



## Understanding Parksville's Fire Service

*The Parksville Volunteer Fire Department recently conducted an online survey intended to assist in the review and update of their strategic plan. The public was asked to provide comments and suggestions for improvements to services they wish to see and also provide input related to community expectations of the department.*

*Survey results may be found on City and PVFD websites.*

In BC there are about 350 independent community-based fire departments protecting the lives and property of residents through the provision of fire, rescue and emergency services. The PVFD serves 17,000 residents (20,000 peak summertime) in the Parksville Fire Protection Area which includes the City of Parksville and contract areas within the RDN - San Pareil, Morningstar, Columbia Beach, French Creek, Fourneau Road and the Forever Green Estates.

There is no mandatory legislative requirement in BC for a community to have a fire department and essentially all decisions related to the fire/rescue service are made at the community level. The City of Parksville is responsible for fire department services in our community, including evaluating the need for services, providing necessary resources and assessing the capabilities of the department. The cost of fire/rescue services is borne by residents.

While fire suppression will continue to be the most visible part of PVFD responsibilities, the department does much more than fight fires. In addition to protecting our community, the department responds to motor vehicle incidents, residential and commercial alarms, burning complaints, hazardous materials incidents and provides rescue services, medical first response and other public services such as public education and mutual aid to neighbouring departments. As well, Council is mandated to provide fire inspections of hotels and public buildings in the municipality as required by the Fire Services Act.



*At the heart of the PVFD is a commitment to community service. The department is dedicated to providing the best possible customer service to the residents of the Parksville Fire Service Area.*