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**Notes from editor (not for publication):**



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 Dummerston welcomes tanker to fire truck fleet

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2 Fire department celebrates the arrival of its new pumper  
3 truck with a 'push-in' ceremony

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4 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

5 The Dummerston Fire Department celebrated the recent  
6 arrival of their new tanker truck with a “push-in” ceremony on  
7 March 21 at the main fire station on West Street.

8 Many community members showed up to cheer their  
9 firefighter neighbors as they “pushed” the Tanker 1 into the  
10 station, in keeping with an old fire service tradition to welcome  
11 new trucks in a firehouse.

12 As its motor rumbled at a slow idle and its emergency  
13 lights flashed, retired Fire Chief Allen Pike was at the wheel as  
14 Pumper 1 was slowly backed in.

15 Folks were as attracted by the pulled pork, hot dogs,  
16 hamburgers, and homemade baked beans and doughnuts the  
17 firefighters were serving as they were to see the shiny new 2026  
18 E-One Freightliner pumper truck, which was fitted out by St.  
19 Albans-based Desorcie Emergency Products.

20 Fire Chief Larry Pratt Jr. was like a proud parent with a  
21 new baby, showing off Tanker 1, which was parked outside the  
22 station with the rest of the department's trucks.

23 The new Tanker 1 — which can also pinch-hit as a fire  
24 engine if one of the department's two engines is out of service or  
25 on another call — cost the town \$469,000.

26 "And that's for a cheap truck," Pratt said of the cost.  
27 "New engines today cost around \$1 million. We have run three  
28 engines in previous years, but we're going away from having a  
29 third engine and switching over to a tanker that can hold much  
30 more water. This is a milestone for us."

31 Pratt explained that the truck could carry 2,000 gallons  
32 of water, double that of the 1999 E-One Freightliner Pumper that  
33 has replaced.

34 Besides its greater capacity, the new truck can pump  
35 water faster — 1,200 gallons per minute, compared to the 1,000  
36 gallons per minute of the old truck.

37 Another feature of the new truck that Pratt was happy to  
38 demonstrate was the portable water tank, which folds out from  
39 the truck. It can provide an extra 1,500 gallons of water for other  
40 trucks to draw from during shuttle operations in fires that are far  
41 from hydrants or fire ponds.

42 Rural fires can take a lot of water to put out, said Pratt,  
43 citing last August's fire at Dwight Miller Orchards. The three-  
44 alarm fire on Aug. 16 destroyed its packing house building and  
45 along with it the orchard's cold storage and produce coolers, its

46 cider press and apple packing facilities, its retail area, and its  
47 maple evaporator and sugaring equipment.

48 "We could have used a truck like this for that fire," Pratt  
49 said.

50 As a volunteer fire department, it takes trained people to  
51 run equipment like the new Tanker 1, and Pratt said the  
52 department is always seeking new people to help in any way they  
53 are able.

54 He said any residents interested in serving with the  
55 Dummerston Fire Department can stop by the West Street station  
56 any Tuesday at 6 p.m., email him at [chief@dummerstonfire.org](mailto:chief@dummerstonfire.org),  
57 or visit the department's [Facebook page](#).

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