

2014 Annual Report
Auxiliary of the Francestown Volunteer Fire Department

Officers elected for 2014

President: Karen St. Cyr
Vice President: Linda Abbott
Secretary: Donna Barbalato
Treasurer: Judi Miller

The Auxiliary's report for the 2014 Francestown Town Report is dedicated to Joan Kullgren, Betsy Wiederhold, and the late Elizabeth Foote and Rita Cutter. Their foresight and commitment of support for the Francestown Fire Department inspired them to formally organize the Ladies Auxiliary in 1973. The fire company, more appropriately known for many years as the Francestown Volunteer Fire Department (FVFD), continues to function as an all-volunteer fire department. At the fire department's annual Appreciation Dinner, held on May 17, 2014, Joan and Betsy were honored for their service and presented with floral arrangements and a plaque noting "*In Honor of the Women Who Were Instrumental in the Formation of the Auxiliary.*" Their support of the Auxiliary continues, and the plaque is displayed at the fire house in the meeting hall kitchen area.

Many women have served as members of the Auxiliary since its inception, and we acknowledge and remember them for their service. The Auxiliary has remained a viable organization over the years by adapting to lifestyle and economic changes. A core group provides leadership and is supported by previously active members and dedicated friends and neighbors. We are deeply appreciative of this support as it is critical to our ability to support the fire company and extend service to Francestown neighbors and beyond.

Auxiliary members are on call for extended fire calls when refreshments are needed by the FVFD and mutual aid departments when they are called in for assistance. Refreshments are also provided when needed at training sessions.

March is the busiest month for the organization. It starts with fundraising refreshments at Town Meeting – thank you, everyone, for your support! – and ends with the Auxiliary-prepared corned beef dinner at the firehouse for close to sixty attendees at the annual meeting of the Hillsborough County Forest Fire Warden's meeting always hosted by the FVFD.

The Auxiliary's largest fundraiser, a bi-ennial publication of the *Francestown Telephone and Business Directory*, provides a community service for residents and supports the "shopping local" initiative. The 2014 edition was released prior to Town Meeting in March with a complimentary copy mailed to every residence and provided for town agencies. A \$2500 donation was presented to the fire department towards a replacement rescue unit. Since the Directory Project began over a decade ago, the Auxiliary has donated over \$10,000 to the fire department for use toward priority needs.

The Fire Prevention & Safety program held in October was heralded as the best ever! Partnering with the fire department to host the event at the firehouse, the Auxiliary served refreshments to Francestown Elementary students, staff, family members, and home schooled families. As is tradition, Peterborough Toadstool Bookshop Literary Vouchers, courtesy of the Auxiliary, were presented to each classroom - grades K, 1, 2, and 3/4 for literature pertinent to studies during the current academic year.

In November, over 100 guests and participants, including Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and a

new Francestown resident who played the bagpipe, attended the moving Veteran's Day service. A luncheon hosted by the Auxiliary followed at the FIHS Lodge. Two beautiful quilts in patriotic colors, designed and donated by a resident, were raffled at the luncheon and won by a veteran and a new resident in Francestown.

Francestown's semi-annual blood drives, sponsored by the Auxiliary and held at FES in May and November, have yielded close to 1100 pints collected since the first blood drive held in response to 911! The generosity of donors from Francestown and numerous communities is greatly appreciated.

The Auxiliary is a participant in Francestown's "Community Santa" and supports the Welcome Basket Project (Lori Hardwick-Way and Diane Noonan welcome new residents with baskets of baked items and town and local information).

Thank you friends and neighbors for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen St. Cyr