

December, 2024 Scribbler article

SATURNA ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION SOCIETY NEWS



The volunteers of Saturna Island Rescue and the Saturna Fire Department continue to provide exemplary emergency medical and firefighting services. Usually, people expect firefighting and ambulance services to just be there, available when needed, funded by tax dollars and managed by governments. On Saturna, we do it ourselves. We do access tax monies through the CRD, contributed by property owners on the island. But the management of those tax dollars, the donations and grants that help make up the shortfall, the recruitment, training, and acquisition of equipment is done by volunteers, your neighbours.

Have you seen our website? <https://saturnafirerescue.ca> provides information on the services, the Society (SIFPS) that oversees their operations, practical information like burning regulations, an overview of the Emergency Program for disasters, some history, and challenges we currently face.

We are now at a critical juncture. Things have changed, particularly in the past five years and since Covid, and SIFPS's board is responding by planning our future with your support and guidance. To help inform our strategic plan, we have embarked on an initial survey. Whether you have lived on Saturna for years or are a brand-new resident, we value your input. To the 80-plus people who have responded already, a huge thank you. Once completed, we will inform you of the results.

To those who have not yet participated, we are keeping the survey open until **December 15**. You can access it by going to the home page of saturnafirerescue.ca or through this code:



Our Christmas wish list? SIR is recruiting potential medical first responders. The fire department also welcomes new recruits. SIFPS's board has an opening for a volunteer Corporate Secretary to manage insurance renewals, maintain the membership list, and ensure proper documentation of all agreements and contracts. And we're still looking for a minute taker for meetings. This is an hourly, as needed, paid position.

It's rewarding work and an opportunity to serve your community and create new friendships.

We wish you a wonderful holiday season and look forward to a safe and healthy 2025!

Ron Monk, President