

# Riverview fire department on the move next week

## New building features central location away from congestion of Coverdale Road

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TIMES & TRANSCRIPT

The Riverview fire department is literally moving with the times. After 44 years on Coverdale Road, Riverview and Rescue will move Wednesday into its new fire station at the corner of Pinewood and Pine Glen roads.

When the Coverdale Road station was constructed in 1961, it was an ideal location, says Fire Chief Doug Hamer. At that time, it was the Parish of Coverdale Fire Department (there was no Town of Riverview, then) and it was responsible for providing fire services for that section of Albert County.

Today, the department's prime responsibility is the Town of Riverview and the firefighters need a site closer to the centre of the community, said Hamer.

"It will allow us to respond to emergencies all around Riverview quicker and make it easier for our volunteers and off-duty firefighters to get to the station."

"We can't get all our equipment to a fire scene until they get there (to the station). We could get the first truck out the door but there will be trouble getting the second, fourth or fifth out."

He said the problem is the heavy



The new Riverview Fire Station is just about set to open with much of the move to be made next week.

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traffic congestion on Coverdale Road.

In 1961, there was no need for traffic lights on Coverdale Road, Hamer said. Today, 25,000 to 30,000 vehicles each day use the thoroughfare.

Fronting on Pinewood, the new station's official address is 600 Pinewood Rd. Hamer said it is 20,000 square feet (1,800 square metres), the new station is slightly bigger than the current building, which takes in 17,000 square feet (1,530 square metres).

The new station, however, is all

on one floor, whereas the Coverdale Road facility has a second floor and basement.

Along with its central location away from traffic congestion on Coverdale Road, the new station designed by a committee of 15 members of the fire department offers many advantages.

There are five separate entrances and exits to and from the property, so that "our members can get in quickly and the fire trucks, ambulances and rescue vehicles can respond promptly to emergencies," Hamer said.

The new station also has improved apparatus bays with proper drainage and in-floor heating which can later be converted to natural gas. Hamer said a 40-foot (10.2-metre) training tower will be attached to the rear of the structure for climbing, ladder work, rope rescue and hose-hanging purposes.

A unique feature of the new fire station, said the chief, is the creation of a "safe space concept" that offers members of the public immediate access to a safe environment, 24 hours a day, seven days a week — "should they be victims of harassment and/or stalking."

He said the main entrance will feature a set of double doors, with a foyer inside the first door and a "panic button" that will effectively lock the victim in a safe environment, equipped with an automatic phone to on-duty personnel and/or 911.

"We now have a modern, centrally located facility that will be providing fire, ambulance and res-



The bays in the new fire station give Riverview firefighters much more room.

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cue services to the people of Riverview for many, many years," said Mayor Clarence Sweetland.

The mayor noted the station is right in the path of the new east-west corridor, the first phase of which is scheduled to get under way this year.

Meanwhile, two different clients are looking at the property on Coverdale Road currently housing the fire department, said Brenda Orchard, the town's economic development director. While she cannot reveal the "nature of their business" at this time, Orchard noted the area is zoned CC Central Commercial.

Orchard said some people saw the bay doors used by the fire

trucks and asked if a gas station could be located there, but that use is not permitted in a CC zone.

The purchaser of the property could opt to keep the current building and renovate it or tear it down and build something else on the site, Orchard said.

"We are looking for a use that will promote development and stimulate the downtown core," said the economic development director.

The final architectural designs for the new fire station were created by Blair Roma Architects of Saint John and the facility was constructed by Rice Contracting Limited of Moncton.



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Chief Doug Hamer checks out an old fire box that has been converted to a light in the kitchen area of the new Riverview Fire Station.