. The tanker had just arrived at Station 43 the day before and was not yet in service. It won a trophy for best tanker at the event which was held to help raise money for the Hammonds Plains extrication team.



PROSPECT ROAD & DISTRICT



WORKING UP A THIRST – Firefighter **Mike Fitzpatrick** and Capt. **Angela Morash**, both of Prospect, take a break after making a good stop at a house fire in West Dover, between Prospect and Peggy's Cove, July 3rd. The arson blaze in a two-story home had flashed over before they made entry, making for a hot smoky search to find the remaining fire.

Photo by Capt. John Giggey

Fire Service and Community Loss; Gone But Not Forgotten

Submitted by FF **Greg Boyd**, Station 44/45

October 9, 2004 was a day we, as officers and firefighters of Station 44/45 and Zone 4, will never forget. It was the loss of one of our own brothers, 28-year-old **Ian MacLeod**. Son of Captain **Wendall** and **Marilyn MacLeod**, Ian passed away due to kidney failure resulting in multi-organ failure.

As a young man, Ian was involved heavily with the fire service, community activities and an RCMP cadet. During his spare time, Ian played and coached softball.

With Ian's commitment to his community and family, a scholarship award was set up through Lockview High School of \$1000.00 yearly to a graduating student furthering their education in an emergency professional field.

Anyone interested in contributing to the scholarship award can do so through the Fall River Heritage Credit Union. Contact for further information is FF Kevin Higgins at Heritage Credit Union 860-3888.



Captain **Wendall MacLeod** (Ian's father) with the 2006 Lockview High School recipient of the Ian MacLeod Scholarship Award, Miss **Kayla Dawn Jeffery** of Fall River. In the fall, Miss Jeffery will be attending St. Mary's University studying criminology.

RURAL PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Congratulations are in order for the following people.

Colin Guignard, Deputy Chief, Lawrencetown Beach (Stations 19, 20)

Michael Field, Captain, Lake Echo (Stations 21, 22)

Marlow Downey, Lieutenant, Lake Echo (North Preston Station 22)

Joe Mannette, Deputy Chief, Chezzetcook (Station 23)

Donnie Leavitt, Chief, Musquodoboit Harbour (Station 24)

Basil Mitchell, Deputy Chief, Musquodoboit Harbour (Station 24)

Eugene Justason, Captain, Musquodoboit Harbour (Station 24)

Don Patterson, Deputy Chief, Harrietsfield-Sambro (Stations 62, 63)

Jared Doucette, Lieutenant, Harrietsfield-Sambro (Stations 62, 63)

Mike Bonomo, Lieutenant, Harrietsfield-Sambro (Stations 62, 63)

Westphal Cole Harbour Firefighter Braved the Elements for Muscular Dystrophy Canada

Submitted by **Shelley McWilliams**, Atlantic Muscular Dystrophy Canada

Mother Nature is capable of producing the most random assortment of weather, and firefighter **Donny Cyr** of the Westphal/Cole Harbour Firefighters Association (WCHFFA) endured it all, except snow, during the **17th Annual Don Crook Memorial Ladder-a-thon** from June 23-25 in Cole Harbour. Protected by a tarp during the rainiest of times, Donny persevered through the elements for 50 hours atop a 110' ladder, while fellow fire fighters below collected funds for Muscular Dystrophy Canada (MDC).

It was another successful year for this exciting event. The WCHFFA surpassed last year's numbers, generating \$22,800 throughout the course of the weekend. By being one of the biggest supporters of MDC Atlantic, WCHFFA have raised almost \$300,000 for MDC from their annual Ladder-a-thons.

Muscular Dystrophy Canada - Atlantic would like to thank all of the fire fighters who participated in this



Fire Fighters and MDC, partnering together to help make muscles move!



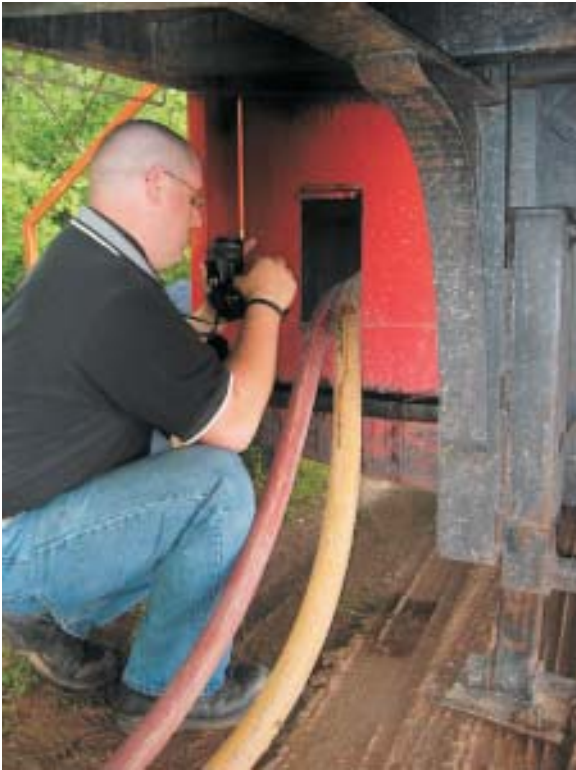
event and to congratulate them on a job well done. We are extremely fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers working tirelessly on behalf of MDC. The funds raised from this very successful ladder-a-thon enables MDC's Services Team to provide funding for mobility equipment, disorder information and support to our families. You are truly heroes to children and adults living with neuromuscular disorders – **THANK YOU!**

Fire fighters have been the backbone of Muscular Dystrophy Canada since its inception in 1954. Like any fire alarm, when called they show up, and will stay until our fire is put out... Their big hearts and endless energy have raised over 55 million dollars in support of the tens of thousands of Canadians affected by neuromuscular disorders. Over 2,500 fire departments from coast to coast have contributed to MDC over the years, and they continue to do so. That number represents a combination of both Career Fire fighters as well as Volunteer Fire fighters, from every region in Canada.



FLASHOVER SIMULATOR @ FDIC 2006

All photos by Capt. John Giggey



THROUGH THE PEEPHOLE – **Chris Howe** of the Bear River Fire department shoots some pictures and digital video through the Flashover Simulator's peephole. Howe was taking pictures and filming for conference officials.



SIMULATOR BRIEFING – Members of the Wolfville Fire Department get a briefing from **Chris Mitts** of the Training Division (right) before experiencing HRFE'S Flashover Simulator for the first time. From left are firefighters **Sean Gordon** and **Tammy Reading**, **Myles Faulkner** of Logistics, firefighters **Melony Edwards** and **Neil Race**. The firefighter beside Mitts is not identified.



BUILDING UP – Smoke and gasses accumulate over the heads of participants as conditions ripen for a flashover.

FDIC ATLANTIC - 2006



MAKING IT WORK – These are the people that make the Fire Department Information Conference (Atlantic) work. Front row (left to right) are directors **Dave Burnet**, district chief HRFE; **Stephen Fenner**, career firefighter Station 56; **Fred Layton**, Black Point Chief; and **Joe Vidito**, FDIC (Atlantic) president. In the back row are: HRFE District Chief **Paul Hopkins**; Capt. **Kirk Fredericks**, Wolfville Fire Dept.; **Myles Boutilier**, PEI Firefighters School; and Chief **Tom Bremner** of the Truro Fire Dept.



THEN YOU WIND UP IN COURT – **Mary Ellen Donovan**, the director of legal services for HRM, presented the topic: What To Expect in Court. She discussed such issues as why people sue fire departments, how Standard Operating Procedures and Operating Guidelines protect us, and the importance of record keeping.



TAKING CONTROL – One of the most popular presentations of the conference was “Taking Control of the Fire Environment” by **Paul Grimwood**, who spent most of his 27 years in the British fire service in London’s west end. He also served lengthy study detachments with departments in Boston, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and other departments in the U.S., as well as fire brigades in South Africa, Sweden, France and Holland. With him is Capt. **Dave Meldrum** of the Training Division.

FDIC ATLANTIC - 2006



FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS – Some of the HRFE personnel gather at the Fallen Firefighters Foundation exhibit at the conference. From left are: **Dave Clement** and **Marchetta Jamieson**, Logistics; Acting Deputy Director **Dave Smith**; **Bryson Wilson**, Divisional Chief of Safety; **Myles Faulkner** and **Norm Lavoie**, Logistics.



FIRE INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES – Many delegates attended this 90-minute presentation by Capt. **Wayne Chapdelaine** of the Investigation and Explosion Division. He provided information on identifying the area of origin, an explanation of the Scientific method of Fire Investigation, and sources of error in investigations.



THE TONE GOES OFF, BUT NOBODY RESPONDS – That's one of the possible scenario's EMO director **Barry Manuel** painted if the feared Pandemic Influenza materializes as expected. If it hits, as many as 700,000 people in Nova Scotia alone could become infected. That could mean in some departments every member could either be ill, or looking after family members who are ill. He outlined ways individual firefighters as well as departments can prepare for such an outbreak.



MUGGING FOR THE CAMERA – **Sandy Davis** strikes a manly pose as he realizes his picture is being taken. Davis is operations manager for the Office of Homeland Security in two parishes of Louisiana, and retired Assistant Chief of the Shreveport, Louisiana Fire Department. He gave the keynote opening address entitled: "The Double Whammy Big Mamma Jamma". It was about two ladies that changed his life: Hurricanes Rita and Katrina that hammered the Gulf Coast.

CONFINED SPACE



CONFINED SPACE
– Firefighters from various departments get a briefing from Instructor **Skip Hoffmann** of Zone 4 prior to going through HRFE's confined space trailer.

In 1992, a Denver firefighter beside a small window and in a confined space died when his comrades were unable to lift him from the floor to the window and perform a rescue. From that was born the "Denver Lift", a technique designed to deal with that type of rescue. The confined space trailer includes a space and window cut to the exact specifications of the area that trapped the Denver member. In these photos, firefighters from Elmsdale perform the technique under the watchful eyes of instructors **Skip Hoffman** and **Scott MacKellar** of HRFE. (Photos by *John Giggie of FeedLine*)



MAKING ENTRY – Firefighter **Chris Goodwin** prepares to make entry through a window to reach a fallen comrade, **Dan Watson**.



SECOND RESCUER – Firefighter **Glen Meisner** makes entry after Goodwin is in position and has lifted the victim to a sitting position.



THIRD RESCUER – Firefighter **Will Poole** takes a position on the ladder outside as Goodwin and Meisner prepare to lift the victim up and out. Instructor **Scott MacKellar** of Station 58 gives direction.

RESCUE TRAINING



UP AND OUT – **Goodwin** and **Meisner** (not visible) work together to lift the victim up and over Meisner to **Poole** on the ladder. Once on the windowsill, the victim will be rolled to face downward for the trip down the ladder in Poole's arms.



THE TRIP DOWN – With one arm under the victim's armpit and the other between his legs, **Poole** can maintain full contact with the ladder and easily handle the weight on the climb down. Instructor Hoffman keeps a close eye on the descent.



TIGHT FIT – Meanwhile, elsewhere in the confined space trailer, Firefighter **Lee Dunne** of Station 58 in Lakeside makes his way through some obstacles in the confined space trailer.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

By *Tom Silver*

Our firefighters respond to request from Day Camps at Ecoles Beaubassin and Carrefour

C Platoon firefighters enjoyed a sunny and hot day with Day Camp attendees in late July. Captain **Ray Cannings** and Firefighters/Engineers **Bill Mills** and **Nadya Paré** along with Firefighter **Nick Maheaux** took time out from their busy day to meet the request to have some Francophone firefighters visit the schools.

They did that and more! Showing the kids bunker gear and what it is like to be inside a fire engine.

We receive many requests every year to visit day camps and the like but it has been a while since the last request to visit a French Day Camp to give a short talk on fire safety and show off the gear.



SHOOTING FOR SILVER

Submitted by **Blaise Mattie**

On April 8th, the Nova Scotia Firefighters Burn Treatment Society held their 24th consecutive Bowl-a-thon for Burn care.

Participants included fifty-five teams made up of numerous firefighters, emergency service personnel, burn care nurses and society supporters from all over the province. Once again Kennetcook captured the High Team Pledge with a donation of \$9,431.15 (Below Executive Director **Marc Lavoie** presents Kennetcook Fire Chief **Martin Walsh** with the plaque for High Team Pledge), following was Enfield with a donation of \$7,537.00 and Amherst finished off the top three with a donation of \$4,500.00.

Other notable highlights throughout the day included Meaghers Grant securing their hold on Burn Support Scooby for another year out bidding Cooksbrook with a bid of \$640.00; and at the end of the day when all the scores came in, Waterville Fire Department captured the High Team Score (Below Executive Director **Blaise Mattie** presents the Waterville Fire Department with the plaque for High Team Score).

The Bowl-a-thon for Burn Care is the Nova Scotia Firefighters Burn Treatment Society's largest annual fund raiser because of the continuous support we receive from the many individuals and teams that donate their time and effort towards this great cause. At the 24th Annual Bowl-a-thon, the participating teams raised over \$48,000, in which all funds raised are used to promote burn prevention and education and to assist in the treatment of burn victims and our annual camp for burn survivors (Camp Connect). We are already preparing for our 25th Annual Bowl-a-thon (Silver Anniversary), and believe next year will be even bigger and better.



Emergency Services Achievement Program (ESAP) - Graduates Another Ten Young People Better Prepared for Life

By *Tom Silver*

This important program was inaugurated in 2001 and has only gotten better. It is funded by the Government of Canada. Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency does provide "in kind" contributions to do what we can to give the young people in the program a head start in life. The project was begun to deliver real life work experience, personal development and mentoring to priority youth. The ten participants in 2005 ranged in age between 16 and 30. They completed a five-week skills development program and fulfilled an 8-month-long work term with various employers.

One of the happily graduates is **Kysha Bowden** who gained valuable experience in clerical duties at Fire's offices in Alderney Gate.

ESAP co-ordinators **Courtney Matheson** and **Bernie Scott** deserve a lot of credit as they worked closely with the participants. **John MacLean** and **Larry Varin** from Training provided CPR and WHMIS training respectively. Councillors **Bob Harvey**, **Krista Snow**, **Gary Meade** and now former deputy mayor **Len Goucher** kicked in some financial help as well.

The program, which operates out of Station #9, will resume in October with ten more participants.



Darlene Ellis, HRFE Co-ordinator - Chief Director's Office, presenting a certificate to ESAP participant **Kysha Bowden**.

Photo by **Tom Silver**



ESAP participants: **Kyle Harris**, **Lawson Smith**, **Trevor Kramer**, **Colleen Morash**, **Travis Smith**, **Travis Gosse**, **Kysha Bowden**, **Justin McGee**, **Shyla David**. Missing from the photo is **Luc Blanchette** who had to work that day.

Also in the photo are co-ordinators **Courtney Matheson** and **Bernie Scott**.

Photo by **Tom Silver**

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**Halifax Regional
Fire & Emergency**

Halifax Regional Firefighter Beats World Record at Firefighter Combat Challenge

Halifax Regional Firefighter **Cyril Fraser** beat a world record in the firefighter combat challenge by 4 seconds this past weekend in Nevan, Ottawa. Fraser, 50, won the 50 and over category - his time was 1 minute 42.26 seconds.



The previous world record was held by another Canadian, **John McGratten**, a New Brunswick Firefighter.

Halifax Regional Firefighter **Bruce Mosher**, placed 1st in the 40 and over category.

The Halifax team also placed 1st overall in the team competition. They head to Niagara Falls September 14-17 for the National Competition.

The Firefighter Combat Challenge is a competition based on fire fighting tasks commonly performed in emergency situations. The Challenge is very demanding and many participants perform at the level of elite athletes. Firefighters call it the toughest two minutes in sports.

We Are Number #1 Downunder, Too!

The **New Zealand Fire Service**, which is National in scope, has just released the results of a country wide survey in its bimonthly newsletter, *Fire & Rescue*. The survey threw up some surprises in lovely New Zealand which is located just east of Australia. Seems the residents there place more faith in their busdrivers or hairdressers than their religious leaders. However when it comes to whom to call when the chips are really down ... it's handy to have a fire truck nearby.

Firefighters came first, again. Paramedics were second, pilots placed third, nurses fourth, doctors fifth, pharmacists came in sixth while teachers were listed seventh for trust. Dentists followed them at eighth, police officers ninth and judges tenth.

If you are wondering, lawyers were pegged at 19th on this top thirty list. Car sales persons held 29th place and, some would say that it's really not a surprise, but last place was solidly held by none other than politicians.

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