

THETIS ISLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT 2016



Prepared for the
Thetis Island Improvement District
Annual General Meeting
Forbes Hall, April 22, 2017

Introduction

The Thetis Island Volunteer Fire Department, under the administrative direction of the Thetis Island Improvement District Trustees, is the primary agency on Thetis Island responsible for Emergency Services Response (Fire, Medical, Disaster). The TIVFD has been serving our community since 1983 when the Province of BC awarded Letters Patent to the newly instituted Thetis Island Improvement District and the TIVFD was formed. Before that, the Thetis Island Ratepayers had operated the Thetis Island Volunteer Fire Brigade, with little funding, and very little equipment (none of it new). Times changed, the island saw more permanent residents moving in, and the need for a more professional fire service with standardized training, better equipment and supplies, serviceable fire vehicles and a proper fire hall became evident.

Pete Rees and Harry Armstrong, both newly retired career Captains in the Vancouver Fire Department, were building their homes on Thetis in the latter part of the '70s, and Pete, the TIRA Fire Brigade Chief at the time, convinced Harry to step up to together form the Thetis Island Improvement District and found the TIVFD. That commitment to service and professionalism has grown the Department into the agency that ably serves our community today.

No Fire Chief's Annual Report would be complete without acknowledging the foresight of Fire Chiefs Pete Rees and Harry Armstrong, and their hard work in mobilizing the community to build a hall and properly fund the department and insist upon professional standards for customer service. We stand today on the shoulders of the Chiefs and Volunteer Fire Fighters who came before us, building the Fire Department into the committed and vibrant emergency service that Thetis Island residents and visitors respect and depend upon when required.



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Apparatus

The standard for acceptance of fire apparatus as the apparatus becomes less reliable with age and use has been developed for Canada by the Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) and is used to determine the insurance grading of a fire service area. This can also affect the rates of insurance for property owners throughout the community. Fire apparatus vehicles are not continuously in use but are subject to considerable mechanical stress due to the nature of their function, possible overloading, different operators, a variety of road types, and also the lack of availability of repair parts for older trucks.



Requirements in Canada by Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) for Fire Apparatus in small or remote communities list first line fire trucks as having a twenty-year lifespan. Engine 1 can operate as a first line engine until 2019, and then the Improvement District will apply for an exception that if granted, would add another five years to the truck as our front-line pumper. The absolute expiry date for fire engines required for insurance grading for structural fire suppression is thirty years. The older apparatus may be used from twenty to thirty years as a second line truck in fire responses.

ENGINE 1: 1999 Hub Fire Engines Freightliner diesel (Abbotsford) custom built for our needs under the direction of Fire Chief Dave O'Hara and Deputy Chief Harry Armstrong. It has hydraulic brakes, requiring only a Class 5 license. The Allison transmission is geared for the narrow, steep, winding Thetis Island roads rather than for highway or city driving. It has a Hale mid-ship pump with a foam inductor, and a 600 gallon capacity water tank. We carry two ground ladders, a roof ladder, several hundred feet of 1.5", 2 .5" suppression hose, .75" and 1.5" forestry hose, hose appliances, 4 ISI/AVON Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) with spare 2216 psi cylinders, hydraulic and hand extrication tools, First Responder medical equipment, traffic control supplies, a Positive Pressure Ventilation fan (PPV), portable scene lighting, a generator, chain saw, and various small hand tools and safety supplies. Engine 1 works out of Central Hall on Mission Road. Crew capacity: 3 persons.

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Major 2016 repairs to Engine 1:

- ✓ Remote throttle on the Pump Panel repaired
- ✓ Safety change for headlights at Response scenes
- ✓ HD Battery bank replacements
- ✓ Emergency lights repaired
- ✓ Primer Pump repaired

ENGINE 2: (Pilkey Point Hall Engine) **1999** Ford F350 diesel 4x4, purchased used in 2007 from a Maryland Fire Dept. under the direction of Fire Chief Jeannine Caldbeck and Deputy Graeme Shelford. Upon its arrival on Thetis it was determined that although the 1999 Ford chassis was as stated, the pump unit and housing structure were many years older. The Improvement District negotiated an adjustment to the purchase price, but nonetheless we ended up with a much older engine unit than we required.

Engine 2 is rigged for structure fires as well as being a “bush truck”. It carries two ground ladders, a roof ladder, 1.5” and 2.5” suppression hose, .75” and 1.5” forestry hose, a Darley mid-ship pump with a foam inductor installed in 2007, hose appliances, 2 ISI/AVON SCBA, with spare 2216 psi cylinders, portable pump, on-board generator, various rescue and hand tools and equipment, and First Responder medical supplies and equipment. Engine 2 responds from the Pilkey Point Hall and is considered our second-in apparatus for structure fires unless the first-in access requires a 4x4. Water tank capacity is only 200 gallons. It is an excellent bush truck. Crew capacity: 2 persons

Major 2016 repairs to Engine 2:

- ✓ Cab radio repairs and upgrading

TENDER: 2000 GMC-T6500 diesel chassis purchased in Maryland in 2006, with custom 1,000 imp. Gal. tank and decking fabricated and installed and chassis cut to requirements by Geoff Howard Industries in Duncan, BC, under the direction of Fire Chief Jeannine Caldbeck and Deputy Graeme Shelford with Apparatus Committee assistance. A deck pump and large capacity dump valve was also installed to meet NFPA requirements and it carries two portable pumps, 3” and 4” intake hose, some 2.5” and 1.5” structural fire hose, forestry hose, portable lighting, hose appliances, various water supply fittings as well as two 1,000 gal. portable water drop tanks. The low profile of the tank make this a very safe HD truck to drive with a standard license. Crew capacity: 2 persons. Staged at Central Hall.

Major 2016 repairs to Tender:

- ✓ New batteries installed
- ✓ Crack in tank weld repaired

Note: major repairs to the Tender are scheduled if possible during the winter so that the apparatus is not out of service during fire season.

COMMAND VEHICLE: 2000 Ford F250 diesel crew cab 4x4 long box from Dallas, Texas purchased in 2011 under the direction of Fire Chief Jeannine Caldbeck and Deputy Graeme Shelford. We kept the original maroon colour, HD grill, headache rack and bumpers and added a fire service radio, light bar, siren, tow hitch and GPS. Used primarily by the Fire Chief or Duty Officer for Officer

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responses or FD errands on the island, it is also fitted with a 90 gallon water tank and Versax pump, some rescue equipment and medical supplies including an AED. This vehicle allows us to transport crew to an emergency scene, transport RCMP or BCAS personnel, and acts as a quick-response truck during wildfire season. Crew capacity: 5. Vehicle is normally parked at the Fire Chief's residence for ready response to establish command at fire, MVI, medical and other emergencies.

Major 2016 Command Vehicle repairs:

- ✓ 4 mud/snow tires replaced
- ✓ Diesel leak from fuel filter repaired
- ✓ New batteries installed

RESCUE 1: 1995 Chevrolet K-3000 diesel 4x4, purchased used in 2007 in Phoenix, Arizona under the direction of Fire Chief Jeannine Caldbeck and Deputy Graeme Shelford. Although Fire Departments do not normally operate ambulances in British Columbia due to the Provincial BCAS, The TIVFD assists BCAS by extricating patients at the scene and rendezvousing with paramedics at the community dock or helicopter-landing site for expediency of patient-care transfer. Equipment on the Rescue truck includes several types of Ferno stretchers, oxygen, AED, medical supplies and equipment, two SCBAs, rope rescue equipment, portable lighting, some hand tools, and traffic control equipment. This vehicle responds to all emergency call-outs and can be used to carry extra fire fighters to a fire scene. Rescue 1 is used for "rest & rehab" at extended fire emergencies and the TIVFD Auxiliary has access to the supplies if needed. The patient compartment mimics BCAS vehicles to enhance efficient continuity of care in the rare case the paramedics need to be transported from the dock to the scene. We have an excellent working relationship with BCAS Station 149 in Chemainus.

Major 2016 repairs on Rescue I:

- ✓ Fuel solenoid and fuel pump-mounted driver installed
- ✓ New harness and relay for fuel pump

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- ✓ High intensity headlights installed
- ✓ Fog lights installed

FF Gerhard Wanney performed weekly road tests of Engine 1, Engine 2 and the Tender throughout 2016. This exercise allowed our vehicle maintenance officer to keep track of potential mechanical problems before they become serious.

Total Litres of Diesel Pumped from Central Hall diesel storage tank (all vehicles) in 2016: 2,496.5 L.

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Buildings & Grounds

The Thetis Island Improvement District owns two properties of approximately 1/3 acre each on Thetis Island: Lot 296 Mission Road – the Central Hall, and Lot 207 Pilkey Point Road – the Pilkey Hall (an ancillary hall that houses Engine 2). Central Hall was built towards the end of 1985 by volunteer labour headed by Harry Armstrong. Pilkey Hall (basically a small garage) predates Central Hall by four years and was also built by TIVFD members headed by Pete Rees. Originally, Central Hall had two vehicle bays and a small radio room and office. Both Central and Pilkey Halls were expanded in 1994 under Harry Armstrong's direction; Pilkey Hall being expanded to accommodate a longer vehicle, and additions to Central Hall of a third bay for a Rescue vehicle and a drill room for training. Additions to the Central Hall property now include a diesel storage tank, a stationary generator, a TIVFD Auxiliary equipment shed and some limited outdoor storage. The apron in front of the three vehicle bays is used extensively for training and five 2,000 gallon water storage plastic tanks collect roof rainwater for engine water tank refills and hall use. Pilkey hall had two water storage tanks collecting roof rainwater, but in early 2017 the steel tank was removed for safety reasons. A 4,000 gallon plastic tank remains.

Maintenance of the Fire Halls for 2016 was overseen by Tim French (Buildings) and Ralf Kempe (Grounds) and included:

Faulty electrical relay replacement

Inspection by CVRD/Radio Works of the roof-mounted tower

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Cistern pump replacement
New laundry equipment installed
Weed & tall grass removal during fire season
Gutter maintenance
Bumper logs at parking area leveled and area graded
New radio tower installation on ground and roof-mounted radio tower removed.
Problems with the Central Hall leaking roof over the office were temporarily addressed.
Drill Room carpet restoration due to water ingress during heavy rains was accomplished several times.



Training

The Thetis Island Fire Department trains every Wednesday evening at Central Hall and various locations around the island. In addition to weekly drill-nights, on-island weekend training is scheduled throughout the year for specialized courses requiring longer set-up and skill acquirement, such as vehicle extrication, wildland fire fighting, driver training, emergency scene traffic control etc. Off-island courses are also offered to members to obtain training unavailable on Thetis Island with in-house instruction.

The Office of the Fire Commissioner of British Columbia administers the B.C. Fire Services Act. The Province, through the OFC, requires that minimum fire training standards be met in all BC Fire Departments. The Structure Firefighters Competency and Training Playbook (May 2015) sets requirements based upon the service level identified by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) for the provision of fire services in each community. The standard references competencies drawn from the National Fire Protection Association Standards.

In 2016, the Thetis Island Improvement District set the service level at “Exterior Only Operations” while the TIVFD worked to pass the written and competency-based exams in the Playbook. Historically the TIVFD had always met the skills requirements for “Interior Operations” (Fire Fighter Levels 1 and 2) but did not have the documented certification that is now required by legislation. The TIVFD Training Committee worked throughout the year to schedule training and examinations to meet the Playbook requirements and to re-establish the “Interior Operations” classification. Members were enrolled in the Vancouver Island Emergency Response Academy (Nanaimo Fire Depart-

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ment) and Pro-Board Certification now accompanies exams for Fire Fighter Levels 1 & 2 from that agency.



Off-island training in 2016 included:

- ✓ Vancouver Island Fire Fighters Association Spring Training in Duncan (Caldbeck and Tarris) for Emergency Vehicle Maintenance and Report Writing for FD Incidents courses.
- ✓ Emergency Response Training Academy (Nanaimo) Live Fire 101 (Bueckert and Kerr).
- ✓ BCAS Naloxone IM Train the Trainer course in Parksville (Caldbeck)
- ✓ Live Fire NFPA 1001 (2 days) (Chad Kerr)
- ✓ LUSAR (Light Urban Search & Rescue) 4 day training at CFB Esquimalt (Fordham).
- ✓ VIFFA Fall Training in Courtenay for RIT (Rapid Intervention Team), Over-the-bank Rescue, Wild Land Fire Fighting S100, and Fire Ground Incident Command (Caldbeck, Kerr, Fraser, Fordham).
- ✓ FR Instructor/Evaluator Re-Certification in Esquimalt (Caldbeck) (40 hrs)
- ✓ FR Level III Certification at JIBC (six days) New Westminster (Chad Kerr)
- ✓ High Hazards Recognition Skills, Nanaimo (8 hours) Caldbeck

In-house training in 2016 included:

- ✓ Size-up,
- ✓ Ventilation,
- ✓ Fire behavior
- ✓ Hose handling, hose lays, hose appliances
- ✓ Water supply procedures
- ✓ Water Supply tour of existing TIVFD water supply infrastructure
- ✓ Tandem pumping and Relay pumping
- ✓ Communications & safety
- ✓ Fire ground risks and hazards
- ✓ Pre-planning for community infrastructure
- ✓ Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- ✓ SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus procedures
- ✓ Decontamination for Haz-Mat
- ✓ Compressor procedures
- ✓ Wild land fire fighting for structural fire fighters
- ✓ Emergency Scene Traffic Control (BC Municipal Safety Authority exams & certification)

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- ✓ Emergency Vehicle Driving Skills
- ✓ Dumpster Fire evolutions
- ✓ Vehicle extrication (8 hours + set-up)
- ✓ Rescue systems (ropes, knots, low-bank rescue equipment)
- ✓ Building Construction
- ✓ Low Bank Rescue (instructed by Chemainus FD instructors)
- ✓ Hazardous Materials pre-planning (site tour)
- ✓ Incident Command System (ICS-100)
- ✓ Chimney Fire Responses
- ✓ Pumps & Pumping theory (instructed by Oregon Fire Academy Instructor Ron Williamson)
- ✓ First Responder on-going training covering all aspects of trauma & medical responses



2016 Operations

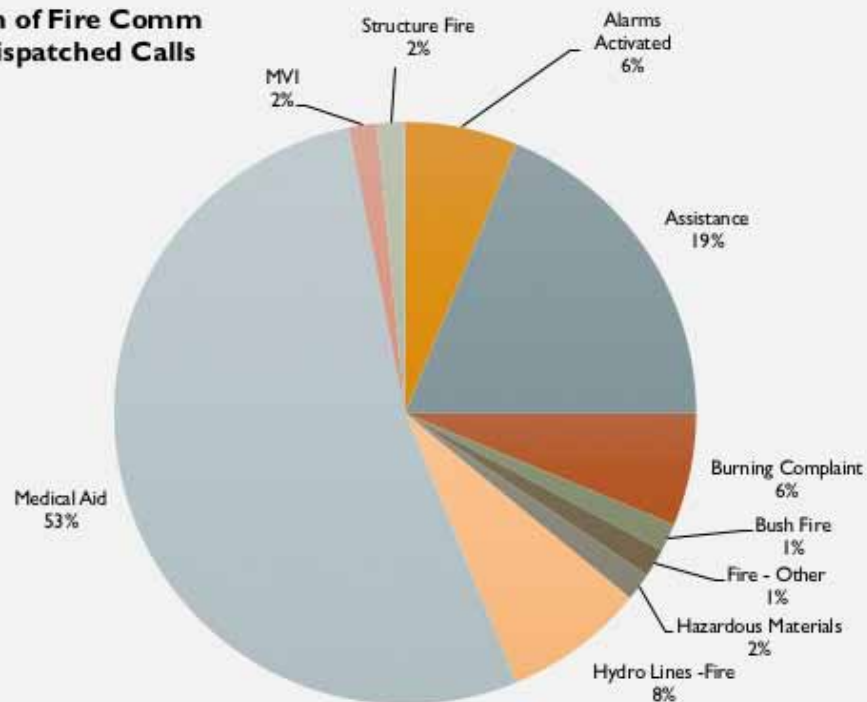
Dispatched Responses (“call-outs”) are generated through the 911-system, and Fire Comm Dispatch Centre in Nanaimo pages the Department out.

Internally Dispatched calls are normally generated through an “Officers Page” for the Fire Chief or Duty Officer and do not require a full Fire Department response.

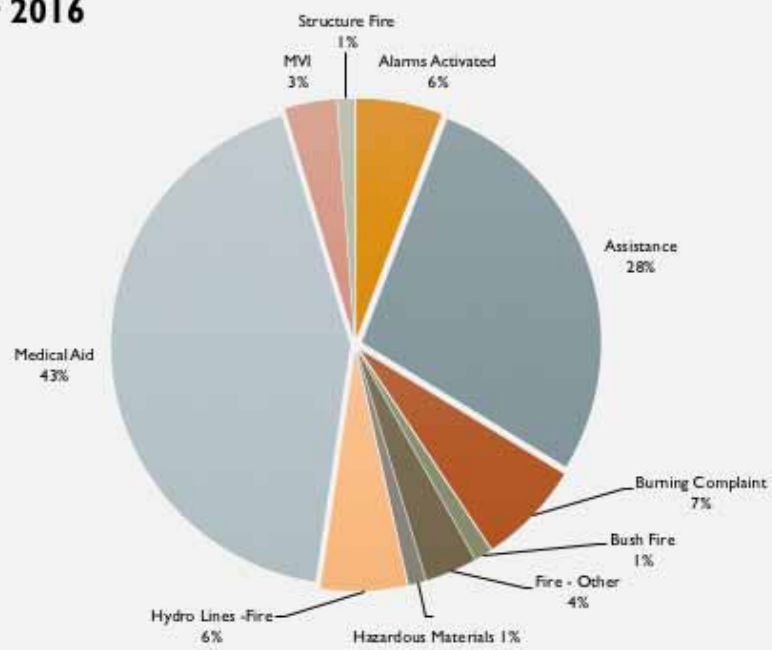
Included in Internally Dispatched Calls are Public Assist responses and requests for Fire Dept. personnel for non-emergency but necessary tasks that our community requires.

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Distribution of Fire Comm Initiated Dispatched Calls



Total Responses for 2016



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Distribution Dispatched Calls by Response Type	Fire Comm Dispatched Calls	Responses Internally Dispatched	Total Responses
Alarms Activated	4	1	5
Public Assistance	12	12	24
Burning/Smoke Complaint	4	2	6
Bush Fire	1	0	1
Other Fire (Misc.)	1	2	3
Hazardous Materials	1	0	1
Hydro Lines (Fire, Safety)	Chart Area	5	10
Medical Aid	34	5	39
Motor Vehicle Incident (MVI)	1	2	3
Structure Fire	1	0	1
Total	64	29	93

2016 TIVFD Medical Responses By Type

ABDOMINAL PAIN	3
ALLERGIC REACTION	2
ANXIETY-DEMENTIA-VOLATILE PT.	1
CARDIAC	1
CERBRAL VASULAR ACCIDENT	3
CHOKING – PAEDIATRIC	1
EXTREMITY FRACTURE/DISLOCATION: ANKLE	2
EXTREMITY FRACTURE/DISLOCATION: KNEE	1
HAND LACERATION/FRACTURE	2
HEAD INJURY	1
HYPO/HYPER GLYCEMIA EMERGENCY	1
HYPO/HYPERTENSION EMERGENCY	1
LIFELINE ACTIVATION EMERGENCY	3
NEAR DROWNING	1
RESPIRATORY DISTRESS	1
SEPSIS:WOUND	1
SHOULDER FRACTURE/DISLOCATION	2
SICK PERSON: ADULT	3
SICK PERSON: CHILD/INFANT	1
SPINAL TRAUMA	5
SMOKE INHALATION	3
TOTAL	39

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The last emergency response in 2015 was a New Year's Eve medical aid to Forbes Hall for an unconscious person NYD (Not Yet Diagnosed).

The following day, January 1st, 2016 the members of the TIVFD gathered at Forbes Hall to honour Sr. Fire Fighter Tim French (TIVFD Fire Chief from 2003 – 2005) on the occasion of the presentation of the Governor General of Canada's Exemplary Service Medal and Certificate for Tim's twenty years of loyal and outstanding service to the Thetis Island community through the Fire Service. Retired and Founding TIVFD Chiefs Pete Rees and Harry Armstrong presented the medal and certificate on behalf of His Excellency David Johnston. Congratulatory wishes from the Thetis Island Residents & Ratepayers Assoc. (TIRRA) Chair Steve Frankel, Thetis Island Improvement District (TIID) Chair Keith Rush, Retired TIVFD Deputy Chief Graeme Shelford, and Fire Chief Jeannine Caldbeck followed. A special cake was commissioned for the occasion, and a tea held, with a slide-show presentation of highlights of Tim's twenty years in the Department.



We were fortunate to have a few days respite into the new year before our first 2016 emergency response on January 4th for a leaking large propane storage tank on Blue Heron Road. The TIVFD Auxiliary was also called out to respond, tasked with feeding the fire fighters an on-scene hot dinner while waiting for the propane technician to attend for repairs.

2016 saw seventy-seven work-parties required throughout the year to assist with various tasks to keep the department running smoothly. A cell-phone booster was installed at Central Hall to try to overcome the difficulty of being in the middle of a cell-hole at that location. Changes to the water tank farm connections at Central were made. In order to be able to mount a motor vehicle extrication course on Thetis, old donated vehicles had to be collected and moved to the fire hall, all fluids drained and disposed of, the vehicles made safe for towing, and then towed to the end of North Cove Road and set up as various extrication scenarios. Portable pumps and other equipment were serviced and hose was laid at Hollyberry Lane during fire season for access to the pond. Sr. FF Tom Milliken

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constructed a large “doll house” for the continuance of fire behaviour instruction. The assembly of the new CVRD ground radio tower was accomplished by the department members, as was the wiring to the radio room.

Here are the Central Hall log-book entries for the month of June as an example of our typical fire season activities:

June 1: Fire call for a structure fire due to spontaneous combustion of a solvent-soaked rag
June 1: Fire Drill
June 2: LAFC meeting to file fire report
June 4: Bush Fire threatening structures during 30/30 crossover weather (Extreme Fire Hazard)
June 4 – 9: Chief & Deputy Chief attend the FCABC Conference & Training in Vancouver
June 6: Smoke investigation (6 hours), inconclusive
June 7: Medical Aid Response
June 7: Smoke Investigation, near-miss structure fire, smoke alarm donation
June 8: Community Kids Soccer Tournament against the TIVFD Hosers
June 8: Fire Drill
June 10: Medical Aid Response
June 13: Environment Canada Webinar attended by Chief for seasonal weather information
June 13: Annual Fire Chief performance review by TIID
June 13: Medical Aid Response
June 15: Fire Drill
June 15: Finance Meeting
June 22: Auxiliary R&R Meeting and instruction
June 22: Fire Drill
June 25: Combined TIVFD/Auxiliary Drill on Wild Fire Response (6 hours) – 60 MHW
June 26: RCMP scene assist
June 26: Community Fire Extinguisher Clinic and Training at Central Hall
June 26: TIVFD/Aux Annual BBQ Picnic at Forbes Hall
June 29: Fire Drill
June 30: Meeting regarding Service Level Policy and Training



Burning complaint/Smoke investigations form a large part of our fire season responses. The Fire Permit system is in place for outdoor burning for the months of April through to November 1st. During the other five winter months, permits are not required for Category 1 and 2 fires. Because Thetis Island heats up and dries quickly from mid-May through to about mid-October, permits tend

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to become restricted or cancelled. We often reach EXTREME fire hazard rating before the other fire service areas, and wild fire is a serious threat here in our interface community. We rely upon our community residents and visitors to obey fire regulations and apply fire safety (Fire Smart) practices to lessen the probability of a wild fire disaster. Our island has no mutual aid from other fire departments to assist the TIVFD, and not all volunteer fire fighters are available on any given day to attend to an emergency response. Water supplies are scarce, and must be transported in most cases. In 2016, over twenty hours were spent investigating the smell of smoke and looking for the causes.

When our neighbouring island of Penelakut has a fire, the TIVFD goes into stand-by mode, with “eyes-on” the smoke column if possible, in case embers or sparks are carried by prevailing winds to our shores to ignite our forested areas, as has happened in the past. There were two such fire stand-bys in 2016.

Hydro Lines Down cause huge safety concerns on Thetis Island and in 2016 BC Hydro was able to address the overgrowth of limbs and trees threatening our electrical grid by hiring Davis Tree Services to trim or fall potentially problem trees along the roadways and through the forested Hydro right-of-ways. This action did much to cut down on the power outages during the 2016 Fall and Winter storm season. However, the department did attend ten Hydro Lines Down calls, some with fire, the longest being ten hours directing traffic on Pilkey Point Road around the downed 14,400 lines. These responses added up to in excess of 68 hours spent at the scenes, waiting for BC Hydro to repair and reconnect power safely.

Alarms Activated responses, although rare, are on the rise, and in 2016 we responded to five dispatched calls for alarms. Every alarms activated page is a potential structure fire and the members and equipment respond “Code 3” (lights and sirens), until the first-in unit determines the needs at the scene. All of the alarms activated responses in 2016 were false alarms due to malfunctioning equipment.

Public Assist responses throughout 2016 include three 911-hangups that the RCMP requested the TIVFD to investigate; a search for a missing local boater; inspection of industrial burn piles; security at Central Hall for BC Ferry Service audiology testing; an extrication of a vehicle from beneath a senior citizen's residential deck; illegal parking investigation on Vivian Place that could impede emergency response vehicles to the residences there; several wellness checks initiated by RCMP, VIHA or community members; first aid (non- dispatched minor medical such as cutting a ring off a finger); inspection of a commercial BBQ pig-roasting operation during fire season; VIHA Social Services liaison; facilitation of the Ministry of Agriculture Bee Seminar; facilitation of the Gypsy Dancers rehearsal when their regular venue became unavailable; emergency assistance for a senior citizen to access medications and groceries; assistance to RCMP with follow-up on a ferry jumper; assistance



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to RCMP for finding a visitor needing to contact family for a message; a tree through a residential roof requiring inspection and mitigation; assistance to a senior citizen who had driven off the road into a creek and was unable to get himself out. Once in awhile sheep get out onto the road and we are called, or a deer has been hit, and in one instance, we were called to disentangle a young buck from garden fencing. There is no other organization or agency on Thetis Island that consistently handles these types of assistance requests.

Public Education is a big part of the TIVFD mandate and part of the home-owners' reduction on insurance fees is based upon having a fire service that promotes Fire & Life Safety education. In 2016 the TIVFD conducted a simulated school fire for the Thetis Island Elementary School and a Show And Tell of the gear and Engine; an earthquake simulation drill on the Great Canadian Shake Out day; a familiarization with the 911 and emergency response activation lecture for new students at Capernwray Harbour Bible Centre; participation with Engine 2 at the CVFCA Fire Safety House Display at the Cowichan Valley Fair Grounds; participation at the CVRD Earthquake & Disaster Preparedness Day in Duncan with Engine 2 (where participants could sit in a mock "Earthquake Cottage" during a realistically simulated earthquake); participation in the Emergency Social Services Disaster Planning seminar and round-table discussion; facilitation of the Wild Fire Awareness Day seminar at Forbes Hall; the home fire extinguisher inspection clinic and live fire training seminar conducted at Central Hall for interested residents; and six fire hall tours for residents and visitors to Thetis at their request.



Community Service

The TIVFD, with funding from the TI Community Fund for refreshments, facilitates a yearly Influenza Vaccination Clinic at Forbes Hall in late October or early November. The TIVFD Auxiliary puts on a great "coffee service" for those wanting their 'flu shot, and it has become quite an annual social event. The Clinic lasts about 1 ¼ hours, with VIHA Community Health Nurses giving the vaccine and TIVFD members expeditiously assisting with the seventy-five attendees getting through the procedure in little over an hour.

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The TIVFD also facilitates the annual Remembrance Day Service at Forbes Hall on November 11th, with (Ret.) Deputy Chief Graeme Shelford as our able and compassionate MC for the non-denominational service.

The TICS (Thetis Island Community Soccer) kids' team every year challenge the TIVFD "Hosers" to a soccer game to show off their skills to their parents and to beat our members handily. The main goal of the Hosers is to not get injured during the rough and tumble play of a field full of rabid and rapid elementary school soccer fanatics.



Meetings are a constant staple of the administrative business of the fire department. As well as the WorkSafe BC required quarterly meetings and safety inspections there were quarterly Improvement District meetings that required reports, the TIVFD AGM, the Improvement District AGM, 8 Budget meetings with the ID Finance Committee, and 7 TIVFD management Planning meetings. The Fire Chief also travelled to Duncan with two ID Trustees to meet with the CAO of the CVRD for initial discussions on the possibility of the TIVFD transition to a CVRD Fire Dept. and the resultant dissolution of the Improvement District as the AHJ (Authority Having Jurisdiction), and a further meeting at Central Hall with the CVRD Community Services Public Safety Division administrators Conrad Cowan and Jason de Jong where Trustees showed them the island, our halls and equipment and vehicles. The meetings with the CVRD were preliminary and for information gathering purposes for the Trustees to take to the residents at the TIID AGM for further discussion. It was then determined by general consensus of the residents and ratepayers that there was not a desire for the TIID to transfer its administrative authority over the TIVFD to the CVRD at this time. Other meetings attended by the Chief and Deputy include the Cowichan Valley Fire Chiefs' Association (Caldbeck is VP), Vancouver Island Fire Fighters Association (Caldbeck is a Director), Fire Chiefs' Association of BC (Caldbeck is Chair of the FCABC Women & Minorities in the Fire Service Committee) and the Cowichan Valley Fire Prevention Officers Group (Kerr and Caldbeck).



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TIVFD Auxiliary Teams:

The TIVFD has three fire department support teams to assist with emergency response tasks that can be handled by trained auxiliary personnel, such as emergency scene traffic control, WorkSafeBC required rest & rehabilitation of fire fighters at emergency responses, and water supply transportation and refilling at fire scenes. Auxiliary team members are residents who may not be able to commit to becoming a full member of the department but fulfill an important role in our efficient and expedient responses to larger emergency call-outs. Merry Gooding is the Team Leader for R&R and Traffic Control, and James Alton heads the Water Transport team. Auxiliary members are covered by WorkSafeBC when training or on-task. They meet several times a year for practice and training with TIVFD liaison instructors and once a year the Combined TIVFD/Auxiliary Wild Fire Scenario is held, and all teams and the department come together to work a simulated wild fire disaster scenario somewhere on the island. The day after the combined drill, the TIVFD puts on a family pot-luck BBQ picnic at Forbes Hall for our members and our Aux Team members, and past Fire Chiefs and ID Trustees are invited to attend.



Water Supply/Storage Project:

The TIVFD continued the ongoing Water Supply/Storage Project with the purchase and installation of a 5,000 Imp. Gallon plastic water tank on Lot 217, Pilkey Point Road, near the turnaround at the end of the road. Doug Hamm assisted with transporting the huge tank to Thetis, using his vehicle and a donated trailer. Alex Rozewicz did most of the site prep and members offloaded and leveled the tank, added the fittings and Alex constructed a ladder for inspections. The tank was filled with transported water from Lac de Quack over several days. This installation allows some readily accessible water to be available for fire suppression at the very dry end of Pilkey Point. The volunteer donations of time, equipment and labour for projects such as these benefit all residents of Thetis Island. Additional tanks and dry hydrant installations will be scheduled in the future to continue with the water supply/storage project as funds are available.

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Awards Dinner

The Annual TIVFD Appreciation Dinner is the yearly formal occasion in November for members and their partners, retired Fire Chiefs, and special guests to gather for a great meal and acknowledge individual members for their service. The TIID Trustees now oversee this Appreciation Dinner on behalf of the community. The 2016 Bob Challenger Award was presented by Ret. Chief Pete Rees to Capt. Dave Tarris for most call-outs and drills attended, Dave's tenth year in receiving this award. A special recognition award was presented to (Ret.) TIVFD Fire Captain Tegan Luckham by Chief Caldbeck and Deputy Chief Peter Luckham, and the Fire Fighter of the Year award was presented to FF Ralf Kempe for his exemplary service to the department and community. Tom Milliken's ever popular visual wrap-up of the year's events through photographs followed the Bent Steering Wheel, Golden Drill and Broken Mic "Awards" presented by Cpts. Tarris and Milliken.



International Outreach

Fire Rescue International Training Association transported our expired Turn-Out PPE clothing and old editions of the Essentials of Fire Fighting text books to the San Gil Fire Department in Columbia, Central America. The volunteer members there were so excited about the used but serviceable gear that they insisted on immediately training with it, in 33 degree Celcius weather, and not removing it for the day, even for lunch or dinner breaks. Prior to our donation, their fire service had only two sets of turnout gear in their hall and the first two members to the hall on an emergency response were the lucky wearers of protective clothing for the call-out. The others had to turn out in shorts and sandals. The turnout clothing we donated was no longer able to be used in our department according to Provincial, Federal, WorkSafe and NFPA regulation, by the TIVFD. We were pleased to be able to help out.

Members Past & Present:

The TIVFD welcomed into the department Rookies Chris Fordham, Murray Fraser, Michael Marini and Sebastian Harder. Fire Captain Tegan Luckham retired from the department on August 31st to pursue her academic goals at the University of the Fraser Valley, and subsequently joined the Chilliwack River Fire Department. Fire Fighter Regan Bueckert also retired from the department in September, and moved his family to Australia. In December of 2016, both long serving members Matt Hess (12 years) and Denis Gagnon retired from the department; Matt immediately joined the Auxiliary and serves as the alternate base radio operator, and Denis had served as Safety Officer for most of his seven years with the department. With the retirement of Tegan, there was a need for a second Fire Captain and Sr. FF Tom Milliken stepped up on an interim basis. (Tom had served as a Captain before, and had been looking forward to continuing a less busy position in the department.) FF Chad Kerr was promoted to Fire Lieutenant to gain experience before a 2017 promotion to Fire Captain.



Sr. FF Matt Hess



Fire Capt. Tegan Luckham



FF Denis Gagnon

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Lieutenant Chad Kerr



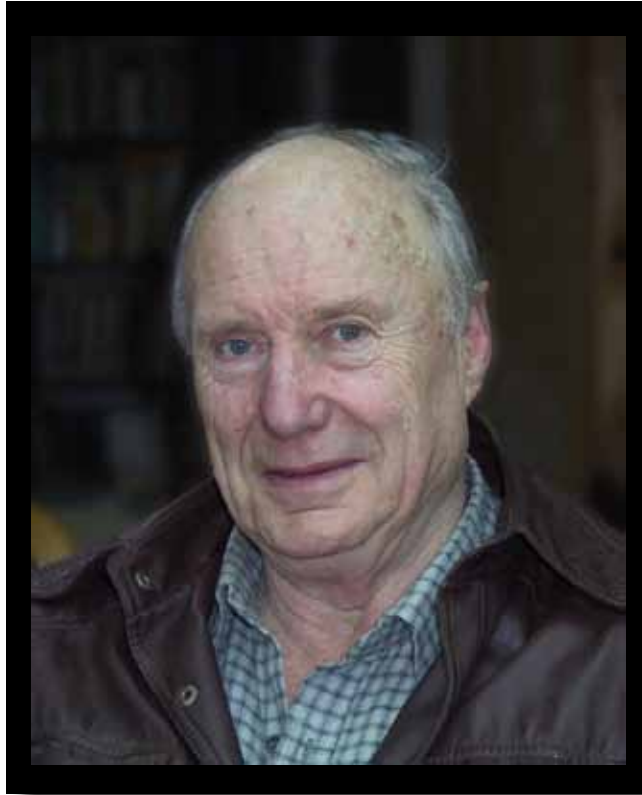
FF of the Year Ralf Kempe

2016 Members Roster:

Fire Chief Jeannine Caldbeck
Deputy Chief Peter Luckham
Captain David Tarris
Captain Tegan Luckham (ret. Aug.)
Capt. Tom Milliken
Lieut. Chad Kerr
Sr. FF Tim French
Sr. FF Alex Rozewicz
Sr. FF Matt Hess (ret. Dec.)
FF Denis Gagnon (ret. Dec.)
FF Gerhard Wanney
FF Ralf Kempe
FF John Gall
FF Regan Bueckert (ret. Sep.)
Rookie Christian Zinser
Rookie Jacob Frankel
Rookie Chris Fordham
Rookie Murray Fraser
Rookie Michael Marini
Rookie Sebastian Harder
Jr. FF Loughlin Kerr

(Ret.) FF John Stadt, who served on the TIVFD from 1998 to 2015, passed away on Christmas Eve, 2016. He was a committed and loyal member of the fire department and mentored many of the Junior FFs and Rookies, as well as being a calm and efficient base radio operator. We had the honour and responsibility of transporting him off-island during a medical distress response and were able to reminisce with him about his seventeen years on the department. We will miss him.

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In September we received the sad news from Marge Armstrong of the passing of retired and founding member and Chief (Deputy) Harry Armstrong on the 26th. He had driven himself and Marge to the hospital in Duncan a few days previously, which was typical for Harry. For over 30 years he had been a career fire fighter for the Vancouver Fire Department, as a ‘tillerman’ and as a Captain on the Vancouver Fire Boat (before it was sold to San Francisco FD). As a founding member with Pete Rees, Harry directed all aspects of the TIVFD, including construction of halls, equipment and vehicle purchases, training, initiation of medical response capabilities, public education, public assistance, mechanical repairs and administrative duties. His personnel record shows he was a TIVFD member from 1979 to 2003, which includes the years of his and Pete’s hard work to get the Provincial Letters Patent to form the TIVFD in 1983. That means that after 30 years as a fire fighter in Vancouver, Harry put in another 24 years of emergency service for the community of Thetis Island. Harry never wanted the position of Fire Chief of the TIVFD because he felt he could better serve the department as Deputy Chief and have a position on the TIID (TIID bylaws do not permit a Fire Chief to be a Trustee). Just before Harry’s retirement from the department in 2003, the then Lieutenant Governor of BC, Iona Campagnola, and Justice of the Supreme Court of BC, David Vickers, on behalf of the Governor General of Canada presented the Canadian Fire Services Exemplary Service Award and Bars for his over fifty years of service. Harry continued to support the TIVFD throughout his retirement.

As a retired Chief of a Fire Department, Harry was eligible for a full dress formal fire service memorial, and with permission from Marge Armstrong and her family, on November 26th a Celebration of Life was held at Forbes Hall. The Cowichan Valley Fire Services Honour Guard had assisted in drilling the TIVFD members in proper parade ceremony marching and protocol, and Capernwray Harbour Bible Centre generously donated funds to purchase a more dignified and formal dress uniform than TIVFD T-shirts. On the day of the service there was a formal fire service parade of Engine 1, draped and carrying Retired Chief Pete Rees and Marge Armstrong with Harry’s remains, a

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fire service piper, the Cowichan Valley Honour Guard, members of the department, Auxiliary members, past Fire Chiefs and retired members, and representatives of other fire departments marching to Forbes Hall for a short “flag ceremony”. Marge and family were presented with the folded TIVFD flag, and we moved inside the hall for eulogies and remembrances, and the piper’s lament. It was a moving tribute to Harry, and we all wished he could have been there to see how respected he was by the fire service and his community.



Fire Service Memorial Parade November 36, 2016, honouring Ret. Deputy Chief Harry Armstrong



Lieut. Governor Iona Campagnolo and Harry Armstrong



Harry and FF Jeannine Caldbeck in early 2004

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2016 Wrap Up

2016 was a pretty typical year for the TIVFD, with another volatile Wild Fire Season of high temperatures, low humidity and drying winds and EXTREME FIRE HAZARD for fire behaviour. We started into the fire season early and were already in EXTREME at the beginning of June when we had an interface structure fire that fortunately was extinguished almost immediately upon discovery, and an illegal yard waste fire that quickly escalated in these extreme conditions and threatened adjoining properties. There was also a sofa fire that could have had catastrophic consequences in the neighbourhood. These fires, and a few others, remind all of us that fires can occur at any time, whether by accident or design, and could have far-reaching impacts on our community. We were fortunate to have had no major fires or MVIs on the island this year, but we trained diligently for such an occurrence.

The Health & Safety of the fire fighters and Auxiliary members is still the priority of the fire department, and going forward we will continue to upgrade our buildings, equipment, training and procedures to ensure we are meeting the professional standards required by the Province.

The TIVFD members continue to volunteer their time, skills and energy to serve the community whenever needed, and the partners and families of our fire fighters should also be acknowledged for their commitment to support the members no matter what time of the day or night.

I also wish to acknowledge the support of the Thetis Island community, our customers. I have heard idle and misguided chatter in other small, rural communities about how a fire department is an "old boys club" or a hole to throw good money into for no reason since not many fire occur. Here on Thetis Island we know how much the professionalism of our department means to our community, how much our residents and visitors depend upon an expedient, trained and effective fire department response to any emergency, and how committed our members are to community service with compassion and professionalism.

Jeannine Caldbeck

Fire Chief, Director of Emergency Services, LAFC
Thetis Island Volunteer Fire Department



TIVFD Deputy Chief Luckham
and Fire Chief Jeannine Caldbeck

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Spontaneous Combustion



VIFFA Fire Training



Extrication Drill on Thetis



Vehicle Extrication



Ret. Chief Dave O'Hara gives us his (injured) finger



New Rookie Murray Fraser



Fun in the dark and wet at drill



Dark and cold on a Haz-Mat response

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Before and After – Fire Behaviour Drill

