

## Hornby Island Fire Department Annual Report 2006 Presented at HIRRA AGM, March 2007

An interesting but quiet kind of year where nothing really jumps out at you, but there were a few moments to remember. The long series of power outages and storms of 2006 provided a few of those moments, but things could have been worse!

Looking at the statistic side of things, 2006 looked like this:

	<u>Practices(hrs)</u>	<u>Call outs</u>	<u>(hrs)</u>	<u>Courses(hrs)</u>	<u>Total(hrs)</u>	<u>Call out #</u>
2006	1858	634	248	2,740	98	
2005	1887	632	208	2,727	93	
2004	2448	664	680	3,792	111	
2003	2025	786	520	3,875	118	
2002	2280	731	690	3,701	97	
2001	2100	789	232	3,267	104	
2000	2125	790	318	3,234	113	

The call breakdown is:

- 5 Community Events
- 2 search for missing person
- 3 Beach Fires
- 1 abandoned 911 call
- 5 structure fires
- 59 Medical
- 15 Duty Officer
- 2 MVA
- 3 False alarms
- 3 Brush Fires

The ratio of Medical calls to other calls is typical for Fire Departments offering First Responder programs (60%) however we do respond to all medical calls, unlike other Departments.

Structure fires represent such a small portion of our calls, however this remains the primary focus of our training due to the hazardous nature of the incidents. There used to be a common saying that the Fire Department “saved the foundation”. This is changing, as the poorly built houses are replaced by modern ones that may actually come close to meeting the Building Code. Approved construction methods allow for the slower spread of fire and a chance for the Department to arrive and start operations within 15 minutes of receiving the call. The Fire Department must train with the assumption that we will be entering burning buildings. There may be people trapped inside and fire fighters may get hurt. Training for these eventualities reduces the potential for error and injury.

In 2006, we continued our regular training program with emphasis on:

- pump operations
- interior search and rescue
- ventilation techniques
- hydraulic tool use for auto-extrication
- wildfire fighting
- patient transport
- hose stream and maneuvers
- exterior attack
- water tender shuttle
- motor vehicle accident scene stabilization
- ground search and rescue
- new CPR techniques
- foam application
- ladder operations
- portable pump use
- high angle rescue
- medical response
- defibrillator use

We also had members go off Island for specialized training in:

- o Emergency Driver Training
- o Emergency Scene Management
- o Incident Safety Officer
- o Emergency Scene Traffic Control
- o Fire Prevention Officer Conference
- o Survival Training and Rescue Techniques for Fire Fighters
- o Fire Chiefs Conference

Our recruiting drive in the fall failed to attract any new recruits, however our roster remained at a fairly healthy level with twenty in total (The optimum number for the Department would be 25 fully trained members). This lack of public response and our own review of First Responder services formed the basis of discussion for a Visioning Day where members resolved to explore ways of attracting new recruits.

Long range planning is part of the responsibility of the Fire Department and with the help of the Fire Committee we worked on:

- Fire hall planning/
- Fire Underwriters Survey audit/
- Superior Shuttle Accreditation/
- Community Wildfire Protection Planning (CWPP)

The Fire Hall planning has been delayed awaiting input from the Regional District and is expected to progress in 2007 with the help of the District. The FUS audit of Fire Services on Hornby Island was postponed to the summer of 2007.

The Fire Department bought 7 steel water tanks as part of the Superior Shuttle Accreditation process and will be starting installation in the spring of 2007. The overall accreditation process is expected to take up to three years, with the aim of greatly reducing homeowners fire insurance premiums.

The CWPP was completed in the spring of 2006 and will be presented to the community in the spring of 2007 to form part of community discussions on public lands stewardship.

The Summer Fire Patrol program continued to be an essential part of public safety and awareness during the busy summer months. The effectiveness of the program was reinforced by the results

listed in the daily patrol reports and in the lack of careless fires requiring response by the Fire Department.

The Department ended 2006 with a small surplus of \$3,000 which was rolled over into the 2007 budget. The only item which varied significantly from the budgeted amount was the Vehicle Maintenance due to unexpected repairs to #62 (tanker or water tender). This imbalance was made up by economizing in other areas.

Submitted by

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