



# NEWS RELEASE

[parksvillefirerescue.ca](http://parksvillefirerescue.ca)

October 20, 2023

**\*\* Corrected version**

## Parksville Fire Celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Food and Toy Drive

Parksville Fire Rescue is asking the community to support the 2023 “Fill the Boots for Food” drive. Firefighters will be collecting cash donations for the Salvation Army and new unwrapped toys for the Society of Organized Services on **Saturday, November 18 (9 am to 6 pm) and Sunday, November 19 (10 am to 2 pm)**. Firefighters will be at various locations in the City, such as grocery stores, asking residents to generously support the Salvation Army food bank with cash donations. Please watch our social media feeds and website for locations.

Parksville Fire’s first food and toy drive was held in 1998 and 2023 marks our 25<sup>th</sup> year. The first drive for the Parksville Volunteer Fire Department helped stock the Salvation Army’s shelves for Christmas with about 5,000 pounds of food collected door to door. Over the years, local departments joined the campaign and now Parksville Fire participates in the District 69 drive with seven other departments collecting cash donations for the Salvation Army food bank and new unwrapped toys for the Society of Organized Services.

Each year, residents in the Parksville Fire Protection Area generously support the annual drive and are the real reason for its success. With more than \$85,000 in cash and 2,692 pounds of food donated in 2022, this drive and the generosity of our residents makes a true difference to many during the holiday season.

Donations are extremely important to the Salvation Army food bank and Society of Organized Services to provide for less fortunate in our community. Donations may also be made as follows:

- Society of Organized Services (SOS) is gratefully accepting donations for its Caring for Community at Christmas program. The program provides special gifts for local children and youth, and grocery store gift cards are provided to families, adults and seniors so they may choose food that is meaningful to them over the holidays. Financial donations can be made online at [sosd69.com](http://sosd69.com), in person or by phone (250 248-2093), Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4.30 pm. New, unwrapped gifts can be dropped off during the same hours at the SOS Community Services Centre in Parksville (245 Hirst Avenue West) and at Qualicum Commons (744 Primrose Street, Qualicum Beach).
- Salvation Army food bank donations are accepted at 886 Wembley Road, Monday to Friday from 8-11.30 am and on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 1-3.30 pm.

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### For more information:

Parksville Volunteer Fire Department  
Deb Tardiff, Manager of Communications

250 248-3242; [fire@parksville.ca](mailto:fire@parksville.ca)  
250 954-3073; [dtardiff@parksville.ca](mailto:dtardiff@parksville.ca)

*The City of Parksville is located on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish Nations, home to the Snaw-Naw-As First Nation and the Qualicum First Nation.*

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