

## 2011 Annual Report

### Auxiliary - Francestown Volunteer Fire Department

Officers elected for 2011

President: Karen St. Cyr

Vice President: Linda Abbott

Secretary: Monica Harrington

Treasurer: Judi Miller

The Auxiliary supports the Francestown Volunteer Fire Department via service as well as with financial contributions. We also extend our service to the Francestown community and beyond.

Refreshments were provided for fire company personnel and supporting entities during extended calls and at various training sessions during the year. Additionally, we were honored to be called upon to cater special receptions for fire families this year.

A traditional corned beef dinner was prepared by the Auxiliary for attendees at the meeting of the Hillsborough County Forest Fire Wardens, annually held at the Francestown station in March. Also in March, the Auxiliary provided refreshments for the deliberative session of Town Meeting. Both events serve as fundraisers for the organization.

Forty students, teachers and support staff participated in the much anticipated Fire Prevention and Safety Program held at the elementary school in October. Due to inclement weather, a spirited mini muster was held in the great room, followed by a brief visit outside to inspect Engine 1, Tanker 2, and the Rescue unit. FES classes were presented with Toadstool Literary vouchers, compliments of the Auxiliary. Afterwards, a similar program geared towards younger children was held at the library. Refreshments for both programs were provided by the Auxiliary.

The *2012 Francestown Telephone and Business Directory*, due out in March 2012, was in production. In addition to being our largest fundraiser, it also provides a community service for residents. The residential section now includes a substantial mixture of land line and cell phone numbers. Many residents have not been included because we were unable to confirm their interest or phone numbers despite a concerted effort to do so. Numerous new businesses are included in the business section. But sadly, many previous advertisers, as well as interested new businesses, were unable to advertise due to economic constraints. On a positive note, a refocus on supporting local businesses seems to be on the upswing - and benefits everyone.

2011 marked the ninth year of Red Cross blood drives being held in town. Begun by the Auxiliary in response to the need for blood following 911, the semi-annual blood drives are held on the first Monday in May and the last Monday in November. The blood drives regularly have a mix of donors: regular donors from a donor base representing more than a dozen communities, and new donors, including first time donors registering at each drive, often seventeen and eighteen year olds.

Support of Boy Scout troops led by Ben and Monica Harrington and Tammie and Dave Blanchette, and The Welcome Basket project led by Diane Noonan and Lori – Hardwick Way are ongoing endeavors.

Karen Couturier, a longstanding member of the Auxiliary, passed away this year following a courageous battle with cancer. She was devoted to her family, her community, and the Auxiliary. Karen's compassion for families and children, and commitment to the production of the town directory are special legacies that live on in Auxiliary projects. She is greatly missed.

We are grateful for the broad community support for our endeavors, and it greatly factors into our ability to meet with success. About half of the Auxiliary members have a family member in the fire company, and the remaining members have joined to assist in support of the fire company. Please contact an officer - or any member - for information about the organization. New members are always welcome.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen A. St. Cyr  
President