

TOWN OF STEWIACKE

Community Newsletter



FEATURE ARTICLE

75 years

STEWIACKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



IN THIS ISSUE

- Word from the Mayor
- Local Event Calendar
- Feature Article
- Halloween poster



Town Council 2020

TOWN OF STEWIACKE

Hello Stewiacke.

I am honoured by the support demonstrated as I was elected Mayor for the Town of Stewiacke.

I heard your comments, suggestions, and concerns during the election. I take responsibility for the residents putting their trust and confidence in me. My commitment is to serve to the best of my ability, leading with a governance of transparency, accountability and ethics for our town's best interests.

I would like to recognize Wendy Robinson's commitment to Stewiacke since 2008. All the best with future endeavors.

I look forward to working with council members and staff going forward capitalizing on new opportunities, demonstrating financial responsibility and accountability for the next four years.

George Lloy
Mayor



**"Alone we can do so little,
together we can do so much."**

Helen Keller



Mayor

George Lloy

Councillors

Roseanne Chapman

Mary Commo

Susan Creelman

Suzanne Lutz

Chad Ramsey

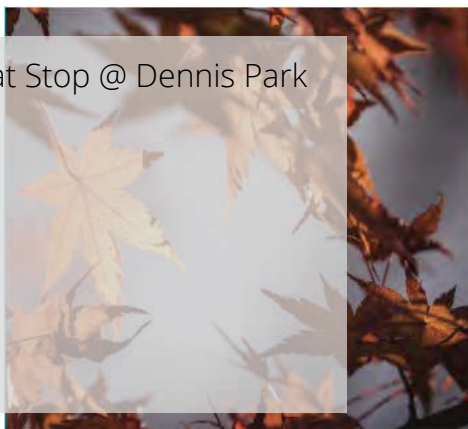
Rebecca Rogers-Laing



Event Planner

TOWN OF STEWIACKE

October 31st - Halloween Treat Stop @ Dennis Park
5 pm to 6 pm



OCT

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NOV

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November 1st - Daylight Savings Ends
November 8th - Shumilacke Foodbank Fundraiser
9:00 am - 1:00 pm @ Stewiacke Community Centre
Donations welcome for goods & gently used/new winter outwear

November 11th - Remembrance Day

COUNCIL MEETINGS:

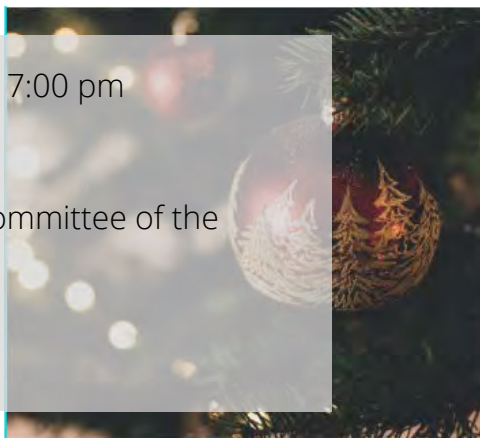
November 12th - Committee of the Whole @ 7:00 p

November 26th - Council Meeting @ 7:00 p

December 5th - Tree Lighting @ 7:00 pm
in Dennis Park

COUNCIL MEETINGS:

December 17th - Combined Committee of the Whole & Council @ 7:00 p



DEC

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NOTICE - INTEREST ON OVERDUE ACCOUNTS

In an effort to provide financial relief during the pandemic, Council waived the charging of interest on overdue Tax, Wastewater and Water accounts until September 30, 2020.

Therefore, on **October 1, 2020 overdue accounts will begin to attract interest at a rate of 1.5% per month** in accordance with Policy 2000 - 07 Tax Billing.

HISTORY OF STEWIACKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Compiled by: J. Gordon Crowe, Jarvis Stewart, Kara McCurdy, Debbie Crawford, Brent Murdock



Stewiacke & District Volunteer Fire Department

The town of Stewiacke was incorporated in 1906. One of the concerns of the new Mayor and Council, at the time, was firefighting because of the industrial growth and residential development occurring in the new town. In the beginning, The new Mayor appointed "Fire Wardens" from different sections of the town. Their duties were to be in charge at a fire by mobilizing and directing any volunteers who came along. The first fire equipment purchased by the town were split wooden rail ladders and buckets.

In this period there was very little organization for firefighting. Everyone went to a fire by whatever means of transportation that was available. They were directed at the scene by the Fire Warden.

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Stewiacke & District Volunteer Fire Department

Because of the lack of equipment, the emphasis was put on saving the contents of the burning building and preventing nearby buildings from catching fire. Buckets, rope and sometimes blankets were borrowed from the local merchants and sometimes this borrowed stock was not returned. As time went on the local merchants petitioned the town to purchase a stock of the proper buckets for firefighting. These buckets were constructed with rounded bottoms and whenever they were set down, they would roll over. Many of these buckets were still being used when the present brigade was organized in 1944.

In 1911, a hand forced pump was purchased. This pump was mounted on wheels and pulled to the fire scene by hand. In 1912, a 40-gallon soda acid tank and 50 feet of rubber hose was purchased at a cost, to the taxpayers, of \$300.00.

In 1913, a fire company was organized with a membership of fourteen people. This group of volunteers carried on the responsibilities for the firefighting within the town boundaries and surrounding area. The membership changed many times over the years.

A stationary steam pump was in the Marshall sawmill. This mill was located on what is now Dennis Park. The steam pump was available to fight fires in the centre of town. Enough hose was available at the mill to reach the buildings in the centre of town.

Town Council had several large wells dug in various locations around the centre of town for firefighting use. Following the first major fire in the town which occurred in 1921, a double cylinder soda and acid tank was purchased by town council at a cost of \$1,100.00. This equipment was mounted on wheels and included a harness for hand pulling.

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Stewiacke & District Volunteer Fire Department

Extra hose was also purchased at this time. This equipment was later mounted on a secondhand fire truck and later mounted on a locally purchased secondhand Dodge truck. This was the equipment available to the newly formed brigade in 1944.

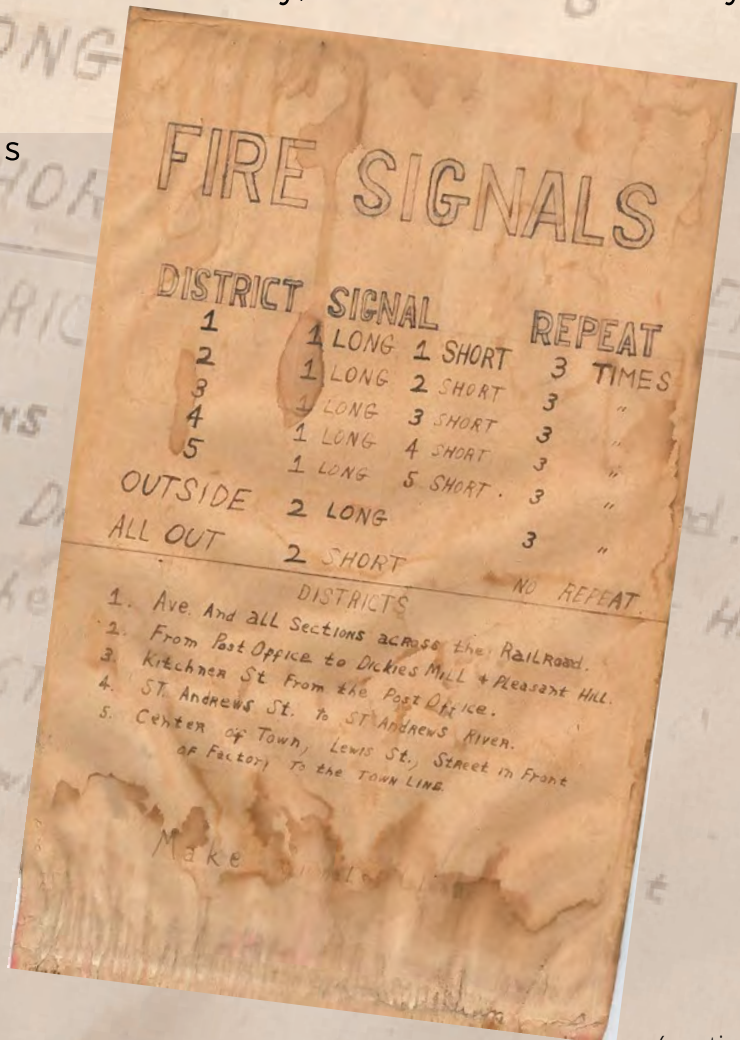
The town's first fire alarm system was organized through the kindness of J. Lewis and Sons Ltd., who operated a large steam mill, manufacturing wood shoe shanks and peg wood.

The town was divided into zones and the number of blasts from the steam whistle indicated in which zone the fire was located. The alarm would be repeated several times for serious fires and gave one long blast when the fire was put out. Steam was kept up during the night and a night watchman was on duty, the alarm was always available.

The code used in those days is permanently displayed in the present fire hall.

Fire alarm signals sounded on the steam whistle at J. Lewis and Sons Factory prior to 1944.

All Weather Windows are located at the factory site.



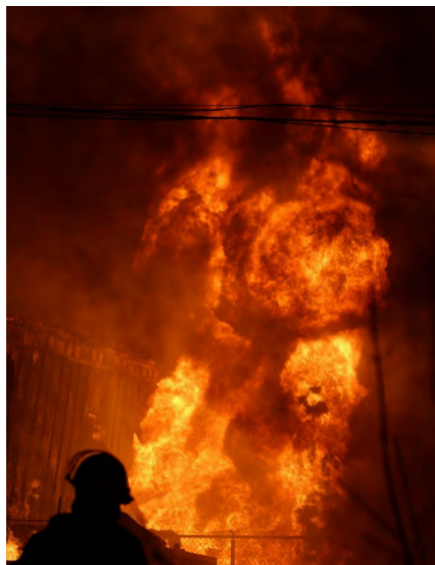
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MAJOR FIRES

1906 - 1944

During the period from 1906 to 1944 there were several major fires in Stewiacke. The following is a brief summary of each.

In 1919, the R.E. Dickie Lumber Co. mill burnt along with a large quantity of lumber in the yard. On May 3, 1921 the following ten buildings in the central part of town were destroyed by fire:



- Fred Nelson's General Store
- McNutt's Livery Stable
- McNutt's Hotel
- Sample Room McNutt's Hotel
- S.H. Taylor General Store
- E.T. Sibley's Meat Market

The above buildings were located just immediately east of the railway crossing on the north side of Main Street. The fire jumped across the street to the south side of George Street and destroyed:



- The Chippawa Hall which contained a branch of the Royal Bank of Canada, a dry goods and furniture store operated by Fred Nelson and a residential apartment.
- George Layton's Blacksmith Shop
- A warehouse owned by Fred Nelson
- A pool hall and barber shop operated by Mr. Strath Hoskins. This fire was finally brought under control using the limited equipment available.

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Stewiacke & District Volunteer Fire Department

In 1919, the Canadian Lumber Co. had purchased the Ross Marshall Mill and the Stewiacke Electric Light Company. These businesses were located on the site now known as Dennis Park.

On October 29, 1923, fire destroyed the Sawmill, Planning mill and all the equipment of the Stewiacke Electric Light Co. This company supplied electric power to businesses and residences from Stewiacke to Milford Station. A steam operated kiln for drying lumber was also destroyed. This fire also destroyed the following buildings on the north side of main street:

1. Wyman Jeffers Harness Shop
2. Charles Smith Blacksmith Shop
3. J.W.McLean's residence
4. J.R. Robertson's Tailor Shop
5. Rettie Shute's Watchmaker and Repair Shop
6. Mrs. Bryson's Restaurant and apartment
7. Melville Marshalls residence
8. Walter Glover's Electrical Shop
9. Fulton's Carriage Shop

The fire on October 29, 1923 provided the test for the double cylinder soda acid chemical equipment purchased by the town after the 1921 fire.

The first Friday of July 1939 was the regular monthly meeting of the town council. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 midnight. At 2:00 am Saturday morning the alarm sounded, and the following buildings were destroyed:

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Stewiacke & District Volunteer Fire Department

1. Ralph Rhyno's Blacksmith Shop
2. The town hall building which contained the town office, the fire truck and equipment and the office of the Avon River Power Co. which was the local power company at the time.
3. C.G. Leck's general store
4. Andrew Sanderson's Barber Shop

This fire started in the blacksmith's shop and was brought under control at the Nelson General store. This was the last major fire in Stewiacke before the present fire department was organized in 1944.

A NEW ERA

1944 - 1994

The fire on April 18, 1944 can be described as the turning point in organizing a volunteer fire department in the Town of Stewiacke. Before reviewing the events following 1944 MacGregor fire, we must pay tribute to those persons (with a limited amount of training and equipment but a great deal of determination) who served as volunteers whenever the alarm sounded. They were the leaders whose willingness to serve laid the foundation for a more formal organization of volunteer firefighters.

Following the MacGregor house fire and several others, it was realized that the time had come to organize a volunteer fire department, provide training for the members as well as upgrade and add to the existing equipment. The first formal meeting was held in August 1944 in the Town Office. The following officers were appointed at this time:

Chief - William Barkhouse
 Captain - Carl Jeffers
 Lieutenant - George Barkhouse
 Driver and Chemical - Donald Barkhouse
 Water Supply - C.G. Leck
 Truck and Hall - John Taylor
 Secretary/Treasurer - Walter B. Reid

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Twenty-four in all were duty registered and insured. The formation of the new fire department was sanctioned and fully supported by the Town Council. Approval for the new fire department was received from the Provincial Fire Marshall in November 1944.

Regular monthly meetings of the members have been held ever since. At first the meetings were held in the Town Office, then they moved to a small room in the rear of the Town Hall; later they moved to a much larger room over the truck bays built at the rear of the Town Hall finally they moved to the modern, well equipped rooms at the new Fire Hall and Community Centre.

At the Volunteer Emergency Day celebrations in town in 1945 the firemen put on their first fireworks display. This same year Chief William Barkhouse attended the annual meeting of the Maritime Fire Chiefs Association. This was the first time a representative of Stewiacke had attended.

In 1946, the department purchased a 5 H.P. siren from Crown Assets Corporation. The siren was mounted on the roof of the Town Hall and was used as the town's fire alarm. Fire Phones were installed in the homes of O. F. Wright and Harry Hayes. Fire calls were then relayed to the firemen. Over the years the fire phones were installed in many homes and businesses. This system was in use for many years until the department was equipped with radios and pagers.

It should be mentioned here that from 1968 until 1981 one of the fire phones was in the residence of Mrs. Helen Weaver, at 307 George Street. At the December 1981 meeting, Mrs. Weaver was the guest of honor with her family members and the press present. Chief Carter presented Mrs. Weaver with a rocking chair for her 13 years of faithful service to the department.

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Ladies Auxiliary

In 1972, a Ladies Auxiliary was organized. This was the first one in Stewiacke. The fire department greatly appreciated their many contributions of equipment purchases, cash donations and the lunches and coffee provided for the firemen at fires. The first officers of the Ladies Auxiliary were:



President - Leona McKillop
 Vice President - Betty Fisher
 Secretary - Dot Fassett
 Treasurer - Patricia Morton

Water Supply

From the very first meeting, water supplies for firefighting purposes was a major concern. The first purchase of equipment in late 1944, being a trailer pumper and 200ft of 2 1/2-inch hose, gave the department access to water from the river if necessary as well as from brooks and ponds.

The two ponds, one located behind the school and the other behind the Osbourne house, were cleaned out and repaired for the purpose of fighting fires in the central part of town. Over the next few years two large underground water storage tanks were constructed. One was located on the property between the town hall and the rear of the Snook building, the second tank was located near the site of the present Drug Store. These tanks had a double top to prevent freezing and were designed to provide enough water to operate the trailer pumper at 100lbs of pressure for one hour.

The first truck to carry water was the 1951 Chevrolet Truck which could carry 300 gallons of water. This truck greatly enhanced the ability of the firefighters to respond quickly to a call anywhere in the area.

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The pump that was mounted on the truck was a small brass gear pump, it ran off the power-take-off. All this work was done locally at the Stewiacke Machine Shop.

In 1968, the Stewiacke Water Utility was set up and a series of 45 fire hydrants were established as part of the town water system. The availability of an immediate supply of water for firefighting to the areas of town was accomplished by this new system. Following this came the development of the Porta tank system and the Mutual Aid Program. These programs provided an ample supply of water quickly to fight almost any type of fire in the entire area served by the department.

TRAINING-FIRE PREVENTION AND FIRES

1944 - 1994

The objective of the Stewiacke and District Fire Department since it was organized in 1944 has been one of education, fire prevention and fire suppression. Fire Prevention week has been regularly observed by conducting evacuation drills and making presentations on fire prevention at the schools in the area. From the very beginning, the Department has always responded to calls from the surrounding areas as well as within town.

During the first few years, record keeping was not a priority, and records of fires attended are very sketchy.

From 1970 to 1977, a record of all fires, their location and type were recorded. In that period the average number of fires attended was 20 per year, with a low of 16 and a high of 35. The types of fires consisted of flue fires, automobile fires, grass fires and building fires.

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TRAINING-FIRE PREVENTION AND FIRES

1944 - 1994

Grass fires were common each spring. In 1975, 8 calls were made to the municipal dump, however, the new regulations regarding the burning of grass as well as burning at the dump has greatly reduced these calls. In 1975, members of the Department entered training programs at the new Fire Training School on Powder Mill Lake in Waverley, NS. For the members this has been an ongoing procedure and a very important part of the training program. Many of the members have received certificates for the various courses they have completed making them efficient, well trained firefighters. The Department has its own training program with a training officer and training sessions held on a regular basis, also many of the members have certificates in First Aid and CPR courses.

Since 1978, a more detailed record of fires has been kept and since that time each fire is investigated as to cause. Reports on each fire are forwarded to the Provincial Fire Marshall's Office. In some cases, a Deputy Fire Marshall is called in to assist in the investigation.

During the period of 1978 to mid-1994, the Department responded to an average of 36 calls per year, with a high of 54 calls which occurred in 1985 and a low of 24 calls which occurred in 1987.

The first 6 months of 1994 has been termed a quiet year (50th anniversary year). A new type of call is beginning to develop. As more buildings are being equipped with electronic fire and burglar alarm systems and these systems can be accidentally set off, there had been several false alarm calls. It should be noted that in the past 50 years, two people lost their lives in fires. Arson was suspected as the cause of eight of the fires during that period and a conviction resulted from one investigation.

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TRAINING-FIRE PREVENTION AND FIRES

1944 - 1994

In 1991, Stewiacke and District Volunteer Fire Department was the first Fire Department in Canada to use a new type of foam; Sil-vex Class A foam for use in firefighting. In the fall of 1991, a controlled demonstration was arranged with the agreement of the owners of the former R.E. Dickie property at the corner of Main St. East and St. Andrews Street Extension, The Present owners requested the building be burned. The demonstrations using the new Class A foam was considered very successful. Several representatives from other Fire Departments were present and it was completely filmed on video. This foam is now used regularly by the Department on building fires.

The mutual aid pact has been a very significant development with the Department. It began on a small scale between three area Fire Departments in 1979 and has developed over the years to a program involving the Departments in South Colchester, East Hants and the North Eastern part of Halifax. The Stewiacke Department being in the center of the area, co-operates with the departments to the north and south of immediate area.

In reviewing the types of fires receiving response over this period, they are summarized as follows: grass fires (numbers have decreased greatly), flue fires, car fires, barn fires, electrical and house fires. The department responds to, six to ten mutual aid calls per year.

During the fifty years the present Fire Department has been operating and although the Town and Area have grown considerably, there has not been a major fire involving more than one building such as occurred several times prior to 1944.

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TRAINING-FIRE PREVENTION AND FIRES

1944 - 1994

Perhaps this can be attributed to the improvement of vehicles and equipment, a much better water supply and to the training and dedication of the volunteer firefighters.

Although all fires are considered serious and dangerous, of the major fires and calls responded to in the past fifty years, three of the most difficult were:

1. The four-room schoolhouse burned on March 13, 1947. It was situated on the site of the old schoolhouse.
2. The Union Hall building burned on August 31, 1986. It was situated on the site of the old Emerson Keen Office Building.
3. The C.N.R. Train Derailment on September 9, 1980 in Alton. Although there was no fire at the scene there was the threat of fire and department members spent many hours at the scene over a period of four days.

VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT

As stated earlier when the department was organized in 1944, it inherited a 1934 Dodge truck with a small Soda Acid mounted on it and 100ft of hard rubber hose along with a supply of fire buckets. There was no safety clothing for the members, and the Modern Air packs used today were unheard of at that time. In 1944, the department purchased a used G.P.M. Trailer Pump with 200 ft. of 2 1/2 inch hose and four nozzles from Crown Assets Corporation. Several of the members had a suitable hitch mounted on their pick-up trucks and they would tow the trailer to the fires.

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In 1946, the Department purchased a used CWT Army truck from Crown Assets Corporation. This truck was equipped to tow the trailer pump. The Soda Acid tank was also mounted on the truck. The 1934 Dodge was no longer used. In 1946, the Department purchased a 5 H.P. siren which was mounted on the roof of the Town Hall, this was used as the fire alarm until 1988 when it was replaced by a modern pager system. In 1951, the Department purchased a new Chevrolet truck cab and Chassis from Goodspeeds in Truro. Wilson Truck Body Shop in Truro installed a 300-gallon tank and built a body on this truck for the total sum of \$383.55.

In 1959, the Department purchased a used Air Force fire truck, a 1940 International pumper for \$1510.00. This vehicle served the Department well for many years and was sold in 1985 to Brookfield Fire Department.

In 1966, the Department purchased a used International Walk in van for \$1,200.00 and equipped it as a salvage and rescue vehicle.

In 1973, the Department purchased a new Dodge Truck Cab and Chassis and installed a 1000-gallon tank, along with ladders and other equipment for \$12,000.

In 1975, the Department took delivery of their first new factory-built Fire Truck. A 625 G.P.M. King Seagrave Pumper on a Chevrolet Chassis. This vehicle cost \$73,000.

In January 1979, the Department purchased a new Cascade system for filling the air bottles.

Before this, it was necessary to have the air bottles refilled at another fire department, that had the necessary equipment and was willing to fill the bottles at a cost per bottle. This equipment cost \$6,485.00 and is a great asset to the Department.

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In November 1984, the Department purchased a new 1200 G.P.M pumper from Superior Equipment at a cost of \$108,000.00. Before deciding on this vehicle, the new truck committee spent approximately 300 hours looking at various fire trucks, talking with members of other departments, talking to manufacturers' representatives and reviewed the five tenders before making their decision.

In June 1986, it was suggested the Department consider the purchase of another new tanker pumper. Chief Carter appointed a new truck committee with himself as Chairman. They were asked to recommend the type of vehicle required, design and approximate cost.

As a special meeting of the Department members on June 8, 1988, the truck committee after 2 years and 2 days presented their proposal for a new Tanker Pumper from Superior Equipment at a cost of \$203,000.00. Their proposal was accepted by the members. The truck was ordered in June 1988 and delivered in February 1989.



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In April 1989, the Department purchased a 1954 Bickle Seagrave 75-foot aerial ladder truck from the City of Dartmouth. Although there are not many tall buildings within the town and area this truck will be a valued asset in situations where it can be used.

With the above equipment, along with a modern alarm system, a fine building and well equipped, trained and dedicated firefighters, we have a department second to none for a community of this size anywhere.



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BUILDINGS

As stated before, meetings were held in the town hall from 1944 to 1948. In 1948, a truck stall was built on the back of the town hall and a small meeting room was built along one side. This room was so small that when all members were present, some had to sit on the floor. If one wanted a seat, he would have to show up early. Both these rooms were constructed from materials left over from the new school and were donated to the department by the town.

In 1963, the truck stall and meeting room were removed from the back of the town hall and two new truck stalls were constructed with a 30' by 30' meeting room upstairs (there was enough room for everyone to sit). The department purchased all the materials at a cost of \$4,000.00 and labor was all volunteer.

In 1972, two more truck stalls were constructed on the back of the hall with a room on the second floor. This second room was used for various fire department activities. The Department now had a building with four trucks stalls and two large rooms upstairs with a kitchen and washrooms.

The truck bays have now been converted into the town library and the meeting rooms are now used as lodge rooms.

The former C.G. Leck store land beside the town hall was owned by Raymond Stewart. He donated a 50-foot right of way to the town. This gave the department access to the side doors of the building.

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BUILDINGS

In September 12, 1977, a committee consisting of Jim Isenor and Emerson Keen, met with the fire department to discuss plans for a new community centre and fire hall to be jointly sponsored by the Stewiacke Recreation Committee and the fire department. The building was to be built as a Canada works project with a labor grant of approximately \$59,000.00 from the Federal Government. There was also the possibility of a grant covering part of the cost of materials. The size of the proposed building would be 60ft x 130ft and the total estimated cost was \$251,690.00.

The complete bottom floor of the building was to be managed by the fire department. It consisted of six truck bays, a large meeting room, a radio room, officers' room, canteen, washrooms and a small kitchen. The upper floor of the building was to be managed by the Community Centre building committee. It consisted of a large auditorium and recreation centre, a kitchen and washrooms. A third floor above the kitchen and washrooms consisted of a meeting room, washroom and fire chief's office.

At the September 12, 1977, meeting Chief Carter appointed a committee of Bill Stone, Ron Ellis, Bill Fisher, Ivan McKillop and Herb Fassett to work with the committee from the recreation commission to plan for the construction of the new building.

At a meeting on March 6, 1978, the Fire Department members reviewed the plans for the new building and voted by ballot to accept the proposed plans and to participate in the construction and fund-raising.

A site was chosen for the new building. Chief Lorne Carter donated approximately one- and one-half acres of land and three acres were purchased from Sadie Oake.

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BUILDINGS

Besides the contractors, many hundreds of volunteer labor hours were donated by some of the department members. Construction was started in November 1977. The Department had their first monthly meeting in March 5, 1979, and the official opening was held on September 22, 1979. In March 1982, the fire chief was approached and asked if the fire department would consider management of the entire building. After several meetings with all parties concerned and a public rate payers meeting, it was agreed that the fire department would take over complete management of the building on May 1, 1982, on a one-year trial agreement. Future agreements would be discussed at the end of the year.

The total amount of operating deficit for the community centre during this time was \$36,204.00. This amount was paid off in full by the fire department in September 1983, and an amount in excess of \$12,000.00 was spent to complete and upgrade the building. The final payment of \$14,000.00 on the capital loan was paid off in May 1987.

Under the very capable management of the present committee, and an excellent catering group, the building has a very busy schedule. Some of the activities include dances, bingo, auctions, anniversaries, wedding receptions, suppers and various sport activities.

The building is a credit to the people who worked hard to see it completed. It is an asset to the community and is fine a community centre and fire hall as there is in any community of this size anywhere.

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FINANCING THE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department from its inception in 1944 to present day, as an unwritten policy, has raised the major portion of the necessary funding to purchase and upgrade equipment, without a first financial effect on taxpayers. This is not to negate the ongoing support and concern of the town Council over the 50 years, for the need of adequate firefighting manpower and equipment to serve the town and area. The first major fund-raising event, sponsored by the fire department, was a dance held at the Truro Forum (located then near the site of the present Colchester Legion Stadium) in September 1944. Don Messer and His Islanders were engaged to provide the music. It was a great success and a sum of \$830.00 was realized. This was considered a large amount to be raised at that time.

In 1951, through the efforts of two volunteer members, a gift of \$5,000.00 was received from the George Lewis Estate. The Lewis Family operated the Eastern Hay and Cap Factory in Truro and the Shank and Peg Wood Factory in Stewiacke. Much of the machine work and repair for these factories was done at the Stewiacke Machine Shop which was also operated by the Lewis Company. The department received \$1,000.00 the first year and \$500.00 in subsequent years until the entire amount was received.

During the winters of 1944 and 1945, the Department members operated the Stewiacke rink. Over the years funding has been raised in raffles, draws, auctions, bingos and dances. Since the department has assumed the operation of the Community Centre, a volunteer group of ladies has catered for wedding groups, anniversaries, parties and meetings.

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It is interesting to note from early accounts the meetings, that the CNRA orchestra from Truro has provided the music for many of the dances. The cost (through the 40's and 50's) was \$35.00 per dance, which included their transportation.

During the past several years a major fund-raising event has been the Planked Salmon Supper. The volunteer members have become proficient in preparing the salmon which are attached to hardwood planks and baked over a hardwood fire.

The Ladies Auxiliary, organized in 1972, has provided much valued support to the department. Not only have they raised funds, they have provided backup support to the firefighters during calls to fires.

Over the past 50 years the department has answered all calls from the surrounding areas of the town. In 1971, negotiations were conducted with representatives of these communities and the Municipality of the County of Colchester for a fixed amount, per resident, to be collected by the Municipality and then turned over to the department. This agreement, which is presently in place, was introduced because of the increased cost and need of new and improved equipment. Before the 1971 agreement the communities surrounding the town supported the fire department financially on a voluntary basis.

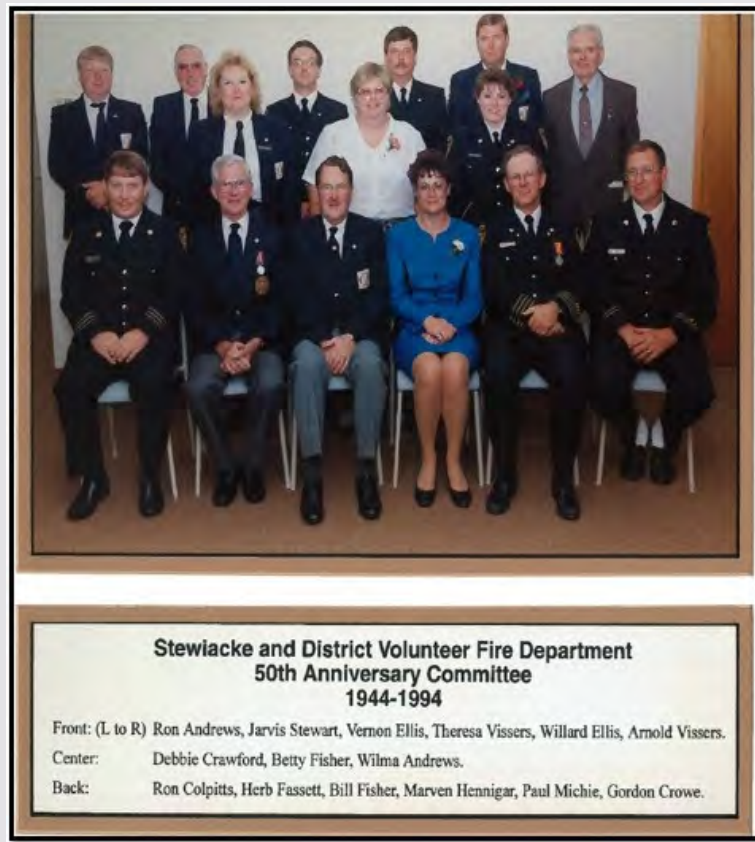
In 1982, the Fire Department and the town Council reached an agreement whereby the Fire Department would assume full management of the Community Centre and the capital debt on the building. In May 1987, the debt of the building was paid in full.

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It is worthy to note that the House of Hay and Xerox Canada have made generous contributions to the department. Other local businesses' as well as individuals have also supported the department financially over the years. To conclude this chapter, it is noted that the greatest amount of funds raised in any one year, by the department, was \$180,374.00 in 1986. Firemen praised



To the Editor:

Sir, while vacationing in Nova Scotia this past Christmas, I have the unfortunate experience of witnessing a house fire. The time the fire alarm sounded, it was amazing how quickly the fire truck arrived on the scene, considering these firemen are volunteers. Unlike professional firemen they are not at the fire station 24 hours a day, ready at an instant for their next call. Not only was the timing impeccable, the obvious training and skills these men possessed was most impressive. All the equipment appeared to be up to date.

Every move was organized and lacked confusion or over-anxiety. These men are members of the Stewiacke Volunteer Fire Brigade. They are indeed "professionals" in this field. I rest easier knowing they are protecting my hometown.

Mrs. Shawn Smith (12168 Cedarwood Drive, Tecumseh, Ontario)

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STEWIACKE AND DISTRICT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Via Rail Train derailment rocked the town of Stewiacke on April 12, 2001, at approximately 2:24pm. A westward VIA Rail passenger train (VIA 15), consisting of two locomotives and 14 cars, travelling from Halifax, Nova Scotia, en route to Montreal, Quebec, derailed at a manually operated main track switch in Stewiacke, Nova Scotia. A standard Canadian National (CN) switch lock used to secure the switch in correct position had been tampered with. The two locomotives and the first two cars continued on the main track, but the following cars took a diverging route onto an industrial track adjacent to the main track. Nine of the cars derailed and a farm supply building, as well as the industrial track were destroyed. Four occupants of the building escaped without injury prior to impact. There were 132 persons on board the train. Twenty-two persons were transported to hospital in either Truro or Halifax. Nine were seriously injured. The Skyline car struck the foundation of a farm supply building, severely damaging the car. The following car, a diner, collapsed in the mid-section area, bending around the building at approximately 90 degrees with the result that both the car and the building were destroyed.

At approximately 2:26pm, a 911 call was placed by a Stewiacke resident, notifying emergency services that a VIA passenger train had derailed. Nine fire departments responded, with approximately 60 members. In addition, eight Emergency Health Services (EHS) ground ambulances, one EHS air ambulance and two EHS support units were dispatched. Royal Canadian Mounted Police and CN police also responded. Other responding agencies included VIA, CN, the Red Cross and the Bible Hill Hazmat (Hazardous Materials) Team.

When the first of the ground ambulances arrived at approximately 2:40pm, ambulatory passengers were being helped from the wreckage by either VIA crew members or Stewiacke residents.

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A triage was established by EHS and a total of 100 persons were treated. The first patient was transported from the scene by ambulance at approximately 3:29pm, with the last of the injured taken at 5:22pm.

On evacuating the train, passengers who were not injured were directed to the town hall or the Legion, a short distance from the site, from where they were transported to the Fire Station/Community Centre by five buses provided by the local school board. By 7:00pm that evening, all VIA passengers had left the Community Centre and had either returned to Halifax or were proceeding to their destinations as arranged by VIA.

Twenty people were transported by ground ambulance to the Colchester Regional Hospital in Truro and two were airlifted from the site by air ambulance and taken directly to the Halifax Infirmary - Queen Elizabeth II Hospital in Halifax. Nine of the twenty-two sustained serious injuries, including five on-train services (OTS) crew members. Several of the most severely injured persons were in the heavily damaged Skyline and diner cars. A large piece of concrete from the foundation wall of the farm supply building was sheared off and projected into an occupied area of the Skyline car. Of the nine derailed cars, one car was destroyed, two sustained serious damage and six had minor damage (Appendix A contains further information about the equipment as inspected post accident).

Approximately 750 feet of main track and the entire industrial track were extensively damaged. A main track turnout was also slightly damaged. VIA 15 was powered by two locomotives and consisted of one baggage car, four coach cars, a Skyline car, a diner car, six sleeper cars, and a park car. The train weighed approximately 1100 tons and was about 1,250 feet in length.

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The cause of the accident was not a matter of dispute as the damages to the switch lock and chain were a clear indication that the switch was unsecured due to tampering. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) conducted a criminal investigation that led to a local youth pleading guilty to 'mischief endangering life'.



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STEWIACKE AND DISTRICT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

January 21, 2013, Part of the Home Hardware facility in Stewiacke burned to the ground. A shed next to the Hardware Warehouse caught fire at 8:00pm. The shed owner worked at the Home Hardware and called the store's owner to warn her about the small blaze. Within an hour, high winds blew the fire into the Home Hardware warehouse and burned it down. The homeowner first fought the fire with a garden hose, but fire crew soon arrived.

The warehouse was also a custom cabinet shop and so was filled with cabinets and woods. Three people worked the shop. The building was uninsured, but the owners were not sure when they will be able to re-open the shop. The main Home Hardware building was not affected.



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August 31, 2013, twenty people were forced from their homes Saturday morning as multiple explosions rocked the site of a machine shop in downtown Stewiacke. The RCMP said the first explosion rang out around 4:30am at BJ Electric Motor and Control Ltd. on George Street. Several employees noticed a small fire and calls came in that smoke alarms were going off at the facility. They discovered a small fire and an explosion took place while they were there. Multiple explosions followed as flames spread fuelled by the combustible materials stored on site. Between 60-70 firefighters were called in to help fight the blaze as the explosions continued and homes in the area were evacuated as a precaution.



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May 21, 2014, A building at the centre of town that housed a vacant store, apartments and adjoining Iron Forge pub was destroyed by fire on Monday morning. When firefighters arrived, the building was showing heavy smoke. The fire had started on the main floor and made its way to the second story of the structure. The fire at the former convenience store belonging to the Hanna family was only visible, from the outside, as heavy smoke. Firefighters were called to the structure at about 6:00am. Firefighters upon first entry encountered a heavy change in conditions. The Rapid Intervention Team from Lantz was in place and met the team of three firefighters at the door. Of the team of three, two were transported to hospital for mild smoke inhalation. By this point this had been the fifth major commercial fire in less than three years. Fortunately, the building had been vacant when the fire broke out. Firefighters from 10 fire stations were on scene with additional fire departments on standby.



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Many changes have taken place within the fire service of Stewiacke since these major events. In 2008, the fire department acquired a mini pumper, (1712) which would be designated for wildfires and smaller fires, the 420GPM truck is able to squeeze into back roads and has a four-wheel drive system. In 2015, shortly after the rash of commercial fires the department replaced its main fire Engine with a 1250GPM pump truck, extended cab, with foam capabilities, fitting 6 firefighters, and the vehicle extrication equipment to use on motor vehicle accidents. Following this a year later they purchased a pick-up style truck, extended cab with rear compartments for medical first response equipment, water rescue equipment and breathing apparatus from Rocky Mountain Phoenix. This left the fire department with three newer fleet vehicles leaving the 1989 Tanker as the remaining truck to replace, which in 2019 was replaced finally with a new Maxi metal 1050GPM pump tanker, with a side electronic porta tank.

In 2016, the Stewiacke Fire Department was gifted a rescue boat and outboard motor and trailer from the Alton Natural Gas Storage group. The coverage area for the fire department covers large sections of the Stewiacke, and Shubenacadie rivers as well as many local lakes. The boat lets the fire department have the capability of responding to these incidents without the mutual aid of another station if none are available. With the boat the fire department invested in water survival suits and rescue ropes and equipment in colder water rescues.

The fire service has seen the upgrade of several equipment such as the breathing apparatus from the Scott 2.2 breathing packs that only gave firefighters 30 minutes of air and heavier metal bottles to the lighter 45 minute composite bottles with the MSA packs, including voice enhancement, and FLIR infrared capabilities. Increasing communication and ability to seek out hot spots and or downed

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occupants. The improved packs make movement much easier in fires and gives you more time to do a thorough search for victims and suppress the fire.

The fire department lost its Auxiliary program, which left the firefighters having to do the fundraising for their upgrades and equipment, training needs and other activities. Most firefighters with the current call volume of 300 calls per year put in an average 500 hours annually. This includes community events, prevention, fundraising, equipment and hall maintenance, Chase the Ace, Annual Dinner and Dance, fire, rescue and medical calls.

The fire department struggles to maintain firefighters these days like most rural stations but has a membership of 26 active firefighters and a few Life members who help in events. Stewiacke has a diverse group of men and women who put in a lot of hours to support their community.

The Stewiacke Fire Department was organized in 1944 with less than \$200.00 worth of equipment and no permanent building. Today, they have a building and equipment valued in excess of \$2,000,000.00. The members are proud of what they have accomplished in the past 50 years. This could not have been possible without the excellent support which they have received from the citizens of Stewiacke and surrounding communities and for this they extend to all their sincere thanks and appreciation.

Unfortunately, there were very few fire department activities recorded during the early years and very few pictures of buildings and equipment. Much of the history written about those years is written from memory. However, during the past 30 years' department activities are well documented including pictures.

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The authors have enjoyed putting together this brief history of firefighting in Stewiacke and area. We have gained a deep appreciation of the growth and development that has taken place during the past 50 years. To make this all possible many years of volunteer fire service have been freely given by a dedicated group of men and women, making this a first-class volunteer fire department. With continued community support we know they will accomplish even greater things during the next 50 years.



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STEWIACKE AND DISTRICT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT – 1994 MEMBERSHIP

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Allan Andrews | 21. Jason Levy |
| 2. Ronnie Andrews | 22. Barry McLean |
| 3. Wilma Andrews | 23. Colin MacPhee |
| 4. James Berrigan | 24. Bill MacGuire |
| 5. Lee Brenton | 25. Paul Michie |
| 6. Scott Callaghan | 26. Brent Murdock |
| 7. Lorne Carter | 27. Rod Neilson |
| 8. Ronald Colpitts | 28. George Paley |
| 9. Ronald Ellis | 29. Gregory Paley |
| 10. Willard Ellis | 30. Jason Pulley |
| 11. Ray Farnell | 31. Rene Power |
| 12. Herbert Fassett | 32. Weldon Power |
| 13. William Fisher | 33. Robert Sheehy |
| 14. Timothy Fisher | 34. Douglas Sibley |
| 15. John Frizzell | 35. Ralph Sibley |
| 16. Keith Fulton | 36. Calvin Sutherland |
| 17. Robert Fulton | 37. Arnold Vissers |
| 18. Scott Gibson | 38. Peter Vissers |
| 19. Marvin Hennigar | 39. Jeff Young |
| 20. Jeff Leighton | 41. Debbie A Crawford |
| 42. Debbie Crawford | 43. Joanne Fulton |

CHARTER MEMBERS

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Harry Andrews | 13. Carl Jeffers |
| 2. William Barkhouse | 14. Fred Kennedy |
| 3. Donald Barkhouse | 15. Charlton Leck |
| 4. George Barkhouse | 16. George Meadows |
| 5. Dyson Crowe | 17. A. W. Mc Intyre |
| 6. Gordon Crowe | 18. Rubert O'Neil |
| 7. Edward Crawford | 19. Percy Prest |
| 8. Earle Ellis | 20. Walter Reid |
| 9. Gordon Frost | 21. John Taylor |
| 10. Graham Giffin | 22. Bernard Weaver |
| 11. Ronald Gourley | 23. Buddy Wright |
| 12. Ellsworth Hilchie | 24. Robert Walker |

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STEWIACKE LIFE MEMBERS 1944-1994

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Donald Annand | 10. Ronald Gourley |
| 2. Wilma Andrews | 11. Lorne Helpard |
| 3. George Barkhouse | 12. Donald Helpard |
| 4. Barry Baker | 13. Rupert O'Neil |
| 5. Eric Bowers | 14. Walter Reid |
| 6. Maurice Ellis | 15. George Robinson |
| 7. Ronald Ellis | 16. Jarvis Stewart |
| 8. Vernon Ellis | 17. James Smith |
| 9. Wayne Graves | |

ASSOCIATE LIFE MEMBERS

1. Debbie Adams Crawford (big deb)
2. Debbie Crawford (little deb)
3. Joanne Fulton

CHIEFS (PAST AND PRESENT)

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. William Barkhouse | 1944-1945 |
| 2. George Meadows | 1946-1947 |
| 3. Earle Ellis | 1948-1949 |
| 4. George Coady | 1950-6 MONTHS |
| 5. Donald Barkhouse | 1950-1960 |
| 6. Donald Annand | 1960-1963 |
| 7. Earle Ellis | 1964-1966 |
| 8. Jarvis Stewart | 1967-1969 |
| 9. Vernon Ellis | 1970-1976 |
| 10. Ronald Ellis | 1977-6 MONTHS |
| 11. Lorne Carter | 1977- |
| 12. John Frizzell | |
| 13. Donald Richardson | |
| 14. Brent Murdock | 2014-2018 |
| 15. Mark Crozier | 2018 - PRESENT |

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STEWIACKE AND DISTRICT CURRENT MEMBERSHIP AS OF 2020

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. CHIEF MARK CROZIER | 15. FIREFIGHTER STEVE HARRIS |
| 2. DEPUTY CHIEF KARA MCCURDY | 16. FIREFIGHTER ANDREW
ASHFORD |
| 3. DEPUTY CHIEF BRANDON
VERBOOM | 17. FIREFIGHTER LISA HOLMAN |
| 4. CAPTAIN BEN SHEEHY | 18. FIREFIGHTER RYLAN MACPHEE |
| 5. CAPTAIN SCOTT FISHER | 19. FIREFIGHTER MITCHELL MILLER |
| 6. CAPTAIN KEITH FULTON | 20. FIREFIGHTER BRENT MURDOCK |
| 7. LIEUTENANT MIKE MILLER | 21. FIREFIGHTER TREVOR RUSSELL |
| 8. LIEUTENANT ANDY LEWIS | 22. FIREFIGHTER JOHN MALLOY |
| 9. LIEUTENANT JEFF MCCURDY | 23. FIREFIGHTER HAL ELLIS |
| 10. MEDICAL FIRST REPOSNDER
SHANDA SHEEHY | 24. JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER JACK
LEWIS |
| 11. MEDICAL FIRST RESPONDER
JOANNE FULTON | 25. JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER JORDAN
MOSHER |
| 12. FIREFIGHTER STEVE HANHAM | 26. JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER HAYDEN
POEHL |
| 13. FIREFIGHTER AMANDA FULTON | |
| 14. FIREFIGHTER NIKKI LEWIS | |

STEWIACKE FIRE DEPARTMENT DECEASED MEMBERS 1944-2020

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. HARRY ANDREWS | 28. ELLSWORTH HILCHIE |
| 2. DONALD ANNAND | 29. HAROLD HOLESWORTH |
| 3. BARRY BAKER | 30. CARL JEFFERS |
| 4. DONALD BARKHOUSE | 31. FRED KENNEDY |
| 5. GEORGE BARKHOUSE | 32. CHARLTON LECK |
| 6. WILLIAM BARKHOUSE | 33. VINCENT LEVY |
| 7. DYSON CROWE | 34. JOHN MACCARTHY |
| 8. CARL CAMPBELL | 35. A.W.MC INTYRE |
| 9. EARLE CRAWFORD SR | 36. ALBERT MCKILLOP |
| 10. EARLE CRAWFORD JR | 37. GEORGE MEADOWS |
| 11. WILLIAM COULSON | 38. PAUL MILCHIE |
| 12. DONALD DICKIE | 39. RUPERT O'NEIL |
| 13. EARLE ELLIS | 40. HARRY OAKE |
| 14. MAURICE ELLIS | 41. PERCY PREST |
| 15. RONALD ELLIS | 42. KEVIN RAYMOND |
| 16. VERNON ELLIS | 43. WALTER REID |
| 17. HERBERY FASSETT | 44. ROBERT SHEEHY |
| 18. WILLIAM FISHER | 45. JAMES SMITH |
| 19. WAYNE FLEMING | 46. CRAIG TAYLOR |
| 20. ROBERT FOWLER | 47. JOHN TAYLOR |
| 21. DIANNA FRIZZELL | 48. REGINALD TURNER |
| 22. LLOYD FULTON | 49. MURRAY STONE |
| 23. CARL FERRIS | 50. ROBERT WALKER |
| 24. GRAHAM GIFFIN | 51. WALTER WOODWORTH |
| 25. RONALD GOURLEY | 52. BUDDY WRIGHT |
| 26. LORNE HELPARD | 53. GEORGE ZINCK |
| 27. STANLEY HENRY | |

(continued...)

STEWIACKE

RIVERS OF OPPORTUNITY



HALF WAY BETWEEN THE EQUATOR & THE NORTH POLE

Town of Stewiacke
 P.O. Box 8
 295 George Street
 Stewiacke, NS B0N 2J0
 town@stewiacke.net

APPLICATION FOR DOG LICENSE

Owner's Name:		Phone No: (h)	
Mailing Address:		Cell No:(w)	

Breed	Male / Female	Spayed / Neutered	Color(s)	Name	Characteristic's	Micro chipped / Tattoo	Age	Tag # Office use only
	M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>						
	M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>						
	M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>						
	M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>						
	M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>						
Registration Fee: \$15.00 for each dog								Total Fee:

 Signature of applicant

 Date

Dog registration is an easy way to ensure that your dog is returned to you if you ever lose your animal. It also may keep you from being liable for any damage your dog may do to someone else's property. The Town receives numerous calls from residents who have found a stray and because of a tag, the animal and their owner are able to be reunited.

This Application Form should be taken to the Town Office, or mailed to P.O. Box 8, Stewiacke, Nova Scotia, B0N 2J0, with the appropriate fee.

license is valid: January 1 - December 31st

CONTACT INFORMATION

Administration 902-639-2231

Parks & Recreation 902-639-2111

After Hours Emergency 902-897-7823

Water Treatment Plant 902-639-2899

Public Works Administration 902-639-2125

Library 902-639-2481

Stewiacke Fire Department 902-639-2301

RCMP 902-639-2366

Mayor George Lloy
glloy@stewiacke.net
902-805-9393

Deputy Mayor Roseanne Chapman
rchapman@stewiacke.net
902-639-9009

Councilor Mary Commo
mcommo@stewiacke.net
902-805-9104

Councilor Susan Creelman
screelman@stewiacke.net
902-639-9363

Councilor Chad Ramsey
cramsey@stewiacke.net

Councilor Suzanne Lutz
suzannelutz@stewiacke.net
902-488-8427

Councilor Rebecca Rogers-Laing
rrogers-laing@stewiacke.net
902-289-2009

print & post

THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR WINDOW IF YOU PREFER TO NOT PARTICIPATE IN TRICK OR TREATING THIS YEAR - THANK YOU!





WELCOME TRICK-OR- TREATERS

We have treats for you!





**SORRY,
NO CANDY
HERE**



We'll treat you next year!

