

Hayes Creek Firefighters Spring Newsletter

March 27, 2023

Welcome from Cindy Gamache, your fire chief. This year has been very busy for Hayes Creek Fire/Rescue. This newsletter is full of new and exciting information.

Annual General Meeting & Election of Officers

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) this year will be at the Hayes Creek Community Hall, 3950 Princeton Summerland Rd. on Sunday of the Victoria Day long weekend, May 21 at 10:30am, immediately following the Osprey Ratepayers Meeting. We will not be holding a garage sale this year.

After the AGM, we will have a FireSmart Wildfire Community Preparedness Day with a free BBQ lunch of Hot Dogs, Hamburgers and beverages. There will be lots of FireSmart community information to help our residents prepare for the fire season.

Flooding

Come join the community and help fill sandbags to ensure we are prepared for any possible flood. This year it will be down on Meadow Crescent near the mail boxes. We need to have the snow gone for this event, so the date is unknown at this point. Sandwiches and beverages will be supplied. Keep an eye on the community website (www.ospreylake.ca) for updates.



Fire Trucks

There have been some big recent changes to our fleet of vehicles. We've sold Tender 291, our old green tender, and our Rescue pickup truck. These have been replaced with newer improved trucks.

This is our first new truck - a 1996 Freightliner with 500 gallons of water. This truck replaces the Rescue pickup which did not carry water.

There is a picture of our second new truck on the back page. It is a 2014 International carrying 2000 gallons of water. This truck is 20 years newer than the green tender it replaced.

Hayes Creek Fire Hall

We are fortunate to have a Fire Hall and a Community Hall - two parts - fire department functions including the primary use as a Fire Hall - an area for equipment, trucks, training, and team building. Then we have the Community Hall - an area which has become the 'heart' of an amazing community, allowing all residents, at any time, to get together for club meetings, dinners, ladies' days, yoga, pancake breakfasts, card games, craft sales, and dances.

Address Signs

We had an overnight medical call out a few weeks ago, but had a problem, and delay, in finding the residence. Our fire truck only had the address, but due to snow conditions, and the high berm left by the snow plow, the address was not clearly visible. Please ensure you have adequate signage, mounted above the snow level, and clearly visible from the road.

Property Registration

Hayes Creek Fire Property registration fee is \$100.00/property/year and is due January 1st of each year. This goes to the fire hall and is needed to keep our doors open.

Our community is not on any tax base. Which means no other form of income, except for fundraising and grants, is available to pay our insurances (truck, building, liability), utilities, fuel and training.

We are 100% volunteers. Our volunteers are also Emergency Medical First Responders (EMFR) and respond to all 911 calls for medical assistance. Hayes Creek Fire Rescue (HCFR) is first on scene helping Emergency Health Services (EHS) find the patient's address, assisting the ambulance to their driveway, and caring for the patient until EHS arrives.

We attend 25 or more calls a year. With the ambulance being 60 minutes away (on a good day) we provide a potential life changing service to our community.

Our members do training for house fires, wildfires, and medical calls. We also carry out good and wellness checks for some of our seniors, who sometimes just need a social visit.

This hall doesn't just happen, it takes many hands to keep the doors open.

If you've already paid your property registration fee for 2023, thank you. If not, you can register and pay your \$100 by Interac e-transfer to: hayescreek@ospreylake.ca - or mail a cheque to: Hayes Creek Fire, 3950 Princeton-Summerland Rd., Princeton, BC, V0X 1W0 - just include your name, lake address, email, and contact information. Your property registration fee is fully tax deductible. A receipt will be emailed back to you.

Hayes Creek Internet

Internet WiFi access is available at the Fire Hall. There is a new password: *Myduesarepaid2023* - This is a complimentary service, intended for those who have paid their property registration fees.

Refundable Containers

Want to donate your refundable containers to Hayes Creek Fire? - but it's not convenient - well we now have an easy solution - you can just drop them off in a clear bag at ANY Return It Express location in BC, print off a label using our account # 250 295 3300 and stick it on the bag - no line ups, and no having to bring the bottle/cans to the fire hall.

Pancake Breakfasts

Are now held on the first Sunday of *EVERY* month. The next one is April 2 from 9:30am to 11:00am. Cost is \$12 for adults, and \$5 for children under 12. This is a full breakfast buffet with pancakes, eggs, sausages, blueberry syrup, muffins, fruit, toast and beverages. Please bring along friends and relatives that are visiting the area - everyone is welcome.

FireFighter Volunteers

If you are new to the area and would be interested in joining the Hayes Creek Fire Rescue volunteer team, please email your contact information to the chief, Cindy Gamache, at: hayescreekchief@ospreylake.ca. We still require seven more firefighters for certification. All training and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is provided. If you are interested, we encourage you to come and attend one of our weekly training sessions.

FireSmart

We are very proud to accept an award from the Wildfire Community Preparedness Day Promotion. It was a \$500.00 grant which will go towards this year's Wildfire Community Preparedness Day on May 21. This day will offer educational videos and information to help educate and bring neighbours together to help show them how to reduce the wildfire risk to the homes and neighbourhoods. There will be a Wildfire Sprinkler Protection Kit (WASP) demo on display. They will also be available to purchase at the discounted price of \$170 including taxes,

This year, there will be additional Local FireSmart Representatives (LFR) in our area. If you have had or would like a visit from a LFR, or just need assistance, we are able to help you. Contact: Cindy Gamache 250-295-0510 to book an appointment.



General Information

Yoga by Joi - Tuesdays - 10:30am to 11:30am, at Hayes Creek Community Hall - \$15 per session, cash or eTransfer to: joi.kittredge@gmail.com.

Real Crafty Ladies - Tuesdays from noon to about 2:00pm - sorry, but Ladies only and no kids. A time to get away, socialize and maybe do a little sewing or other craft. There is a nominal \$2 charge.

Fire Boat - A special thank you to Jack and Mary-Ann MacDonald for donating the fireboat. This is now properly equipped and operational to assist in fires near the lake and has become a very valuable piece of fire fighting equipment for our community.



I would like to thank everyone that has gone above and beyond to help make Hayes Creek Fire/Rescue grow and continue to succeed.

Cindy Gamache,
Fire Chief