

Hayes Creek Fire Newsletter

December 2021



This has been a momentous year for the province in wildfire disasters and by luck, our area was spared the devastation others suffered. With our high temperatures and strong winds it was distressful and a near thing. Firefighter Cindy Gamache of HCFR was deployed to fight fires at Cache Creek, Tunkwa and Lillooet. Thank you for your service to others in need.

We spent \$11,000 to outfit a boat and trailer donated by Jack and Maryanne MacDonald. It now has a new powerful pump and two hose reels to become "Fireboat 291" to fight fires on our three lakes and also important to be able to supply and refill our land trucks with



unlimited water supply. It

is capable of shooting large volumes of water thru three lines or it's nozzle deck gun over 150ft. and is stored on a trailer ready to be deployed where needed and joins our four trucks, side by side and pump trailer.

We have received two grants this year: \$26,000 from the Red Cross and \$20,000 from Lottery Gaming. These monies can only be used for equipment and training. Both were needed and welcomed and went toward boots, turnout gear, wildland PPE clothing, training courses, a large pump and an outboard motor, hoses and fittings for the fireboat. Five members attended a two day course S-100, S-185 and structural sprinkler protection.

Training courses upcoming are a three-day course on emergency scene management and an air brake and residential sprinkler protection course for any member who has not had this training.



Also Tulameen, Princeton, Erris and Hayes Creek fire departments have formed a consortium for mutual communication and aid and together have outfitted a residential sprinkler protection trailer with over \$100,000 of equipment for sole use for our four communities for wildfire protection. This trailer has 6 pumps worth \$6000 each and two water bladders and can sprinkle 60 homes.

In the spring of 2022 we will be announcing dates for a free Chipping Program for the community and we strongly encourage you to "fire smart" your property and pile branches and brush at the end of your driveways.

You should have no trees closer than 10ft from any structure and no branches should hang lower than 6ft from the ground. Branches and brush for this 6 feet are "ladder fuels" and take a controllable Class 1 ground fire to a Class 4 or 5 out of control crown fire with huge destructive potential. Please, please put aesthetics aside and remove this highly dangerous flammable fuel. Not to do this puts you, your neighbours, and the entire community at risk. Your property should look like a park.

Remember that if our 3700ft elevation with higher humidity and lower temperatures has a fire, the rest of the province is likely deep in crisis and there will be little or no resources to help us.

To further encourage property owners to fire smart, there will be a program announced in the spring by the RDOS to qualify for \$500 grants to cut down trees and remove brush, etc.

As of January 1st, 2022, local resident Graham Bundy will be taking over the secretary/treasurer position as Gail is retiring, huge thanks to Gail for her years of dedicated service.



In fundraising, the Crafty Ladies have put together an awesome quilt as a benefit to HCFD and though there is a great need by the fire department there are now others in greater need and all monies raised will go to the Princeton Flood Aid for those who have lost so much.

Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25 and can be purchased by e-transfer at quilt@ospreylake.ca or contact Cindy at 250-295-0510. Deadline is December 15th.

Two safety items

- First: if you are having a live Christmas tree, those can become flaming torches, so please keep them well watered daily and away from heat and exits

- Second: if you have a wood or propane heater you should have a carbon monoxide detector. Symptoms of CO poisoning can be like flu dizziness, weakness, and disorientation. Get outside to fresh air immediately and call 911.



Your fire department is desperately short of members due to retirement and moving away. There were times this year having only one person for emergency calls, which is dangerous for us and not good for you. You can contact any member to join.

Again a big thank you to those who drop their refundables off at the fire hall. It really helps with paying our expenses.

Your \$100 property registration fee for 2022 is due January 1st. For those who have not yet paid please [click on this link](#) or use the form below.



Directors:

Rob Miller	250-295-6420
Cindy Gamache	250-295-0510
Gail Dickson	250-295-6898
Errol Bourgoin	250-295-6660
Valerie McMurtrie	250-295-0310
Paul Smethurst	250-295-6858

PROPERTY REGISTRATION FORM:

**HAYES CREEK VOLUNTEER FIRE RESCUE
3950 PRINCETON SUMMERLAND ROAD
PRINCETON, BC. V0X1W0**

NAME: _____

E-MAIL _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PROPERTY ADDRESS: _____

LOCAL PHONE NUMBER _____ HOME PHONE NUMBER _____