

A NEWSLETTER
DEDICATED TO
MEMBERS OF HALIFAX
REGIONAL FIRE &
EMERGENCY

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FeedLine

Serving Canada's Largest Composite Fire Service

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Saying Goodbye



Photo by Capt. Kevin Thomas

Newly retired **Chief Director Mike Eddy** sits with Capt. John Giggey of Feedline for an interview at Station 13, the same station where he **began his career** with the old Dartmouth Fire Department in **1977**. Read Eddy's final words to his troops inside.

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**Acting Chief
Director
Bill Mosher**

Message from the Chief's Office

The last four months have been an extremely busy time for our fire service. We have begun the budget and business planning cycle for 07/08 and as part of this process we will be going to Council in the beginning of the new year to do a presentation on Public Safety which includes By-Law Enforcement, EMO, Integrated Emergency Services, Fire, and Police/RCMP. Last year, Council identified Public Safety as one of their top priorities and as a result the business units have been working together to develop a high level report to Council seeking their support and approval.

Many of you may wonder, what does this mean for Fire? Well, last year in the 06/07 Business Plan we identified strategic and operational goals and objectives to work towards implementation of our Service Delivery Standard. Council has recognized that many of these plans will take time to develop and as a result we are asking Council to confirm that this indeed is the direction that they want the Fire Service to continue. What this means is that we will be further developing these long term multi-year plans, such as a comprehensive station location study, staffing needs, and resource strategies for our fire service.

Work has already begun on the Station Location Study in utilizing HRM's Geographical Information Service. As a result of the work conducted so far, we have stopped plans for the Penhorn

Fire Station because we want to make sure that we are building in the right location as a result on all the new and future developments that is now taking place in Dartmouth and throughout HRM.

Also, we have made some changes to the organizational structure which were announced on December 8th, and have been approved by the CAO. Two new positions have been established, an Executive Officer and FFAP Coordinator. The intent of the Executive Officer position is to develop individuals to have a broader view of our service and to prepare them for succession planning and possible advancement. The Executive Officer position will be key in the day to day activities of the Management Team assisting the Deputies and myself and will also be working on Operational Audits and Service Delivery. The second position Firefighter/Family Assistant Program (FFAP) Coordinator will be responsible for the existing program and to further develop the Peer Referral Program along with the ongoing development of the CIS, Chaplaincy, Health & Wellness Programs, and to develop a program for our retired members. The other changes to our structure were mainly in reporting relationships for a better alignment of roles and responsibilities.

Our Executive Management Team would like to say thank you to all of you for your continued support and dedication to make this fire service one of the best! In closing, I would like to wish you and your families all the best in this new year.

CO-ORDINATOR'S CORNER

New Faces, Some changes in Administration

Well, it has been a few months since my last article, and a lot has happened. The CAFC Conference held in August was a tremendous success and the feedback from the speakers, vendors and delegates was awesome. In 2007, the conference is being held in Niagara Falls and Fire Chief Pat Burke stated at the closing banquet that his department will have a tough act to follow after Halifax. It was certainly very gratifying to hear all the compliments of our staff and volunteers for going above and beyond to make this conference so successful.

My article wouldn't be complete without a mention of **changes** in the **Administration Office**, so why should this article be any different. We have a student from the EASP program, **Sherise Williams**, who began working with us the end of November and will be with us until mid June, 2007. Sherise is working with Shirley Beth and learning the ropes of the Front Desk and developing skills in Office Administration that will assist her in her future endeavours. Sherise will also be working with Janet in the

file room on a Records Management project, so we plan to keep her busy learning a variety of skills.

Another new face in the office is **Elaine Naugle**. Elaine is a Finance Field Service Representative (actually Leona's back-up) who will now be working out of our office while still supporting the business unit of Community Development. **Jacque Crosby** has accepted an 18 month term in Payroll so we expect to be posting her former position.

Melinda Horton (Fire Prevention & Life Safety) has started her maternity leave and we hired **Paula Robinson** December 4th, to fill Melinda's maternity term which provided a period of transition before Melinda finished work. Paula seems to be enjoying her new term with Fire so far. **Iryna Rokhmanova** has returned from her maternity leave on December 4th and assumed her position as our Finance Assistant which Ryan Casey has been filling during Iryna's maternity leave. Ryan and Iryna are working together to provide for a smooth transition period. Ryan was leaving for new



by **Darlene Ellis**, Coordinator

employment in late January.

During the structure re-alignment, the Policies and OG's have been re-assigned back to me and in the new year I will be working on re-vamping and updating, so you will be seeing changes. I will continue to send out data books, advising you of changes so you are all aware as they change. In my position as Coordinator, I also have the responsibility for Business Planning, writing, updating, etc. along with other corporate responsibilities, so 2007 is looking like it will be quite a busy year ahead.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best in this new year.

Darlene

FEATURE STORY

by Capt. John Giggey

Chief Eddy's Parting Words to the Troops: 'Take Care of Yourselves, And Each Other'

We're part way through our interview when I realize that the time spent in this building were probably the happiest days Mike Eddy had experienced in his almost 30 years on the fire department.

We're on the second floor of Station 13 on King St. in the office or Divisional Chief Mike LeRue. "This used to be the alarm room," Eddy remembers, "then a TV room."

Most of his 16 years with the old Dartmouth Fire Department were spent in this building, first as a firefighter, then as a line officer.

He remembers pulling out of this station to his first fire just after joining the department in 1977. Riding the back with him was Red Taylor, "a legend in the Dartmouth department."

As the old LaFrance pulled up at the Belmont Hotel down the street, one room was involved and fire was venting out a window. Taylor was off the back of the truck before it even came to a full stop.

"Once we had a line we went in the door and pushed the fire out the window. Red got the knockdown. He was absolutely fearless; always stretching the limits. When you worked with people like him you just went

further, went deeper. That's where I learned my skills."

When Eddy joined the department he was just looking for a decent job. "I never grew up dreaming of being on a fire truck." He actually tried to apply with the Dartmouth police department first, but they weren't hiring and suggested he try fire. He applied and got accepted. "I was on the job for two days and I knew this was where I was going to spend my life. I loved it."

Eddy had also applied to join the volunteers at the Eastern Passage/Cow Bay Volunteer Fire Dept. where he had grown up and where virtually all of his family lived. But in those days there was a lot of competition between the two communities. If one volunteer was taken on by Cow Bay, one could be taken on from the Passage. One community was never allowed to be ahead of the other in the department.

Since one resident of Cow Bay and one from Eastern Passage had just been accepted into the department, the Passage members would not allow another Cow Bay man to come on board. As a result it was 1978 before Eddy

was accepted as a volunteer.

Over the years he rose in the ranks both in Dartmouth and in Eastern Passage/Cow Bay. He eventually became a volunteer chief in the Passage, and a captain in Dartmouth. Then he decided to apply to be Platoon Chief in Dartmouth.

"Sackville was looking for a new chief," Eddy recalls. "I decided to apply there just so I could go through the process and practice for trying to get the Platoon Chief's job." When he was invited to Sackville for an interview, he found the



Photo by Capt. Kevin Thomas

Retired chief Eddy makes a point during an interview at Station 13 soon after announcing his retirement.

Chief Eddy's parting, Continued from page 4

community had brought in some outside people to help with the selection. One was his own boss, the chief of Dartmouth.

Eddy was selected. He left Dartmouth and now found himself in the unique position of being a volunteer chief in the Passage, and a career chief in Sackville.

"I remember one New Year's levy where Sackville had their meet and greet in the morning, and Eastern Passage/Cow Bay began theirs at noon," he says. "As the Sackville levy wound down, I was at the door in my dress uniform saying goodbye to everyone and keeping an eye on my watch. At 11:30 I left and raced across town to the Passage. I took off my Sackville tunic and put on my Passage tunic and rushed to the door to greet everyone. I wouldn't dare show up wearing a Sackville uniform."

With amalgamation in 1996, Eddy became a Deputy Commissioner, now called Deputy Director, along with Bill Mosher who had been Deputy Chief in Halifax. They worked under Commissioner Gary Greene, who had been chief in Dartmouth. When Greene retired two years later, Eddy became the new Chief Director.

Looking back over those years Eddy believes the biggest change has been in the

professionalism of the department. "We were always professionals," he says. "But it was recognizing the importance of serving different facets of the community. We invented community-based service. There was the diversity brought into the department, and the acceptance of each other.

"The firefighter family came together and stayed together in a caring way. There were changes in technology: bunker gear, state-of-the-art apparatus, safety. That was great, but mostly it was the people. You can have the best of technology but if you don't have the heart of the people involved, it doesn't matter."



Photo by John Giggey

Then Chief Director Mike Eddy opens the annual conference of the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs in Halifax in August.

Eddy remembers being told early in his fire service: "We pay for your hands. That's your pay cheque. But we want your heart and soul." The message was that the pay was for your skills. But a "dedicated" firefighter can't be bought. It's in your heart, or it isn't. And the firefighters of years ago that Eddy worked with demanded that it be there.

A look of pride crosses Eddy's face as he reflects on how the members of this department today, career and volunteer, have come together with that kind of dedication for serving and protecting this municipality.

Eddy's administrative skills earned him offers over the years to move to other civic departments within HRM. "But when I sat back and looked at the uniform, at the community events we were involved in, our people, I couldn't see going anywhere else. I couldn't be the director of any other department and go to work with the same passion that I did here. I just wanted to be the best chief I could be."

Eddy had put a lot of his focus on his two-year term as president of the CAFC which ended in August. When the group held its annual conference here, it was stronger than it had ever been and

Continued on page 6

Chief Eddy's parting, *Continued from page 5*

included delegations from provinces which had little or no involvement before, including Quebec.

Eddy had made no secret of his intention to retire and also told delegates to the CAFC that he would soon be stepping down as chief director in Halifax. He announced on Sept. 27 that he would be retiring within 24 hours.

Chief Eddy's parting words for the members are simple, straight forward, but full of meaning: "Stay committed to our values. Take care of yourselves, and each other.

That's the most important thing."

Eddy says the fire service does not have any competition. "If someone calls 911, they do not have a selection of which fire department they would like to respond. It's only going to be us, and we have to be the best that we can be."

He adds that firefighters are professionals delivering a service. "But it's not a business. It's taking care of people, and caring about those people."

Eddy is hardly ready to hang up

his spurs. He remains on the board of directors for the CAFC and has several speaking engagements lined up in both Canada and the U.S. "It's not because I'm Mike Eddy," he says. "It's because this department has such an outstanding reputation."

Job offers have also started coming in. But for now he is just enjoying the time off, working on his land, and waiting for the new year. "I promised myself I wouldn't make any decisions on where I'm going next until then," he says.



SHIPBOARD TRAINING – Engine 15 Captain Paul Edwards (D Platoon) leads an attack on a mock fire aboard a small boat during a shipboard training course in October. Twenty members, including two volunteers, took the course. On the right is volunteer Paul Cadieux of Station 21 in Lake Echo.

Photo by Robert Andrews

102 Accident Jams City Traffic For Hours

Photos by John Giggey



STANDING BY – Quint 7 crew David Pace, Jason Parsons and Justin Roberts (black helmet), a student firefighter from Newfoundland, wait for orders in the pouring rain. After Quint 5 got the leak under control, private contractors performed the cleanup. The tractor trailer left the highway near the Hammonds Plains Rd. exit.

JUST TALKING IN THE RAIN – Quint 7 Capt. Scot Schaffner chats with Lyle Densmore of Connors Transport (centre) and an official of Barrington Environmental. The accident and subsequent diesel spill shut down the north-bound 102 between Kearney Lake and Hammonds Plains Rd. for hours.



CLEANUP IN PROGRESS – Capt. Scot Schaffner of Quint 7 discusses the progress of the cleanup with an official of Barrington Environmental. A quantity of diesel from the truck's damaged fuel tanks spilled. Earlier the hazmat crew on Quint 5 under the direction of Capt. Tom Martin used Plug and Dyke to stop the leakage.

THE SCENE – Quint 7 sits at the side of the highway while a couple of members of her crew and officials from Barrington Environmental work around the wreck. The driver was not seriously injured.



Logistics Division

Chris Charron

Building Maintenance Tech. Appointed; Station Upgrades Under Way

The department's new maintenance technician has been selected and hired. He's Colin MacLean, who's also a volunteer firefighter at Station 42 in Wellington. There were 20 applications, all of them internal, and most were very well qualified. We wanted someone who knows and understands the issues with rural departments.

As the latest addition to the logistics team, Colin will also be cross-trained to provide an operational support role in addition to his building maintenance duties.

Inspections over the years have turned up fire code violations at many rural stations, but it wasn't until this spring that there was money

in the budget to care for all of the issues. Upgrades have been carried out at ten stations so far and they are continuing.

A plan was put in place last year to inspect all stations with septic fields. About 25 per cent of these have been inspected so far and any problems are being dealt with immediately. It's hoped a greater percentage will be done next year, depending on funding.

The new station for Zone 4 has entered the plan review stage. Once the review is complete the plans will be turned back over to the design team for changes.



BUILDING TECH – Colin MacLean is the latest member of the Logistics team. MacLean is a journeyman carpenter and has been building and renovating homes for 20 years. He's also been a firefighter for about six years, working out of Station 42 in Wellington as a volunteer. He had several friends on the department who talked him into joining. They eventually left, but he's still there. He says he's impressed so far with the effort many volunteers put into their buildings. Any serious problems he's found are being handled right away by contractors.

Photo by John Giggey

Fleet Division

Paul McCulley

New Rescue Pumpers In Service; More Apparatus Ordered

Five new rescue pumpers have been received at Fleet. All should be in service by the time this edition of Feedline goes to press.

Four of the trucks are 410 horsepower Sterling 9500's. The fifth is a Freightliner 112. They include five-person crew cabs, 1750 gpm Waterous pumps, 750-gallon tanks and 25 gallon foam tanks. They will carry 1,000 feet of large diameter hose, 625 feet of 2 ½

inch line, and 500 feet of 1 ¼ inch line. They also have full depth rescue compartments.

The trucks are going to Station 16 in Eastern Passage, Station 18 in Cole Harbour, Station 59 on Bay Rd., Station 9 in Sackville, and one to Zone Three. Another rescue pumper and a 15-hundred gallon tanker were expected to arrive in November. The rescue pumper will be going to Station 58 in Lakeside, and the tanker will be going to

Station 48 in Beaverbank.

Six more 15-hundred gallon tankers have been awarded to Carl Thibault Emergency Trucks, a 75-foot Pierce Quint to Mic Mac Fire and Safety, and one more rescue pumper To E-One.



Fire Inspections

Craig MacDonald

Compliance Up Dramatically in Inspections

Our changes in file or case management have generated some successes. In the past 12 months our compliance rate has increased from 34% to a 63.4%. That percentage will increase as we still had some open cases when the stats were run.

We are currently revisiting the General Life Safety Check sheet with the intent of updating and simplifying it, thereby making it more user friendly. Fire Prevention Officer Mike Boutilier has agreed to develop a training package in Power Point to compliment the General Life Safety Check

program and it should be completed in the near future.

The Fire Prevention and Life Safety Division was heavily involved in the planning of the Rolling Stones Concert through the HRM Special Events Task Force. Fire Prevention Officers Robert Kamperman and Glenn Martin were devoted to this project on an almost full time basis. For the concert itself four fire prevention officers were present throughout the entire event. Two fire prevention officers in cooperation with Alcohol and Gaming conducted night safety inspections of downtown bars.

(Editor's Note)

Divisional Captain MacDonald has accepted a

position with the Standing Committee for Fire Protection with the National Research Council of Canada in Ottawa. The committee is responsible for safety, health, barrier free design, and protection of building requirements. These requirements are found in Parts, 3, 6, 8 & 9 of The National Building Code and Parts 2, 6 and 7 of The National Fire Code. This appointment gives HRFE a voice in national fire protection standards. The majority of business is conducted through e-mail, however the committee does meet regularly in various locations across Canada.



Canadian Association Of Fire Chiefs - Annual Conference

Recruitment, Acceptance, Human Rights, Coaching, Among Issues Presented To Fire Chiefs

Canada's fire chiefs take their annual conference seriously.

When the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs held its annual conference in Halifax in August, it was breakfast at 7 a.m. sharp. By 7:30 the presentations started and they continued all day.

Issues of recruitment, diversity and inclusion were important parts of the program.

Larry Sagan is president of Fire 20/20, a recruiting consultant to emergency services groups. He encouraged chiefs to switch from tactical to strategic when it comes to recruiting.

"Departments tend to start recruiting when there is a need. That's tactical," he said. "You need to be recruiting now for what your needs are going to be 10 years down the road. That's strategic. You need to inspire, activate and develop a future work force, rather than waiting to see who shows up."

When it comes to diversity, Sagan says there are three types of people: "Those who don't see a problem. Those who see a problem and feel the need to act. And those who see an opportunity to improve service and view it as a long term investment."

He told delegates more than diversity is needed. There must also

be inclusion so all members, including minorities, feel they belong.

Stephen Hammond, president of Harassment Solutions Inc., told the chiefs they can expect lawsuits as more and more people insist on "their rights", even when they fly in the face of regulations.

He mentioned one case in the United States where one firefighter stopped shaving because of his religion. This was a clear violation of safety regulations because he could not get a proper seal wearing

an SCBA mask. When action was taken against him, he sued and a judge ruled in his favour, stating the seal he could get with his beard was safe enough.

Hammond added the ruling was overturned on appeal, but it's an example of the sort of human rights cases that are lurking for fire departments around the corner.

Another consultant, Gordon McIntosh of LGL Institute, urged chiefs to begin grooming firefighters and middle ranking officers now for future leadership roles.



DIVERSITY – BEING ACCEPTED – The importance of diversity and acceptance became a major subject at the fire chiefs conference. Ali Duale, a Muslim who immigrated to Canada from Somalia, is now a member of Engine 8's crew. He told delegates and members of the media who interviewed him of how he feels fully accepted as a member of the department. With him are (left to right) Deputy Director Steve Thurber, Divisional Chief of Safety Bryson Wilson, and Platoon Chief Paul Hopkins.

Photo by **John Giggey**

“You have to know what qualities you want in a leader,” he said. As an example, he said to “build a profile of what you want in a station captain. What qualities and abilities do you want. Then coach a person to that level of competency.”

He put the delegates through a workshop to select what they required in three types of leaders: company officers (tactical managers); senior officers such as divisional, platoon and district chiefs (operational officers); and chiefs and deputies (executive, strategic officers).

The conference began with a pre-conference meeting on Sunday, Aug. 13, and continued for four days.

During the conference then HRFE Chief Director Mike Eddy completed his two-year term as association president and was replaced by Chief Patrick R. Burke of the Niagara Falls Fire Service.

HUMAN RIGHTS – A HUGE COMING ISSUE – Workplace human rights expert Stephen Hammond of Vancouver told delegates at the CAFC that they can expect human rights to become an ever larger issue in the future. He says even long established department rules, such as not allowing facial hair that can interfere with the seal of the SCBA mask, may be challenged as people demand “their rights”. Hammond is president of Harassment Solutions Inc.



Photo by John Giggey



Photo by John Giggey

VROOOM – Three-year-old Alex Barry and his dad of New York City check out one of two new Harley Davidson motorcycles on trial with the department. The bikes were on display in the lobby of the Marriott Harbourfront Hotel during the fire chiefs conference. Alex and his folks, Mark and Vanessa Berry, were in town visiting relatives. Alex was decked out in a department golf shirt for the occasion.

Canadian Association Of Fire Chiefs - Annual Conference



CHECKING IN – Some of the department's staff that helped make the conference work check in a couple of delegates as the event prepares to get under way. From left are Leona Worden, Brenda MacNeil and Veronica Roche. The delegates are Bill Killen (left) of Church Hill, Tennessee, president of the International Association of Fire Chiefs; and Roger Bradley, chief of the Hanover, New Hampshire fire department, representing the New England division of the IAFF.

CONVENTION AWARD – Jeff Turner and Pat Bentley of Destination Nova Scotia present then Chief Director Mike Eddy with the group's Ambassador Award for bringing the CAFC annual conference to Halifax.



FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS – Then Chief Director Mike Eddy, acting in his capacity as president of the CAFC, accepts a Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation flag on behalf of the fire chiefs association. Making the presentation is Deputy Director Dave Smith who is on the board of directors of the CFFF. Eddy finished his term as CAFC president during the conference and was replaced by Chief Patrick Burke of the Niagara Falls Fire Services.

Photos by John Giggey

Cambridge Chief Tells CAFC Public Education Saves Lives

The importance of 'PubEd' hit home for Terry Allen as he sat in a gutted house with three bodies waiting for a coroner.

"It took five hours for the coroner to arrive," says Allen, now chief of the Cambridge, Ont. Fire Department. And he says that gave him a lot of time to think.

"I wondered where we went wrong. What could we have done differently?" The victims were all male: ages 31, 19 and 5. "Our response time was four minutes. We did everything right.

"Then it hit me. We didn't get to them before the fire. We couldn't have saved these people. But they could have saved themselves if they had the knowledge."

That was 1989 and Allen, now fire chief in the community of 110,000 people, was a newly appointed deputy chief. The fire started from cooking oil and the smoke alarm was not working. For Allen, the importance of public education has been on the front burner ever since.

In his presentation to the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs conference in Halifax, Allen said when statistics show 50% of smoke alarms in homes are not working, "that tells us that fire safety is not an issue with the public."



Photo by John Giggey

PUBLIC EDUCATION SAVES LIVES-Chief Terry Allen of the Cambridge, Ont. fire department explains from personal experience the important of public education in saving lives.

Allen encouraged the chiefs from across Canada to make public education a high priority with every firefighter involved in getting out the message. "People have to be made aware of how to prevent a fire, and what to do when fire strikes."

The chief likened the fire department to a three-leg stool. "Suppression is just one leg. Fire prevention, including code enforcement, is a second. And the third is public education."



Recipient of 40 year long service medal, John Trider, with (from left) Honour Guard member Craig Perrier, Mayor Peter Kelly, Acting Chief Director Bill Mosher, Trider, Nova Scotia Fire Marshall Robert Cormier, and Honour Guard member Brian Forbes.

42 Members Get Long Service Medals At Awards Ceremony

The annual awards night drew members and their families from across HRM. Besides our own officials, Mayor Peter Kelly and provincial Fire Marshall Robert Cormier were among the dignitaries.

The longest serving award winner was John Trider, a volunteer with Station 24 in Musquodoboit Harbour, for 40 years of active service with the department.

Following the ceremony, the award winners posed for group pictures flanked by Honour Guard members Craig Perrier and Brian Forbes, and by Acting Chief Director Bill Mosher, Mayor Kelly, and Fire Marshall Cormier.

42 Members Get Long Service Medals . . .



Recipients of the 30-year long service medal

The following members received medals for 30 years of service:

Captain Shawn Collins Station 4, D Platoon; Captain Joseph Cuvelier, Station 14, C Platoon; FF Thomas Dobbin, Station 10, D Platoon; FF Donald Flemming, Station 58, Lakeside; Fire Prevention Officer Tony Garber, Station 1; FF Michael Hartlen, Station 17, B Platoon; Platoon Chief Paul Hopkins, Station 1; Captain Bernard MacDonald, Station 18, A Platoon; Captain Gerald McNeil, Station 9, A Platoon; FF Dave Marryatt, Station 8, A Platoon; FF Steve Morris, Station 14, B Platoon; FF William Thompson, Station 6, C Platoon; Volunteer FF James Turner, Station 24, Musquodoboit Harbour; Captain Arthur Vidito, Station 18, C Platoon; FF Donald Wilkes, Station 5, D Platoon; and Volunteer FF Wayne Williams, Station 16, Eastern Passage.

42 Members Get Long Service Medals . . .



Recipients of the 25-year long service medal

The following members received medals for 25 years of service:

FF Stephen E. Blois, Station 3, A Platoon; Vol. Deputy Chief Stephen F. Comeau, Station 41, Waverley; Vol. Chief Ronald G. Dalrymple, Station 41, Waverley; Vol. Lieutenant Dana Eisan, Station 9, Sackville; Volunteer FF Daryl Hayes, Station 24, Musquodoboit Harbour; Divisional Chief Michael LeRue, Station 1; FF Dean A. Logie, Station 10, B Platoon; FF James D. MacInnis, Station 2, D Platoon; and Divisional Chief Bryson Wilson, Station 1.

Photos by **John Giggey**

42 Members Get Long Service Medals . . .**Recipients of the 20-year long service medal****The following members received medals for 20 years of service:**

FF Stephen E. Blois, Station 3, A Platoon; District Chief Dave Burnet, Station 1; Myles Faulkner, Storesperson, Station 3; FF Stephen D. Fenner, Station 56, Black Point; Vol. Chief Timothy Flemming, Station 36, Meagher's Grant; Fire Prevention Officer Dan Hamer, Station 1; Captain Gregory Hebb, Station 9, C Platoon; Vol. Lieutenant Kevin Jodrey, Station 35, Cooks Brook; FF Edward Kennedy, Station 15, A Platoon; Norman Lavoie, Equipment Tech., Station 3; FF Daniel Matthews, Station 15, A Platoon; Vol Admin. Captain Kenneth Morrow, Station 16, Eastern Passage; Vol. Deputy Chief Kevin R. Smith, Station 55, Seabright; FF Laurie Spriggs, Station 12, D Platoon; Volunteer FF Kenneth Tweddle, Station 48, Beaverbank; and Fire Prevention Officer Douglas Scott Wheeler, Station 1.

Quick-Thinking Teens Get Award For Saving Family From Burning Home

The combination of a working smoke alarm and quick thinking by a brother and sister are credited with saving the lives of four people in a house fire at Antrim, near Cooks Brook, in February.

In September, the brother and sister were recognized for their quick work in getting everyone to safety. Zone 3 firefighters waited until Sept. 22nd, their recruitment day, and with a Breakfast Television crew on hand, to present certificates of appreciation to Sara Dort, 14, and her brother, Brian, 16.

After getting their certificates they were interviewed on camera by BT personality Cyril Lunney for use on the program.

Later Sara recalled how she and her father were asleep in their rooms, while her brother and a friend, Brian Robbins, also then 15, had

fallen asleep in the front room watching television.

“I think it was the smoke alarm that woke me up,” recalled Sara. She saw the fire and woke her brother, Brian. “He told me to get out of the house, then got our father up and woke his friend.”

“Brian came and got me,” said the father, Harold Dort. “He said there was a fire. I went to the kitchen and it was full of smoke. Flames were flying then. Brian went to my sister’s down the road and called the fire department.

“Another few minutes and we would never have gotten out the door,” said Dort. “If they hadn’t been here I would probably still be in the house.”

All four escaped injury. The single storey house was destroyed. The cause was traced to a breaker panel in the basement.



SAVED THEIR FAMILY – As the camera rolls, Sara Dort, 14, beams as Cooks Brook Chief Mike Spencer presents her with a certificate of appreciation for waking her family and saving them from their burning home in Antrim. Beside her is her brother, Brian, 16, who also received a certificate for getting the family to safety. Beside Spencer is Middle Musquodoboit (*Station 38*) Chief Robert Kay. Capt. Don Mann of Scotch Settlement (*Station 40*) is on the right. Partially hidden by the camera and holding the microphone is Cyril Lunney of Breakfast Television who’s wearing Capt. Mann’s turnout gear.

Photo by John Giggey

Accident Victim Thanks Lake Echo Crew For Saving her Life



SAVED – Lorna Foster, 55, of Eastern Passage shows up at Station 21 in Lake Echo to thank the crew for saving her life in a highway accident. She bought a cake for the crew because “I’m not well enough to bake yet”. Surrounding her (from left) are members who responded to the accident: Capt. Brian Robertson, Capt. Mike Field, firefighters Allison Dube and Pierre Cadieux, Capt. Cory Dominix, firefighter Patrick Gaudreau, Honorary Member Robert Laver, Deputy Chief Jim Marlow, and firefighter Murdock Covin.

Photos by John Giggey

“I remember feeling comfortable and just wanting to sleep,” says Lorna Foster as she recalls being trapped in her smashed car after a two-vehicle collision in Lake Echo in September.

“But a fireman kept pinching me very hard and saying: ‘I can’t let you do that.’ Later my doctor said if I had gone unconscious I probably would have died.”

The firefighter was Murdock Covin of Station 21, one of several looking after patient care in the crash which sent five people to hospital. He recalls Foster, 55, of Eastern Passage, suffering from head and other injuries and from breathing difficulties.

Foster is still recovering from her injuries. She arranged to meet with the Lake Echo crew at their station in October. She apologized for bringing a store-bought cake, explaining that she still can’t stand or move her arms enough to bake. She sat during most of her visit to the fire hall. Her daughter, Lee-Ann, 26, is also still recovering from her injuries.

Foster says she learned a serious lesson from the accident. “I only used to wear my seat belt because I didn’t want to get a ticket,” she says. “Now I feel like screaming: ‘Use your belt.’”

Foster believes the fact she and her daughter were buckled up probably saved their lives.



A SPECIAL HELLO – Lorna Foster had a special thank you for Station 21 firefighter Murdock Gavin, who took charge of patient care at the accident. Gavin kept pinching Foster to keep her awake. Her doctor later told her if she had gone unconscious, she probably would not have survived.

Come See It In 100 Years: Hopkins' Carving Dedicated; Time Capsule Sealed Inside

Passing motorists craned their necks to see what was happening as television cameramen, photographers, reporters and firefighters gathered in front of Station 2 on University Avenue Nov. 15

The event was the long-awaited dedication of the large carving of a firefighter carved by Platoon Chief Paul Hopkins to commemorate the department's 250th anniversary in 2004.

A highlight was the sealing of a time capsule in a niche in the

front of the statue which was then covered by a large bronze plaque. The plaque is inscribed with the names of all the departments that were amalgamated in 1996 into what is now Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency.

There are more than 20 items in the sealed plastic time capsule including the latest union contract, the 250th anniversary department calendar from 2004, a current copy of Feedline, a Sons of Maxwell CD, the department's

250th anniversary advertising supplement in The Chronicle Herald from Sept. 29, 2004, a copy of the department budget, and a letter from Acting Chief Director Bill Mosher to the 'Chief of the Day' 100 years from now when the capsule is opened.

It took Hopkins about 250 hours to carve the statue out of an eight-foot section of a 4,000 pound, 150-year English Poplar that was blown over by Hurricane Juan.



Photos by John Giggey

HOME FOR A CENTURY – As Acting Chief Director Bill Mosher looks on, Deputy Mayor Sue Utech and Platoon Chief Paul Hopkins lift the department's time capsule into its niche in the statue.

Secretary of State Meets HRFE Honour Guard



DR. RICE BEGINS moving through the crowd following her speech while members of the Honour Guard are in the background.

THE DEPARTMENT'S HONOUR GUARD was front and centre when U.S. Secretary of State Dr. Condoleezza Rice visited Halifax in October. Rice and Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay are seen sharing the podium as our Honour Guard members are on the right. An RCMP Honour Guard is on the left.



GUARD MEMBERS PARTICIPATING are (from left) Captain Paul Edwards, FF Brian Forbes, FF Craig Perrier and FF Jared Rainault.

Admin Staff Become Firefighters For A Day



THE CREW – Department administrative staff who participated in a firefighter day gather for a photo. From left are Beth Searle, Karen Dore, Audrey MacLean, Veronica Roche, Shirley Beth MacEachen, Lynda McEwen, and Linda Greenough. On the truck are Melinda Horton (in the jacket), and Beth VanGorder.

TRYING IT ON – Senior HR consultant Audrey MacLean and Veronica Roach, administrative assistant to Deputy Director Roy Hollett, try on their turnout gear at the Logistics Division's stores facility before heading for the fire school. Several members of the administration staff spent a day in November getting a feel for what it means to be a firefighter.

Most photos courtesy of Admin. staff

Prospect Team Takes 2nd Place in Women's Combat Challenge



THE DRAG – Capt. Angela Morash of Prospect does the drag with Rescue Randy during the 2006 Combat Challenge in July. Prospect, comprising Stations 52-54, put together a female relay team for the event.



THE MEDAL – Prospect's Joanne Pinch shows off the team's silver medal for second place in the women's event. Prospect Chief Barb Sawatsky says the team came together for Peach, as Joanne is affectionately called by her fellow firefighters, after she was diagnosed with cancer. She has had to discontinue her role as a volunteer and put off her dream of going career while she fights the disease.



THE TEAM – Members of the female team from Prospect gather for a photo. In front are Chief Barb Sawatsky (left) and Capt. Christine Scott. In the back row are (left to right) Capt. Angela Morash, firefighter Joanne Pinch, and firefighter Brandy Curtis. A team from Wolfville took first place in the female competition.

All photos courtesy of Prospect team.

Canadian Association Of Fire Investigators - Annual Conference

Lentini to Fire Investigators: Slow Down And Get It Right

By Capt. John Giggey

After 30 years as a forensic investigator, John Lentini believes in a few things.

"I believe arsonists **should** be in jail and they should **not** be able to collect on their insurance," he told the annual conference of the Canadian Association of Fire Investigators in Halifax in October.

"And I believe victims of accidental fires should **not** be in prison and they **should** be able to collect on their insurance."

When people say Lentini "wrote the book" on fire investigation, they're not exaggerating. He is a member of the NFPA Technical Committee on Fire Investigation, a leading writer of the NFPA standards on fire investigation, and author of "Scientific Protocols of Fire Investigation". His book has become a guide for leading investigators everywhere and HRFE's investigation unit carefully follows its protocols.

Lentini is recognized as one of the most knowledgeable fire investigators on the continent. And he's concerned about the quality of investigations taking

place in many places. "There are a significant number of arson fires classified as accidental," he told the conference, "and a significant number of accidental fires classified as arson."

Lentini told the fire investigators that it's critical to get it right. "Even if they're exonerated, you can ruin someone's life, or their family's life, by falsely accusing them of arson," he said.

Lentini laid out a number of pitfalls that can lead investigators off in the wrong direction. One of the most serious is the penchant by many to form an opinion too soon in the process.

"We're only human," he says. "And once we form an opinion we tend to defend it. We tend to put blinders on. We only look for evidence that supports our opinion. We only take photos that support our opinion. But the reality is fire investigators do not have the right to their own opinion if that opinion is wrong."

Lentini encouraged the Investigators to gather lots of data and information and to analyze that data before forming a hypothesis. That hypothesis should then be

subjected to, and survive, serious challenge.

In HRFE, our investigators routinely run their hypothesis in a complicated case by other members of the team who then seriously try to disprove it in order to ensure the theory is solidly supported by the evidence.

Lentini also urged caution in the use of some of the latest technology and methods in fire investigation.

He acknowledges that dogs trained to sniff out accelerants are one of the best new tools to come along for investigators in years. "But they will lie like a rug," says Lentini. "They know if they make a hit, they will get a treat." He said when the dogs get a hit, the material **MUST** be sent to a laboratory for confirmation. Otherwise the "hit" doesn't mean anything.

There are now computer programs that can dramatically simulate the way a fire started and show its progress. The problem comes back to whether an investigator is trying to use the program to prove an opinion he's already reached. Used improperly, a

programmer can tinker with the mathematical calculations that run the program until he gets a simulation that supports his theory.

Lentini also made clear that there is no room any more for the long-standing philosophy among fire investigators to presume arson is the cause until proven otherwise. In fact NFPA

921 specifically states to avoid presumption of cause. He cautions investigators to treat a fire scene as if it's a crime scene for the preservation of evidence, but to assume that, like almost all fires, it was probably not deliberately set.

He said once an investigator goes into a scene with the assumption of arson and

looking for evidence of arson, he will likely overlook evidence of accidental cause.

Lentini came by his investigative skills honestly. Both his father and grandfather were Boston police officers. His dad wrote a book on vice and narcotics that is still in use. He also had vision. He saw forensics as a coming force in investigation and encouraged his son to enter the field.



Photo by Wayne Chapdelaine

DO IT RIGHT – John Lentini, recognized as one of the most skilled fire investigators on the continent, told a conference of fire investigators from across Canada in Halifax that a lot of mistakes are being made in the field. Lentini reviewed many common errors being made in investigation and showed delegates how to avoid them.

Fire Prevention Week



Photos by John Giggey

STAY SAFE – Veteran firefighter Gerald Crooks of Station 21 in Lake Echo reviews a Sparky video with some children from Erica's Day Care in Porters Lake during a visit to the Lake Echo station during Fire Prevention Week.



VISITORS – David Amirault of Hammonds Plains and his sons Sam, 6, and Daniel, 3, check out the fire prevention booth at the Halifax International Airport. With them is Capt. Wayne Higgins of the Public Education Division.

NEW HELMETS – Children from Creative Kids in Hammonds Plains pose beside a tanker at Station 50 during Fire Prevention Week. With them are firefighters Robert Belliveau (left), Jason Squires (centre) and Rob Girard.



Photo by Paul Williams

Open House At Station 22

FAMILY BUSINESS – Core Capt. Cyril Fraser cosies up with some family during the open house Nov. 04 at Station 22 in North Preston. With him are his sister, Viola Fraser, and nephew, Aron Lee Fraser. Both are volunteers at Station 22. At left is a car Viola had just helped demolish in an extrication demonstration.

Photos by John Giggey



CHOW TIME – Myrna Provo of North Preston chows down at the barbecue during the open house at Station 22. Serving her are volunteers Andre Butler (left) of Station 21, and AJ Simmonds of Station 22. About 200 residents attended the event.

RIPPING IT UP – Lt. Marlow Downey of Station 22 prepares to remove the roof of a car during a vehicle extrication demonstration during the open house at his North Preston station on Nov. 04. The station, partner to Station 21 in Lake Echo and under the supervision of volunteer Chief Rob Patey, had dwindled over the years to just two members. As a result it often failed to respond on calls. Following a membership drive, nine volunteer firefighters now respond from the station.



After More Than 50 Years In Service, Old Dartmouth Aerial Comes Home To Retire

The 1954 Bickle Seagrave 75-foot aerial arrived in Dartmouth on a flatbed railway car when it was brand new. When it returned home September 30th, it was under its own steam.

The tough old truck served Dartmouth for 35 years until 1988, when it was sold to the Stewiacke Fire Department for a thousand dollars. But its connection didn't end there. The linch-pin in the saga of the Bickle is the late Weldon Power and his family.

Power grew up next door to the main Dartmouth fire hall on King Street, now Station 13. In fact as a boy, he used to play fireman in

the station's back yard and his dad was a volunteer for years. He joined the old Dartmouth Fire Department when he was just 18 years old, the same year the Bickle came to town. He held the rank of platoon chief when he retired in 1993.

Power died last year. About 500 people, many of them firefighters, attended his funeral at the Stewiacke fire hall. A Stewiacke fire truck carried his body back to Dartmouth as part of a funeral motorcade. "It was pretty cool," his daughter, Linda, relates. "There were firefighters lined up on every overpass all the way back to Dartmouth." The motorcade stopped at

Station 13 where Power's remains were transferred from the truck to a hearse.

For many of his last years in the Dartmouth Fire Department, Power led a double life. He came to Dartmouth for his "day job" – a Dartmouth firefighter. But by now he had moved to Stewiacke where he was also a member of the Stewiacke Volunteer Fire Department. In fact he remained active with the Stewiacke department for years after retiring in Dartmouth, effectively spending a total of 50 years as an active firefighter.

It was that connection that brought the Bickle back home.



ARRIVES – Dartmouth's old 1954 Bickle aerial truck arrives back at its old station on King Street Sept. 30. The truck eventually went to the Stewiacke Fire Dept. in 1988 where it has remained operational right up until the end of September.

Photos by John Giggey

Because the Bickle was so connected to Power, it was donated to the Power family when the Stewiacke department needed space in its fire hall for a new truck in late September. It had remained an operational vehicle right up until then.

In turn Power's family donated the truck back to Dartmouth.

During all its years in Dartmouth the aerial was housed at the main King St. station. Retired members remember one of the old aerial's drivers who pulled out of the station on a call and, unable to get the truck turned quickly enough, drove it into a

light pole across the street. He jumped out, pulled the fender away from the wheel, and continued on to the fire. When you look closely, the body fill used to repair the damage is still visible today.

They remember another night when the same driver got the location wrong for a fire. When other firemen arrived at the scene, they could hear the aerial's siren disappearing in the distance. A short time later they could hear the siren coming back, then disappearing in another direction as the driver searched the town for the rest of the crew.

He eventually made it to the call.

Now the old Bickle is back to its original home and officially retired. It has a new bay, next to Quint 13, which now runs out of King St. That truck is a 2001 Freightliner. The day the aerial arrived, the Freightliner was back at the factory for repairs and was replaced by a 1990 E-1 Quint. The Freightliner was expected back at the station by the end of October.

Both Dartmouth and Stewiacke have emotional ties to the truck and both departments have agreed to share it for special events.



THE CREW – Several retired Dartmouth fire fighters who were members of the old Bickle's crew over the years pose with others from the department. From left are Albert LeGraw; Deputy Director Steve Thurber; Carson Crichton; Dave Clarke; Linda Power, whose family donated the truck back to Dartmouth; Gordon Skinner; Rob Kinsman; fire fighter Brian Rogers of Engine 8, 'B' Platoon; and Capt. Richard Cashen of Engine 16, 'C' Platoon.

Twelve New Recruits Sworn in – Going To Core Operations



NEW MEMBERS – Posing for a group photo following their swearing-in ceremony are: (seated, left to right): Christopher Swanson, Mark Haverstock, Richard Hynes, James Turple, Sean Parsons, and Harry Creemer; (standing, left to right): Jeffrey Murphy, Adam MacNeil, Michael Bowser, Shawn Doucet, Michael Sampson, and Wade Young.

The long wait on the hiring list came to an end Oct. 02 for another 12 new members.

The recruits, surrounded by family and friends, were sworn in at a ceremony at the Atwood Centre at Station 9 in Sackville presided over acting Chief Director Bill Mosher. As their names were called, Deputy Director Steve Thurber presented them with their new department caps.

All of the recruits will be going to core operations. The recruitment leaves 22 people on the current hiring list.



SPLISH SPLASH – Zachary Fraser of Highland Park in Hammonds Plains, son of Tara and Glen Fraser, aims at some targets with an 1 ¾ inch line during the Fun Days at Station 50 in Hammonds Plains Sept. 09. Keeping a watchful eye is Firefighter/EMT Patrick Dean. Fun Days has been an annual in Hammonds Plains for years. An estimated 300 people attended the event.

Photos by John Giggey



FUND RAISING – Fire fighter Kevin Reade of Engine 6 and his wife, actress Karen Bassett, performed a reading from the play “The Guys” to raise money for the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation. The two-actor play is based on a true story about a New York fire captain who is confronted with having to write eulogies for several of his men who were killed at the World Trade Centre. The reading was held at the Police Club on Cogswell Street on the evening of Sept. 11, the fifth anniversary of the terrorist attack. From left are Engine 6 Captain Danny Brackett; his wife, Kim; Bassett; Reade; and Anthony Black, artistic co-director of the 2b Theatre Company. Black said the event raised about \$1,100 for fallen fire fighters.

2007 Calendar - Behind the Scene



SHOOTING FOR THE CALENDAR — Photographer Gord Lehman of Marketing and Design lines up a shot of Dave Clement and Marchetta Jamieson along with the new command centre and rehab units at the Station 7 training ground. Lehman spent a full 24 hour shift with the department to get fresh high quality pictures for our 2007 “Year In Review” calendar. Lehman also got to climb an aerial ladder during his stay at Station 12. An avid outdoorsman, Lehman soon left his escort behind during his climb to the station roof.

GEARED UP – Norm Lavoie of Logistics sizes up Design and Marketing photographer Gord Lehman for turnout gear that he’ll wear during his 24-hour tour with the department. Lehman spent most of the shift at Station 12 travelling with District Captain Paul Irving. Some of his pictures are featured in the department’s 2007 calendar.



Recruitment Day in Zone 3



SUITING UP – Breakfast Television personality Cyril Lunney gets suited up under the watchful eye of firefighter Matthew Paugh of Station 38 (*Middle Musquodoboit*). BT visited Zone Three firefighters at the Cooks Brook station Sept. 22nd to record a segment on recruiting volunteers which aired on the morning show the following week.

CHECKED OUT – Cyril Lunney gets a final check on his gear while the gear's real owner, Capt. Don Mann of Dutch Settlement (*Station 40*) looks on. Other firefighters (*left to right*) are: Kevin Joudrey of Station 35 (*Cooks Brook*), and Katie Dickey and Matthew Paugh of Station 38 (*Mid. Musquodoboit*). ATV cameraman Steve Rafuse is filming. The crew helped Lunney advance a charged 1¾ line into an imaginary structure fire.



Fire Prevention Tent at the Exhibition



THE BIG DISPLAY – Visitors leave the fire prevention tent manned by Zone 3 volunteers at the Halifax County Exhibition. About 350 people visited the tent during the exhibition.

KITCHEN SAFETY – Visitors to the Exhibition examine the kitchen safety display. About 25 volunteers from the zone manned the tent in shifts.



SOME VISITORS TO THE TENT are welcomed by Firefighter Pat Pickles of Station 40 (Dutch Settlement). In the centre is MLA Brook Taylor and at right is Steve Paugh, president of the Lions Club in the Musquodoboit Valley. The woman is not identified.

Photos by Don Mann

MacTara Fires Keep Zone 3 Crews Busy

The MacTara plant in Upper Musquodoboit is one of the largest sawmills in the province, one of the largest employers in the region, and the largest pellet plant in North America.

Sometimes it's also Zone One's largest headache.

Multiple departments from the zone responded to the mill several times during the summer.

During one call, members were on scene for 26 hours.

These pictures were taken Sept. 14th when a stubborn smouldering fire broke out high in the air in a wood pellet separator known as a cyclone. Firefighters were on scene for more than 12 hours.

Aerial 1 (the sky arm) was sent out from Station 3 to assist.



HANDLINE – Firefighters Matt Paugh Katy Dickey of Station 38 (*Middle Musquodoboit*) operate a hand line at the base of the separator.



WET JOB – Firefighter Cory Hutchinson of Station 39 (*Upper Musquodoboit*) operates a master stream from E-38. The prevailing breeze brought some of the stream back in his face.

Photos by John Giggey

**A NEWSLETTER
DEDICATED TO
MEMBERS OF HALIFAX
REGIONAL FIRE &
EMERGENCY**

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your Newsletter!
Articles, comments and
photographs are most
welcome!



**Halifax Regional
Fire & Emergency**



HANDING IT OVER – As Bedford volunteer firefighters look on, Lt. Robert Andrews presents a cheque for \$1,800. to Shelly McWilliams, coordinator for Muscular Dystrophy in Atlantic Canada. The volunteers came up with the money during a recent fundraiser.



Photo by Andrea Speranza

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AL – Engine 8 firefighter Al Thomson had a birthday to remember in November when a group of children visiting from a local school joined in singing Happy Birthday to him. The kids pose for a photo along with their new fire hats, fire truck piggy banks and Halloween trick or treat bags. The antique trucks seen through the bay windows were about to be in a picture for the department's 2007 calendar.

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