

Year in Review 2007

December, 2007

Cover Photo

T&R Truck and Trailer Fire, 102 Blakeney Ave.

Firefighter Jeff Bowman working of the aerial ladder.

Picture taken by John Christanson, Truro Daily News.

Call Volume Up, Severity Down

The Brigade responded to 311 calls with only nine of those incidents being classified as a fire that caused some type of damage.

The nine incidents included fires at the old Emanuel Baptist Church, T&R Truck and Trailer, Hero's Pub & Eatery & Head Experts. Other fires that caused damage were at 116 Pleasant Street, 1190 Princes Street, The Truro Club and the Nova Institute.

In addition to the fires, the Brigade responded to six motor vehicle accidents that reported entrapments. Only in one instance were the JAWS of Life required to free the occupants from the

vehicle. The JAWS of Life were also requested for two industrial accidents. It was fortunate that in either incident that our assistance was not required.

Our members assisted several other fire services outside the town this past year. We answered seven requests for air support (Code 6), three requests for manpower at the scene and nine opportunities we were requested to standby at one of neighbouring fire service's hall.

The Brigade responded to more Lifeflight landings than ever before with EHS requesting that we



Old Immanuel Baptist Church Fire - 651 Prince Street

provide assistance 23 times.

We responded to our first water rescue with the new equipment that the IBC purchased as part of the Be Smart, Be Safe campaign. We were able to successfully rescue two people from their vehicle on Park Street after it flooded.

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Fire Officers of 2008

The next slate of Officers will not change drastically in 2008. All of the officers are returning with the exception of Lieutenant Daton Pearl. Mr. Pearl chose to not re-offer after several years in the position.

Brian Williams was selected by the members to replace Mr. Pearl. Mr. Williams brings several years of fire service to the position. Brian was a member of the Eureka Fire Department before his tenure with Truro.

- D/C David Westlake
- Asst. D/C Alan Sutherland
- Capt. Jamie Coulter
- Capt. Dave Williams
- Capt. Duncan MacDonald
- Lt. Shawn Hale
- Lt. John Congdon
- Lt. Brian Williams

Brigade Adopts An Executive Committee

In November the Brigade voted to adopt the creation of an executive committee. This committee will meet before the regular monthly meeting and will comprise of committees that that will be responsible for the running of the Brigade, The committee will comprise of Finance, Bylaws, Membership, Rooms, Ways and Means and Special Events. The committee will also be comprised of the Deputy Chief, Assistant Deputy Chief, Treasurer, Secretary and Steward. These members will be responsible for the day to day operations of the Brigade and it is hoped it could ease the number of meetings the fire officers attend.

The committee will be chaired by the Assistant Deputy Chief and it will focus on the finances, the Brigade constitution, rentals and membership.

The only fire officers that will sit on the Executive will be the Assistant and Deputy Fire Chiefs and any other who might chair one of the above mentioned committees. It will allow more members to have direct input into the running of our organization.

Another change that was made as part of the Executive Committee Bylaw was the ability for our retired members to hold the positions

of any of the committees or executive officer positions, excluding the Assistant and Deputy Chief positions.

These changes are surely the precursor to the beginning of an associate membership and it will be monitored to see if newly adopted Executive Committee era is the start of other ventures.

The final component of the Executive Committee was the defining of the difference between an executive officer and our fire officers.

Personnel Changes

The past year saw some changes to the membership of the Brigade. During the winter months, the Brigade lost Grace Harrington and Joseph Foster who both moved outside our area of protection.

We unfortunately lost two past officers during the year when Jeff Bowman moved to North River and past Fire Chief Randy MacPhee retired from our active roster. Past Chief

MacPhee completed 15 years with the Brigade and served has a Lieutenant, Deputy Chief and Fire Chief (2000). Mr. MacPhee retired in June but did remain active within the Brigade by chairing the Nomination Committee.

We gained one recruit in 2007 and Mr. Geoff Fisher



Past Chief Randy MacPhee

was successfully elected to the Brigade in June.

Two past members rejoined the Brigade in 2007. Both Robert McCully and Roxanne McManus have over ten years each in the Brigade and we were glad to have some old friends return for a second tenure.

The Last Alarm

Unfortunately last year we had to say goodbye to three past members of our organization.

Ron Conrad retired several years ago and many in the Brigade today only knew of Mr. Conrad through social events like the Lobster night.

Norm Hoeg was the only member of the honorary retired list who did serve a complete 15 years. He was added to the list because of an injury and was not able to complete his 15 years.

B.I. MacKay was a past officer in the Brigade and is the only member

of the trio who was not on the honorary retired list.

All three members were recognized at the MFFA Memorial Church Service in Amherst.

Brigade Training

The Brigade's attendance at practices was good again in 2007. There were just over 70 training sessions offered to the volunteers. The majority of these topics were targeted at the basics, however some advanced topics were also presented. Approximately half of the membership attended over 20 sessions and at year end amassed 1550 man-hours.

Several guest speakers were used throughout



Flashover Training with the HRM Fire Service

the year and our own members instructed in nearly 2/3 of all training sessions. Each of the fire officers instructed in at least one topic.

Carl Shaw, Scott Hawkes, Terry Raine and Mark Laigle were the guest speakers used during 2007 and they gave instruction in basic emergency management, basic radio communications, fireground management and new car construction respectfully.

Other training opportunities presented themselves like the use of the HRM's Flashover Simulator and a live fire training session at the fire school. Both of these training sessions were well attended and quite usefully.

An ice rescue practice and a hands on training session with the Jaws of Life equipment allowed us to maintain our knowledge in those fields.

Three members completed the local Level 1 training modules and Craig Matthews and Nathaniel Cameron wrote their Pro-Board Level 1 Firefighter. Both are awaiting their results. (Continued on Pg. 5)

Additional Meetings

This past year, Fire Chief Tom Bremner has requested that our fire officers meet with the Career Staff on a monthly basis to discuss the pressing issues of the fire service. These meetings began in May and have generated a priority list of topics for discussion. The meetings were temporarily postponed until some sub-groups collected some information.

The Chief has also selected the four senior fire officers to sit on the Fire Service Excellence Committee. This committee is the first of the Town's departments to initiate the process. The Committee has a representative from each of the Town's departments, four career members and four of the senior officers. The group's role is to identify how the fire service can better deliver a ser-

vice to its citizens.

The final series of meetings are with the General Operating Guidelines (GOG's). The Chief has assigned a career member and a volunteer to participate along with the three Chiefs. A complete review of the GOG's are expected in 2008. This will be the second review in three years.

Annual Awards & Appointments

At the 2007 Annual Brigade Meeting the membership selected its Firefighter and Officer of the Year awards. The membership for only the second time in its history had a tie for Firefighter of the Year. Assistant Deputy Chief Alan Sutherland and Captain Duncan MacDonald were the two chosen to share the

award. The Officer of the Year was won by Deputy Chief David Westlake.

Alan Sutherland and David Westlake have previously won their awards before, however it was Duncan MacDonald first time. Congratulations to all three.

On one other note, Rod Higgins was elected President of the Maritime Firefighters Association at the Annual Meeting of the MFFA. Rod Higgins has been involved with the MFFA for many years so his appointment to the position is well earned.

Congratulations to Rod.

Fire Call Breakdown

(December 1, 2006 - November 30, 2007)

Structure / Apartment Fires - 9

Dumpsters - 4

Composters - 1

Burnt Food / Stove Fires - 6

Report of Smoke / Fire - 20

Propane Leak / Smell - 2

Residential Alarm - 28

Commercial Alarm - 40

Institutional Alarm - 51

Sprinkler Alarm - 26

Vehicle Fires - 8

Motor Vehicle Accidents - 22

Motor Vehicle Accidents (JAWS) - 6

Industrial Accidents - 2

Flue Fires - 3

Grass Fire / Brush Fires - 18

Mutual Aid (Code 6) - 7

Mutual Aid (Manpower) - 3

Mutual Aid (Standby) - 9

Downed Lines / Poles - 5

Electrical - 2

Gas / Oil Cleanup - 2

Lifelight Landings - 23

Elevator - 2

Water Rescue - 1

Furnace Fire / Backfire - 1

Small Fires - 8

Flare Ups (second call) - 2

Miscellaneous - 16

Major Incidents

651 Prince Street - Old Emanuel Baptist Church

1190 Prince Street - Apartment fire

102 Blakeney Avenue - T&R Truck and Trailer

807 Prince Street - The Truro Club

116 Pleasant Street - Abandoned house

180 James Street - Nova Institute (Women's Prison)

131 Esplanade - Hero's Pub

7 Queen Street - Head Expert's

141 Brunswick Street - Apartment fire

Monthly Breakdowns

December - 24 calls (492 man-hours)

January - 20 calls (277 man-hours)

February - 33 calls (586 man-hours)

March - 23 calls (474 man-hours)

April - 34 calls (459 man-hours)

May - 23 calls (314 man-hours)

June - 25 calls (297 man-hours)

July - 31 calls (390 man-hours)

August - 25 calls (411 man-hours)

September - 22 calls (251 man-hours)

October - 26 calls (355 man-hours)

November - 25 calls (280 man-hours)

Members with more than 200 man-hours on the fire scene.

Captain Jamie Coulter (204)

Captain Duncan MacDonald (262)

Firefighter Scott MacKay (240)

Firefighter Craig Matthews (293)

Firefighter John Nolan (264)

Assistant Deputy Chief Alan Sutherland (246)

Deputy Chief David Westlake (303)

Brigade Training (continued)

All of our front line firefighters have completed their Level 1 training and several of our members “graduated” to their green tags. Stephen Boyd, John Nolan and Brian Williams all received their green tags.

Jennifer Oudemans & Scott Lycan completed the in-house Standard 1 training.

It should be recognized that six members amassed 75 or more man-hours in training. Those members were Jennifer Oudemans (151), Scott Lycan (151), David Westlake (125), Craig Matthews (91), Nathaniel Cameron (86) and John

Nolan (76).

A joint training committee was setup in the fall of 2007 which was comprised of the Chief, Deputy Chief, Assistant Deputy and a representative from the volunteers (Dave Arseneau) and the career staff (Peter Smith). All were consulted on the training topics for 2008.

The Brigade calendars were again created and published in 2007 and overall the membership appears to look forward to them.

The Spare Drivers spent many sessions on driving #6 and #8 and on

the new cascade system that is in the hall and on #6. The committee attempted to have all their members trained to a Class 3 license.

Orientation was not scheduled in 2007 due to the small number of new members that joined in the past year. If new recruit numbers increase in the first half of 2008, orientation will be slated for the late fall.

Training in 2007 was one of the most diverse in recent memory and it noted that this is most likely due to the fact that so many had an input in making training such a positive.

General Operating Guidelines

The committee of the Chief, Deputy Chief and Assistant Deputy Chief worked on numerous GOG’s throughout the year. Four new or amended guidelines were agreed upon by the committee after several meetings. Two more people will be added to the GOG committee in 2008 and they will be one career staff and one volunteer. The addition of the two other members will allow for inputs from the Brigade and Career components during the

draft process.

The GOG’s that have been amended or have been reviewed are;

- 2.07-Code 5 MVA Extrication
- 2.10-Helicopter Lifelight Landings
- 4.01-Personnel ID Accountability
- 5.01-Control Room/Portable Radios

Other GOG’s have been created or are being discussed are;

- 2.12-Ice Water Rescue Response
- 3.07-Private Bridges
- 4.10-Spare Gear
- 4.11-Fire Scene Management

It is hoped that these eight GOG’s will be approved or finalized before any others are created or reviewed.

Spare Drivers

Spare drivers seemed to always be at the forefront in 2007. The committee began the year with six qualified members. At year end there was only three qualified drivers.

The year began with Randy MacPhee as the chairman and when

Randy retired in the spring, Brian Williams was appointed as the new chairman. Robert McCully returned to the Brigade and was appointed to the committee due to his past experience as a spare driver.

Any driver who did not attain their Class 3 license in 2007 are not per-

mitted to drive.

At year end, any officer that has a valid Class 3 may act as spare driver if no other driver is available. This is a change from the recent past when officers were not allowed to be spare drivers.

Sporting Events

The Brigade was active again in 2007 with sports. The Brigade had two dart teams in the CFFA Dart League and both teams fared well during the playoffs. The Brigade stepped up again on short notice, this time to host the MFFA Slo-Pitch tournament. The tournament had several teams from the local area and a few from outside the County. The organizers did an exceptional job with the tournament. The Brigade had teams at the MFFA and Provincial curling championships and has a team in the Sunday night league. The Jessie Janes Memorial Dart Shoot was again held in November and was well attended. This event has been a fixture with the Brigade after the passing of Deputy Chief Jessie Janes.

The Sports Committee has been quite active over the past years and has successfully run two large events on short notice. I hope that they will continue their great work in 2008.

Fire Officer Training

The fire officers of the Brigade continued with training in 2007. The officers attended training in Fire Ground Management. This type of training compliments the Incident Command Course that was offered in 2006. Our membership in addition to the officers took opportunity to attend a Basic Emergency Management Awareness session that was offered by EMO and a basic radio communications course was put on by the Department of Transportation. Our members received some training in firefighting foams and in wildland fires. They were asked to observe a mock exercise at the water treatment plant that simulated a chlorine gas leak.

Over the past two years our fire ground officers have been instructed in command systems, radio operations, tactics and strategies. The Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia has begun to outline some guidelines for fire officer positions in the province and it should be known that our volunteer officers are well ahead of the training that a fire officer will be required to have in the near future.

Incase You Forgot

This year like those before have offered a few items that are often overlooked and just plain forgotten. Well 2007 did offer some interesting moments that are worth remembering. We were asked to participate in the first annual Knights of Columbus Church Service for the Emergency Services. The event was well attended and it hoped that they will offer the service again in 2008.

The Brigade was officially asked to play a more active role in Fire Prevention Week. Our members jumped at the opportunity and had members assist the Fire Inspector at schools, daycares and open houses. Some of

the volunteers took the time to learn how to use and instruct with the Fire Safe House that the IBC donated as part of the Be Smart, Be Safe program.

The Brigade responded to two propane leaks in 2007 and although one was quite routine the second was a bit disturbing. At that location, vandalism appeared to have caused the leak that could have been extremely dangerous if not for a steady wind and a quick response.

The Brigade was asked again to assist with

the Town's annual Christmas Parade, however our members found the night time parade a bit harder to control the traffic. The Brigade provided traffic control for the fireworks on Canada Day.

The antique fire truck affectionately known as Nancy made several appearances, the main events were the Sobey's birthday party and the transporting of the new Anglican Bishop. Water was run through her pump for the third time in two years. A search is on, led by Vince Weatherbee to find some old lanterns for the old girl.

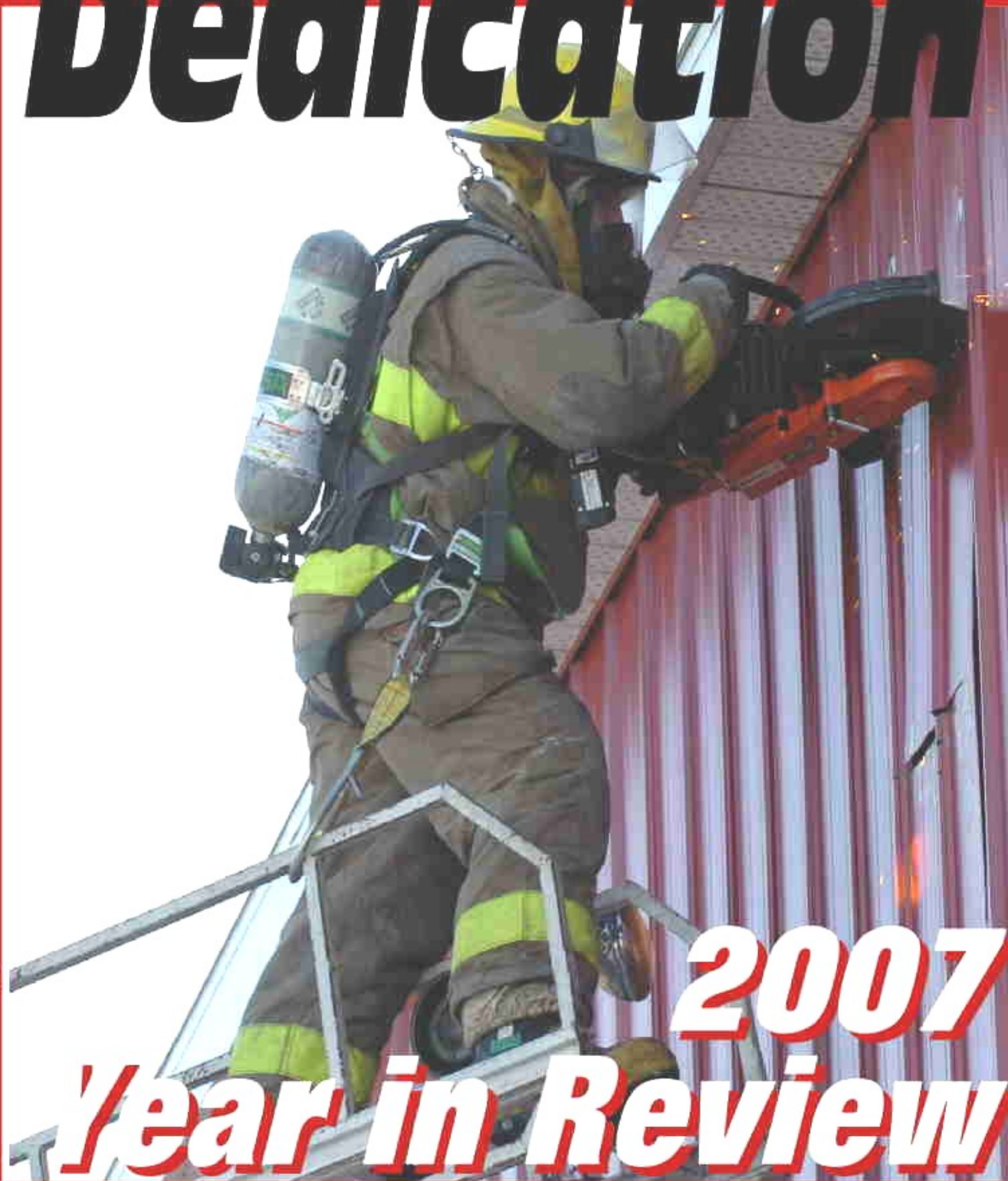
The Brigade again had a 200 Draw and the winter draw format appears to be popular. Over half of the tickets were sold by Vince Weatherbee and Don Dennis again this year.



10/09/2007
Fire prevention education at Alice Street Elementary School

Truro Volunteer Fire Brigade

Dedication



2007
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