

THETIS ISLAND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Forbes Hall, Thetis Island
April 28th, 2012



THETIS ISLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
Annual Report for 2011
Fire Chief's Report - Year In Review

History

The Thetis Island Volunteer Fire Department has been in operation for 29 years. Granted Letters of Patent by the Provincial Government, in December 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 fire fighters are members of the community who volunteer 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 experience as well as commitment to community service and a desire to assist neighbours in times of distress. Over the course of the twenty-nine years the department has grown and progressed through the guidance of its Fire Chiefs and Improvement District Board Members. 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 heavy. Fire equipment and apparatus, and their maintenance as well as department member training and re-certification 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, where money is tight, and where there are fewer community members willing to gift their time and energy to serve 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. Almost three decades later the Fire Department is still wrestling with this issue.

Since 2005, Jeannine Caldbeck has been Fire Chief and Graeme Shelford has been 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



In-House, Off-Island and First Responder Training

In addition to the regular weekly Wednesday evening drills at Central Hall, specialized on-island and off-island fire service training was offered to all members. January 2011 saw the department participate in

the Great British Columbia Shake Out earthquake preparedness training. Live Fire Training at the Nanaimo Fire Live Burn facility was attended by Captain Dave Tarris, FF Noah Bond and FF Gerhard Wanney in February. Paramedic/Chemainus FD Trevor Work instructed a CPR/AED Refresher course for all members in March. In April, members Caldbeck, Tarris and Milliken attended the S215 Wildfire Sprinkler Mitigation training at the Sahtlam Fire Department. Aggressive Fire Safety once again instructed a fire extinguisher clinic in May, allowing both the public and department members to refresh their extinguisher skills on a live fire. May was also the month that the Emergency Traffic Control course was given to several members of the Thetis Island VFD Auxiliary by certified instructor Caldbeck and the S100 Wildfire certification course was given to all members by Capt. Dave Tarris whom had previously been certified as an S100 Trainer. In the last weekend of May, the Combined TIVFD/Auxiliary Wildfire Drill was held. This full day training scenario incorporates wildfire extinguishment procedures, pumps and pumping evolutions, water transport, rest & rehab procedures as well as traffic control, accountability, and emergency scene management practice.



In June of 2011, Alexander Luckham instructed a several day course on High Angle Rescue techniques and procedures. This training included several hours of theory and flat-ground training before the over-the-bank training with belaying, hoisting and lowering rope systems. Luckham had previously taken the NFPA certification course in High Angle Rescue through the JIBC at the Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue

Training Weekend in 2010. In July of 2011, Caldbeck, Tarris, Milliken and Peter Luckham returned to the Salt Spring Training Weekend for a several day course in Marina Fire Fighting and Safety whilst Gagnon attended Safety Officer training at the same venue. On-island in July and August the department continued with pumps and pumping training as well as the regular Driver Training and monthly First Responder drills.



In November, Caldbeck, Tarris, Wanney, P. Luckham and Jr. FF T. Luckham attended the Vancouver Island Fire Fighters' Association Fall Training Weekend. This year the training was offered at the Western Marine Fire Fighting Facility in Cassidy and we were able to take advantage of seminars on scene management, scene safety, fire cause determination, hose handling and live fire scenarios. As members of VIFFA, we can access this valuable training at no cost to the department other than transportation costs.

Throughout the year, in-house training focused on the Basic Fire Fighter Certificate lesson plans and regular drills and Captains' drills saw SCBA and Search training, knots, ladders, hose and appliance drills, water tending and other topics related to operational procedures in the department.

The First Responder Certification Course was instructed in 2011 by Capt. Tom Milliken and was presented to candidates over a very intense two month period accumulating approximately sixty hours dedicated to medical skills. Fire Fighters Rozewicz, Wanney, Karg, Kempe, Gagnon, P. Luckham and Bond, as well as Junior FF T. Luckham passed the written, practical and skill station exams as well as Endorsement exams to become certified or re-certified as EMA-FR 3s with Spinal and AED.

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 rescue equipment. Crew Cap: 3 persons



Engine 1



Engine 2

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. An replacement output pressure manifold was installed in 2011. Crew capacity: 2 persons

Water Tender

Tender 1 (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



Rescue 1

Rescue 1 (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: 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.

TIVFD Utility Trailer

In 2009 we found a loophole in the ICBC vehicle insurance regulations and purchased a Utility Trailer (2008 Snow Bear from Costco, Nanaimo), licensed it and added decals and standard trailer hitch for under \$2,500. This addition to the “fleet” insurance dropped our vehicle registration and licensing fees from over \$5,000. to approximately \$1,600. a year.



The trailer was used several times in 2011 during work-parties and to haul extra wildfire equipment during the TIVFD/Auxiliary Combined Wildfire drill. Most notably it was used as a TIVFD “float” depicting WILDFIRE DANGER in the Annual Thetis Island Parade.

Command Vehicle

In early 2011 the department located a solid, sound 2000 Ford F250 crew cab diesel 4x4 in Texas and subsequently purchased it and drove it back to Thetis Island. We kept the original colour and added a siren, emergency lights and decals. A generous donor purchased new tires for the vehicle and we added a tow hitch to the impressive ranch bumper that came with the truck. Communications Officer Tim French also installed a fire service radio and GPS. The department is very pleased with the vehicle and it is used primarily by the Fire Chief or Duty Officer on the island for fire department business. It is also driven off-island to various training venues as a crew transport vehicle. If a police assist is required of the TIVFD, the Command Vehicle is used to transport the RCMP from the water taxi dock to their destination.



The Command Vehicle seen with the Fire Chief's portable water tank installed for the 2011 Fire Season.

Operations

Fire/Rescue

Operations for Fire and Rescue services were again fairly quiet in 2011. There were no major structure fires and most fire calls were for hydro lines down with trees on fire or illegal or out of control outdoor fires. One very dangerous illegal burn occurred during a hot, dry evening in fire season when youthful party-goers lit a 150' x 30' machine piled stack of dry branches, stumps and other coarse woody debris. The teens had no means of extinguishing the fire themselves, and were trespassing on private land.



Another near miss for wildfire on the island was a boat fire on the beach on the south side of the island, with embers threatening the dry upland grasses and bush above the beach. The boat hull was destroyed and fire cause was unable to be determined. Residents of Thetis Island continued to assist the fire department by reporting smoke sightings during fire season for the TIVFD to investigate.

There were thankfully no major MVIs (motor vehicle incidents) in 2011 although some nervous time was spent looking for a driver whom had driven into a ditch and was subsequently seen wandering down the road in a distressed state of consciousness. Another search of note was a response to a missing person on Burchill Hill with a medical problem. There was one helicopter evacuation for a near drowning victim.

The department continued to respond to requests for RCMP assists on Thetis Island by investigating 911 hang-ups for them, and transporting officers from the water taxi to various addresses on the island that required a police presence. The TIVFD has a standard procedure for these assists and other than the 911 hang-up calls, operates only as transport for the responding officers. We are not the police.



Medical

The First Responder Medical responses for 2011 began on January 3rd and the last call of the year was on Christmas Day evening for a partial amputation of the thumb during a turkey carving procedure. This was also a quiet year for FR Responses. The FR response breakdown was:

Unconscious Collapse/NYD	2
Chest Pain (cardiac)	1
Syncope	1
Upper/Lower GI Bleed	2
Dislocations	1
Abdominal Pain/NYD	3
Paediatric Burns	1
Fractures - extremities	2
Spinal Trauma	2
Hand Trauma - major wound/amputation	4
Minor Fall from height <10'	2
Head Trauma	2
Cerebral Vascular Injury	1
Seizure	2
Overdose	2
Anaphylaxis	1
Sick person/NYD	1

Near Drowning	1
Shortness of Breath	1
Assault	1
Major Trauma	1
TOTAL PAGED OUT FR RESPONSES	
	34



Hortenza Nawatzki applies her fire extinguisher skills during the 2011 Extinguisher Clinic

FIRE & LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION

Fire & Life Safety Education is of paramount importance to the TIVFD and we play a very active role in the community to this end. In 2011 we participated in both provincial Earthquake Preparedness drills, hosted the annual Fire Extinguisher Training and Clinic for residents, gave a safety workshop to Camp Columbia summer staff, promoted a residential foam system for wildfire response for homeowners, gave presentations during Fire Safety Week to the school and at Forbes Hall, gave an annual orientation to island Emergency Response procedures to the new student body at Capernwray Harbour Bible School, sponsored and participated in the popular Flu Vaccination Clinic, and attended the Thetis Island Fall Fair with a booth about pet CPR. The TIVFD also partnered with the Community Church and won a scholarship to Boston in December to attend the NFPA's conference on Burn & Fall Prevention for Seniors. The training that Chief Caldbeck and Community Church representative Donna Stadt took in Boston will be used to give group and individual presentations throughout 2012.

Residents and schoolchildren practice Stop Drop & Hold On for the Earthquake Preparedness Drill





Sparky and friend

PUBLIC ASSISTS

Non-emergency Public Assists by the TIVFD for 2011 include warning residents door to door on Kenwood Road of dangerous road ice conditions, attending to a senior's smoke alarm malfunction, attending BC Hydro lines down on road, filling the BC Ferry MV Kuper's SCBA bottles throughout the year, two Provincial Earthquake drills, several RCMP assists, attending to an abandoned vehicle blocking a road, safety/first aid duties at community events, missing person searches, assistance to residents in speeding up a Telus response to telephone lines down, traffic control and assistance at a stalled vehicle incident, assessing a wood chip pile for possible spontaneous combustion, assisting a confused resident, and responding to minor first aid requests. The Fire Department also brought Engine 2 for "stand by" at the community cemetery for a grounds clean-up burn. The TIVFD permit pager was activated April 1st and decommissioned October 31st and during the activation period a Duty Officer was available 8 hrs./day

and seven days per week to grant Burn Permits, inspect burn piles and incinerators, and to assist with questions or concerns.

WORK PARTIES & PROJECTS



Even the Fire Chief wields a broom

The monthly Duty Driver/ Apparatus Maintenance duties were attended to by most members of the department. FF Wanney, in particular, was vigilant in making sure that Engine 2's post-trip inspections were completed upon the vehicle's return to the Pilkey Point hall after weekly drills. All other apparatus are staged at Central Hall on Mission Road with the exception of the Command Vehicle. Fire Department Work Parties this year included clearing large trees from around Central Hall to better comply with Fire Smart risk reduction strategies in an interface area. Central Fire Hall neighbour Bill Dickie donated his time and tractor to move the large logs for us, and Capernwray Harbour Bible School staff member James Reimer brought their tractor over to spread the large chip pile that was created during cleanup of the boughs and branches. Klahowya Road resident Tom Lee excavated his pond during the dry spell which

allowed fire department members to place an even deeper intake for the dry hydrant at the corner of Klahowya and Pilkey Point Roads. During fire season, a 2.5 inch fire service line was laid from the Hollyberry Lane Strata's pond pump to the main driveway for quick access for the Tender if needed. Captains Tarris and Luckham and FFs Milliken and P. Luckham spent many hours on the huge project to change out the old water discharge manifold from Engine 2 with a fabricated replacement. Capt. Luckham and his father FF P. Luckham also installed a compressor hose in the main apparatus bay for efficient tire inflation. Several other work parties were held throughout the year for maintenance of fire department equipment and buildings which added up to hundreds of volunteer man-hours of labour. The dedication of our volunteer fire fighters to keeping the department running efficiently and meeting Provincial and Federal standards for Fire Service agencies is outstanding.



FF Ken Karg and Comms Officer Tim French monitor water tending procedures

TIVFD/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The Annual TICS vs TIVFD soccer match was again a success for both the children, who won the game, and the fire department, who sustained no major injuries. The TIVFD Auxiliary Team came out to support all players with refreshments and cheers. The TIVFD also figured prominently in the Annual May Parade, with all apparatus spiffed up and an educational float featuring Aux. member Hortenza Nawatzki as a wildfire flame in a smoke-filled forest of fir boughs. The TIVFD Executive attended the Emergency Preparedness meeting sponsored by the ESS group on-island, and also set up and participated in the VIHA Influenza Vaccination Clinic at Forbes Hall. The residents and Fire Department have become extremely efficient in moving people through the process at the Flu Shot Clinic and the VIHA nurses were able to vaccinate 75 people in under an hour with time to catch the last morning ferry off the island. Again, the TIVFD Auxiliary provided home-baked goodies and coffee service for post-vaccination participants. This clinic is so well organized and attended that VIHA has put the TIVFD on a permanent list for this annual event.



The TICS vs HOSERS annual trophy cup soccer match, annually won by the TICS team

Other community activities included the annual Hallowe'en Patrol whereby one of the FD vehicles patrols the island roads in the early evening of October 31st to be immediately available if assistance is needed by kids and parents out trick-or-treating.

The TIVFD submits an article on fire department activities for each Thetis Island Quarterly newsletter to keep readers apprised of fire department activities. We also use e-Spokes, the electronic bulletin board for Thetis Island to promote safety messages and alert subscribers to upcoming fire department events.

We were honoured to be able to participate in the wedding ceremony of TIVFD FF Ken Karg and his spouse Vicki, held at Capernwray Harbour Bible School where both of them are staff members.



The Thetis Island Improvement District, on behalf of the taxpayer of Thetis Island, funds the annual November TIVFD Appreciation Dinner, where individual fire department members are recognized for training achievements and contributions to the department and the community. Retired Fire Chiefs, honoured guests, and partners of the fire fighters join the members in a social evening of good food and laughter. At this event the fire fighters are also presented with individual honouraria cheques to partially compensate for fuel consumption when responding to emergency call-outs or training drills, based on the number of responses a member attends. This is the only “compensation” a TIVFD fire fighter receives for the many hours of volunteer service and 24/7 readiness to respond.

NEW EQUIPMENT

New equipment for the fire department included two more sets of new ISI SCBA units as part of the ongoing replacement of the outdated units that had been purchased used when the department was formed. New NFPA and WorkSafe BC requirements demand that fire departments comply with new

standards on safety and the TIVFD has an active programme to replace substandard equipment as funding becomes available.

We also received several generous donations for specific items this year that were needed by the department but not in the budget. A new set of aggressive tires for the Command Vehicle was paid for by an anonymous but much appreciated ex-member of the department. Capernwray Harbour Bible School completed the funding of the Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC) that they underwrote in 2010. And a grateful visitor to the island who had occasion to use the services of the First Responders donated the funds for our new “mule wheel”. The mule wheel will allow us to carry a stretcher much more efficiently and safely over rough terrain.



The new Mule Wheel

Other much appreciated donations were used for minor equipment purchases such as maintenance hand tools and a cupboard unit for mugs and coffee service paraphernalia,.

We also received a donation from the Region 1 Forestry Base at Cobble Hill in the form of a new sign to replace the very old wildfire message at the ferry dock. We refurbished the old fire department hazard

board at the same time, and the new signage now greets residents and visitors alike with a newer look and ability to change messages.



CHIEF OFFICERS' ACTIVITIES

Chief Caldbeck and Deputy Chief Shelford continued to be active in both the Fire Chiefs' Association of BC meetings and Cowichan Valley Fire Chiefs Association meetings. In the CVFCA both Caldbeck and Shelford sat on the CVFCA Constitution Committee. Caldbeck was again re-elected Vice President of the Association for 2011. Shelford made a presentation to the FCABC proposing the use of non-OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) components for Fire Service SCBA, drawing a comparison to the non-OEM parts approval process in the aviation industry. This proposal was adopted by the FCABC at the Annual Conference.

Caldbeck completed the week-long ICS 400 course in Victoria and is now qualified to assist in Provincial Emergency Scene Management activities at the top levels.

Shelford continued to update the department's administrative software and working with the software manufacturer was able to customize the programme to better suit our needs.

Caldbeck was able to locate and donate particular brass hose fittings of a vintage needed by the Alberta foundry contracted to fabricate the new Canadian Fallen Firefighters' Memorial to be unveiled in Ottawa at the Parliament Buildings in September, 2012. Part of the Thetis Island VFD's history will now be a permanent part of the memorial statue.

2011 TIVFD PERSONNEL

We were sad to accept the resignation of Captain Alexander Luckham in the Spring of 2011 when he moved off-island for an employment opportunity. FF Tom Milliken accepted the responsibilities of Acting Captain in his place, and Capt. Dave Tarris took over Alexander's extra duties of small engine maintenance. Gerhard Wanney joined the department and brought with him many skills, not the least being his Class 1 drivers' licence.

2011 TIVFD PERSONNEL	
 <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 5px;">Jeannine Caldbeck</p>	<p>Fire Chief Jeannine Caldbeck</p> <p>L AFC, Primary Care Paramedic</p> <p>First Responder Instructor/Evaluator</p> <p>Fire Prevention Officer</p> <p>FCABC., CVFCA (VP)</p> <p>Joined 1996</p> <p>Chief Officer since 2005</p>
 <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 5px;">Graeme Shelford</p>	<p>Deputy Chief Graeme Shelford</p> <p>L AFC, First Responder</p> <p>Fire Prevention Officer</p> <p>FCABC, CVFCA</p> <p>Joined 1999</p> <p>Deputy Chief Officer since 2005</p>

 <p>Dave Tarris</p>	<p>Captain David Tarris</p> <p>Training Officer, First Responder</p> <p>Department Vehicle Maintenance</p> <p>Joined 2004</p>
	<p>Captain Alexander Luckham</p> <p>Assistant Training Officer, First Responder</p> <p>Small Engine Maintenance</p> <p>Joined 2005</p> <p>Retired 2011</p>
 <p>Tom Milliken</p>	<p>Captain Tom Milliken</p> <p>Assistant Training Officer, First Responder</p> <p>Instructor & Evaluator</p> <p>First Responder</p> <p>Joined 2008</p>

 <p>Tim French</p>	<p>Sr. Fire Fighter Tim French</p> <p>Communications Officer</p> <p>Fire Hall Maintenance Officer</p> <p>Past TIVFD Fire Chief</p> <p>Joined 1997</p>
 <p>John Stadt</p>	<p>Sr. Fire Fighter John Stadt</p> <p>Base Station Operator</p> <p>Joined 1998</p>
 <p>Alex Rozewicz</p>	<p>Sr. Fire Fighter Alex Rozewicz</p> <p>First Responder</p> <p>Social Committee Chair</p> <p>Joined 1998</p>

	<p>Sr. Fire Fighter Ken Youds</p> <p>Joined 2001</p>
	<p>Fire Fighter Patrick Mooney</p> <p>Thetis Island Quarterly Reporter</p> <p>Joined 2003</p>
	<p>Fire Fighter Matt Hess</p> <p>First Responder</p> <p>Barista, Canteen Supplies</p> <p>Joined 2005</p>

	<p>Fire Fighter Noah Bond</p> <p>First Responder</p> <p>Joined 2007</p>
	<p>Fire Fighter Grant Babin</p> <p>Assistant First Responder Instructor & Evaluator</p> <p>First Responder</p> <p>Water Supply Officer</p> <p>Joined 2008</p>
	<p>Fire Fighter Peter Luckham</p> <p>First Responder</p> <p>Safety Committee</p> <p>Joined 2009</p>

 <p>Denis Gagnon</p>	<p>Fire Fighter Denis Gagnon</p> <p>First Responder</p> <p>TIVFD Safety Officer</p> <p>Safety Committee</p> <p>Joined 2009</p>
 <p>Ken Karg</p>	<p>Fire Fighter Ken Karg</p> <p>First Responder</p> <p>Joined 2010</p>
 <p>Ralf Kempe</p>	<p>Fire Fighter Ralf Kempe</p> <p>First Responder</p> <p>Joined 2010</p>

	<p>Fire Fighter Gerhard Wanney</p> <p>First Responder</p> <p>Engine 2 Duty Driver</p> <p>Joined 2011</p>
	<p>Junior Fire Fighter Tegan Luckham</p> <p>First Responder</p> <p>Joined 2010</p>

BOB CHALLENGER AWARD 2011: Captain David Tarris

CHIEF'S AWARD 2011: Captain Alexander Luckham

ACCOUNTABILITY

The Thetis Island Volunteer Fire Department conducts all fire, medical, and rescue operations under the guidance of our standard operating guidelines (SOGs). The Thetis Island Volunteer Fire Department SOGs have historically been a compilation of training protocols and management memos but we are actively engaged in amalgamating and codifying these into a coherent document as required by WorkSafe

BC and BC Fire Service standards. The SOGs are constantly updated and input is derived from but not limited to the following regulations and agencies:

- Thetis Island Improvement District Fire By-Law 53 (2010)
- Thetis Island Improvement District Service Capacity Policy (final) 2008
- WorkSafe BC Regulation part 31: Fire Fighting
- Fire Services Act (RSBC 1996)
- Wildfire Act (SBC 2004)
- Wildfire Act - Wildfire Regulation (updated March 6, 2009)
- Office of the Fire Commissioner British Columbia
- Motor Vehicle Act
- Federal Bill C-45
- NFPA (National Fire Protection Association)
- BCAS (British Columbia Ambulance Service)
- Emergency Medical Assistant Licensing Board

CLOSING STATEMENT

The dedicated and service-minded volunteer members of the TIVFD are a breed apart. They allow our community to make huge demands on their time and energy to train for and respond to a myriad of fire, medical and public assist emergencies and issues. Their families allow them to drill and train weekly and on special training weekends, to drop whatever they are doing at home or interrupting sleep in the middle of the night to leave when the pager goes off. Their on-island employers allow them to leave work when an emergency occurs, with no financial penalty. Self-employed members donate their work loss funds to the community when they respond in the middle of a job.

Recruitment and retention of fire department members is a major issue in the Fire Service today, in towns, villages and rural areas all across North America. Our younger generations are not seeing the value of volunteering, and have huge demands on their time from other activities they deem a higher priority. Many Boomers expect some sort of government organization to take care of the daily running of a community and demand service but leave it up to others to do the heavy lifting. It is in this climate that the Thetis Island Volunteer Fire Department members deliver a professional and compassionate service to our islanders and visitors. The few serve the many. As the members age, they continue their loyal

service in hopes that there will be up-and-coming islanders to share the load. In return, new members will receive great training, friendship, and a life experience that is like no other. We hope there will be new members to take up this valuable challenge. Please consider volunteering as a Thetis Island fire fighter.

I want to publicly acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the TIVFD members in 2012. You are glowing stars in my universe. I also wish to thank the residents of Thetis Island whom supported us throughout the year, and for your unflagging vigilance in keeping our island community free from wild-fire for another fire season. And thanks also to the 2011 Thetis Island Improvement District Board Members... they were a pleasure to work with in keeping the Department running smoothly and efficiently.

Jeannine Caldbeck

Fire Chief

April 28th, 2012