

## Change of Command for Parksville Fire Department

The City of Parksville is pleased to announce the promotion of Deputy Chief Marc Norris as the new Fire Chief for the Parksville Volunteer Fire Department.

A Change of Command Ceremony was held on February 29 to honour retiring Fire Chief Doug Banks and to welcome new Fire Chief Marc Norris. Addresses were given by Mayor Marc Lefebvre, City of Parksville; Joe Stanhope, Electoral Area G, Regional District of Nanaimo; Staff Sergeant Brian Hunter, RCMP Oceanside Detachment; Lance Stephenson, BC Ambulance Service; Gordon Anderson, British Columbia Fire Commissioner and Fire Chief Tim Pley, President of the Fire Chiefs Association of BC. Master of ceremonies was former Parksville Mayor Chris Burger. As outgoing Chief, Doug Banks passed his white helmet to incoming Chief Marc Norris, a symbolic gesture marking the change in command.

Parksville Mayor Lefebvre stated during his remarks at the ceremony, "The department's success has a great deal to do with the experienced leadership of Chief Banks and now the department will gain a great leader in Chief Norris. Marc respects and values the members and I have no doubt will bring ideas and enthusiasm to the department. All of you in the Parksville Fire Department can feel confident you are getting an outstanding new fire chief."

Fire Chief Norris is a member of the City's senior management team reporting to the Chief Administrative Officer, Debbie Comis.

"Chief Bank's passion for his community and the team of dedicated Parksville firefighters was apparent during the ceremony which recognized an exemplary 45 years of service to the City of Parksville," said Ms Comis. "I look forward to working with Chief Norris, respected throughout the province, within our community and by the members of the Parksville Volunteer Fire Department."

### BACKGROUND

**Chief Marc Norris** joined the department in 1990 as a junior member. He was promoted to lieutenant in 2001 and in 2002, became the full-time deputy chief. Marc is a second generation firefighter; his father, Chief Paul Norris was a member of the department from 1976 to 1997. Chief Norris is a Certified Fire Inspector, Fire Service Instructor Level II and has a diploma in Fire Service Leadership. In 2010, he was BC Fire Training Officer of the year and is currently completing a Bachelor Degree in Public Safety Administration. Chief Norris is an instructor/evaluator for several fire service training providers in such topics as scene management, fire control (live fire) and company officer/team leadership.

**Chief Doug Banks** - since joining the Parksville Fire Department on February 15, 1971, Doug Bank's service of 45 years has been exemplary. Similar to many other career firefighters, he worked his way through the ranks. In the early 80's he became an officer and for three years was department training officer. In 1989, Doug was promoted to volunteer fire chief and in 1992, the position became full time with Doug as the first full-time employee of the Parksville Volunteer Fire Department. He has been active locally, regionally and provincially in such organizations as the Fire Chief's Association of BC, the Fire Prevention Officers Association of BC, the BC Fire Training Officers Association as well as the provincial, regional and local emergency programs.

As third generation Parksville firefighter, long-time service runs in the family. Since 1942, someone from Doug's family has been a member of the Parksville Fire Department. Doug's grandfather Bill Banks was one of the first fire chiefs in the Village of Parksville and his father, Rod Banks, also served 45 years with the Parksville Fire Department. Although both Doug and his father served 45 years, 45 years is a rare achievement.

The City of Parksville wishes retired Chief Banks a long and healthy retirement and congratulates Fire Chief Norris on a well-deserved promotion.

###

**For more information:**

Mayor Marc Lefebvre	250 954-4661
Debbie Comis, Chief Administrative Officer	250 954-3068
Fire Chief Marc Norris	250 954-4695