

SW-GFEG – Our Financial Reports 2010-2015

Started in 1980 the Mary Road Fire Brigade gradually become the South-West Gambier Fire Equipment Group and became affiliated with, but independent of groups located in Douglas Bay, Brigade Bay and SE Gambier including Camp Fircom. Thanks to some generous contributors and our core group of volunteers we have been able to acquire an excellent range of self-help first response fire equipment for community use. As a result, neighbours have been able to jointly protect our properties and the surrounding forest from various fires that occurred from time to time. The purpose of this report is to review how contributions have been invested in developing this first-response fire suppression capability in recent years.

Gambier Fire Equipment Group - 2010			
Summary of financial operations for 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010			
	Acquisitions & Expenses	Contributions & Donations	Cash Reserves
Opening Bank Balance	DR	CR	\$6,119.01
Neighbor Contributions (38)		\$3,205.82	
Equipment acquired by Contributors at cost		1,119.18	
Equipment Acquisitions and Maintenance Expenses	8,941.22		
ICBC Insurance for Trailers	138.00		
Bank Interest		0.27	
Closing Balance			\$1,365.06



After saving a big portion of contributions made to GFEG during 2008 and 2009, we were able, in 2010, to make our planned investment in fire equipment suitable for protecting our Community Centre. We built the Fire Equipment Shed, dug the well and bought an 18hp CET pump pictured at left. It has the capability of operating 4 fire hoses at once with 15 gallon-per-minute nozzles. The well holds about 15,000 gallons and that should be enough to keep the 4 hoses operational for up to 4 hours. This remarkable spring

fed-well has remained full to overflowing throughout all the summer droughts of recent years.

Gambier Fire Equipment Group - 2011			
Summary of financial operations for 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011			
	Acquisitions & Expenses	Contributions & Donations	Cash Reserves
Opening Bank Balance	DR	CR	\$1,365.06
Neighbor Contributions (33)		\$1,310.00	
Equipment acquired by Contributors at cost		672.03	
Equipment Acquisitions and Maintenance Expenses	574.60		
ICBC Insurance for Trailers	135.00		
Bank Interest		0.20	
Closing Balance			\$2,637.69

2011 was mostly about fire practices and especially about helping other groups to become established. We worked with Jim Petroski to equip and train our neighboring the community in Brigade Bay. We also crossed Howe Sound to help re-establish the Keats Island Fire Equipment Group that had sought our experience to help equip and train them in using foam equipment.

Gambier Fire Equipment Group - 2012			
Summary of financial operations for 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2012			
	Acquisitions & Expenses	Contributions & Donations	Cash Reserves
Opening Bank Balance	DR	CR	\$2,637.69
Neighbor Contributions (37)		\$1,930.00	
Equipment acquired by Contributors at cost		1,628.09	
Equipment Acquisitions and Maintenance Expenses	2,851.30		
ICBC Insurance for Trailers	141.00		
Bank Interest		0.30	
Closing Balance			\$3,203.78

2012 was focused on practices to help even more neighbours to become familiar with our new foam equipment. Participants were keen to take advantage of the wholesale discounts that contributors can enjoy when buying their own fire equipment through GFEG. The Scotty 3gpm garden hose foam attachment for firefighting was a popular item in that connection. Unlike 2011 our group expenses were low at only \$1,223.21 (\$2851.30 – 1628.09) which was for equipment maintenance, spares, gasoline for the pumps and foam concentrate. The

blue 20L foam pail in the picture on page 1 costs about \$100 each. At the end of 2012 our inventory of Class A Foam Concentrate amounted to 400 Liters (\$2,000) and was distributed between West Bay, the Community Centre, New Brighton and Gambier Harbour. One 20L pail lasts just over an hour if injected at 1% into a 30GPM foam nozzle.

Especial recognition is due to our core group volunteer training coordinators during this 6-year period. They included Stu Watson, Joe Wright, Bob Ostiguy, Colin Bates, Scott & Sarah Hanna, plus Dave Langley, Kevin Pike and Margo Gram. Their combined dedicated support has been invaluable to the SW-GFEG. Without them we would be unable to hold training events to help you, our neighbors, learn how to operate your communally owned equipment. We are anxious to welcome more volunteers to help in this capacity. Will you join us?

Gambier Fire Equipment Group - 2013			
Summary of financial operations for 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2013			
	Acquisitions & Expenses	Contributions & Donations	Cash Reserves
Opening Bank Balance	DR	CR	\$3,203.78
Neighbor Contributions (43)		\$3,552.88	
Equipment acquired by Contributors at cost		457.85	
Equipment Acquisitions and Maintenance Expenses	4,157.67		
ICBC Insurance for Trailers	141.00		
Bank Interest		0.31	
Closing Balance			\$2,916.15



THE MORNING AFTER - ALL THAT WAS LEFT

2013 began for SW-GFEG at half-past midnight on 13 January when an electrical fault set Owen and Eileen Houston's vacant cottage ablaze in Gambier Harbour. A brisk on-shore S.E. breeze jumped the fire to Jack & Sandra Adams' cottage next door within minutes of the alarm being sounded and just as a few volunteers arrived with pumps and hoses to try to stop the fire from moving any further. Another two cottages lay directly downwind and beyond that the creosote pilings of Gambier Harbour's dock were at risk. It was thanks to contributions from the families who support us with time and/or money, or both, that we were equipped

to stop this aggressive blaze in its tracks on a very cold windy night in winter with very few folks in residence to help. We need more full time residents to train with our core group. Can you help us?

Afterwards, as is often the case when tackling a fire, we had to spend quite a bit of money to replace damaged equipment. We also needed to buy some new items, like LED headlamps, that we felt we ought to have available next time we get a nighttime fire.

Towards the end of the year we heard that one of our main equipment suppliers, Scott Plastics of Sidney, had developed an upgrade of their round-the-pump foam injection system that we had hitherto avoided. We arranged to test one and very soon realized we had found a winner to replace the heavy, awkward foam jugs slung under the educator nozzles that we had relied upon in the past. A new project for 2014 was in the works.

SW Gambier Fire Equipment Group - 2014			
Summary of financial operations for 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014			
	Acquisitions & Expenses	Contributions & Donations	Cash Reserves
Opening Bank Balance	DR	CR	\$2,916.15
Neighbor Contributions (72)		\$6,975.00	
Equipment acquired by Contributors at cost		100.00	
Equipment Acquisitions and Maintenance Expenses	6,276.58		
ICBC Insurance for Trailers	144.00		
Bank & PayPal Charges + Interest	69.01	0.10	
Closing Bank Balance			\$3,501.66



SCOTTY'S NEW 4171 FOAM INJECTOR

Besides reducing a nozzle operator's fatigue, operator safety was also improved as we would now be able to "throw" foam 60-70ft from the nozzle compared with only 35-50ft before. So we asked neighbours in SW Gambier to rally round and help us raise enough money to make the expensive transition. Consequently, instead of only 33-43 regular contributors to our equipment fund this year, we received support from 72 families at an average of nearly \$100 each. Thank you neighbours! This allowed us to make the transition and by year-end we had fitted foam injectors (\$513 each) to all of our fire attack foam pumps and were also able to acquire

one additional draught pump (\$799 each) for our 3 trailers to extend our ability to draught water uphill by another 20M of elevation.

By the end of 2014 we had upgraded our ability to fight fires with the most efficient and safest equipment on the market provided we can all find enough water nearby to do it with. To investigate our limitations in 2015, we ran a critical test practice at the ANAVets Memorial Park by draughting water up 50 meters of elevation from Gambier Harbour dock over a distance of 400 meters (1/4 mile). We used 3 draughting pumps set at 20m, 35M and 45M elevations with about 4 x 100ft lengths of hose between each draught pump connected in series. At ANAVet's Park, we added a foam pump and were able to get

excellent results with a 15GPM foam nozzle. However, by the time our experienced GFEG Trainers had reached the target with foam, it had taken us a long time and we only had one operational fire hose in use to stop this theoretical fire from spreading. Our practice exposed a serious equipment limitation in being unable to assist quickly when a neighbour's water supply proves insufficient to extinguish a fire breakout if it is located above 40M of elevation. Even more worrisome is our inability to draft water above 40M elevation at all.

Research indicates that 106 (36%) of our 290 dwellings in SW Gambier are more than 40M above sea-level and thus beyond reach of a backup supply of seawater if their local water supply in wells, tanks or ponds run dry. So, when 2015 contributions to our Equipment Fund continued to come in at the same rate as in the prior year, we determined that it should be invested in new equipment that will service all locations in SW Gambier with a back-up supply of inexhaustible seawater above 40M of elevation to the highest dwellings at 160 meters and as distant as 1,830M or 6,000ft from the nearest dock.

SW Gambier Fire Equipment Group - 2015			
Summary of financial operations for 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015			
	Acquisitions & Expenses	Contributions & Donations	Cash Reserves
Opening Bank Balance	DR	CR	\$3,501.66
Neighbor Contributions (70)		\$6,887.77	
GICA Donation		\$5,000.00	
Equipment acquired by Contributors at cost		667.88	
Equipment Acquisitions and Maintenance Expenses	4,346.04		
ICBC Insurance for Trailers	147.00		
Bank & PayPal Charges + Interest	93.30	-	
Closing Bank Balance			\$11,470.97

We did some initial research to put together an early budget and approached the Gambier Island Community Association with a proposal. We had set aside \$5,000 of this year's contributions and asked if they could match that with an equal amount of grant money? The intent was that we could start Phase 1 of a proposed 3-phase project to enable us to reach all dwellings in SW Gambier regardless of distance or elevation. The GICA Board endorsed our proposal and a \$5,000 donation became half of our Phase 1 budget due to be spent in June 2016. Hence the unusually large bank balance of \$11,470.97 at the end of 2015.

To learn about and review our three budget phases, please click on this link: [Budget](#)

SW Gambier Fire Equipment Group

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