

# it's your City!



## Understanding Parksville's Fire Service



This is the third article in a series about the PVFD in response to a recent survey in which a need for more information was indicated. Stop by the fire hall or send your comments and questions to [info@parksville.ca](mailto:info@parksville.ca).

The Parksville Volunteer Fire Department is staffed by three career and up to forty volunteer firefighters. PVFD firefighters are a dedicated and diverse group of

highly trained professionals, both women and men, most of whom volunteer their service and who do the same job as paid firefighters.

Our firefighters are trained to the NFPA1001 standard for "Firefighter Professional Qualifications" as a minimum level and are trained to provide many services beyond the traditional role of fire suppression. Skills are honed in such disciplines as emergency medical response, auto extrication (motor vehicle accidents with entrapment), hazardous materials response, confined-space and heavy rescue (industrial type accidents), fire safety inspections, fire prevention education programs and other critical tasks relating to emergency response and rescue.

**Qualities of a volunteer firefighter:  
honest, selfless, committed,  
courageous, family-oriented and  
hardworking.**

To handle these emergencies effectively, members undergo extensive training and practice. The professional firefighter is a student of the science of fire and hydraulics, building construction, many forms of rescue, emergency medical care, ventilation, salvage and overhaul, hose, rope and ladder procedures and forcible entry. Firefighters also learn to operate and maintain fire apparatus and equipment. To assist in the PVFD's goal of fire prevention, firefighters study fire origin and cause, conduct building inspections, present fire safety programs and conduct fire hall tours.

In addition to technical education, being a volunteer firefighter is about community service, teamwork and camaraderie. Members gain personal satisfaction by helping in the community, are active in charitable activities through fundraising and support organizations and events by providing first aid and other specialized services.

Most PVFD members invest more than 200 hours of service annually – the equivalent of 25 average workdays per year. Time is spent training, responding to calls for service and providing other services such as public education and equipment maintenance. Members must also balance the time required to maintain a healthy personal life as well as their paid vocation/career. In order to provide this level of committed service to the community, members must have supportive families and employers. Because pagers go off at all times of the day or night, members often experience disruptions to their daily lives at home and at work, such as interrupted sleep and missed family events.

The Parksville Fire Protection Area is fortunate to have a team of dedicated professional firefighters who at a moment's notice, willingly respond to aid a member of their community. We are most grateful for the support of our members and their families and employers.



### City Notices

#### Fall Grant-in-Aid Applications

Subject to the provisions of the City's Grant-in-Aid applications policy, the City may provide financial assistance to community groups and organizations for events that benefit our citizens and visitors. Community non-profit organizations in the arts, cultural, recreational or social services field are eligible applicants. Deadline is 4 pm, August 30. Information on this program, the policy, application and instructions may be obtained at City Hall or from the website [\[Mayor and Council/Grant-in-Aid Applications\]](#).

#### Permissive Tax Exemptions

Under the provisions of the Community Charter, Council may exempt land and/or improvements from municipal

property taxes, subject to meeting certain requirements which in general, restrict exemption to non-profit organizations using the lands for specific non-profit purposes. Deadline for consideration for the 2014 taxation year is noon, August 30. Details as well as an application and policy may be obtained from City Hall or from the website [\[Public Notices\]](#).

#### Coffee's on Again in September

Coffee with Council resumes on September 5. Residents are encouraged to stop by City Hall on Thursday afternoons (2-4pm) for an informal chat with members of Council. These sessions provide residents with an informal forum in which to ask questions, discuss concerns and offer comments and suggestions. Please check the website to confirm dates.

#### Downtown Free Bus

Provided by the Parksville Downtown Business Association runs until August 31, from 9 am to 6 pm and from noon to 9 pm on Tuesdays.

#### Summer by the Sea Street Market

Only three more street markets this year. Always fun with live entertainment, food and great stuff.

### City Notices

#### Reminder of Level 2 Water Conservation

Water Conservation Level 2 now in effect, allows for a total of four hours watering per watering day (odd numbered addresses on odd numbered days and even numbered addresses on even numbered days). Watering times are 6 am to 10 am and 6 pm to 10 pm for no more than two hours per period.

#### Highway 19A Improvements

Following the Labour Day weekend, the remainder of the road works which includes paving, sidewalks, line painting, landscaping and activation of the signals at Bay Avenue and Moilliet Street will be completed. The City wishes to remind residents that direct access to the Temple Food Store is now located on Bay Avenue. As Highway 19A is still classified as a construction zone, there are construction signs along the highway to alert traffic and pedestrians to potential hazards - please be aware when driving through this area. We appreciate the public's patience while the work is stopped during our busy summer months.

#### Sunray Stairs Project

Located at the north end of Sunray Road, this project will provide safe beach access by replacing the difficult trail to the beach with an aluminum staircase. Although there is no active construction at the site at this time while the staircase sections are being fabricated, there are potential hazards and for this reason, access to the beach remains closed to the public until completion in late September.

### City Dates

August 19	Council and Committee of the Whole
September 2	Offices closed for Labour Day Holiday
September 4	Council and Committee of the Whole
September 5	Coffee with Council
September 12	Advisory Design Panel
September 12	Coffee with Council
September 16	CANCELLED – Council and COTW
September 23	Council and Committee of the Whole

The public is encouraged to attend Council meetings held on the first and third Mondays of the month and is welcome to observe advisory committee meetings. Please refer to the website for agendas, dates and times as well as Council meeting highlights and minutes.

### How to Reach Council

#### MAYOR

Chris Burger..... 250 954-4661

#### COUNCILLORS

Al Greir.....250 248-1285  
 Marc Lefebvre .....250 248-2292  
 Peter Morrison.....250 240-4050  
 Bill Neufeld .....250 954-2063  
 Sue Powell.....250 951-1082  
 Carrie Powell-Davidson.....250 954-3758

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Facebook: [facebook.com/cityparksville](https://www.facebook.com/cityparksville)

Twitter: [twitter.com/city\\_parksville](https://twitter.com/city_parksville)

Pinterest: [pinterest.com/cityparksville](https://www.pinterest.com/cityparksville)

*It's Your City* is published in the PQB News on the second Tuesday of the month with a copy on the City's website. We are committed to improving communications with our residents and you can help by providing your comments and suggestions to 250 954-3073 or [communications@parksville.ca](mailto:communications@parksville.ca).



**Summertime in the City**

**Did you know...** This is the final week to experience our fabulous Beach Festival, activities wrap on Sunday.