

SATURNA ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION SOCIETY ("SIFPS")

DIRECTORS' REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 6, 2009

The past 15 months has been a period of intense activity by your Board. The following are the Board's activities and achievements over and above the regular ongoing operational issues normally faced by the Board:

Summer/Fall/Winter – 2008

New Main Emergency Services Building

- After extensive discussions, SIFPS signed an agreement on September 8, 2008 with the Saturna Recreation Centre Society to lease a portion of their land at the junction of Harris and Narvaez Bay Roads. The agreement contains an option to purchase the land for a nominal fee, once the building occupancy permit is received.
- Wayne Quinn was retained to act as the Project Manager for the new main building project.
- As soon as the site was acquired, it was excavated, drained, filled with shale and compacted to engineering requirements, ahead of the rainy season. Basically only minor work remains, this can be accomplished at any time prior to actual building construction.

New Auxiliary Emergency Services Building

- The search for the site of the new East Point Auxiliary Emergency Services Building lasted in excess of a year. It including advertising for potential sites, analysis of the suitability of each potential site, and extensive discussions with many potential donors and/or sellers of property. At the end of the process, SIFPS finally secured an excellent site located at 646 Tumbo Channel Road; this site was purchased at an effective price significantly less than market value.

Summer/Fall/Winter – 2008

continued

Rezoning

- SIFPS then applied to the Islands Trust for the appropriate rezoning of all three pieces of land, the two sites for the new buildings, as well as the site of the existing building. After the conclusion of the proper community consultation and presentation process, the Island Trust rezoned the East Point Property from Rural General to Community Service and the existing Fire Hall on East Point Road from Community service to Rural General; it also instituted a change in the Saturna Land Use By-law to allow the Site at the corner of Harris and Narvaez Bay Roads to be subdivided from the SRCS property.

Spring/Summer – 2009

Government Grant

- Extensive investigation of many different government grant programs was conducted by one of the Directors. It was discovered that the construction of the planned two new Emergency Service Buildings may reasonably be eligible for a particular Government Infrastructure grant.
- Upon further investigation it was immediately identified that the closing date for this grant application was only two weeks hence. Therefore, for the two weeks ending April 23, 2009, two SIFPS Directors, worked more than full-time, initially seeking the required approval to apply, which was granted, and then developing and submitting a comprehensive proposal for a grant. The grant application amounts to \$636,740.
- In addition to developing and submitting the extensive grant application proposal document, letters supporting SIFPS's grant application were obtained from our Member of Parliament, Member of the Legislative Assembly, Parks Canada, the Emergency and Health Services Commission, the Saturna Island Trustees of the Islands Trust, the Capital Regional District Director for Saturna, and the Saturna Island Property Owners' Association; these were included with the grant application.

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Spring/Summer – 2009

Government Grant continued

- This grant is jointly funded by the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia and represents 2/3 of the budgeted cost of construction of the two new Emergency Services Buildings, based on those costs eligible for grant reimbursement. Not all expenses are eligible for reimbursement. For example, only budgeted funds spent after the grant is approved are eligible for reimbursement consideration, monies spent before approval of the grant are ineligible. Accordingly, substantial planning and construction are at a standstill awaiting notification of the decision regarding our grant proposal.

Property Valuations

- Appraisals of all three properties and improvements, current or projected, were conducted. This was done to assist in SIFPS's arranging financing for the two buildings, as well as to establish a guidance value for the eventual sale of the existing fire hall.

Saturna Island Rescue Services ("SIR")

- Over the past year or more, intermittent discussions have been held at various levels between the SIFPS and the Saturna Community Club ("SCC") regarding inclusion, within SIFPS's new Main Emergency Services Building, of an adequate facility to meet the needs of SIR's operations.

- April 11, 2009 these discussions took a strongly positive turn when SIFPS received a request from the President of the SCC for a meeting to discuss “the amalgamation of health services, fire protection and suppression and emergency response services”.
- A joint committee was formed comprised of four SIFPS Directors and four SCC representatives. There was an excellent problem-solving approach brought by all parties to the discussions; this resulted in the formulation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This MOU provides for the parties working together cooperatively to “pool their efforts in the delivery of emergency response services as well as to erect a new building that will accommodate the particular needs of all emergency response delivery personnel, including both Saturna Island volunteer fire department services and SIR services, under the authority of the SIFPS”. Specific activities are focused into three Phases, as generally outlined following:

Spring/Summer – 2009

Saturna Island Rescue Services (“SIR”), continued

Phase 1

“The funding and construction of a new main Emergency Services Building to be owned by SIFPS;” The approximate \$80,000 in donations held by the Saturna Recreation Society for the building of an emergency health vehicle building were transferred to SIFPS to cover the partial cost of the SIR portion of the new building.

Phase 2

“Upon attainment of sufficient funding, and the refusal of the Emergency and Health Services Commission to proclaim SIR a satellite station of its Mayne Island operation, the SCC ceding its function, responsibilities and oversight of SIR services and associated assets...SIR shall then be an integral part of the SIFPS...” This phase has been awaiting the result of discussions between SCC and the Emergency and Health Services Commission regarding SIR potentially becoming part of the BC Ambulance Service Mayne Island operation.

Phase 3

“the SCC and the SIFPS jointly investigating the maintenance of community health services on Saturna Island, with the intent of identifying a model that will support the infrastructure better, with financial stability, at minimal cost to the local community”

SIFPS has determined it is not able to fund provision of emergency health services with monies it raises by taxation through the current CRD bylaw. SIFPS’ utilization of these funds is limited to provision of “fire prevention and suppression and emergency response services”. At the same time, it is recognized that the current provision of community health services on Saturna Island unreasonably stresses the local community, in both resources and funding. Therefore, SIFPS is committed to working with the SCC to identify a more effective delivery model with better infrastructure support and stable funding based on minimal cost to the local community. This initiative is focused on services that are the responsibility of the Ministry of Health; therefore discussions will include the Vancouver Island Health Authority and the Emergency and Health Services Commission, amongst others. As these activities are aimed at bringing resolve to structural issues of longer term, they are intended to commence upon the substantial completion of Phases 1 and 2.

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Property Signage

- One of the SIFPS Directors spearheaded a successful program to encourage property owners to buy reflective number signs, identifying the location of the property for emergency response purposes. This resulted in 103 new reflective signs being sold, approximately 20% of the total number of residential properties on Saturna.

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Parks Canada

- A committee of SIFPS Directors have been in the process of conducting continuing talks with Parks Canada regarding their leasing a portion of the new Main Emergency Services Building. These discussions are very active and are expected to be finalized this fall. There appears to be agreement in principle on a pre-paid lease with a value of \$110,000, payable to SIFPS upon Parks Canada's occupying space in the new building upon its completion. Other lease details are still being finalized.
- Discussions are currently being held with Parks Canada to develop an agreement formalizing the terms in which SIFPS provides emergency rescue services within Parks Canada lands on Saturna Island. Provisions of the agreement will provide the details on operational management and payment to the SIFPS for the use of its equipment, infrastructure and personnel.

Southern Gulf Islands Emergency Management Commission (SGIEMC) - CRD

- A committee of SIFPS Directors have successfully completed ongoing discussions with SGIEMC representatives, resulting in the drawing up of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) containing provision of a total of \$30,000 in payments from SGIEMC to SIFPS for its provision, in the new Emergency Service Buildings, of storage space, and disaster operational facilities in times of need. The MOU provides that these monies are payable upon commencement of construction; this agreement is currently in the signing process.

The Board looks forward to starting and finishing the construction of both new Emergency Services Buildings over the next year and expects that its report to the next Annual General Meeting will focus on those accomplishments.