

# Gunflint Trail Volunteer Fire Department Newsletter



Summer 2012

## 200 Square Miles Served: 3 Fire Halls & 33 Volunteers

### Yesterday

Prior to 1992, there weren't street signs, emergency numbers, evacuation plans, fire halls, or a volunteer fire department. In an emergency, you were the firefighter, first responder, ambulance driver, paramedic, evacuation coordinator and communication team.

### Today

Canoe races and mid-trail fund drives, grants, considerable community support and the generous contributions by many created the Gunflint Trail Volunteer Fire Department. The GTVFD has all of its equipment squeezed into fire halls at Poplar, Gunflint and Seagull lakes. Squeezed isn't an exaggeration. Tables & chairs, canoe race canopies, boats, winter rescue equipment, firefighter gear, sprinkler pumps, and trucks small & large fill the three fire halls. Firefighter training is often preceded by a shuffling of trucks and equipment. And when community groups need meeting space, equipment has to be removed from the fire halls.

Over the next dozen or so years the Department will upgrade equipment to better meet rural and wilderness firefighting needs. Those upgrades aren't possible with the space we have today. Winter rescues, ambulance calls, firefighting and evacuation coordination are some of the ways the GTVFD serves the community. Last year we fought fires on Loon and Seagull Lakes and responded to 19 calls for medical assistance. And our 33 volunteers had more than 1350 hours of unpaid training in 2011.

### Tomorrow

We are preparing to put up two new buildings at the Poplar Lake fire hall, including a multiple use building to serve as an incident command area, meeting room, and training facility. Site work has begun and buildings should go up early this summer. A bathroom and shower will be added to the Gunflint Lake fire hall by mid-summer. A shower is needed so that first responders can return to their homes after 'decontaminating'. The fire hall at Seagull Lake is the size of the truck it holds - a truck suitable for fighting small brush fires. We hope to replace the existing fire hall with a building that can hold two trucks to meet the needs at the end of the Trail and have an ICP/community room/training space similar to Hall 1 at Poplar.

### How to Make this Happen

A Cook County levy will pay for about a third of the cost of these construction projects, and the Department has hired a grant writer to accelerate efforts to obtain outside support, but money from those sources won't be enough. ***We need the continued support and contributions from property owners.*** To complete these construction projects, we need to raise approximately \$200,000. As you prepare for summer on the Gunflint Trail, we hope your plans can include a contribution to the Gunflint Trail Volunteer Fire Department.

Mike Prom, Fire Chief  
218-388-2224 mike@canoelit.com

We were lucky to have had good rainfall this spring, but our thin soils can dry out in a hurry without continued rain. If you have a sprinkler system, test it and have a plan to help neighbors get systems running if an emergency arises. Make sure your personal emergency and evacuation plans are up-to-date. Keep them where you can find them if there's a wildfire or other emergency. If you don't have a written plan, now might be a good time to begin preparing for an emergency.

Support your Gunflint Trail Volunteer Fire Dept. Your donations are greatly appreciated. Please return this form with your donation to GTVFD, 7401 Gunflint Trl., Grand Marais, MN 55604. Donations can also now be made online at our website: <http://www.gunflint911.org>. Thank you!

Donation Amount: \$50\_\_ \$100\_\_ \$500\_\_ \$1000\_\_ \$5000\_\_ Other: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Remember to mark your calendars:

*July 18, 2012* - **Gunflint Canoe Races**

*July 20, 21, & 23, 2012* - **Community CPR Training**

*August 18, 2012* - **Mid-Trail Auction and Fund Raiser**

GTVFD Newsletter  
52 Black Spruce Trl.  
Grand Marais, 55604



**CPR Training for the Community offered on the Gunflint Trail July 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>**

When a heart stops beating, seconds count. On the Gunflint Trail, medical help may be 30 or more minutes away! The Gunflint Trail Volunteer Fire Department, in conjunction with Northcountry CPR, will be sponsoring a class for anyone interested in learning CPR. The class will include CPR for adults, infants, and children, how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED), and how to help someone who is choking (including adults, children, and infants). We'll also talk about signs of heart attack and stroke. There is no fee for this class, but donations to the GTVFD will be accepted (suggested donation of \$20.00). This is a non-certified class and no CPR certification cards will be provided.

Class length is 2 hours, and each session will have a maximum of eight people. Sessions will be offered at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. each day. All sessions on July 20<sup>th</sup> and July 23<sup>rd</sup> will be at GTVFD Fire Hall One – Poplar Lake. All sessions on July 21<sup>st</sup> will be held at GTVFD Fire Hall Two – Gunflint Lake.

To register or request more information, email [admin@gunflint911.org](mailto:admin@gunflint911.org) or call Kelly or Paul Dahl at 388-9498.