



Willis Point Volunteer Fire Department Report

Fall, 2013
Fire Chief Aran Puritch

Hello Willis Point residents,

First off, thank-you everyone for respecting the burning ban through this very dry summer. As a result, we did not have to respond to any fire calls despite a long spell of high and extreme fire danger conditions. Well done. Otherwise it's been business as usual with medical calls, training, and work on capital projects.

On the medical side of things we responded to several incidents and I'm happy to report that for each call-out we had a fast response and were able to provide essential care while awaiting BC Ambulance. Most of our members are trained and certified to what's known as First Responder Level 3 or FR III. This enables us to provide important pre-hospital care that augments the capacity of BC ambulance crews. A good example of this is our use of the automated external defibrillator. At one recent call-out we even had one of our members, James Herriot, ride in the ambulance to assist paramedics. Great work James! Because we feel FR III is so important, we'll be sending some of our new members through their training very soon.

Training and practice goes on every Wednesday and sometimes on the weekend. This summer we spent lots of time practicing with our portable pumps to ensure readiness for wild-land interface fires. In particular, we practiced a fair bit at the Kornelson's residence to make use of their large pond. Thank-you Brent and Cynthia for putting up with the noise of our pumps. By the way, their pond is an important water source for Willis Point as we can re-fill dozens of times from this supply. Other training has included integrated practices with Metchosin and Highlands VFD's. Finally, coming up in the fall, several of our members will be attending live fire training at the Otter Point VFD facility.

We're very excited about moving in to the new apparatus bay and expect to do so in about a month's time. It's turned out very well with quality construction and good planning. The fire department members and the Fire and Rec. Commission have done a tremendous job in various aspects from keeping the contractor on their toes to helping with the construction efforts. Great work everybody. We'll stage an open house and some kind of celebration soon.

Halloween is fast approaching and as usual we'll be hosting the festivities with fireworks, food and beverages on Halloween night. Please be sure to bring a large bag of treats for the kids in lieu of door-to-door trick or treating (Willis Point driveways aren't exactly kid-friendly!). It's a great event and we hope to see you all there.

That concludes the fall report. Winter is coming so please ensure your car tires are ready for the wet and icy conditions and if you are planning on using wood heat please be sure to get your chimney swept. Oh, and check your smoke alarm!

All the best,

Fire Chief Aran Puritch

www.willispoint.ca/fire

firechief @ willispoint.ca

Recruitment

WPVFD provides several very important services to the community in rescue, first response, and fire suppression. Without our fire department, insurance rates would skyrocket and fast response to critical medical calls would not be possible. To maintain this level of service, we really do need a large group of volunteers and encourage you to join our team.

You don't need any special training or skills to join and in fact you might possess very important competencies we could use already, such as having an air-brakes endorsement or medical training. If not, we'll teach you everything you need to know. Any firefighter will tell you that it's a lot of fun and very rewarding so I encourage you to start thinking about yourself as a volunteer firefighter today!

Come by the hall any Wednesday evening at 7pm to check us out or contact any one of the members.