

June 17, 2024

Parksville-Qualicum Beach Community Update

Preparing for Wildfire Season

Meteorological summer is here. While we haven't yet reached peak summer temperatures, we still need to be aware of the hazards that summer brings and how we can prepare ourselves, our families, and our homes.

Wildfire is at the forefront of many people's mind as we head into this summer season, and rightly so; the 2023 wildfire season saw devastating wildfires across the province, Canada, and around the world. As climate change continues to impact us all, we must be prepared for an increase in hazards like wildfire and also plan for the possibility of concurrent events, when more than one hazard event occurs at the same time.



We are fortunate to receive significant rain over the winter and spring seasons and currently, the fire danger risk in our area is relatively low. Our snowpack is lower than expected for this time of year and the situation can change with a few days of hot weather.

Wildfire prevention is a shared responsibility. When individuals, businesses, and governments work together, it can make a big difference in reducing community wildfire risk. The best way we can each play our part in increasing community wildfire resiliency is by practicing FireSmart principles around our homes. It doesn't have to be overwhelming; there are small and easy steps we can take to increase resilience to wildfire. Research shows simple FireSmart tasks like moving propane tanks and combustible vegetation away from your home can make your property more resilient to wildfire.

Visit the online [FireSmart landscaping hub](#) for tips and ideas about how to plant and maintain a FireSmart yard and garden. [FireSmart Begins at Home](#) brochure provides a useful overview of the steps you can take to FireSmart your home.

Welcome Amanda Thompson to the EMO team

We are pleased to welcome Amanda Thompson as the new EMO volunteer coordinator. Amanda worked previously in emergency management exercise design and has been an Emergency Support Services volunteer for seven years. She will oversee the daily management of our volunteer teams and we are excited to see what she brings to this role. Amanda may be reached at oesd@parksville.ca



Cheerio Frank!

After more than thirty years service in emergency communications, Frank announced his retirement from the emergency communications team. Frank has been with the Oceanside team for many years and prior to joining Oceanside, volunteered similarly in other regions of the province. He is a wealth of information about everything amateur radio and is proof amateur radio folk can fix anything and make it work! We wish Frank a happy retirement from the group.

And just because we're a radio team, there was only one way we could announce his retirement which was through a voice messaging practice! In this [video](#), our team was divided around the community practicing relaying messages by radio. Team member, Dave, delivers the news via a standard messaging format for emergency radio communications. Well, standard except for the emojis. 😊

EMO volunteers for Parksville Canada Day parade

Once again, EMO’s emergency communications team will participate in the Parksville Canada Day parade by providing radio communications for the parade marshals. The event is a valuable way for our team to practice communications during busy events, relaying complex information while staying alert and dealing with background noise. So, while your eyes will be on the main event and the fantastic parade entries, please remember to watch for the communications team members volunteering their time to help keep us safe during festivities. *Happy Canada Day to you! Click below for Canada Day in Oceanside.*



[City of Parksville](#)

[Town of Qualicum Beach](#)

New and improved EmergencyInfoBC

Finding up-to-date, trusted information is critical to people’s safety. During emergency events, critical information is shared on [EmergencyInfoBC](#) and on X at [@EmergencyInfoBC](#), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

EmergencyInfoBC was recently updated to help people find information quickly and easily, even during stressful situations. Approximately 80 per cent of people access emergency information from their mobile devices and EmergencyInfoBC now includes an easy to use “share” feature, making it simple for people to share validated and accurate emergency information on their social network (X and Facebook). Whether you are new to the website or have used it before, take time to explore the new [EmergencyInfoBC.ca](#) and follow [@EmergencyInfoBC](#) on X for updates.

2024 Emergency Preparedness Expo – September 7

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 7 from 10 am to 4 pm at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre for the 2024 Emergency Preparedness Expo. It’s been a few years since our last expo, so we are pleased to announce the return, better than ever!



Expo 2024 offers something for everyone and it’s all free! First responders, government agencies, emergency supply vendors, utilities and emergency partners will host a variety of activities to help emphasize the importance of taking steps to improve emergency preparedness and response. Displays, demonstrations and workshops to learn about the challenges we face in an

emergency and how to be better prepared. Everyone welcome! More info in next month’s EMO newsletter and on our website.

ESS training in Comox

Training and communicating with our neighbouring regional districts is an important part of emergency management. This month our ESS team was invited to join the Comox Valley ESS team for in-person training. Three of our team members went to Comox to take part in the training in which they learned about the newest version of the online evacuee registration assistance tool (ERA). We are fortunate to have strong working relationships with our neighbouring emergency programs so we can learn and practice together as well as help each other in times of response.

Volunteer with EMO

We need you! 2024 has been a busy year for our teams. We’re in the midst of renewing our training plans and a variety of our operational materials. Now is a great time to join the team! If you’re interested in joining either the Oceanside Emergency Support Services (OESS) or Oceanside Emergency Communications Team (OECT), contact oessd@parksville.ca. Previous emergency support services or emergency communications experience isn’t necessary as we provide all the training you will need.

RECEIVE NOTIFICATIONS
DURING A LOCAL EMERGENCY



It is always a good time to sign up for Voyent Alert! Registration is free. Go to [Voyent Alert! \(voyent-alert.com\)](http://voyent-alert.com) to sign up today. Contact Kate at kpocock@parksville.ca;

250 954-4672 or Shinjini at smehta@qualicumbeach.com should you have questions, comments or feedback about the registration process.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Town of Qualicum Beach

Town Hall is open from 8.30 am to 4 pm Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays.

Email qbtown@qualicumbeach.com
Phone 250 752-6921
Mail PO Box 130, Qualicum Beach V9K 1S7

qualicumbeach.com
qbfirerescue.com

City of Parksville

City offices are open to the public from 8 am to 4 pm and the operations department from 8 am to 4 pm, closed noon to 1 pm. Contact information:

General inquiries, planning and finance departments 250 248-6144; info@parksville.ca
Administration and Office of the Mayor 250 954-3060; administration@parksville.ca
Engineering 250 951-2484; engineering@parksville.ca
Operations 250 248-5412; ops@parksville.ca
Parksville Fire Rescue 250 248-3242; fire@parksville.ca

parksville.ca
letstalkparksville.ca
parksvillefirerescue.ca

For more information:

Kate Pocock, Emergency Program Coordinator, City of Parksville
kpocock@parksville.ca

Shinjini Mehta, Climate Action and Emergency Program Coordinator, Town of Qualicum Beach
smehta@qualicumbeach.com

