



# SOUTH GREEN LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

## OLD FIRE HALL RENOVATION UPDATE

South Green Lake Volunteer Fire Department (SGLVFD) received a \$55,000 Community Energy Upgrade grant from the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD).

This Gas Tax funding paid for renovations to the old Fred Potter Memorial Hall, which was built in the mid-1970s.

The funds have allowed the SGLVFD to insulate and install exterior metal cladding and new energy-efficient windows. There was also enough money to install new flooring upstairs, as well as paint the upstairs, training area, and kitchen.



The work commenced in 2020 and is being done by local contractor Wilderness Custom Homes. When complete, the exterior will look like a new hall.

Planning for the renovation started in fall of 2018 and the TNRD approved the project on October 1, 2019.

Tender applications were sent to local contractors. SGLVFD Captain Art Groves worked with the TNRD on the projects and presented the requirements to the local contractors.

The effort of TNRD staff members Jason Tomlin and Agnese Saat, who helped make the project happen, is very much appreciated.

The old hall has served our fire departments well, and it deserves a little TLC. The SGLVFD thanks all of those who have helped to build this hall and we hope you like the improvements to the existing structure.



## ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The South Green Lake Fire Services Advisory Committee consists of 5 individuals residing within or owning property within the South Green Lake fire protection service area. Our Advisory Committee is fully appointed with the following members:

- Sally Watson, EA Director
- Cheryl Groves
- Kathy Traynor
- Rita Dixon
- Jen Walters

The term for committee representatives is 2-3 years. Currently serving firefighters are not appointed to the Fire Service Advisory Committee.

The Fire Services Advisory Committee is a group of residents and property owners who can provide input to the Electoral Area Director on the local fire service and share important fire-related information to other members of the community.

**Membership is voluntary and meetings are held on an as-required basis.**

## 1 HOW COMMITTEE MEMBERS HELP

Having local knowledge, a committee member can help evolve the fire service by recommending projects and future services to be included in the 5-year financial plans (budget) through advice to the Electoral Area Director.

## 2 SHARING INFORMATION

Committee members are encouraged to share information provided by the TNRD with their neighbours about the fire service. Information can be shared by putting up posters, forwarding email communications or sharing Facebook/social media posts about the fire service, projects and emergencies.

## 3 FIREFIGHTER RECRUITMENT

Committee members can also assist the volunteer fire department by promoting firefighter recruitment and retention.

**Membership is voluntary and meetings are held on an as-required basis.**

# MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT

The SGLVFD has signed a mutual aid agreement with the Watch Lake-North Green Lake Volunteer fire Department (WLNGLVFD).

The two fire departments had a mutual aid agreement while the SGLVFD was still a society-run fire department; however, that agreement expired when the SGLVFD became a TNRD-administered fire department.

The agreement was recently signed when the TNRD recognized both fire departments as accredited fire departments. The two departments had been working on a mutual aid agreement for the past year.

The agreement allows the movement of apparatus and personnel for firefighting in each other's Fire Protection Areas.

The apparatus agreement allows one pumper and four firefighters, and one tender and two firefighters, to attend the other department's fire.

Command personnel are allowed to attend both ways if required.

The two fire departments have compatible radios and communication protocols, as well as compatible water supply, dry hydrants, and tenders with compatible connections.

The fire departments agreed to have two mutual aid practices a year, one each in the other's Fire Protection Area.



# DOUBLE PONDS PROVIDE MORE WATER AT FIRE SCENE

The SGLVFD is back to full practices with an approved COVID-19 plan in place.

The SGLVFD is now able to evaluate its new purchases from the Red Cross Resiliency Fund and the UBCM Volunteer Fire Department Funding grant.

The funding has paid for the purchase of two four-inch, low-level strainers with jet siphons.

This allows the SGLVFD to move water from one portable pond to another pond, which doubles the amount of water (4,000 gallons) firefighters can have upon arrival at a fire scene.

It allows the Tender to drop all of its water and not have to wait for the water level to drop in a pond before it can empty its full load before leaving to get more water, which gives the tender a better turn-around time.

The SGLVFD has eight more carbon-fibre Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus tanks to replace the aluminum tanks on the Pumper. They are much lighter than the aluminum tanks and can be worn for a longer time.

The fire department also acquired some wildland structural protection equipment — two high-pressure portable pumps, various fittings and forestry hose.



# DRY HYDRANTS ARE VALUABLE ASSETS FOR SOUTH GREEN LAKE COMMUNITY

Members of the SGLVFD initiated a five-year Dry Hydrant Project in October 2016.

With the assistance of WLNLVFD, which already had two Dry Hydrants on the north side of Green Lake, SGLVFD firefighters came up with a design and a plan for two dry hydrants on the south side in 2017.



Helping in this process was former MLA Donna Barnett, who helped implement changes to the Water Sustainability Act in 2017 by eliminating the need to apply for a special permit for Dry Hydrant installation. This provides savings of \$2,000 per dry hydrant location.

Currently, SGLVFD is in year four of the SGLVFD five-year Dry Hydrant Project. To date, Dry Hydrants have been installed and accredited at:

- Access Roads 5 and 10 in November 2018,
- Access Roads 1 and 14 in August 2019,
- Access Roads 2 and 7 in 2020, and
- Access Roads 8 and 12 in November 2020 (installed), with accreditation set for 2022.

The efforts of the firefighters for all of the time and dedication they have put into the dry hydrant project over the past four years is appreciated by all the residents of South Green Lake.

All hydrant project work is volunteer time with an average of 190 man hours per dry hydrant

location. This includes all activities, such as design, picking up material, fabrication, dry install, wet install, cribbing, final fitting install and accreditation testing.

Once a Dry Hydrant is accredited by the Fire Underwriters, it can protect up to 36 lots: 18 onshore north and south and 18 offshore north and south as these properties are within 1,000 feet (300 metres) of the access road where a dry hydrant is located.

The savings on fire insurance for the residents within the 1,000 feet is an average of \$300 per year along with providing easier, quicker and safer access to our water supply (Green Lake) for the fire department.

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## FIRESMART NEIGHBOURHOOD RECOGNITION PROGRAM SLATED FOR 2021

SGLVFD Captain Bob Bell and firefighter Ken Alexander are South Green Lake's local FireSmart representatives (LFR). They recently completed FireSmart Canada's two-day virtual LFR workshops and retained their LFR certifications.

In 2017, the Elephant Hill wildfire, which started 80 kilometres away on Elephant Mountain near Ashcroft, burned through wildland forests close to the houses and cottages of the South Green Lake Community. It was so close residents and vacationers had to be evacuated.

That's when it sunk in that the South Green Lake community had a significant risk of wildfire damage and destruction of homes, cottages and properties.

After the Elephant Hill wildfire burned itself out, Bell and Alexander attended a FireSmart BC conference in Williams Lake and learned how to help mitigate the risk of wildfire damage for people living in the Wildland Urban Interface.

They were introduced to the FireSmart Neighbourhood Recognition Program, #FireSmartCanada, during the recent FireSmart Canada virtual workshops. Bell and Alexander think this program will be a great fit for

the South Green Lake community.

The Neighbourhood Recognition Program will teach residents how live with wildfire threat and increase their home's chance of survival through proactive actions. The program also encourages neighbours to work together to mitigate the risk of wildfire destruction.

They decided to split the South Green Lake community into three neighbourhoods by using the format the fire department used – Alpha, Bravo and Delta – during the Elephant Hill wildfire.

The first neighbourhood project will start at lot address 501 (next to Access Road 5) and reach out to lot address 933 (next to Access Road 9A) where the SunsetView Site of the Green Lake Provincial Park begins on the shoreline side of Green Lake South Road.

The corresponding lot numbers on the off-shore side, from Access Road 5 to the Buffalo Ranch at lot address 938, will also be part of the first neighbourhood.

# HOME SAFETY PROGRAM

In British Columbia, smoke alarms are mandatory in all homes and recreational cabins.

Thanks to the Fire Chiefs Association, TNRD, and the Office of the Fire Commissioner, the SGLVFD has several combination Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms to give out to South Green Lake full-time and part-time residents.

These alarms are for the owners of older homes and cabins who don't have hard-wired alarms built in their buildings.

However, these alarms will also be available to people who want one for their garage, shop or guest cabins that don't have hard-wired alarms.

The free alarms are powered by a Lithium Powercell, which lasts for 10 years, so there is no need to replace batteries. Smoke alarms have a working life of 10 years, so they have to be replaced when the 10 years is done and then be recycled. The alarms should be checked once a month for ongoing safety.

The alarm packaging also includes instructions for self-installation and self-activation.

The alarms come in a reusable TNRD Fire Protection Services bag, which includes information brochures on the use and placement of smoke alarms, Carbon Monoxide Safety and Portable Fire Extinguishers information.

## BAG FULL OF SAFETY INFORMATION

\*The bag also includes a Home Fire Safety Checklist. Residents are urged to go through the checklist, and check off the items as either "yes" or "no" so they know how fire safe their homes and cabins are, and make some changes if needed.

\*The bag also includes Home Fire Escape Plan information. Residents and vacationers are urged to develop an escape plan for their homes and cabins. The plan can save family members from loss of life or serious injuries in a house fire by having everyone getting out of the building quickly and safely to meet at a designated safe gathering place.

\*The bag also contains suggested items to make up an Emergency Grab & Go Bag in case you have to evacuate quickly in an emergency situation.

## SO WHERE CAN YOU GET THE ALARMS?

Local FireSmart Representatives Bob Bell and Ken Alexander will be handing out the bags of the alarms and important fire safety information at the South Green Lake Fire Hall (546 Green Lake South Rd.) on May 22 and on July 31 from 1 to 3 pm both days.

It will be a drive-thru event. We will need residents' lot address number and their names.

If you have questions or need more information, call Ken at 250-456-7496 or e-mail at [top\\_drawer@shaw.ca](mailto:top_drawer@shaw.ca)



# CHIEFS REPORT

## TRANSITION

The transition to a Regional Fire Department is complete. We are holding ongoing meetings with the TNRD to comply with its Fire Protection Services policies and procedures.

## MEMBERS

- 31 active members with 22 full-time residents on roster

## PRACTICE/TRAINING

- Practice bi-weekly with COVID measures in place
- Playbook Training: Once a month with COVID measures in place
- 2 members attended virtual Fire Smart Workshop
- 5 members working on Occupational Health and Safety Seminars (4 modules)
- Completed Occupational First Aid for 5 Members in Jan 2021
- Wildland training SPP WWF-1 scheduled for May 8th 2021

## EQUIPMENT/APPARATUS FOR 2021

- Purchased Portable wash station for garage area (COVID measure)
- 3 additional radios for new members on order
- Replacement of 1975 Utility truck. Looking for a Command Vehicle to transport equipment to fire scene
- Continue the replacement of outdated PPE (helmets and gloves this year)

## GENERAL

- Community sign board replacement at fire hall in progress