

A Round of Applause

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Peterborough Fire & Rescue © 2003

This past Saturday evening at the Monadnock Country Club, the Peterborough Fire & Rescue Association held their annual Appreciation Night. In attendance were members of the association and their spouses, members of the auxiliary, retired personnel, chiefs and deputy chiefs from area departments, and elected town officials. Appreciation Night is the one occasion of the year when everyone gathers for a non-stress related event. It is a time to celebrate and applaud one another for the specific talents each brings to the department, to give thanks for a safe year filled with periods of transition as well as steadfast continuity.

What remains constant? The caliber of men and women who volunteer their time and skills in serving their community; the continuing education ambulance personnel seek in order to provide the most proficient care in a medical emergency; the monthly training drills geared to update members on search and rescue skills, progressive firefighting techniques and precautionary measures; and the dedication and support that each member offers to one another whether at a working fire or a tragic motor vehicle accident. What remains most constant is the support each association member receives from their spouses and family members who recognize that their daily lives could very well be disrupted by a fire or rescue call.

What has changed? The retirement of Chief Steven Black has left the door open for Chief Bill Naugle to manage the leadership post; a thermal imager has been donated to the department and widely utilized at fire scenes, and the Explorer Post has an even larger roster than prior years, insuring a feeder program for future rescue related occupations.

During this Appreciation Night, specific members of the association were lauded for their years of unwavering dedication. Bob Berube was selected as 'Firefighter of the Year'. He has been an invaluable member of the department for 15 years and was noted for being a man who not only voices concerns, but also renders ideas and actions in order to address such concerns. Former Deputy Chief and ambulance coordinator Julie Thibault was given a proclamation from the selectman for her eleven plus years of service to the department. And although this next young man has been on the department for a relatively short period of time, Mike Brampton was awarded 'Explorer of the Year' for his dedication and ever developing skills as a young firefighter. He will take leave from the department in order to join the U.S. Coast Guard, finding yet another way to protect and serve his fellow man.

The Peterborough Fire & Rescue Association continues to provide 24 hour coverage to our town and to surrounding communities in the Monadnock area, and they are an organization interested in educating the public in progressive safety measures. When it boils down to it, they are a feisty, supercharged group of men and women who demand much of each other in order to provide the best for you. Please join me in offering them our appreciation through a generous round of applause.