

THETIS ISLAND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Forbes Hall, Thetis Island

May 18th, 2013



THETIS ISLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Annual Report for 2012

Submitted by Fire Chief J. Caldbeck



History

The Thetis Island Volunteer Fire Department celebrated Thirty Years of service to Thetis Island in December of 2012. Granted Letters of Patent by the Provincial Government on December 17th of 1982, the Thetis Island Improvement District was formed to operate a formal fire service through local taxation. Previous to that date, the Thetis Island Ratepayers Association had operated a Fire Brigade on the island and all assets acquired for the Brigade were transferred to the TIID for the sum of \$1.00. All Thetis Island landowners, with the exception of the religious organization-owned lands that hold a Property Tax Exemption, share the financial burden of operating the fire and medical response service. The volunteer fire fighters are full-time residents of the community and they donate a great many hours to training, equipment upkeep, emergency response, public assists, and fire and life safety education. They bring to the Fire Department a wide range of skills and life experience as well as a strong commitment to community service and a desire to assist neighbours in times of need. Throughout the thirty years of operation, the department has grown and progressed through the guidance of its Fire Chiefs and Improvement District Board Trustees. Although many of the issues facing the present Fire Chief were also of concern to the first TIVFD Fire Chief in 1982, Pete Rees, and subsequent Chiefs Ernie Hunter, Dave O'Hara and Tim French, the regulatory burden on today's fire service is heavier and the time commitment for training is growing. Fire equipment, apparatus and their maintenance, department member training and re-certification, and fire hall and fire fighter safety are regulated by several provincial and federal bodies as well as legislation that governs operational procedures. We are now in an era of government downloading to community agencies; money is tight, and there are fewer community members willing to gift their time and energy to serve as volunteers on the fire department. Recruitment and retention of members in the department has historically been a difficult task as volunteers on Thetis Island moved off the island or retired from strenuous activities. Succession planning for officers is always difficult an ongoing.

The Thetis Island Improvement District appointed Jeannine Caldbeck Fire Chief in 2005 with Graeme Shelford as Deputy Chief. Both the Chief and Deputy are also Local Assistants to the Fire Commissioner and members of the Fire Chiefs' Association of BC and the Cowichan Valley Fire Chiefs Association.

Training

Thetis Island Fire Fighters drill weekly on Wednesday evenings at Central Fire Hall on Mission Road and throughout the year at several extra training sessions as needed. All TIVFD Fire Fighters must achieve the BC Basic Fire Fighter certification and most Fire Fighters also train to First Responder Level III (highest level attainable) certification with extra endorsements. After the BC Basic Fire Fighter certificate is awarded, fire fighters then train to NFPA Standard Fire Fighter I or II levels as their time permits.

Special training on Thetis Island includes Marina Fire Response, Over-the-Bank Rescue, Vehicle Extrication, Aircraft Emergency Response, Hazardous Materials Awareness, Wildfire Response, Search & Rescue, Emergency Vehicle Operation, Communications, Disaster Response, and Rural Water Supplies.

The TIVFD Fire Fighters and the TIVFD Auxiliary Teams come together once a year for a combined Wildfire Drill in a forested area on Thetis Island. The Aux teams practice Water Tending from ponds or other water sources to the fire scene, traffic control at the water pick-up point or access to the fire scene, wellness checks of the front-line fire fighters, and rehabilitation (food and rehydration) for the members on-scene. The individual Auxiliary Teams train throughout the year with support from the TIVFD officers.

On-Island regular training hours for 2012 were approximately 130 hours and Man-Hours Worked were 1,058 training hours.



Aux Team Member Sue French on Traffic Control Duty

Off-island training included members attending the Salt Spring Island Fire Training Weekend course for Marina Fire Fighting, the Emergency Scene Management Course at Cowichan Bay Fire Dept., and the Vancouver Island Fire Fighters Association Fall Training Weekend for Over the Bank Rescue and Reading Smoke workshops.



TIVFD members drill on marina-boat fire response at Telegraph Harbour Marina

First Responder training in 2012 included an intensive re-certification course for most of the members, including both trauma/medical aid procedures, and AED and Spinal Immobilization exams. Forty-four hours were spent on First Responder training with man-hours worked totaling 426 hours. F/C Caldbeck and Capt. Tom Milliken are both FR Instructors and Evaluators for the FR III Training Courses through the Justice Institute of BC, and they also must re-certify every three years to continue to hold a valid Instructor License. The First Responder Level III license is granted by the Emergency Medical Assistant Licensing Board (EMALB), a BC Government Agency. Chief Caldbeck also participated in many hours of Continuing Medical Education courses through BCAS to retain her Primary Care Paramedic license. The Chief's extensive external training assists the department during FR instruction and on emergency medical responses.

A practice scenario for a trauma injury



APPARATUS

Engine 1 (1999 Freightliner purchased new from Hub Fire Engines in Abbotsford): diesel, hydraulic brakes, 600 gallon capacity, Hale mid-ship pump with foam inductor, two ground ladders, 1 roof ladder, 2 1/2 inch suppression hose, 1 1/2 inch suppression hose, 1 1/2" forestry hose, 1" forestry hose and manifold, 4 ISI SCBA with spare cylinders, hose appliances, first responder equipment, extrication tools (hydraulic & hand), PPV unit, portable pump, portable generator, scene lighting, various hand tools and res- cue equipment. Crew Cap: 3 persons



Engine 1 - built to TIVFD specifications for our island hills



Engine 2 - Combination 4WD Bush Truck & Structural Engine

Engine 2 (1999 Ford F-350 purchased from a Maryland FD in 2007 and driven to Thetis Island) 4x4 diesel, hydraulic brakes, 150 gallon water tank capacity, Darley mid-ship pump (pump unit is over 30 years old) with 2007 foam inductor, two ground ladders, 1 roof ladder, 2.5", 1.5" suppression hose, 1" forestry hose and manifold, 2 ISI SCBA with spare 2250 bottles, hose appliances, first responder equipment, extrication tools (hand only), stand-by generator, portable pump, various fire suppression hand tools and rescue equipment. A replacement output pressure manifold was installed in 2011. Crew capacity: 2 persons



*The TIVFD also owns a **utility trailer** for wildfire equipment or other department use.*

Water Tender 1 is a 2000 GMC-T 6500 purchased in Maryland as a Ryder Moving Van and converted to a water carrier by Geoff Howard Industries, Duncan BC with our design specifications: diesel, hydraulic brakes, 1,000 gallon capacity, Honda 3” deck pump, 2 portable pumps, forestry hand tools, light generator, 3” and 4” intake hose, various water supply fittings. Crew Cap.: 2 persons.



Water Tender deployed by Aux Water Supply member Sjoerd van Kleef

Rescue 1 is the workhorse of the TIVFD, responding to all emergency scenes, the majority being medical responses. Rescue 1 is a 1995 Chevrolet K-3500 purchased used in late December 2007 from Wilderness Medics, Phoenix, Arizona: diesel, hydraulic brakes, 4X4 trans., GPS and back-up camera, patient compartment with Ferno A-35 stretcher, 3 oxygen outlets, suction, and first aid equipment and supplies including AED, stair chair, clamshell, backboard and #9 stretchers. Other equipment carried includes: 2 ISI SCBA, embankment rescue equipment, traffic control equipment, portable lighting and some hand tools. Crew Capacity: 2 persons in cab, 5 person seating in patient compartment or 2 stretcher and 2 seats. Stretcher is mid-ship type with side and head-end jump seats for patient access.



Rescue 1 is often used for delivering patients to BCAS paramedics arriving by water taxi at the community dock.

The department purchased a sound, no-rust, 2000 Ford F250 crew cab diesel 4x4 from Dallas, Texas in 2011. We kept the original colour, the heavy-duty Ranch Hand grill, headache rack and bumpers and added a siren, emergency lights, tow hitch, fire service radio, GPS and decaling. Used primarily by the Fire Chief or Duty Officer on the island for ready response or fire department business, it is also driven off-island to various training venues as a crew transport vehicle. The **Command Vehicle** is also used to transport the RCMP from the water taxi dock to island destinations, and as a utility vehicle during fire responses for transport of equipment or other agency personnel to and from the scene. During the summer wildfire season the Fire Chief installs a non-TIVFD water tank in the pickup box and adds a pump and wildfire tools for quick deployment.



Always the muddiest of the TIVFD trucks, the 4x4 Command Vehicle is used daily for ready response, public assists, first response to emergency scenes and other Fire Department business.

OPERATIONS

2012 was not a typical year for the department in that we had two major structure fires on the island this year. First Responder responses were average and minor fire calls were slightly above average. The department continues to respond to non-fire/non-medical public or police assists throughout the year since there is no other appropriate agency on Thetis Island for an expeditious response. The Wildfire Fire Hazard for 2012 remained in EXTREME for an unprecedented continuous 60 days, from August 12th right up to October 12th, and we were extremely lucky that no major wildfire incidents occurred.

🕒 January: Power lines down and tree on fire; Tree down and blocking road; Secondary power line down and energized; large truck and trailer parked and impeding traffic on side road; One medical aid response.

🕒 February: Five medical aid calls; senior in vehicle needing assistance; Power line down and pole on fire; RCMP assist for 911 hang-up.

🕒 March: Tree on Fire due to escaped burn pile; Power line down and bush on fire; Power line down, no fire; Propane leak; Coroner assist; Three medical aid responses.

🕒 April: Senior driver requesting aid; Three medical aid responses.

🕒 May: One medical aid response.

🕒 June: Major Structure Fire; Six medical aid responses.

🕒 July: RCMP assist 911 hang-up; Smoke sighting on boat: Emergency fire suppression water supply delivery; Three medical aid responses; Smoke complaint investigations.

🕒 August: Two illegal Beach fires; Smoke complaint investigations; Seven medical aid responses.

🕒 September: Smoke complaint investigation; Illegal Burn; Two medical aid responses.

🕒 October: Three medical aid responses.

🕒 November: Motor Vehicle Incident; Hydro lines down/tree on fire; minor fire call (generator panel on fire); Major structure fire; Two medical aid response.

🕒 December: Minor structure fire; Sheep impeding traffic (safety); Coast Guard assist; One medical aid response.

In addition to Training and Operational Responses, TIVFD members attended well over fifty Work Party activities ranging from posting fire hazard information signs, mechanical repairs, administrative duties, safety inspections, water storage infrastructure installations, hall maintenance, machine burn-pile inspections and other duties required by the department.

MEDICAL AID RESPONSES - 2012

Response Type	Number
Chest Pain - cardiac	3
Unconscious Diabetic	1
Syncope - NYD	1
Minor Contusion - extremity	1
GI Bleed	2
Fracture - extremity	3
Laceration - head	3
Cardiac Arrest	4
Medication Overdose	2
Minor Amputation	1
Shortness of Breath	1
Fall w/head injury - Paediatric	1
Smoke Inhalation	1
Fall w/ multiple minor injuries	2
Unconscious Collapse - NYD	1
Extremity Pain - NYD	1
CVA - TIA	1
CVA - major stroke (heli-evac)	1
Abdominal Pain	3

Response Type	Number
Allergic Reaction	1
Poisoning - jellyfish ingestion	1
Back Pain	1
Fall with fractures/multiple injuries	1
Total FR Responses 2012	37
Note: NYD = Not Yet Diagnosed; TIA = Transient Ischemic Attack; Syncope = fainting; CVA = Cerebral Vascular Accident	

PUBLIC EDUCATION

The TIVFD continues to be very active in the role of public educator for Fire & Life Safety issues. The NFPA “Remembering When” Fire and Fall Education seminars for seniors was presented on Thetis Island and at several off-island venues by Chief Caldbeck as well as Thetis Island home visits by the Chief and Aux. member Donna Stadt. Several Fire Hall Tours were conducted for residents and their visitors. A Wildfire Seminar was offered to the public. A movie night at Forbes Hall was sponsored by the department, showing the History of the TIVFD, with a short presentation on generator safety at the intermission. The Annual TIVFD Fire Extinguisher Clinic was held in May and was well attended, with 80 extinguishers tested and live fire training offered to participants. With the new school term starting at Capernwray, the TIVFD gave a seminar on how the 911 system works to the assembled students. This is important information for the CHBS students because many are from out of Province or International attendees. The Thetis Island Elementary School also received Fire & Life Safety Training and FF Noah Bond designed and delivered a great CPR program to the TIES pupils. The department also participated in and supported community participation in the Great British Columbia Shake Out drill for earthquake preparedness.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

This year the members were unable to participate in the annual Thetis Island Community Soccer Tournament due to a major structure fire the evening before, and the game was cancelled (to the disappointment of the children and the relief of the tired fire fighters!).

The TIVFD once again sponsored the now annual Flu Shot Clinic at Forbes Hall and VIHA has put us permanently on their list of vaccination clinics. The Flu Shot Clinic was also supported by funding from the Thetis Island Community Fund and the great coffee service by the TIVFD Auxiliary, making the occasion a resounding success for the sixty-nine participants.

TIVFD Auxiliary Members Nan Beals, Gloria Taylor and Kat Urton prepare equipment for the Combined Drill.



With the assistance of the Thetis Island Community Association (TICA) the department maintains a stock of home care equipment such as crutches, walkers, toilet seat lifts, etc. for loan to islanders upon request.

The Thetis Island Annual Parade is a community event that the TIVFD whole-heartedly participates in by entering all the apparatus and having an elementary school child (Chief For A Day) ride in Engine 1 at the front of the parade. The Rescue is available during the parade for first aid and Sparky makes a welcome appearance for the spectating children.



FF Denis Gagnon, Deputy Chief Shelford, and Capt. Dave Tarris push the Mule Wheel around the Parade Route

Drop Tank deployment



Members Tarris, Stadt and Hess assemble tables for TICA



NEW EQUIPMENT/PROJECTS

The TIVFD acquired two additional new SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus) from ISI and a used 3,000 gallon drop-tank (from Drakes Crossing FD in Oregon). The Drop Tank was deployed at Pilkey Hall throughout the summer for ready fire suppression water in the mostly pond-less Pilkey Point area. In the autumn, the TIVFD was able to purchase a 5,000 gallon water storage tank for the intersection of Mission Road and North Cove Road, allowing increased water supplies for the school and community centre area. Soon after that tank was installed on the old fire hall cement pad, resident Bob Burgess found a “smoking deal” on another 5,000 gallon tank and the Improvement District moved quickly to purchase it. This second tank is now permanently installed at Pilkey Hall. With the assistance of the Porter family at Fraser Point, signs were installed at a beach area on the south shore where off-island boaters frequent during the summer and light illegal beach fires and leave them unextinguished. The Hollyberry Strata residents drilled with the TIVFD members when the department laid hose from their pond to the road for summer deployment during wildfire season.



OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Chief and Deputy Chief attended the annual Fire Chiefs Association of BC Conference held in Richmond for 2012. This conference gives the TIVFD Chief Officers the opportunity to attend training seminars, workshops, a Fire Equipment Trade Show, and to network with other Chief Officers with similar issues during the multi-day convention.

Both the TIVFD Chief and Deputy Chief are members of the Cowichan Valley Fire Chiefs' Association and attend the quarterly meetings at the various halls throughout the valley. Chief Caldbeck was again elected as Vice President and Deputy Chief Shelford is on the CVFCA Constitution Committee. As well, both the Chief and Deputy attend the bi-monthly CVFCA Fire Prevention Committee meetings and assisted with the fundraising for a new Fire & Life Safety Education House much needed for all the valley halls. The fundraising campaign included a "hat drive" and TIVFD members Caldbeck, Babin and Jr. FF Tegan Luckham spent a day in Chemainus in fire fighting gear, soliciting coin donations from passers-by for that project.

Chief Caldbeck and Deputy Chief Shelford attended the FCABC Zone 1 (Vancouver Island) First Responder meetings held in Parksville. Caldbeck also attended the Vancouver Island Fire Fighters Association meetings in the spring and fall of 2012.



Chief Caldbeck at the CFFF Memorial

In 2011 a call went out to all fire departments across Canada to donate brass couplings of a certain vintage to the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation (CFFF) designated foundry to be melted and incorporated into a Canadian Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Ottawa being designed and built for a 2012 unveiling. TIVFD had some fittings of the correct age and material and they were sent off. Several months later we were informed that Thetis Island had contributed to the making of the large fire fighter statue and the brass was now part of the impressive memorial to be inaugurated on Parliament Hill in September of 2012. Chief Caldbeck attended the very moving memorial service in Ottawa, paying tribute to the Canadian fallen fire fighters of the previous year and throughout the history of the Canadian Fire Services.

The Annual TIVFD Picnic was held in June at the Telegraph Harbour Marina Pavilion with Auxiliary Members, Thetis Island Improvement District Trustees, Past Fire Chiefs and invited guests attending for a steak roast and pot luck meal.

The TIVFD Appreciation Dinner was held in November at Forbes Hall and as this was the 30th Anniversary of the Department, a special film was made consisting of interview with past fire chiefs, historical photos, and amusing stories about members past and present. Service awards and other presentations were made and all who attended had a great evening.

MEMBERS 2012



Thetis Island Volunteer Fire Department -
Front row (with axes): F.F. Ken Karg and F.F. Ralf Kempe. Second Row (seated): F.F. Mall Hess, Deputy Chief Graeme Shellford, F.F. Alex Rozewicz, Jr. F.F. Tegan Luckham.
Back Row (standing): F.F. John Stadt, F.F. Denis Gagnon, Capt. Dave Tarris, F.F. Peter Luckham, Chief Jeannine Caldbeck, Capt. Tom Mlikken, F.F. Grant Babin.
(Not shown - F.F. Noah Bond, F.F. Tim French, F.F. John Gall, F.F. Patrick Mooney, F.F. Gerhard Wanney) photo by Carol Sowerby

Fire Chief Jeannine Caldbeck, LAFC, PCP, FR Instructor
Deputy Chief Graeme Shelford, LAFC, FR 3
Captain Dave Tarris, FR 3, Training Officer
Captain Tom Milliken, FR Instructor, Asst. Training Officer
Sr. FF John Stadt, Base Station Operator
Sr. FF Tim French, Communications Officer, Central Hall Maintenance Manager
Sr. FF Ken Youds, (retired from dept. March 2012)
Sr. FF Alex Rozewicz, FR 3, Social Manager
FF Patrick Mooney
FF Matt Hess, FR 3, Canteen Manager
FF Denis Gagnon, FR 3, Safety Officer, Safety Committee
FF Noah Bond, FR 3, School Liason
FF Grant Babin, FR 3, Water Projects Manager
FF Peter Luckham, FR 3, Safety Committee
FF Gerhard Wanney, FR 3, Pilkey Hall Manager
FF Ralf Kempe, FR 3, Capernwray Liaison
FF Ken Karg, FR 3, Mechanic
Rookie FF John Gall
Junior FF Tegan Luckham



2012 PHOTOS





Structure Fire June 2, 2012 Lot 233 Plateau Road





FF Grant Babin extinguishes hot spots, June 3rd, 2012



Antique Harley Davidson in basement after fire, June 3, 2012



Medical helicopter evacuation, Capernwray Field, 2012



Structure Fire, December 2, 2012, 280 North Cove Road



Fire Cause Investigation, Lot 280

CLOSING REMARKS

It has been an honour to continue serving as the Thetis Island Volunteer Fire Department Chief Officer. The department is a welcoming, engaged, and loyal group of volunteers serving our community with diligence and compassion and are a pleasure to work with. I would especially like to thank my Deputy Chief for his solid support and friendship. He was the lead investigator in the very complicated and drawn out fire cause investigation for the Lot 233 fire and also on the uncomplicated fire cause determination of the Lot 280 fire which nevertheless generated many hours of paperwork.

As the department members age we are hoping other community members will come forward and join us for a continuum of service to Thetis Island into the future. We are professional and well-trained, but need assistance with membership. Please consider joining us in serving our community in times of need.

Fire Chief J. Caldbeck

Thetis Island, May 18, 2013.

