

Saturna Island Fire Smart update.

After an unfortunate late start we got underway over the holidays. An early action was to advertise for and hire an Assistant Program Coordinator, Veronica Vos, to help our Coordinator, Katie Dentry, also the Saturna Island CRD liaison person. The first project was to improve our island Fire Smart website and make the F.S.P. info more attractive and available to islanders.

The next item was a re-emphasis on Fire Smart assessments with the Asst. Coordinator doing the one to one contacts for assessments and liaising with trained SIVFD volunteer firefighters to make the assessments and fill out required forms.

Our Fire Safe landscaping demonstration project, started in the New Year, is nearly complete; plants were specified, ordered and the planting is done. Explanatory plaques have been designed and ordered but the pandemic has put a hold on public learning tours. The sites being used are the Saturna Island Rec. and Cultural Center and the nearby Emergency Services Building #1. Public involvement will happen when the conditions are right.

1000 more pocket ashtrays have been purchased for distribution. Personalized for Saturna they are becoming collector items along with branded pocket ashtrays from other jurisdictions.

Our Fire Danger Rating signs will be improved this year with a removable panel, 55in. x 22in. white 4 in. lettering on a red background, NO OPEN BURNING ANYWHERE. Should be visible enough for the desired impact.

Jan. 18 Saturna Fire Smart hosted a presentation by Jay Zacaluzny from Parks Canada, an analysis of fire hazards and severity on the island along with fuel mitigation in progress by Parks Canada crews. Not as well attended as it should have been but very informative.

Last year the coordinator involved students from the Saturn Ecological Education Center with a fire Smart poster making challenge which produced good results. This was to be a project for 2020 but due to covid 19 is shelved.

Plans have been made and funds set aside for a Community Wildfire Prevention Day, staged at ESB 1, to happen the same Saturday as the opening day of our island community market May 2. All plans are on hold for now; it will happen when restrictions have been removed.

Our Learn Not To Burn event on March 21 was a great success.

The Saturna committee is very interested in seeing the extension of Fire Smart Grant programs happen. SGI cooperative projects, like a chipper, are strongly supported by our committee and would be of much use on our island. The possibility of grant extensions has awakened an interest in our island CWP Plan by Fire Smart team members, with questions about allocating some grant money to the proposed plan updating.

Respectfully
John Wiznuk