

June 2006

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Treasurer - Sarah Hanna
Secretary - Katie Watson

Group Coordinators

David Langley - Kevin Kennedy - Bob Ostiguy - Bill Baines - Kevin Wing - Jeff Giesbrecht - Todd Walter

Gambier Fire Equipment Group News

By Stu Watson

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PUTTING \$ CONTRIBUTIONS TO WORK

Last year 70 families supported the Gambier Fire Equipment Group with contributions of \$7,320. This money, together with a grant from SCR D, enabled us to expand community owned fire equipment to a much higher level of preparedness than has been seen in the past.



Your new equipment trailer is always open and ready to be towed by anyone driving a vehicle fitted with either a 2" or 1-7/8" tow-ball hitch. In addition to the trailer, you will need to find a good supply of water and you may want to seek help from neighbors experienced in assembling and using this equipment --acquired from attending our regular fire practises during the summer season.



We were also able to raise enough money to acquire a 5,500 watt generator with four stands of twin 500 watt flood lights, as illustrated. These will be ideal for illuminating the site surrounding night-time incidents.

The generator and lamps are stored in my (Stu Watson's) workshop.



Our smaller trailer has been re-equipped with foam gear. This one has better clearance over rough ground and can travel the tortuous trail to West Bay Landing. Our thanks go to Earl Butcher for use of a gate access key to make this possible.



Acquisition of new fire fighting equipment in the Fire Shed (above) at the Community Centre was made possible by a grant from a foundation that supports burn victims. Upon hearing that our Hall's fire equipment was outdated and that children sleep here on overnight excursions, they sent us a \$6,000 grant to upgrade it. A grant condition is that this equipment be portable and available for use elsewhere in the community, provided the Hall is not put at risk. Can you identify everything in this photo? (Refresh your memory at a practise!)

SOURCES OF WATER FOR FIREFIGHTING

One of the challenges facing our community is access to water for fire fighting. Water conservation is one of the reasons we adopted foam fire fighting equipment. This arose from research showing that fire control is achieved sooner and with reduced water volumes when water is mixed with foam concentrate. Your equipment converts one gallon of water into ten gallons of foam. This adheres to vertical surfaces and starves a fire of oxygen. Then, as the bubbles break down into soapy water, it gains superior penetration into the "fuel" and reduces re-ignition risks. Foam's effectiveness is said to be 2-3 times better than water alone. But this can only work if each of us store adequate volumes of water on our properties for fire fighting purposes. Foam is safe to use, environmentally friendly, biodegradable, etc.

SEAWATER is considered a source of supply for some waterfront properties. However, issues to be dealt with include intake pipes that may fail due to corrosion or to blockage by marine growth. An alternative is a pump mounted on a fixed dock or wharf. But the reality of pump physics is that they can only draught water up from about 25 feet (and lose efficiency after 10ft). Since we have 16ft tides here, any fixed dock installation is usually set too high above low water mark to be used as a pump platform. (This is a drawback for the small fire truck in West Bay Landing. It has no access to drive-on docks and since it was designed for use with 3" hydrants, its usefulness is somewhat limited.) Pumps located lower down on an anchored float obviously work just fine. But as with any seawater service machinery, salt corrosion soon becomes a serious issue.

STATIC FRESH WATER STORAGE seems to be the preferred option. Prior to 40 years ago, most structures were built where wells could be hand dug for supplying domestic and fire fighting water. Wells like this are ideal if they do not dry out in summer. The subsequent arrival of drilled well technology on Gambier allowed folks to build in more arid and rocky locations, but initially that did little for fire fighting water supplies because deep well pumps cannot deliver the volumes needed for firefighting. But drilled wells are good for filling water storage tanks.

So those with drilled wells should consider installing 2,000 gallon water tanks. Typically these tanks can be tastefully camouflaged by good gardening. In this illustration, you will note two outlets with taps and 1-1/2" camlock adapters. These adapters are our standard connector for the island and any fire pump intake belonging to or supplied by the Group will connect to this in seconds. Two pumps operating with 30gpm foam nozzles will drain such a tank in half an hour after putting 20,000 gallons of foam onto a fire.



STANDARDS FOR FITTINGS & PUMPS ON GAMBIER

We will all benefit if the size and design of your personal equipment connections are consistent with your community-owned gear. Since 1980 GFEG has standardized on 1-1/2" fittings, as used by BC Forestry. If you choose to follow this lead, risks can be reduced. We will be pleased to assist with any conversions.

Group fire hoses are all pressure rated to 150psi. This means that the maximum shut-off pressure on a pump used with them must not exceed this or the hoses might explode. GFEG foam pumps are rated at 150psi. But some homeowners have acquired 1-1/2" hoses that look similar to GFEG hoses, but are actually rated for lower pressures. If there is any doubt about pressure ratings on your hoses, please ask us to test them for you to determine if they are safe to use with Group pumps. So the GFEG standards are: Pumps not to exceed 150psi at shut-off and hoses must be rated for at least 150psi.

Connector standards are 1-1/2" camlock adapters on pump intakes; 1-1/2" camlock couplings for our intake hoses and 1-1/2" quick release forestry couplings for pump outlets, hoses and nozzles.

DAVEY FOAM PUMPS can maintain the high pressure and volume needed for generating excellent quality foam through your air aspirating nozzles (the yellow tubes). This pump should be positioned near to the area that you want to apply foam to as is safe and practicable -- say within 200ft (i.e. two rolls of fire hose). From here you can smother an area with foam so as to prevent the fire from spreading -- your primary objective.

But oddly enough, while the Davey is an excellent high pressure pump, admirably suited to our needs, its ability to self-prime quickly is not as good as it might be. However, the Davey is terrific when working with a water tank (assuming the water level is higher than the pump). But when access to a water tank is not possible, experience reveals that you can get to foam eduction mode faster, and with less hassle, if you supply water to it from a draught pump located down at your water supply.



Davey Pump OTS-93216C by Gormann Rupp with a Honda 6.5hp engine. Pumps 66gpm and develops 360ft of head = 156psi List price \$2,500 without mounts



The Honda WH15x pump is a good draught pump. With a 4hp engine it pumps 115gpm US and develops 164ft of head = 71psi. List price \$769 without frame or wheels

DRAUGHT PUMPS are used to supply water to foam pumps when distance from water sources, and elevations to the fire scene, are such that a boost to water supply is advisable. A draught pump must be able to self-prime quickly and be able to draw water up from 25 feet below the pump. Draught pumps should supply a slightly greater volume of water than the foam pump can consume when it is going "flat-out".

One of the best draught pumps in your inventory is the Honda WH15x. These Hondas do not generate enough pressure for foam generation, but they are excellent water "suckers" and good starters.

Some homeowners on Gambier have bought either this or the corresponding 2" version (WH20x). Both are well suited to firefighting with plain water. With the right fittings, they can be quickly adapted to a draught pump role.

CONNECTING DRAUGHT PUMPS TO DAVEY FOAM PUMPS - At practises we train to supply the intake side of the Davey foam pump with water from one, or more draught pumps -- assuming there is no water tank nearby. For example, we might put a draught pump on the beach with the intake floating out just below the surface to prevent ingestion of sand and gravel (very important). The draught pump will move water up the beach and cliff. Then, perhaps rising another 80-100 feet in elevation and after covering about 300 horizontal feet, we may need to overcome a declining flow rate. So we add another draught pump "in series" to boost the pressure for the next leg. After say another 300ft and some more elevation, we may be close enough to the fire to connect to the Davy foam pump. To make these connections, every Group pump is equipped with an adapter that connects a forestry hose coupling to the camlock intake adapter on the pump.



This picture shows the pump's yellow camlock adapter (left), the camlock coupler-to-forestry adapter in my right hand (middle) and the forestry fire hose connector in my left hand. When connected in series, only the bottom draught pump at the water supply needs to be primed. We then start the uphill in-series pumps only after the bottom pump has started to push water up the hose to prime them.

FOAM NOZZLES

A 50gpm foam nozzle is only used when water volume is plentiful. Your 30gpm nozzle (illustrated with foam back-pack) is for normal use with fresh water supplies. If water is in really short supply, you may want to scale down to your smaller nozzle rated at 15gpm. You also have some 8gpm units mounted on 5 litre jugs that will operate with lower pressure draught pumps. But hey are only suited for grass fires or small flare-ups when it is safe to get quite close.



GFEG - WHAT WE ARE AND WHAT WE ARE NOT

The Gambier Fire Equipment Group (GFEG) was established in 1980 by neighbors for the purpose of acquiring and training in the use of fire suppression equipment and to which we contribute money and/or time for that purpose. Out of our equipment fund we acquire group-owned equipment that ordinarily we would not be willing, or able to acquire individually.

Our aim is purely to be a self-help group and we do not either individually or collectively undertake or hold ourselves out to be available for, or to respond to, calls for fire, accident or health related incidents either within the GFEG or to the Gambier Island Community at large. In other words, we are not, either individually or collectively, trained fire fighters or a volunteer fire department.

The purpose of our equipment is to provide each of us with access to fire suppression equipment that we can operate ourselves. Our equipment is comprised of pumps and hoses intended for our own use. It does not include flame resistant clothing, firefighters' turn-out gear, or breathing apparatus. We recognize that the most likely application and value of our group-owned equipment will be to provide us with tools that may help us to contain a fire from spreading to or from the forest, or to other property. We are each of us responsible only to ourselves for being familiar with the function and use of our equipment and the current state of its condition and maintenance.

DOES THE GFEG ENTITLE US TO GET "PROTECTED AREA" FIRE INSURANCE?

Gambier Island is not a protected area as insurance companies define it. We do not have the population of trained young people able to act as volunteers, nor the budget to pay for an accredited, fully trained Volunteer Fire Department with 24 hours coverage 365 days a year. Sorry, but one of the prices we pay for the quiet isolation, peace and serenity of Gambier is high insurance premiums. A modest voluntary annual contribution to GFEG just may help you and your neighbors to protect yourselves from fire. But it will not reduce the cost of your fire insurance coverage.

ASSISTANCE FROM BC FOREST SERVICES

Helicopters with buckets and Water Bombers with larger water loads are some of the firefighting tools available to the Sunshine Coast Zone BC Forest Protection Office.

The Wildfire Act requires anyone who sees an open fire that is in forest land or grassland and that appears to be unattended or uncontrolled, must immediately report the fire to an official employed by the forest service, a peace officer, or by calling a fire emergency response telephone number. This should clarify that there should not be any delay in reporting a fire. Our provincial emergency number is 1-800-663-5555 or on cell *5555. Our local Forestry Fire Warden, in Gambier's New Brighton, is Bill Errico (Jr) at 604-886-2871. If you cannot reach him, call *5555 immediately.

As to what kind of resources you can expect, Rick Machowski, Zone Forest Protection Officer for Sunshine Coast Sechelt Fire Base says they will respond with the appropriate resource needed to extinguish a fire; this could include helicopters or air tankers. They would ensure the fire is extinguished. The only possible exception would be if the fire was in a remote area and inaccessible due to firefighters' safety, then they would continue with controlling and containing the fire with aircraft until the weather extinguishes the fire, or becomes accessible for ground crews to safely action and extinguish the fire.

When it comes to recreational versus commercial private property, there is no difference between the basic responsibilities of the landowner. A forest official will instruct and clarify to the landowner his basic responsibility. As a rule, if the landowner did not cause the fire, and complied with the Wildfire Act and

regulations, Rick says he would expect the province would not seek compensation for its cost to fight and extinguish the fire. In the case of a landowner who was determined (through a fire cause investigation) that he was negligent or in non-compliance with the Wildfire Act and regulations, then the province may pursue compensation for its cost. This web site at <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/protect/> has a wealth of information including the Wildfire Act and regulations.

BURN BAN SEASON

Between Halloween and Easter, use common sense and have yourself a good winter bonfire any time that it seems safe to do so. Between Easter and Halloween, consult the BC Forest Service Warden, Bill Errico (604-886-2871) for "open burning" permission. If BC Forestry judges the fire risk to be low, he'll likely give you the nod to proceed. But he'd be happier if you had some fire equipment to hand, just in case. A Scotty garden-hose homeowner foam kit set up nearby would be a good precaution.

Campfires and burn barrels are generally OK without asking permission in summer until the fire risk goes too high. Please watch the notice boards for current fire risk information. Under certain circumstances, campfires on the beach at low tide below current high water mark are considered less dangerous than other locations. But in any event, keep them small and try to use fuel that will not send sparks flying into the air and floating away.... If the fire risk is high, nothing is allowed under any circumstances.

BC Ferries personnel are always watching from their ships. If they see a fire out of burn season, they report it to Forestry who in turn makes a call to Bill Errico to determine if it was authorized. If the fire was not approved and it then gets out of hand, the consequences can be serious.

HOMEOWNER'S FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE - SMALL FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

This small fire extinguisher is a squeezable plastic bottle of A-B-C rated powder known as "FIREBAN". Keep a bottle beside your stove-top, on your workbench or in your chainsaw kit and use it snuff out a flare-up before it spreads. Cooks prefer to use this for saucepan fires as they don't run the risk of covering the entire kitchen with fire retardant powder.



Some folks like to keep one in the glove box of their island vehicle just in case the old girl starts smokin' a bit too much under the hood!

Be sure to give it a shake to loosen up the powder periodically. This is the same stuff as is used in wall mounted powder extinguishers and its tendency to harden up reminds you how important it is to shake all of them loose as often as possible.

FIREBAN squeeze bottles can be purchased through GFEG at \$7.50 each, or three for \$20. Email, or call me with an order now, or see our display at the Gambier Fair on August 5th.

HOMEOWNER'S SECOND LINE OF DEFENSE - REGULAR FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Your second line of defense should be 5lb Class A-B-C rated fire extinguishers. Locate them near each exterior exit door, with some upstairs as well -- all in clearly visible positions. Performance is a range of 5-20ft of reach, but **they rarely last more than 20 seconds!** Servicing of the powder type extinguisher should be carried out whenever the clocks change in both spring and fall. (When did you last do your's?) Take the extinguisher outside and turn it upside down. Then bang it gently against a tree, or use a rubber hammer, several times to loosen the powder load. Shake it well for about a minute to ensure the contents are loose and flopping about inside. (If you forget to do this, the unit may blow out propellant with no retardant). Finally, check the pressure gauge to be sure it is in the green "normal" zone.



Another excellent fire extinguisher is the pressurized 2-1/2 gallon water & foam unit illustrated here. It is made of stainless steel and weighs about

25lbs. This is a self-propelled extinguisher powered by compressed air -- meaning it will work in a power cut when your garden hose may not. It will send a stream of foamy water about 30-40 feet, declining as pressure drops. You will get about **30-60 seconds of life from one fill**. However, only use it on Class "A" materials -- ordinary combustibles. Don't use it on flammable liquid (Class B), electrical fires (Class C) or combustible metals (Class D). This unit can be acquired through GFEG for \$120 including taxes. We will provide annual inspections and refills/recharges free to contributors if you bring it to my workshop by prior arrangement. It uses 2-1/2 gallons of water, a cup of Class "A" foam concentrate and is pre-charged to 100psi from a compressor.

THIRD LINE OF DEFENSE – SCOTTY HOMEOWNER GARDEN HOSE FOAM KIT



If extinguishers do not knock the fire down, you'll doubtless call neighbours to bring some GFEG equipment. In the meantime, you need a third line of defense while folks get organized, and get connected to water. This takes time and you don't want to just stand there helplessly watching things burn. So grab your Scotty homeowner kit; connect it to your garden hose; and do what you can without getting injured.

A "Scotty Firefighter" 3gpm kit will spray foam using your garden hose. We have used these units successfully at 15psi. But if your domestic water pump can deliver a normal 30-60 psi it will perform even better (the foam is more foamy and it goes further). This unit will give you **half an hour of continuous usage** per 5 litre jug of foam concentrate at 30psi. Cost through GFEG to contributors is \$100 per kit with refills available at \$30 per 5 litre jug. Every household on Gambier would be safer with one or more of these at strategic locations -- especially when you are having a bonfire. If frozen, they

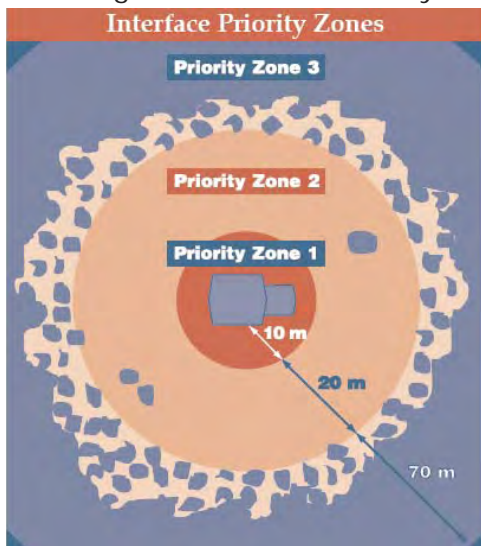
will not work (of course), but after thawing, they work just fine if not split open by frost. We usually have a few in stock, so do let us know if you would like one to try out with your water pressure.

WILDFIRE LINES OF DEFENSE

The BC FireSmart program is detailed in a useful booklet from the BC Ministry of Forests and downloadable from <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/protect/>. From my own visits to numerous properties on Gambier over the last 20 years, the section of this booklet with greatest meaning for many of us talks about site preparation and maintenance around our buildings in a forest interface setting.

Any kind of vegetation is combustible. Mature trees, shrubs, grass, even your woodpile, are all potential fuels and can easily ignite (increasing the chance of building ignition and loss.) Managing the space around your house and buildings is of prime importance.

This diagram shows the Priority Zones surrounding an interface building or group of buildings. The first 10 meters of space around your home is your "First Priority". It's the most critical area to consider for fire protection. A good fuel free space gives you a chance to save your home from an advancing fire. A home without a good fuel free space around it can make firefighting difficult, if not impossible.



What to do? Remove any shrubs, trees, deadfall or woodpiles from this area and keep your grass mowed and watered.

From 10 to 30 meters out from your home is the second priority zone. In this zone, you need to reduce fuels by thinning and pruning so that combustion cannot be supported.

The third priority zone begins 30 meters from any structure and extends to a distance of 100 meters and beyond. The idea here is not to remove all combustible fuels from the forest, but to thin the area so fires will be of low intensity and more easily extinguished.

Place any propane tanks as far away from any fuel as possible - especially buildings. They are designed to "vent" if they get hot. When venting close to a fire, that fire will become much bigger.

"GEL" AS A PREVENTIVE LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST WILDFIRE

Aqueous Firefighting "Gel" is designed to be sprayed onto a structure, as a preventive coating, for use in wooded country like ours' if advancing wildfire is an imminent concern. Thermo-Gel®200L is a water gelling agent that aids water in structure protection, fire suppression and retardation. It is a liquid concentrate, designed to mix quickly with water and work with a garden hose eductor nozzle. Gel provides an effective thermal barrier against direct flame impingement, radiant heat, burning embers, and flying brands (provided it is periodically misted with water to stop it drying out). Thermo-Gel®200L is an approved fire chemical with the USDA Forest Service for use with ground engines. It is also being adopted this year by BC Forestry for use in helicopter operations. Gel is non-toxic, biodegradable and safe for use on trees and vegetation.



With a garden hose and the 6 litre jug kit pictured, "gel" can be applied to the sides, decks, roofs, soffits and window frames to protect structures in the path of advancing wildfire. (Use fresh water only - sea water was not successful in our Gambier tests.) Cost of a jug of Thermo-Gel with applicator, as pictured, has been reduced this year to \$105 plus taxes and shipping (a refill is \$75). The jug provides about 750 sq feet of coverage. A box of four jugs with one applicator (3,000 sq. ft coverage) is priced at \$329.95 plus taxes and shipping. Think of this potential investment as a one-time fire insurance premium. If you do not use it this year, it will be there for next year and so on. Buy it once and hope you never use it! Go to <http://www.rghpacific.com/thermo/index.html> for more info.

WHERE TO FIND YOUR EQUIPMENT IN SUMMER OR WINTER

Your primary equipment trailer is stored at the 3-way junction of the roads to West Bay, New Brighton and Gambier Harbour. This utility trailer contains two foam attack line pump units, with draught pumps, 1,500ft of hose and all necessary ancillary equipment. Our smaller red trailer contains one foam attack line kit, including a draught pump, and is located beside the Anavets Memorial Park. A similar foam attack line kit is stored in the original 1980 Mary Rd Fire Shed in Gambier Harbour, near the wharf. (Please note that we are no longer storing equipment in the shed over the well in Gambier Harbour's Shy Rd.) The Gambier Community Centre Fire Shed in New Brighton contains a 350gpm fixed pump for the Hall and a portable foam attack kit with a full range of equipment - as pictured on page 1. For West Bay, we are planning to purchase a trailer equipped with one foam attack line kit that will hopefully be located somewhere near the junction of The Grove Rd and West Bay Rd.

In winter, shortly after Remembrance Day, our foam supplies are moved from the trailers and sheds into heated storage. The two storage depots for foam supplies are the Fire Shed at The Hall in New Brighton and in my workshop in Gambier Harbour. Response to a fire in winter means hitching up to a trailer; going to a heated depot to collect foam; then going on to a fire scene. Incidentally, both Katie and I are now year-round Gambier residents, so access to equipment in our workshop will not be an issue.

PLANS FOR 2006 BUDGET ACQUISITIONS

Your equipment inventory is in excellent shape. Our finances are healthy and our 2006 Budget is an optimistic \$20,000. Our biggest need at the moment is to resolve deteriorating pressure problems on seven of our older draught pumps arising from corrosion and wear. They are all old 2-stroke engines and notorious as unreliable starters. Replacement with modern 4-stroke pumps -- possibly Honda WH15x units, or a similar pump by Tsurumi (powered by Honda) is planned from contributions.

Your coordinators have prioritized a 2006 plan to acquire a new trailer for West Bay and to equip it with a Davey foam pump, plus a draught pump with ancillary equipment. A portion of the SCRD 2006 Grant-in-Aid from Area E & F (\$10,000 in total) will fund this investment. Another portion of the grant will be allocated to West Bay Landing following assessment of an appropriate fire protection strategy for that area. Finally, if funds permit, a longer range plan to begin installing a pilot fire-water storage tank on public property may be able to get underway.

2005 FINANCIALS

Summary of financial operations for the 12 months 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005

	Acquisitions & Expenses	Contributions & Donations	Cash Reserves
Opening Bank Balance 1 January 2005			\$ 12.80
Contributions (70)		\$ 7,630.00	
Fire Losses with donations to cover from GICA & Smedleys	\$ 1,278.17	1,354.75	
Trailer and Equipment purchased primarily with SCRD Grant-in-Aid	11,982.73	10,000.00	
Equipment purchased for Hall with charitable donations	6,271.18	6,271.18	
Equipment acquired by Contributors through GFEG for own use	-	15,606.99	
Total Equipment Purchases and Maintenance Expenses	19,004.07	-	
Insurance for Trailers	172.00	-	
Bank Interest	-	1.73	
10% Refund on sale of Thermogel consignment stock	-	63.80	
Closing Bank Balance @ 31 December 2005			\$ 2,233.10

2006 REMAINING PRACTISE SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Location	Event
25 Jun - Sun	11am	West Bay Landing	Equipment Practise
02 Jul - Sun	11am	West Bay Wharf	Equipment Practise
09 Jul - Sun	11am	Gambier Harbour Wharf	Women Only Equipment Practise
16 Jul - Sun	11am	Lionsview Estates	Equipment Practise
23 Jul - Sun	11am	Community Centre	Children over 10yrs (parents too)
05 Aug - Sat	10am	Gambier Fair	GFEG display & sale items
06 Aug - Sun	11am	Community Centre	Gambier Community Centre Society Directors & Members
20 Aug - Sun	11am	Austin Trails	Equipment Practise
02 Sep - Sat	6pm	Watsons' Gambier Hbr.	Wine & Cheese get-together

THANK YOU

In closing, my thanks go out to those of you who participated and contributed to our Group's successful growth last year. In particular, thanks to David Langley & Bob Ostiguy, without whom the huge 2005 practise load could not have been accomplished. Assistance and guidance in planning the 2006 program from Scott & Sarah Hanna, Kevin Kennedy, Katie Watson, along with David Langley & Bob Ostiguy has been invaluable. And our preliminary work with Jeff Giesbrecht and Todd Walter augers well for the Group's planned expansion to enhance fire protection for our neighbors in West Bay Landing/Center Bay.

To help us keep up the good work, please complete and send in the Registration & Contribution Form that accompanies this newsletter. We can't make this happen without you!

Have a safe summer and we'll hope to see you all at practises!

The "Gambier Fire Equipment Group News" is written and produced by Stu Watson. Assistance in proof reading and editing was provided by Katie Watson, David Langley, Bob Ostiguy, David Moxon & Jeff Giesbrecht -- these guys really rock!

Gambier Fire Equipment Group

Registration & Contribution Form - 2006

The purpose of this form is to provide information that will enable Group coordinators to keep you informed of equipment practises; to generate a Call-Out Tree; to identify each other's property; and to enable us to contact you, or your alternate, if a problem occurs while you are off-island.

Names of Property Owners/Residents	Gambier Phone	Cell Phone	Other Phone
1.			
2.			
Alternate Emergency Contact.			

Gambier street name with house number: _____

Canada Post Mailing Addresses	E-mail addresses

By signing below I acknowledge that the Gambier Fire Equipment Group has been established by neighbors for the purpose of acquiring and training in the use of fire suppression equipment and to which we contribute money and/or time for that purpose. Out of our equipment fund we acquire group-owned equipment that ordinarily we would not be willing, or able to acquire individually.

*Our aim is purely to be a self-help group and we do not either individually or collectively undertake or hold ourselves out to be available for, or to respond to, calls for fire, accident or health related incidents either within the GFEG or to the Gambier Island Community at large. **In other words, we are not, either individually or collectively, trained fire fighters or a volunteer fire department.***

The purpose of our equipment is to provide each of us with access to fire suppression equipment that we can operate ourselves. Our equipment is comprised of pumps and hoses intended for our own use. It does not include flame resistant clothing, firefighters' turn-out gear, or breathing apparatus. We recognize that the most likely application and value of our group-owned equipment will be to provide us with tools that may help us to contain a fire from spreading to or from the forest, or to other property. We are each of us responsible only to our self for being familiar with the function and use of our equipment and the current state of its condition and maintenance.

For 2006, it is suggested that an equipment fund contribution of \$100 each would help us achieve our equipment and maintenance goals. Any other amount, great or small, will be equally appreciated!

Contribution Amount
\$

Please make cheques payable to "Gambier Fire Equipment Group", or to "GFEG", and send it, with this form to the address below.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____