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# Gambier Fire Equipment Group News

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By Stu Watson



Geoff & Brigid Smedley's home in Gambier Harbour caught fire while they were off-island on a Saturday night late in November. So, when neighbor Martin Hendricks spotted smoke coming from the eaves at breakfast time on Sunday, the building was ablaze internally on all three floors and would appear to have been alight for hours. Neighbours, using your cooperative's equipment, managed to save the front studio section (nearest portion top), but the back living quarters (right top & bottom) could not be saved. Below left, Scott Hanna is damping down in the final stages of containing the biggest fire for which your equipment has been used. According to fire inspectors, the cause was probably old wiring to a basement hot water tank.



Our theme for this annual newsletter is "Lessons Learned under Fire". Hopefully everyone has had a chance to read "Fighting the Smedley's House Fire" in The Gambier Island Community Association (GICA) Newsletter this spring. Rather than repeat that here, I'm thinking we'd benefit from focusing on some of the issues arising and the excellent ideas put forward at the Gambier Fire Equipment Group (GFEG) public meeting held on the following weekend. If you did not receive the semi-annual GICA newsletter by email on March 28, please send an email to Joyce Clegg ([jaclegg@telus.net](mailto:jaclegg@telus.net)) and ask her to enroll you in the GICA as a member. The annual \$15 fee will get you the back copy, plus email updates on breaking news. And if you are as much of a Gambier fan as I am, please add another \$20 for the Gambier Community Center Society (GCCS) to help support the "Hall". The directors of this valuable facility are seeking revenue to offset escalating insurance costs. They also need funds to buy foam fire equipment to protect this most precious community asset. If you would like to help in a larger context, please make a "charitable donation" directly to GCCS and they can issue you with a tax receipt. You can contact Richard Potter for details ([rlpotter@uniserve.com](mailto:rlpotter@uniserve.com)).

## KEEPING SAND AND GRAVEL AWAY FROM PUMP INTAKES

Those of us who attend fire practices have learned to bring two pumps to any situation because "Murphy's Law" makes it almost certain that one of the pumps will experience mechanical difficulties (especially 2-stroke engines). The fire on November 21st was typical in that four of our eleven pumps went out of service at critical times. The cause was gravel and coarse sand being sucked in from newly dug surface wells that jammed up the pump impellers. While bulk water (low pressure) pumps can handle all kinds of solids, your higher pressure pumps with nested impellers will seize up if enough particles of the wrong size are ingested. We did have foot valve filters on all intakes, but they stop only stones bigger than ¼" diameter. We are now storing empty 4-litre jugs as "floats" in the equipment trailer for attachment to intakes. By suspending the intake from a float just below the water's surface, we can avoid this problem at both the sea-shore, in streams and in dug wells.

## WELL INTAKE STAND PIPES

Another good solution for avoiding gravel ingestion from a dug well is to install a 1-1/2" black polypropylene (Poly) pipe with a foot valve and camlock adapter (shown here in yellow ny-glass material). This suggestion is based on similar outlets installed on a gravity fed 1-1/2" hydrant system at the Sea Ranch in Long Bay. Members have installed a number of such well intakes like this in Gambier Harbour. The picture at right gives an idea of what this setup looks like. The vertical piece can be up to 20ft deep (maximum practical lift on all your pumps). I like "Poly" pipe because it is easy to transport in a roll and it is said to be capable of handling frost better than PVC pipes – but one is told both should work OK in Gambier's mild winters. The materials are readily available from larger hardware stores. (Remember to use stainless steel clamps.) The 1-1/2" camlock adapters for quick connection to our pump intakes are available to members from GFEG inventory at \$10 each (contact information - top of page 1).





## 2,000 GALLON WATER TANKS

Big storage tanks are becoming popular as a supplement to dug wells for fire protection because they do not dry up in summer. The Smedley's had three of these tanks -- without which their fire could not have been limited. Tanks should be equipped with at least one, and preferably two, 1-1/2" taps with camlock adapters for quick fire pump intake hook-ups. The inset picture shows an ideal fire pump camlock adapter with ball valve tap. A fire pump operating with a 30gpm nozzle at 80-100psi will drain a 2,000 gallon tank in 1 hour, or in half an hour with a second attack line on the other outlet.



## DETACHABLE FOOT VALVES ON INTAKES



To connect our GFEG pumps to well intakes and tank fittings, all your intakes have been modified to include quick-release fittings. They consist of camlock couplings between the red foot valves and the flexible intake hose. The intake (left) disconnects from the red foot valve (right). It can then be connected to the camlock adapter on the well or tank (above). This is a fast easy coupling that could make a big difference when time is of the essence.

## SOURCES OF WATER FOR FIREFIGHTING

A couple of questions from the Post-Smedley Fire Workshop:

**Q:** *Perhaps we could acquire a tanker as a mobile source of water for our pumps? And how about designated communal water tanks on road allowance (especially for the summer)? This would provide reserve water to fight fires away from the ocean.*

These innovative suggestions would certainly work if we can finance, install and maintain the tanks. Getting permission to locate them on public property would present some difficulties. The tanker would need insurance, a dedicated volunteer mechanic, plus a heated garage to prevent freezing in winter. I hear from Joe Chisholm that we did once obtain a big old fire engine, many decades ago, and it eventually rusted away. But if we could get a foam fire truck like the one in Gibsons VFD, then that would be another matter. It is small enough for our roads and carries just enough water to get started while the intakes are connected to local sources of water. This is a modern-day solution that our budget may be able to aspire to one day. Do we have a member skilled in applying for BC Lottery grants? The target is only \$150,000.

Meantime, everyone's property needs to have a "dug" well, tank, or access to oceanfront, that can be tapped without delay. For our gas pumps to be effective you need breadth & volume of supply – only 20ft of depth is useful. When you crib the top of a dug well, install well intake stand pipes, as described opposite, and leave a couple of 4" x 4" square trapdoor openings for extra fire pump intakes (a safe opening that kids can't fall through). If you can figure out a way to minimize fouling of a seawater intake set below low tide mark, please let me know!

## USE OF FOAM OR “WET WATER” VS. WATER ALONE

Fire fighter practice of using liquid soap with water, instead of plain water, is almost universal today. When a 1% soap solution is injected into a stream through an ordinary fog/stream penetration nozzle (below right) fire fighters call this “wet water”. An injected soap solution lowers the surface tension of the water and helps it cling better (than water) to all surfaces and starves the fuel of oxygen – thus extinguishing the fire. Wet water looks soapy, but is not a foam. Other specialized nozzles shaped like long yellow tubes are called “Air Aspirating Foam Nozzles” (below left). They generate a stream of shaving-soap like foam that can be projected over a safe distance for wildfire protection and onto structural fires. Experienced users claim that wet water and/or foam are ten times more effective in fire suppression than is plain water alone. Where water is scarce, this is important.



We started to acquire our first ever trial pieces of foam equipment last season. As we look ahead it is clear that re-equipping and training with wet water and foam is the most sensible way for us to proceed. When summers are hot and dry, well water is scarce and we need foam to make best use of it. Air aspirating nozzles come in 15, 30 and 50 gallon per minute sizes, so you must choose the one to suit your water conservation needs. If you have ocean access and one of the new Gorman Rupp pumps, go for the 50gpm size. The 30gpm is a good all-purpose nozzle and should be your maximum size with fresh water (unless you have a lake handy). The 15 gpm unit is suitable for close-up work as the velocity of the reduced stream of foam cannot reach very far from the operator and safety is a concern.

## STANDARDS FOR FITTINGS

**Q:** *Should we all use the same size & design of fittings so that everyone's pump will connect to anyone's tank?*

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

We use 1-1/2" camlocks for our intakes and 1-1/2" quick release ¼-turn forestry couplings on outlet hoses and nozzles. The different couplings prevent outlets being connected to intakes and vice versa.

We now have some adapters in the trailer to reduce 2" camlock adapters to 1-1/2" size just in case we run across the other common size used with bulk water pumps.

## HOMEOWNER'S EQUIPMENT

**Q:** *Could we distribute preparedness notes for homeowners describing equipment they should have?*

We really appreciate members who ask for advice/help in acquiring fire equipment. The learning curve on what one should avoid has been long and steep. So please do benefit from our experience of what works on Gambier. As a caution, please be wary of looking for "deals" in fire equipment – they rarely pay off. Good equipment built to appropriate performance specifications is not cheap because it is not mass produced. Bear in mind that a pump is only half the cost of a full kit. We have established contacts with reputable suppliers and earn non-profit group discounts to help us generate small extra revenues for the cooperative if you buy through us. Please take advantage of these connections and benefit from our experience. Our delivery to site, equipment testing and user training are free to members.

## HOMEOWNER'S FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE - SMALL FIRE EXTINGUISHERS



The best small fire extinguisher I have seen is the tiny squeezable plastic bottle from Fleck Bros (Guillevin International) in Burnaby. Desmond Paine of Gambier Harbour swears by them for cook-stove fires (e.g. deep fry oil flare-ups). Keep a bottle of this powder to hand on your stove-top and snuff out a flare-up in seconds. The bottle contains the same powder as larger ABC fire extinguishers, but it is closer to hand and you don't run the risk of covering the entire kitchen with fire retardant powder.

The product is called "FIREBAN"; is primarily marketed to chain saw users; and it retails for \$7.50 each including tax. I'll bring a case over and members can pick one up from me any time, or at our booth at the Gambier Fair on July 30th. To give me an idea of quantities needed, please email me ([swatson@phn.com](mailto:swatson@phn.com)) or phone (604-886-7601) to give an advance order and to ensure supply. I think a case is 40 bottles, but would not want to get one until I sense there is enough demand.

## HOMEOWNER'S SECOND LINE OF DEFENSE - REGULAR FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Your second line of defense should be an A/B/C rated fire extinguisher. They should be located on every floor, near entrances and in clearly visible positions. 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 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 can blow out propellant with no suppressant). Finally, check the pressure gauge to be sure it is in the green "normal" zone. That's all there is to maintaining most fire extinguishers! Make a note of the service date on the back of the cylinder with a permanent marker.

## THIRD LINE OF DEFENSE – SCOTTY HOMEOWNER GARDEN HOSE FOAM KIT

If the extinguishers do not knock the fire down, you'll be accessing some of the GFEG equipment. In the meantime, you need a third line of defense while folks get organized, and get connected to water.

A "Scotty Firefighter" garden hose attachment will spray "wet water" using your garden hose. Your domestic water pump can probably deliver 30-50 pounds per square inch (psi) which is all



that is needed for the two units shown at right. With pressure at the top of the range, you'll get foam. But at lesser pressure, the wet water is just as effective. The bigger unit delivers at an 8gpm rate and the smaller one (needs less pressure) delivers just 3gpm. A smaller unit was used to extinguish a chimney fire at Margaret Terfry's place in Gambier Harbour this winter. It did a fine job at low pressure.

If you need to check the pressure on your garden hose, we have a pressure gauge to help decide which model is best for you. Prices, including tax, for the Scotty Foam kits are \$70 for the small 3gpm unit and \$90 for the 8gpm model. Each container needs a "fill" of class "A" foam concentrate at a cost of \$30. Refills are readily available from stock. I will be bringing in a first Scotty consignment during June, so to order one for yourself, please email me at [swatson@phn.com](mailto:swatson@phn.com), phone 604-886-7901, or include a note with your membership registration (back page).



## BUYING YOUR OWN FIRE PUMP KIT

Some of us like to buy our own pumps. A good fire pump kit (see next page) will set you back between \$3,500 and \$4,500. (The purpose of joining the GFEG co-operative is to share this cost with others at only \$100 each per year.) But please do not be discouraged from buying your own. As was evidenced at the Smedley fire, every pump helps. We supplied two members with kits last year and would be pleased to commission and install one for you too.

## WILDFIRE DEFENSES – MORE ON "GEL"

Aqueous Firefighting "Gel" is designed to be sprayed onto a structure, as a preventive coating, for use in wooded country like ours' when wildfire is a threat. This super absorbent polymer, when mixed with water, creates a protective curtain of superimposed water filled bubbles. 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 equipment. It is non-toxic, biodegradable and safe for use on trees and vegetation.

Using a garden hose and the specialized nozzle with a 6-liter jug, "gel" can be applied to the sides, decks, roofs, soffits and window frames of buildings to protect structures in the path of advancing wildfire. (Use fresh water only – sea water was not successful in our tests.)



Cost of the Thermo-Gel applicator, as pictured is \$57 and a jug of the gel is \$101.46 including taxes. 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 \$454.86. We have a few in consignment stock from RGH Pacific if you would like to buy some.

## NEW FIRE PUMPS

The new pumps that we bought last year were rated to deliver 30gpm at 80psi – selected as ideal for use with foam. This combination of volume and pressure will create the 1% soap/water mix and educt fire suppressant correctly through a penetration, or tube nozzle. Unknown to us, the manufacturer changed the engine speeds on their shipped units from 3,500 rpm to 3,000 rpm without adjusting their advertising and we soon learned that the pumps supplied did not perform as expected. Oooops! The manufacturer admitted full responsibility and is now replacing our pumps with a new model and lots of apologies.



The replacement model is lighter, more powerful, and its specifications suit our needs admirably. It is a Gorman-Rupp OTS-93216C Twin Impeller Firefighting Pump fitted with a Honda 6.5Hp engine and sells for \$2,353 + tax. It weighs only 53lbs (half the weight of its predecessor) and pumps water at 66gpm free-flow. This unit will generate up to 360ft of head, or 156psi at shut-off (same maximum working pressure as our hoses). What this means to us is that it uses the same volume of water as all our other pumps (important when connecting in series up-hill). When fitted with a regular 30gpm penetration nozzle (fog/stream) or a 15, 30 or even a 50gpm foam tube, it will perform at or above 80psi giving us increased safety margin of

distance from fire. Subject to passing our exacting performance tests on Gambier, I'm budgeting to get more of these pumps as soon as funds permit. Hopefully we can standardize on this model for many years to come.

## TRAINING, SAFETY & OTHER GOOD QUESTIONS

From the November post-fire workshop:

*Q: How can we arrange basic training on equipment and the theory of fire fighting? And how do we achieve teamwork on each attack line (two people at the nozzle end, one on the pump end and a runner to remove hose kinks or to pass messages [walkie-talkies?]).*

*Q: How do we achieve a clear chain of command, plus a first-aid person in attendance? (Need an obvious on-scene coordinator at the front to give direction).*

The SCRCD has sponsored a consultant's report on fire prevention needs on Gambier. In draft form, its recommendations include provision for training sessions on the theory of fire fighting and on situation command & control. This may not come to fruition this year, but I suspect that if we set something up with enough people willing to attend, we might be able to impose upon the goodwill of Gibsons VFD staff to come over one Saturday and give us some training.

On the First Aid issue, I understand the new "First Responders" group is becoming equipped to perform this necessary role at any fires.

*Q: Would it be helpful if everyone put up a map of their property to help us locate nearby water sources, the main electrical breaker, any on-site fire equipment (unlocked sheds please!), the exact location of fire extinguishers, plus the name of a local holder of house and outbuilding keys when you are away?*

This is a really good suggestion. Let's all do it! Your map should be laminated and posted near your entrance with signage giving the property name and your new street number. However, think twice about the potential burglary implications of identifying the location of spare keys.

*Q: Could we have a sign in a designated spot near our equipment trailer for "Out of Service Equipment".*

This would have been very helpful on November 21. Would the author of this idea be willing to volunteer to make up three of them for us please?

*Q: Do we need to update our call-out tree phone list?*

Not surprisingly, many experienced members of the cooperative were off-island when we had that fire in November, so our island telegraph aided by the GICA phone list attracted numerous volunteers (thanks Joyce!). There is no doubt that we need an updated Call-Out Tree with some people assigned to do the telephoning under control of the member at the incident scene who assumes the role of calling for additional help (if required). Once we get our membership list updated this summer and some practices under our belts, a Call-Out Tree will be created.

*Q: Can we get some kind of community alert, such as a siren?*

I may have been successful in locating a number of such sirens that are being retired in Powell River. We'll sure hear them if this works out!

*Q: Could we color code the pumps to match the gas cans so the right fuel is put in the pumps?*

What a sensible idea! Will the proposer please come on over and set to work with cleaners, paint and brushes? We are standardizing on 4-stroke red pumps that use plain gas in red cans. So let's leave these red. We have 5 Shindaiwa pumps with 5 gas cans of 25:1 mix that could be one color and two Homelites that use 16:1 mix that will need a different color – you can choose! Lots of de-greasing and time needed.

## **YOUR COOPERATIVE - WHAT WE ARE AND WHAT WE ARE NOT**

The Gambier Fire Equipment Group was established as a cooperative in 1980 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 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 do not hold ourselves out either individually or collectively as trained fire fighters, or as 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, protective gear, first aid equipment or breathing apparatus. We recognize that the most likely application and value of our cooperatively 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 selves for being familiar with the function and use of our equipment and the current state of its condition and maintenance.

## **CAN NON-MEMBERS COUNT ON OUR EQUIPMENT IN A FIRE?**

We all know that one of the great strengths of a small community like ours is that neighbors will always help each other in times of need. So, can non-members hope to be assisted if they have a fire and need help? To be sure, we would all hope so! We would also hope that



everyone would become a member so that we have more gear and more people trained to use it. An application for membership forms the back page of this newsletter for your convenience.

That our equipment was used to suppress a non-member's fire in November is proof that the equipment can be available for neighbors to help non-members during an isolated outbreak. But a conflict could arise if we were all threatened by wildfire. GFEG contributors would have a claim on first use of their equipment for protecting their own property. Non-members should understand this.

## **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 maybe what will help you and your neighbors to protect yourselves.

## **GAMBIER STREET ADDRESSES**

I imagine some folks are not too impressed by the new municipal street number addresses that we have all been issued with in our idyllic rural setting. Well, let me support the concept from the point of view of those who simply do not know the exact location of every property. If we all post our street number outside our property, then your more distant neighbors' chances of finding you in an emergency are much improved. Please do this in large white letters!

## **BURN BAN SEASON**

Here's the skinny on when you can have bonfires, burn-barrels and camp fires:

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 Forestry Fire Marshall, Bill Errico (604-886-2871) for permission to have a bonfire. 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. Use of a Scotty garden-hose homeowner foam kit is really good idea.

Campfires and burn barrels are generally OK without permission until the fire risk goes to high. 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.

BC Ferries are always watching from their passing ships. If they see a fire out of burn season, they report it to Forestry who in turn make 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.

## **FALLING TREES ONTO HYDRO LINES**

A crew of fallers, hired on Saturday April 30 by a resident of Gambier Harbour, was taking down a large old maple tree next to the road at supper time. They lost control of their fall and it took out our Hydro lines. New Brighton and West Bay lost power and small fires started where the wires were arcing to ground through the trees and hedges. Besides some spectacular crackling and sparking, the fire went nowhere because the trees were damp with fresh new spring leaves. Now if that had happened in August.....

Hydro cut the remaining live power (to Gambier Harbour) and the tree fires went out. Foam was used to put out some smoldering that had started in the ground fuel from falling sparks, but it was not applied to the ungrounded cables up in the trees. Later I asked Bob Stevens of Gibsons VFD about what would be considered normal procedure by his crews under the same circumstances. He advised that the best option is to establish a safe perimeter and contain the spread of fire as best you can. Air aspirated foam streams are not good conductors so there is little safety concern with the application of foam to the firefighter holding tube nozzles. But the resulting ground puddles from the application of foam are dangerous. If you stand in a puddle next to a tree supporting live wires when 16,000 volts are flowing down it to ground, you'll get "fried". Much like 30 degree fog streams of water from standard nozzles, air aspirated foam can be played fairly close to live wires. In any event, stay at least 33ft (10m) from any downed wires touching the ground, or indeed from trees holding up fallen wires.

## OUT WITH EQUIPMENT SHEDS - IN WITH NEW TRAILERS

After a year's trial, those of us who attended this year's fires are convinced that our experiment with a Fire Equipment Trailer has been a huge success and is a much better way to go for the future than is our old model of using fixed sheds.

I foresee us with at least one and perhaps two more trailers, each stocked with initially one, and eventually two, foam fire attack lines. In size terms, the trailers need to be bigger than our original model. Perhaps something like a single horse trailer -- fitted with shelves similar to those in a sail boat that will prevent gear from falling out when being towed over bumpy ground. Trailers have appeal over trucks or vans because they need very little maintenance; and incur negligible insurance costs. To tow one, you need to have a trailer hitch on your vehicle. If we get enough new members in West Bay and New Brighton, I see us locating one in each community. If anyone has access to a suitable trailer please call me (604-886-7901)?

## EQUIPMENT & FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT

Your current equipment inventory is in reasonable shape. Besides the 11 pumps, you have 2,000ft of hose, 3 foam back pack kits, 4 water hand pump backpacks, 30 gallons of Class A 1% foam concentrate, plus various gas cans, nozzles, intakes, axes, shovels, spares, fittings and that neat little red trailer. Replacement cost of everything is estimated at \$21,500.

Our equipment did a credible job at the three fires it was used at this year. But nine of your pumps are medium pressure, low budget general purpose water pumps that cannot generate the pressure needed to generate foam or wet water (other than with the Scotty 8gpm homeowner garden hose kits). The small pumps are great for moving water uphill in series to a higher pressure attack pump. But we only have two high pressure pumps so far. If we ever get a summer wildfire we will need more of these modern foam generating pumps that maximize the use of scarce water supplies. So addressing this issue should be our priority for this year. Of course a new pump only represents half of the investment needed to build a functioning foam/wet water attack kit. We also need a choice of tube nozzles for different volumes of water availability, plus the foam backpacks, intakes, hoses, fittings and pails of the foam concentrate (four 5-gallon pails are consumed with one 2,000 gallon tank). And, as mentioned above, we need trailers to move the equipment around to where it is needed.

The 2005 plan I have in mind would split our older pumps between 3 trailers (in GH, WB & NB) to support high pressure pumps in each one. In the event of a single fire incident in any location, all three trailers could be brought to bear if necessary. But if all three communities were threatened by wildfire, there would be at least some equipment available to each group of members. But first we need more members in New Brighton and West Bay to make it work!

This was our financial situation at the end of December, 2004:

<b>Gambier Fire Equipment Group</b>		
Summary of income and expenses for the period 1 May to 31 December 2004*		
	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Income</b>
<b>Opening Balance 1 May 2004</b>		<b>\$ 99.79</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		
Member Contributions		\$ 4,370.00
Donations		296.00
Equipment & Supplies purchased by members		8,579.20
10% Refund on sales of Thermo-Gel kits		226.50
Interest		0.50
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Cost of acquiring New Pumps	5,798.91	
Thermogel and Class "A" Foam supplies	3,043.48	
Hose equipment, fittings, parts & supplies	4,716.80	
	<b>\$ 13,559.19</b>	<b>\$ 13,571.99</b>
<b>Bank Balance @ 31 December 2004</b>		<b>\$ 12.80</b>
*Our fiscal year-end has been changed to December 31st		

## FUND RAISING SOURCES

Our primary source of revenue to help us maintain, update and grow our cooperative's equipment is founded in maintaining the support of our existing contributors and in adding as many more members as we can from our road-linked communities of Gambier Harbour, West Bay and New Brighton. All have seen how valuable a community asset this cooperatively owned equipment can be. Please register with us for 2005 and help us grow!

Early in the new 2005 fiscal year, GICA very kindly came to our aid with \$800 after equipment losses (\$1,356 in total) were incurred at the Smedley fire. Geoff & Brigid kindly donated the balance. Thank you all so much! And something else we may be able to look forward to. With help from Kathy McTaggart of West Bay and Bernie Mulligan (our SCRD Area F representative) we have applied to see if we might be eligible for a grant under the SCRD West Howe Sound "Grant-in-Aid" program? This could help us accelerate the trailer acquisitions.

## CONTRIBUTOR REGISTRATION

New 2005 contributors are requested to complete the registration form overleaf. For those who have registered before, please do so once more so that we get your newly assigned street address. (Yes: please put that number up!)


Early Bird registration from new members in January were so welcome at the time of our minimal cash balance situation. We should thank these new members for their early 2005 contributions that made our task so much easier in putting damaged equipment back into production: Danny Tryon, Diane Finegood & Andrea Harbour, Kevin Wing & Liane Ross, Barb Miklashek & Bill Baines, plus Geoff & Brigid Smedley. Welcome to our Group!

## EQUIPMENT PRACTICES

This year, in deference to the many guests who descend upon us for long summer weekends, I thought we should try running practices only on regular weekends. I will work out a schedule with our coordinators (top of page 1) to rotate between GH, NB, WB and "The Hall" for the June - September period and post it on notice boards, plus email messages. We do need a few more coordinators, so if you can help us organize locally, please contact me?



# Gambier Fire Equipment Group

Cut, fill out and mail 

## Cooperative Membership Registration Form - 2005

The purpose of this form is to provide information that will enable us to keep ourselves apprised of routine Group activities; to generate a Call-Out Tree, and to identify each other's property.

Names of Property Owners/Residents	Home Phone	Cell Phone
1.		
2.		
3.		

Please provide your new 2005 Gambier street address with number:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Gambier Phone  
Number (if different)**

604-886 -

Addresses for mailing to owners/residents

N°	Canada Post Mailing Addresses	E-mail addresses
1.		
2.		
3.		

*By signing below I acknowledge that the Gambier Fire Equipment Group is a group of neighbors who have formed a cooperative for the purpose of acquiring and training in the use of equipment and to which we contribute money and/or time for that purpose. Out of our equipment fund we acquire 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 do not hold ourselves out either individually or collectively as trained firefighters, or as 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, protective gear, first aid equipment or breathing apparatus. We recognize that the most likely application and value of our cooperatively 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.*

All equipment fund contributions of any amount are welcome! For 2005, it is suggested that an amount of \$100 each would help us achieve our new equipment budget goals. Any amount, great or small will be very welcome!

**Contribution  
Amount**

\$

**Please make cheques payable to "Gambier Fire Equipment Group", or to "GFEG", and enclose it, with this form, in the accompanying envelope.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_