

# Hayes Creek Firefighters Spring Newsletter

May 15, 2024

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our annual meeting was held on the Easter Weekend, Saturday, March 30 this year with the best attendance ever. Over 50 residents attended getting an update on our Fire Department and the FireSmart program. There was also an information talk from our Area H RDOS Representative, Bob Coyne, concerning the problems with the Chain Lake dam and also concerning the changes to the BC short term rental laws (which at this time, do not impact us).



A special resolution was unanimously passed to upgrade and modernise our Bylaws.

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The HCF pancake breakfast has seen small numbers over the winter months, but with spring here now, we expect attendance to increase significantly.

If you've not been to one of our breakfasts, please come to the Hayes Creek Community Hall and enjoy a great breakfast with your neighbours - There is a full breakfast of pancakes, sausages, scrambled eggs, muffins, coffee/tea. Everyone has been very impressed. Adults \$15.00 and Children 10 years and under \$ 5.00. The breakfast is the first Sunday of each month from 9:30-11:00 am. Our next breakfast will be June 2, 2024.

## KITCHEN

Our major kitchen renovation is complete. What a great change. Special thanks to all the volunteers who contributed and worked so hard to complete this project so quickly.

## FIRESMART - BRANCH PICK UP EVENT



Our pick up event for branches will be on May 21st. Cones and needles will be accepted in compostable paper bags along with stumps and branches of all sizes. Everything must be on the road in front of our property before May 21st. The contractor will have till the 27th to have it all picked up. For pickup, you must register at [info@hayescreek.ca](mailto:info@hayescreek.ca), if you have not already registered at [Hayescreek@ospreylake.ca](mailto:Hayescreek@ospreylake.ca). After your material has been picked up, please do not leave more items near the road, as they will just sit there becoming a fire hazard and eyesore to your neighbours. We had 40 properties participate last year with hopefully even more this time.

We are only as FireSmart as our neighbours so please, encourage them to learn about FireSmartering their properties also - everyone benefits.

The first step is to [follow this YouTube link and watch FireSmart 101](#)

Get involved and clean up all the fine fuels around your property, between your home/cabin and road. Keep the grass short and debris from trees cleaned up. It's all the small things which make a big difference.

## RETURN IT BOTTLE REFUND

Thank you for all your generous donations of bottles dropped off at the hall or to a Return It Express near you. (our account # 2502953300)

There are a few things that would be greatly appreciated - if you could please use a clear bag for your bottles/tins and do not squish any tins. A recent change to the Return It system now accepts all milk cartons except cream containers.

## FIREHALL ACTIVITY

We have been fortunate this past year to have had only a nominal number of medical calls. There was one lightning caused fire near Thirsk Lake that was quickly taken care of by BC Forestry with helicopter buckets dropping water on it.

If you see a fire, please report it to \*5555. If you have a cell phone, you can check the compass app for a direction breaking, or even better, use any trail app for an actual Lat/Long location.

## FIRE BAN

Category 2 fires will be prohibited starting May 17 until October 11 or until rescinded. A Category 2 fire is any open fire, such as a burn barrel or anything larger than a campfire.

## NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

Hayes Creek fire department has new email addresses to make it easy for you to contact the fire chief, send your property registration fees or have any questions in general:

[firechief@hayescreek.ca](mailto:firechief@hayescreek.ca) - contact Cindy Gamache directly

[treasurer@hayescreek.ca](mailto:treasurer@hayescreek.ca) - registration fees and enquiries

[events@hayescreek.ca](mailto:events@hayescreek.ca) - info about pancake breakfasts, dinners, Hayes Creek Fire community events

[Info@hayescreek.ca](mailto:Info@hayescreek.ca) - general information

## EVACUATION PLAN

Hayes Creek Fire and RDOS are working together on an evacuation plan to facilitate the evacuation of all or part of Hayes Creek and area in the event of an emergency. We could use a little help with the livestock numbers. If you live between 3100 to 4600 all side streets in the area., and have horses, cows, chickens, ducks, goats, rabbits, or any other pets that would need to be moved, please reply to: [firechief@hayescreek.ca](mailto:firechief@hayescreek.ca) .

## GAIL'S FAREWELL

After many years of enjoying her waterfront property on Link Lake, and her numerous contributions to Hayes Creek, Gail will be moving to Chilliwack at the end of May. She will be missed by her many friends in the community. For many years, she was treasurer and dispatcher for Hayes Creek Fire, filling an important role for the group. There was a community farewell luncheon for her in April, to recognise her contributions and thank her.. This picture was taken in the new hall kitchen, and includes Paul Gamache, Steve MacDonald, Gail Dickson, and Cindy Gamache.



## DOGS EAT EVERYTHING

There have been a few cases of dogs being taken to the vet for unknown illness, just to learn their dog has been intoxicated by cannabis.

How do dogs become intoxicated? Often in various ways by cannabis, most commonly by eating edibles (e.g., baked goods, candies, chocolate bars, and chips containing cannabis), or by ingesting cannabis directly (in any form - discarded roaches). Pets can also be exposed to second-hand smoke. Most exposures are accidental when curious pets discover access to the drug or when they are present in the same room with a person smoking cannabis. Dogs have more cannabinoid receptors in their brains, which means the effects of cannabis are more dramatic and potentially more toxic when compared to humans. A small amount of cannabis is all it takes to cause toxicity in dogs.

Regardless of the method of exposure, accurate and complete information is imperative to treat the animal successfully. For example, ingestion of a 'pot brownie' needs different treatment than inhalation because eating the brownie requires treatment for cannabis and chocolate toxicity, whereas inhalation may require additional treatment for respiratory irritation.

A dog can also ingest cannabis by eating feces from a human. We recommend when walking your dogs on trails, keep your dog on a leash - and if you have to go when you're in the backcountry, and have used cannabis in the last few days, go well off the trail and try to cover it up.

## ICE RESCUE

Picture to the right is Hayes Creek Firefighters on a January 28, 2024 training session. Cindy Gamache, Steve McDonald, Tommy Sellmer, KC Steele, Lisa Steele, and Rod deBoer were certified by Rescue Canada for Ice rescue. We also purchased all of the equipment necessary for a successful ice rescue. So proud of all these members that suited up and did amazing work in the class, on the ice, and in the water. Great job team.



## PROPANE UPGRADE

Hayes Creek is preparing the hall in the case of an emergency so that the hall could stand alone in the case of a long power outage. We have had 2 - 420 lb tanks delivered and connected to our generator. This was a much needed upgrade to the hall.

## FIRST RESPONDERS

Hayes Creek fire department would like to congratulate: Cindy and Paul Gamache, Steve McDonald, KC and Lisa Steele and Brent Fraser on their EMA-FR - Emergency Medical Assistant First Responder Certification. Thank you for all your hard work and time.

## NEW TENDER

Hayes Creek Fire has been fortunate to have had the opportunity to purchase a 1998 international 1700 gallon tender with a 500 gpm pump from Lake Country Fire Department for only \$5,000.00.

This is a great purchase for Hayes Creek - this unit is 24 years newer than our T291. The truck needs a \$1,000 light bar system and some immediate repairs - when completed it will be kept at the hall.



## EXECUTIVE CHANGES

After many years of involvement with Hayes Creek Fire, Rob Miller has decided to retire as an active fire fighter and executive member. His involvement with the hall expansions and equipment upgrades were instrumental in the rapid advancement of the capabilities of our volunteer fire department. We all appreciate what he has done for the community and hope his second retirement (after Vancouver Fire Dept.) will finally, after 53 years as a firefighter, allow him to travel, relax, and take it easy - without the stress of being our Fire Chief and being responsible for looking after all the complexities and government requirements we now have running a volunteer fire department.

Great news, Steve McDonald has stepped up and become the Deputy Chief. This is excellent news for our community. Thank you Steve for all your hard work.

This year's elected executives are President: Alan Holmgren, Fire Chief: Cindy Gimache, Secretary/Treasurer: Lexi Furer, and directors: Tom Sellmer, KC Steele, Steve McDonald, Paul Gamache, Donna Catroppa, and Vic Bilodeau.

## NEW SIDE X SIDE UTILITY VEHICLE

We have also purchased a 2020 Polaris Side X Side. This is a great addition to our fleet of rescue vehicles. It will be used for off road medical rescue in the summer months. We are having the tracks donated from Osprey Snowwheelers who will be sharing use of this unit for trail grooming. This will also give us the capability to get up or down any driveway for medical emergencies in the winter months



## ROAD CROSSING PERMITS

ORVs (ATVs, dirt bikes, and Side X Sides) require a permit from the local RCMP to cross Princeton Summerland Rd. or when driving on the right shoulder of any of the connected gravel roads in our area (Teepee Lakes Rd., Agur Rd., Link Lake Rd, and Country Lane.) **NO ORV OPERATION IS PERMITTED ON PRINCETON SUMMERLAND RD.** Permits are free at the RCMP office in Princeton with your ORV vehicle registration certificate and ICBC Insurance certificate. You also still need private liability insurance when driving on Crown Land and Forest Service roads.

## REMINDER

For those few who have not yet paid, your \$100 annual 2024 Property Registration Fee is now Due. This can be e-transferred to: [treasurer@hayescreek.ca](mailto:treasurer@hayescreek.ca) or mail to: Hayes Creek Fire, 3950 Princeton Summerland Rd., Princeton, BC, V0X1W0.

## 2024 - busy and just starting....

Needless to say this has been a very busy year already! I would like to thank everyone that has helped with the renovation of the kitchen, pancake breakfasts, ice rescue training, EMA-FR training, and purchasing of the new vehicles.

There have been so many people stepping up to the plate and helping me with so many things. I could not have done this alone.

Sincerely

**Hayes Creek Firefighters Association**

Cindy Gamache

Fire Chief