



WELCOME!

History of the Norridgewock Fire Department {Some info from the Norridgewock Historical Society} Updated: 2/2014

The Norridgewock Fire Department is made up of volunteers. At first their equipment was stored in members' homes and barns, and water cisterns were located around town. Maps of the 1800's show a fire station house just above the Watt's Block on Main Street. After the block burned on April 7, 1909, there was an effort for better fire protection. A new Fire House with hall on the second floor was built next to the Oosoola Stream next to and beyond the bridge on Main Street after Tom Welch's little store was moved across the street. This housed the new horse drawn pumper and other fire equipment. On May 16, 1924, this building caught fire in the basement destroying the town's firefighting equipment. Help was summoned from neighboring towns but was slow in arriving as the Skowhegan road was being rebuilt and mud bogged down equipment on both sides of the river. All the buildings on the south side of Main Street from the Mill Stream to the J.M. Pierce building next to the railroad track crossing were burned. Most of the business section was gone.

Work was started on a new fire station on the same site to replace the one burned. This was a one story brick structure with a drying tower for hoses and was used until a new station to house larger equipment was erected across the street in 1960 where the current Fire Station still stands. The Fire House Bakery once occupied the old Fire Station and now it has turned into a home. We are in the process of building a new Fire Station on Upper Main Street, the former Gardner home upon approval of the townspeople in March.

Currently the Department has a total of 19 volunteer firefighters which is made up of a Fire Chief, an Assistant Fire Chief, two Captains, and two Lieutenants. A few of the Firefighters continue to work part time keeping up with all the required documentation, apparatus upkeep, payroll, issuing burn permits, and so forth. One Captain is our designated the Safety / Training Officer. Sadly enough, we did have a Firefighter die in the line of duty (LODD) on May 3, 1978.

Our apparatus include a 1989 FMC 1,000 gallon pumper, 1996 Pierce 1,000 gallon pumper, and a 2006 3,000 gallon tanker / pumper. Also included is our 2000 Dodge Utility Truck consist of a 4X4 Pick Up with jaws, ATV with trailer and rescue sled, and a 1988 14' aluminum boat. There is also a 1935 Maxim Fire Truck that is only in parades.

The Towns of Norridgewock and Mercer are covered by these volunteers.

Any historical buffs out there that wish to share information about the department, please contact us.