



Town of Eddington · February 22, 1811

EDDINGTON

Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2024



A Tribute To

CHIEF JIM ELLIS

On July 17th, 2023, the Eddington Fire Department lost its former chief, Jim Ellis. Throughout the community and across the state, Ellis was well respected and well known. Jim graduated from Brewer High School in 1983 and spent his next 40 years working in public safety. He worked for the State Fire Marshall's Office, Old Town Fire Department, Brewer Fire Department, Holden Fire Department, and Eddington Fire Department, as well as the Penobscot County Sheriff's Office.

With his service to several Maine communities, he had a profound impact on many people's lives. A compassionate and kind individual, Jim mentored many young people and taught them that they are there to help people in their worst moments. Most likely, he was unaware of how strongly he influenced those around him.

Even though Jim was an only child, he learned the importance of family time. In addition to his three children, he had eight grandchildren. As a Maine resident, he enjoyed all four seasons. As well as listening to music, Jim enjoyed being with people who valued the simple things in life. Jim cared about people, as was evident at his funeral, which was standing room only.

In 2024, the Eddington Fire Department will celebrate its 50th anniversary. We will always be thankful for the leadership and dedication of Chief Ellis, and his memory will live on in our hearts forever.





The Town of Eddington once again participated in the Wreaths Across America Program on December 16, 2023. The wreaths are supplied by the Worcester Wreath Company. They provide a wreath and flags for each branch of the Service free to the Town. Margaret Dougherty, Margaret Joyal and Jim & Shirley Cameron attach a Service Branch and American Flag to a wreath so that each Branch and the POW/MIA are represented at the ceremony.

A Ceremony was held at 12:00 noon at the Veteran's Monument at the Eddington Town Office. The Ceremony started with the Marine Corps League, Greater Bangor Area Detachment 1151 presenting the colors. Dave Johnson was the Master of Ceremony. Pastor Eric Mitchell

presented a prayer for the event and Angie Stearns beautifully sang the National Anthem. Richard Campbell, State Representative, spoke to the group and told about his experience riding to Arlington Cemetery with the parade of trucks and placing wreaths at the cemetery. We had seven service people from Town present a wreath for each branch of the service and POW/MIA and place it on a stand at the Monument. This year's participants were Richard Tuck, Ben Birch, Michael Dougherty, Samantha Maquillan, Scott Newhart, Jim Goodness and Al Morrow. We also recognize the Fire Department and Police Department in our Ceremony with their flag on a wreath and stand. We had Bill Birch of the Penobscot County Sheriff's Department and Jacob Maheux of the Eddington and Brewer Fire Departments present wreaths. Herb

Hopkins completed the Ceremony by playing Taps.

After the Ceremony, volunteers placed the wreaths on the stands at each of the five cemeteries in Town, along with the Jonathan Eddy Monument. Brewer Boy Scout Troop #1 with the guidance of Scout Master Phil Proctor and Assistant Scout Master Tim Seymour, placed wreaths on the stands at the Jonathan Eddy and Riverside Cemeteries.

In the future, we hope to have our Veteran's Committee organize the event and possibly do fund raisers to enable them to place wreaths on each Veteran's Stone in the Cemeteries.

Thank you Denise Knowles for making the arrangements for this event.



FIRE PROTECTION IN EDDINGTON, MAINE

An Act in Congress on March 3, 1820 declared the District of Maine to be a state in the United States of America. Maine was admitted with equal rights and respect as the original states. The census of 1820 showed 276 inhabitants in Eddington. By 1840 the census showed 620 inhabitants in Eddington with growth in new businesses. At this time in 1847 the East Eddington Fire Club was organized with forty charter members. Equipment consisted of two dozen buckets, six ladders, two pick axes and five hooks. A building was supplied for meetings and to house the equipment. Many homes were saved by the hard work of the bucket brigades and the well organized group.

As the town grew, the need for more fire protection was realized. A special town meeting was held May 8, 1967 for the Eddington Volunteer Fire Dept. to buy their first fire engine. After planning and raising funds for many years, a fire station and town office was built in 1974. This fire station was located in the central part of Eddington on Rt. 9 serviced by Brewer dispatch by radio to firemen in Eddington. Eighteen firemen completed their training in 1974. This assured a faster response to emergencies.

Each year the Eddington Fire Department responded to many more calls for medical emergencies, wellness checks, car accidents, assault, fire and smoke alarms, electrical wires down, structure fire and rescue. The Fireman's training required a high priority in the Eddington Fire Dept. and more space was needed for classes, equipment, staff, handicap accessibility and a meeting room. At the 2006 Eddington town meeting, the citizens of Eddington voted to build an addition to the Eddington Fire Department and Town Office. The building was completed in 2007 and is the current Eddington Fire Department and Town Office on Rt. 9. The citizens of Eddington are very thankful for the dedication of all members of the Eddington Fire Department. We appreciate all the services you provide for Eddington residents and surrounding neighbors. Congratulations to Eddington Fire Department as you celebrate 50 Years of service! Thank you!

Grandma's Homemade Apple Cider Beef Stew

- Ingredients:
- 2 pounds beef stew meat, cut into 1-inch cubes
 - 2 tablespoons canola oil
 - 3 cups apple cider or juice
 - 1 can (14-1/2 oz.) reduced-sodium beef broth
 - 2 tablespoons cider vinegar
 - 1-1/2 teaspoons salt
 - 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
 - 1/4 teaspoon pepper
 - 3 medium potatoes, peeled and cubed
 - 4 medium carrots, cut into 3/4-inch pieces
 - 3 celery ribs, cut into 3/4-inch pieces
 - 2 medium onions, cut into wedges
 - 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
 - 1/4 cup water
 - Fresh thyme sprigs, optional

In a Dutch oven, brown beef on all sides in oil over medium-high heat; drain. Add the cider, broth, vinegar, salt, thyme and pepper; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 1-1/4 hours.

Add the potatoes, carrots, celery and onions; return to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 30-35 minutes or until beef and vegetables are tender.

Combine flour and water until smooth; stir into stew. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. If desired, serve with fresh thyme.



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The Fireman by Pam Dorr

It was a snowy Christmas Eve,
And everyone was asleep,
When I found myself wide awake,
So down the stairs I did creep.

I was only four years old
And I loved our Christmas tree,
But as I got to the bottom stair,
Bright red was all I could see,
The door blew shut behind me;
The knob too hot to touch.

I screamed to my mommy and daddy,
“I’m here and I’m scared so much!”
The fire grew and grew some more
And I couldn’t see a thing.
Then I heard a little tapping
So I started listening.

It was coming from the window
And I looked out to see.
There was this big man in a uniform
Looking back at me.

“Don’t worry, son; I’m here now,”
The man looked at me and said.
“Don’t be scared; I’ll get you out.
Just duck and cover your head.”

The window smashed; the glass rained down,
And he reached in for me.
“Just put your arms around my neck
And I will get you free.”

He lifted me up and carried me
Right to my mom and dad,
And that was the most exciting time
That I had ever had!

The fireman who saved me
Today remains my friend.
He’ll always be my hero
But that wasn’t the end:
The alarms ring; the door goes up;
I get behind the wheel.

We race toward the blazing fire
And all that I can feel
Is pride and courage and faith
While my heart beats so wild,
Because I’m now that fireman
Who can save a little child.

