



WATCH LAKE - NORTH GREEN LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



5771 Green Lake North Road
70 Mile House, BC, V0K 2K1

www.wlnglfiredept.org

Newsletter - Summer 2013

Summer Open House: Saturday, August. 3rd, 11:00 a.m. at Sonny Johnson Hall #2

Sad Start to the Year

The first months of this year were saddened by the passing of three people who have made an enormous contribution to the safety of our community and who have played an important role in the development of our fire department.

In January we were saddened to hear that after a lengthy illness George Wilson had passed away. George had been a fire fighter and first responder on the Department since 2004. At one time he was the sole first responder and for a short period of time he served as Acting Chief. In recent years George held the position of Accountability Officer. George was very popular among his fellow fire fighters and his dedication to the Department set an example that was hard to equal. He faced every task and every hardship with a tremendous smile that was the outward reflection of his tenacious spirit. George worked tirelessly on the remodeling of his own home and was famous locally for his lush vegetable garden, yet he always found time to help out at the Community Hall or to assist a neighbour with a home project. Upon hearing of George's passing, Director Bob Nathane suggested that we start a memorial fund to honour George and, in time, other members of the department.

George's wife Kathy liked this idea and asked that in memory of George donations in lieu of flowers be made to the fund.





Alex Nowick
March 6 1927 - February 15, 2013

Alex Nowick and his wife Barbara have long been ardent supporters of the Fire Department. Sadly Alex passed away at home on February 15th. He leaves behind Barbara and three adult children, Andy, Jim and Stephanie. The Nowicks are well known in the Green Lake - 70 Mile House area having resided on both sides of the lake for many years. Alex will be missed at the weekly meat draw and by his buddies at the poker table. A memorial service was held for Alex on June 1st at the 70 Mile House Community Hall. Barbara also requested that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the *Firefighters' Memorial Fund*.

The memorial fund, initially started to honour George Wilson, has now been named the *Firefighters' Memorial Fund* and will be reserved for special, extraordinary projects. Future growth of this fund will come from memorial donations, fund raising projects and bequests. Money will be drawn from the fund for occasional special purchases that have not been covered in the annual budget and no further money will be withdrawn until the first withdrawal has been replaced. Members commemorated by contributions to the fund will be acknowledged on a small plaque affixed to the specific piece of equipment purchased.

The sudden passing of Bob Smith on March 23rd came as a terrible shock to all who knew him. The Smith Family has been summer residents at the lake for 30 years and they have many friends here. After his retirement from his position as manager of the Port Alberni Co-Op, Bob and his wife Dianna found that they could spend much more time here and Bob fulfilled his long-time wish to join the Fire Department. Bob loved his involvement with the department and was very dedicated to his service to the community. Likewise, his fellow members had the utmost respect for him. He never missed a practice or call-out when he was here. A couple of years ago we found ourselves short on First Responders. Bob and Dianna were among the first to sign-up for the course to help bring up our number of medical aid personnel. Bob will be sadly

missed by Dianna their son Wes (Jody), daughters Jennifer (Landon), Crystal Anne and five grandchildren. A memorial service attended by many members of the community was held for Bob at the Watch Lake Community Hall on Sunday, May 25th.



Bob Smith
July 9, 1948 - March 22, 2013

Now for some better news

As a result of the wet weather so far this season our fire report is identical to that of last year and we have again not encountered the high or extreme wildfire hazard that is generally a concern at this time of year. The long range weather forecast always says that summer will eventually get here and this situation will certainly change as things dry out. In early spring we did have a few dry weeks, but thankfully most residents respected the early burning restrictions and we made it through with only one incident. Whatever comes our way throughout the summer and into the fall, your fire department is well prepared. We currently have a roster of 31 members. Of the firefighters 16 are also trained as first responders and an additional 3 members are first responders only. Our Auxiliary also has about 25 active members who work hard to organize fund-raising events.

In all, this is a good turnout for a community of our size, but some members are only part-time residents and a few others travel south during the winter months. Many are retired and feel that someday they will have to retire from active duty as well. Understandably, this casts a dark cloud over the future of our department. We are approaching the member crisis that has plagued other areas and unless we find new members to begin training, we may be facing an eventual closure. We encourage any residents, either full or part-time, to drop by a Tuesday practice or give a call to Chief, Andy Palaniak at 250-456-7460 (e-mail: wlnlvd@gmail.com) and see how you can donate just a few hours of your time to the protection of your community. Anyone with carpentry, mechanical or first aid skills would be particularly welcome. The Auxiliary too can always use people who can spare a bit of their time to help out

at special events. If you can help out here please contact Giselle Poliseno at 250-395-9082 (e-mail: gpoliseno@gmail.com). The firefighters meet every Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. to practice their fire fighting skills and to perform maintenance on the equipment. Practice scenarios are set up so that members get as much live-fire experience as possible.



Please mark the Summer Open House at the Sonny Johnson Hall #2 on your calendar for the August long weekend – Saturday, August 3rd at 11:00 a.m. Board members and Firefighters will be available to answer any questions you may have. We hope to see a good turnout from the community – drop by and meet the people who devote so much of their time to the protection of our community

If you have any concerns that require our immediate attention please contact any one of the Board members. See the website for contact information for members of the Department

We hope you all have a safe and enjoyable summer. Your firefighters and first responders are there for you in case of emergency, but only you can prevent the emergency from happening in the first place.

Roy Allan,
President, (On medical leave)

Fire Dues:

We are often asked, "why are my fire dues so high?" In fact, compared to other areas in the Cariboo and Thompson/Nicola Regional Districts, they are not that high at all and at the Annual General Meeting the Board of Directors may have to ask the membership to approve a moderate increase to attempt to catch up with inflation. The rising costs of our operating expenses including fuel, insurance, electricity and the replacement of firefighter equipment have risen to the point that they can no longer be covered by the present income from fire dues. Local areas that have the cost of fire protection included in their taxes pay considerably more than us for their emergency services. If we were to have at one time gone with CRD Emergency Services, we might have a couple of newer engines, but we would certainly pay a lot more in our annual taxes. Below are some of the rates we have presented at previous General Meetings. If you missed these meetings, you may find the comparisons interesting. This chart is based upon a random property value of \$300,000 times the rate for fire protection per \$1000 of assessed value plus (in some cases) a base fee.

Forest Grove	$\$300,000 \times 1.607/1000 + \30	= \$512.10
Interlakes	$\$300,000 \times 1.445/1000 + \50	= \$483.50
Lone Butte	$\$300,000 \times .6878/1000$	= \$206.34
Miocene	$\$300,000 \times 1.918/1000$	= \$575.40
S. Green Lake	$\$300,000 \times .9713/1000 + \50.85	= \$342.24
Watch Lake – North Green Lake – flat rate – undeveloped land developed property		= \$90.00 = \$160.00

Had we become a part of the CRD Emergency Services everyone would have to pay their share, but we would all be paying a lot more. We have kept our costs down for as long as possible, but as the Treasurer's report will point out, it becomes more difficult to make ends meet every year.

Alan Boyd
Acting President

Equipment Feature:

Over the past few years we have managed to configure the department's vehicles to optimize the capabilities of each unit. For example, the two one-ton pickups provide rapid transportation to the scene of a medical emergency for the first responders. Both vehicles carry totes containing 250 gallons of water in the summer months for initial response to wildfires. FR21 also hauls the pump trailer to the closest water source and FR11 can be fitted with a snow plough to keep the access to the halls open throughout the winter months. The two newest tenders, T12 and T21, are now fully equipped to give rapid response to wildfires or to provide water backup to the two pumper trucks for any kind of structure fire. One truck carries 1700 gallons of water and the other carries 1880 gallons. Either truck can be filled in about 3 minutes from any locally available water source.



Tender 21 filling portable pond

The newest tender, T21, has proven to be a tremendous asset to the fleet. This truck was outfitted in California for fighting brush fires and came with 2 high-volume pumps mounted on the rear bumper. With these pumps the tank can be rapidly filled or hoses can be attached for fire fighting.



If it were not for the BC Lotteries Grant, a \$5,000 grant from the CRD and a lot of pie sales by the Auxiliary we would never have been able to afford this vehicle. It gets from water source to fire and back quickly and once at a fire it can be connected directly to Engine 11 or 21 or it can dump its load of water into one of the portable ponds.

The versatility of the pumping system on this vehicle raises its rating by Forestry from tender to engine. This means very little for our daily use. However, if we are enlisted to aid in a wild fire in our area the hourly rental rate we could charge would be much higher. Our newest tenders, T21 and T12, backed-up by old Tender T11 will provide us with good service for many years to come, but we must now begin a search for an affordable pumper to replace E11. According to the Underwriters the maximum acceptable age for pumpers is 29 years – ours are 27 and 28 years old. A new unit costs anywhere from \$500,000 on up, whereas, a seven to ten-year old unit that would suit our needs will run in the neighbourhood of \$200,000. We could be looking at vehicles that are closer to 20 years of age and costing around \$40,000 to \$50,000, but we would be really no further ahead than with what we have now. The fire dues barely cover our annual operating expenses so it will require a lot of fund raising and pie sales to continue to bring our fleet up to an acceptable standard.

Insurance time again

Members of the board of directors are often questioned about how the money taken in through the annual fire dues is spent. There are certainly no secrets with our finances. A financial summary is distributed to the Board members for discussion at their regular meetings. A biannual report is distributed to the membership at the Summer and Annual General Meetings along with an audited report at the AGM. If anyone has further concerns, the books are open for inspection by arranging a mutually convenient time with our treasurer.

By remaining independent of the CRD Emergency Services we continue to enjoy one of the lowest annual rates for fire protection in the Cariboo. Fortunately this is supplemented by the annual training and safety grant from BC Lotteries. However, even with a low annual income this community has, over the past five years, managed to build two new, well-equipped fire halls, replace two of the aging fire engines, add a newer tender and the two one-tons with their attachments.

One unavoidable expenditure is insurance. The nature of our activities requires coverage for just about everything. The department has insurance covering its assets, as well as personal liability coverage for fire fighters, first responders and directors. The assets include two fire halls, trucks and equipment with ongoing updates. Total cost for insuring our trucks alone is \$9,300. The two fire halls, along with equipment and liability insurance costs \$12,456. WorksafeBC coverage for on-the-job injury costs another \$940.50 (updated for this newsletter)

Insuring the fire halls and trucks is straightforward, while liability insurance requires extra consideration as exposure is always a concern. On this note, in working with our insurance provider of Capri Insurance, Clayton Prince, this policy is widely reviewed each year, looking for potential shortfalls and discussing at length with board members and any interested membership.

Having proper coverage in today's world is an absolute necessity. It is also one of our largest yearly expenses. Having adequate insurance coverage gives us the confidence to move forward as a fire department and in supporting our first responders to do the job necessary to protect our community.

Thank you, membership, for your financial support. Without it, none of the above would be possible.

Lee Granberg
Director / Insurance

Summer 2013 Website Review:

The Watch Lake – North Green Lake Volunteer Fire Dept. website – www.wlnglfiredept.org – has been in operation for over 2 ½ years. Its purpose is to keep you up-to-date on what the fire dept. is doing to promote fire prevention within our service area, and keep you aware of what it is doing to improve fire safety and first responder service to each and every member property. We are averaging over 40 inquiries per day, which is twice the number of visits to the website last year. This is very good for our small region consisting of approximately 450 properties. In addition, we are receiving world-wide attention from such far-away places as Israel, Ukraine, Algeria, Poland, Russia, Luxembourg, Great Britain, China, and Australia. The most popular articles month after month are: "A Nurse's Heart Attack Experience" and "Warning Not to Use a Cell Phone While Filling the Car with Gas".

Some of the website features include: updated information on the fire dept.'s new equipment purchases to protect our homes and properties; pictures of firefighters and first responders in action, and information on how to qualify as a firefighter. It's through your strong support of the fire dept. website, and the information it provides, that we have been able to keep fires to a minimum each and every year.



Our **Facebook** page has also proven to be very popular (a link to it can found on any of our website pages). We use **Facebook** to show videos on fire safety, as well as what is happening around the world to help prevent fires. If you are a member of **Facebook**, you can leave comments and suggestions on fire safety. If you enjoy the information provided by our **Facebook** site, please click on the “**Like**” button to show that you appreciate the additional fire and safety information that appears on the site. We will continue to provide you with the latest information on fire prevention.

This newsletter in color will be sent to WLNGLVFD Society members who have provided us with e-mail addresses. If you have a new e-mail address that we do not have on file, please use the “Contact Us” tab on the website to let us know what it is. You will receive the newsletters faster and in full color. Thanks for helping the WLNGLVFD move into the electronic age. We are a great community because of your support.

Note: We need assistance from the community in making the section in the web site on the history of the Fire Department as accurate and as interesting as possible. If anyone recalls the founding of the WLNGLVFD, please contact Bob Nathane at bob@bnathane.com.

Bob Nathane
Director / Web Master

Department Structure:

Training is a vital part of the operation of a volunteer fire department. All of our members must take the basic firefighter skills training and receive certification. They then practice these skills at the weekly practices. Similarly the First Responders must practice on a regular basis to be fully prepared for any medical emergency. All of the fire fighter and first responder training courses are paid for by the Department.

Our Acting Fire Chief, Andy Palaniak, and his wife Jayne, the Training Officer, have taken on the task of supervising crew activities and keeping the training up-to-date. Together they have taken train-the-trainer fire fighting courses in order to relay this information to the rest of the department members. They have also taken First Responder training including the spinal care and AED modules.

Jayne, a former high school teacher, has special skill for keeping the training sessions interesting. Andy is a semi-retired dentist who does out-of-town locums from time to time. To be sure the community is well protected in his absence, Andy has established a training schedule for the Assistant Chief to follow and he has appointed Captains from both Halls to assume command in the event of an emergency.



Jayne and Andy Palaniak

We are very fortunate to have volunteers with the ability and training that allows them to assume command of any fire or medical emergency that may arise in our community. Chief Andy can rely with confidence on his officers to provide complete coverage if he happens to be out of the area.



Shown above is the Department's team of officers, Richard Hogg, the Captain for Hall #2; Mark Bulman, the Assistant Chief; Ron Thurston, the Communications Officer and Giselle Poliseno, the Captain for Hall #1. Giselle is currently also the President of the Auxiliary. Please contact Chief Andy or any of the officers if you have any questions regarding Department operations.

Brian Rusaw
Acting Vice President

Auxiliary News

Bake and Garage Sale:

The 17th Annual Bake and Garage Sale was a huge success. A few days prior to the event, 16 ladies got together at Helen Eagle's residence to make 146 of their famous apple pies for the bake sale. On May 17th, the Sonny Johnson Memorial Fire Hall (Hall #2) was busy with energetic auxiliary members setting up tables, arranging as well as pricing the garage sale items for the next day.



Bake and Garage Sale – May 2013

Saturday morning was beautiful and the bargain hunters were at the door early. They were very pleased at the selection of items available to them including a variety of home baked goods.



Alan Watrich, Vito Burtini, Lawrence Eagle

The BBQ was also a success serving breakfast sandwiches and later hamburgers and hot dogs. Thank you to Candace Tyler, who organized the BBQ and the crew Vito Burtini, Lawrence Eagle, Alan Watrich, Donna Grimshaw as well as the helpers for a job well done.

At the end of the day, we made \$2870.47. As president of the auxiliary, I would like to thank all our wonderful volunteers for their hard work to make this a great success, as well as, the individuals who donated items.

Mushroom Manure

Alan Watrich borrowed a truck from George Katchmar (Mr. Katchmar also donated the fuel for the truck) and picked up two loads (24 yds) of mushroom manure donated by Jim Lambert. This proved to be a very popular item with the sales of sacks-full and trailer loads realizing \$300.00.



Les Hewitt supervising sales

Moose Turd Count

The 'Moose Turd count at the Bake and Garage Sale was 1613. The winner was Alana Berry. Thank you to all who tried to guess the amount.

Raffle tickets

The members are now busy selling raffle tickets. The next raffle ticket sales will be on the following days:

Thursday, June 27th at the Cariboo Mall

Friday, June 28th at Save-On-Foods

Saturday, July 6th at the Lone Butte Rock

Thursday, August 1st at the Cariboo Mall

Saturday, August 3rd at the Open House at Sonny Johnson Memorial Fire Hall

Thursday, August 29th at the Cariboo Mall

Friday, August 30th at Save-On-Foods

This year's raffle prizes are:

1st – 'Field of Green' Queen Size Quilt ~ \$800.00

2nd – 16 Pieces Ducks Unlimited Dishes ~ \$250.00

3rd – Wooden Planter ~ \$150.00

4th – Roy Vickers – King Fisher II ~ \$100.00

Come out and check the prizes. All it takes is one ticket to win. Individuals interested in purchasing tickets from a member, please contact me. The winning tickets will be drawn on Saturday, September 14th.

Firefighters and First Responders Appreciation Dinner

Our next event will be the Firefighters and First Responders Appreciation Dinner scheduled on Saturday, October 19th at the Watch Lake Community Hall. Come and join us to show our gratitude to these hard working individuals. The doors will open at 4:30 p.m. and a potluck dinner will be served at 6 p.m. The auxiliary will be supplying the turkey and ham for approximately 80 people. If you are interested in attending, please call me at 250-395-9082.

If you would like to purchase raffle tickets or would like more information with regards to the Auxiliary, please contact me. Have a great summer.

Gisele Poliseno
Auxiliary President

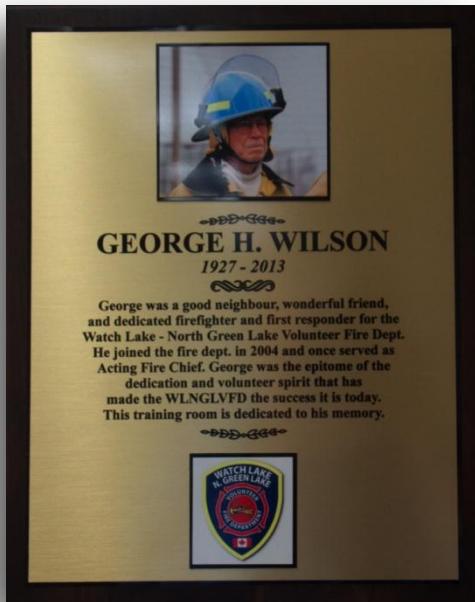
Hall #1 - Well / Septic Field / Washroom / Training Room Renovation Project Update

The water well that was dug for us by Weston Water Wells last fall was capped and left that way for the winter months. We have now completed the burying of the water and power lines from the well casing into the fire hall itself and they will be connected at to the washroom fixtures at a later date.

The septic field has also been completed and passed inspection with flying colours. We still need to obtain some type of barriers to put around the septic tank and field which will stop anyone from driving over the site. A lot of planning and organizing was done by Director Alan Watrich to bring this phase of the project to completionthank you Alan.

The washroom phase of the project is slowly being worked on as so many of our members are busy or on vacation during the summer months. It is hoped that this phase will be completed by the end of September at the latest so our volunteers will have the availability of a toilet, sinks and running hot and cold water for the first time this fall. These improvements will raise the level of personal safety for our First Responders especially, as they will be able to immediately wash themselves and their gear after attending 911 call outs.

In April, with the assistance of Firefighters Bob Wild and Dave Cole, Chief Andy completed the renovations to the former locker room at Hall #1 to create a clean space with a good floor for First Responder and general training activities. Mark Bulman organized a one-day painting party and got the whole room freshened-up. The lighting was improved and they raised the floor to provide a consistent level throughout with the plumbing for the water and septic system installed below.



The room will be called the George Wilson Training Room in memory of George's great contribution to the Department. A plaque naming the room and honouring George will be hung on the wall to be accompanied by a large portrait of the hall's founder, Shorty Horn. I would like to point out to our membership that this entire project was only made possible because of a Community Gaming Grant that our Society received from the Government of B.C. The majority of our fire hall improvement projects, vehicle replacements and all of our volunteer training programs are financed by Community Gaming Grant funding, because our current fire dues structure does not bring in enough revenue to pay for much more than our operational costs.

Merv Tompkins
Director / Grants

Collections

First I would like to thank those of you who have submitted their fire dues by the deadline of March 1st each year. It means so much to our fire department to see that our community supports the continued spontaneous volunteer work within our small district. To your neighbours who have not tendered their dues as of yet, I would ask that you talk to them and see if they would support the overall community in the provision of this valued service. I have and will keep phoning and driving to those residences who have not as of yet responded. There are many excuses for evasion of this duty but there is one whole year in order to acquire this amount and it can be done if we all pull together! At the time of this writing, there are 40+ dwellings on open properties who refuse to pay their dues which creates a burden to the operational objectives of the department and to those dedicated to having the leading, first-rate fire department in the Cariboo. In closing, I sincerely wish that all of our members will proudly display their 2013 yellow stickers on their displayed addresses.

Bill Thomas
Director / Collections

Financial Report:

Please take a look at the mid-year financial statements attached to this newsletter. We have again reached that time of year when we hope no unforeseen expenses arise to upset the delicate balance of our finances. Year after year the operational costs of running our Fire Department continue to rise. We have gone through considerable "belt tightening" and we have reached the point where at the Annual General Meeting the Board may be forced to ask the membership to consider an increase in the annual fire dues. Over the past six years we have seen the cost of fuel alone rise from \$0.85 to \$1.40 per litre. This rate of increase has almost been equaled in the cost of insurance, heating fuel, electricity and basic equipment replacement. The annual dues paid by property owners just cover the general operations of the department. Due to the effects of inflation our fire due rates in the future will have to be addressed. Fortunately, training, health and safety equipment (including first responder supplies), electronics, vehicle upgrades, construction and renovations are covered by grants, donations and fund raising.

Guy Aggiss
Director / Treasurer

Income Statement – 01/01/2013 to 07/18/2013:

REVENUE		
Revenue		
Fire Dues	32,626.55	Add 5234.00 Prepaid Dues =37860.55 Total Dues
Donations	479.90	
Fire Fighting Revenue	0.00	
Net Revenue	<u>33,106.45</u>	
 Other Revenue		
Goverment Grants	24,378.00	
Interest Revenue	0.00	
Miscellaneous Revenue	0.00	
Total Other Revenue	<u>24,378.00</u>	
 TOTAL REVENUE	<u>57,484.45</u>	

Income Statement – 01/01/2013 to 07/18/2013 (continued):

EXPENSE

Expenses

First Responders Expense	2,983.37
Training	2,468.22
Fire Fighting Supplies	8,609.56
Work Safe BC	<u>203.80</u>
Net Expense	11,281.58
Freight Expense	<u>306.38</u>
Expense	<u>14,571.33</u>

Expenses

Accounting & Legal	300.00
Advertising & Promotions	570.00
Tools	670.18
Business Fees & Licenses	1,855.80
Courier & Postage	252.95
Vehicle Fuel	285.87
Vehicle Expense	6,014.66
Vehicle Insurance	187.00
Insurance (Building & liability)	12,468.00
Bank Charges	0.00
Office Supplies	975.67
Mileage	800.25
Vehicle Fuel	0.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	607.21
Rent	50.00
Building Repair & Maintenance	11,176.62
Telephone	0.00
Accomodations & Meals	186.07
Utilities Hall 2	993.87

Utilities hall 1	1,043.87
Fuel	<u>1,363.78</u>
Total Fuel Expense	<u>1,363.78</u>
Expenses.	<u>39,801.80</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>54,373.13</u>
NET INCOME	<u>3,111.32</u>

Generated On: 07/20/2013

Balance Sheet as of 07/18/2013:

ASSET

Current Assets

GIC (HALL 2)	3,373.33
Petty Cash	300.00
Bank Account Gaming	20,088.85
Bank Account General	<u>18,911.89</u>
Total Cash	42,674.07
GST Receivable	<u>-1,384.15</u>
Total GSTReceivables	<u>-1,384.15</u>
Accounts Receivable	<u>0.00</u>
Total Receivable	0.00
GIC (TRUCK)	24,378.00
Total Current Assets	<u>65,667.92</u>

Balance Sheet as of 07/18/2013 (continued):

Capital Assets	
Equipment	67,317.59
Accum. Amort. -Furn. & Equip.	<u>-12,790.34</u>
Net Equipment	54,527.25
Vehicle	337,981.44
Accum. Amort. -Vehicle	<u>-56,657.78</u>
Net - Vehicle	281,323.66
Building	<u>335,400.00</u>
Net - Building	335,400.00
Land	22,100.00
Total Capital Assets	<u>693,350.91</u>
TOTAL ASSET	<u>759,018.83</u>

LIABILITY

Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	0.00
Prepaid Fire Dues	<u>5,234.00</u>
Total	5,234.00
GST Paid on Purchases	<u>-3,553.02</u>
GST Owing (Refund)	<u>-3,553.02</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>1,680.98</u>
TOTAL LIABILITY	<u>1,680.98</u>

EQUITY

Owners Equity	
Retained Earnings - Previous Year	754,226.53
Current Earnings	<u>3,111.32</u>
Total Owners Equity	<u>757,337.85</u>
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>757,337.85</u>
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	<u>759,018.83</u>

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Please don't forget –**Summer Open House: Saturday, August. 3rd, 11:00 a.m. at Sonny Johnson Hall #2**