March 17, 2009

Presidents Report

**Highlights of 2008**

* Mother’s Day Pancake breakfast was organized. Attndance was down and expenses were higher this year.
* Two members were trained as Fireworks apprentices.
* Halloween was organized and held. We purchased electronic fireworks switching equipment at a cost of $2,550.00
* Donations for Halloween Festivities were received from Mayne Island Parks and Recreation Commission, The Lions Club and the Agricultural Society.
* Fundraising efforts were initiated to purchase and AED for Engine 1. Proceeds from the sale of our Calendar will go towards purchasing a portable AED.
* The Calendar cost a fair bit, due mostly to initial set-up. We probably could have had it done for less if we had taken it off island; however, I believe that if we want to create another calendar, our costs will be reduced due to the layout already being on hand. John Aitken volunteered his time for the photography. I would suggest that the membership extend a vote of thanks for his efforts.
* The cost of the Calendar was recouped through sales. We basically broke even on the calendar costs, but generated $4100.00 through tax-deductible donations.
* An agreement was reached with the Mayne Inn to restore and ‘lease’ our shuffleboard in exchange for an annual donation to the Association.
* The New Fire Hall Proposal has meant that any plans we had for giving away the Rec hall to another group has kind of fallen off the rails. With luck the referendum will pass and we will begin the process of replacing the old Firehall. We will then need to look for funding to move and upgrade the Rec hall as a part of the overall process of creating a new emergency services facility.
* A review of the donation amount made by members was initiated. It was decided to maintain the individual donations at $360.00 per year.
* The decision to re-establish the Auxiliary leaves us with the question of how to treat these individuals. As they will not be firefighters, it is my understanding that they will not be paid. There are options about that which we could explore. It was recommended that since the membership is made up of all members of the MIFD, a special class of membership could be created. These members would have the same rights and privileges as active members, but would not be able to vote for the board of directors. The membership fees could be set at $1.00 per year.