



# PARKSVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



## Annual Report

2020

**2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

Parksville Volunteer Fire Department

For the year ended December 31, 2020

Parksville Volunteer Fire Department

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## MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

It is my pleasure to present the 2020 Parksville Volunteer Fire Department Annual Report on behalf of our fire rescue service.

We are well served by an incredible group of dedicated woman and men, most of whom are on-call members. They provide exceptional service to the citizens and guests of our fire protection area. Together, we strive to create a culture of professionalism, teamwork, health and safety, community support and engagement, and where we set high but achievable standards.



2020 was a challenging year for the Parksville Volunteer Fire Department due to COVID-19 and the membership met the challenges head-on. The following list highlights some of challenges, successes and benchmarks achieved:

- COVID-19
  - Pivot to COVID-19 related response, training, and socializing protocols.
  - Significant reduction in training. Move to on-line training.
  - Strict pandemic based occupational safety protocols put in place to maintain member health and safety.
  - Administrative work from home permitted in some cases.
  - Drive by recognition for the public and members in place for support during pandemic provided physical distancing could be maintained.
- The fire chief sharing arrangement between the City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum Beach continued as did the joint fire services review focused on governance and opportunities for a merged service. The working relationship between the departments has continued to build on the already great working relationship.
- Members continued to provide high quality fire rescue services while maintaining pandemic safety protocols.

I will take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to each member of the Parksville Volunteer Fire Department. We are incredibly lucky to have such a dedicated crew of volunteer on-call and career firefighters who continue to provide to our citizens and visitors effective and efficient services and who have shown the ability to adapt well to the challenges of a pandemic; their spirit, service and the leadership they provide, is second to none.

**Marc H. Norris, BPSA**  
Fire Chief

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## ABOUT PVFD

The Parksville Volunteer Fire Department (PVFD) is staffed by four paid members and up to 44 on-call volunteer firefighters as well as a full-time administrative assistant. Firefighters are a dedicated and diverse group of highly trained professionals, both women and men, most of whom volunteer their service.



**Mission Statement:** The Parksville Volunteer Fire Department strives to protect and support the community by providing outstanding service in the areas of fire suppression, emergency response, member training, fire prevention, public education and charitable community service (2014).

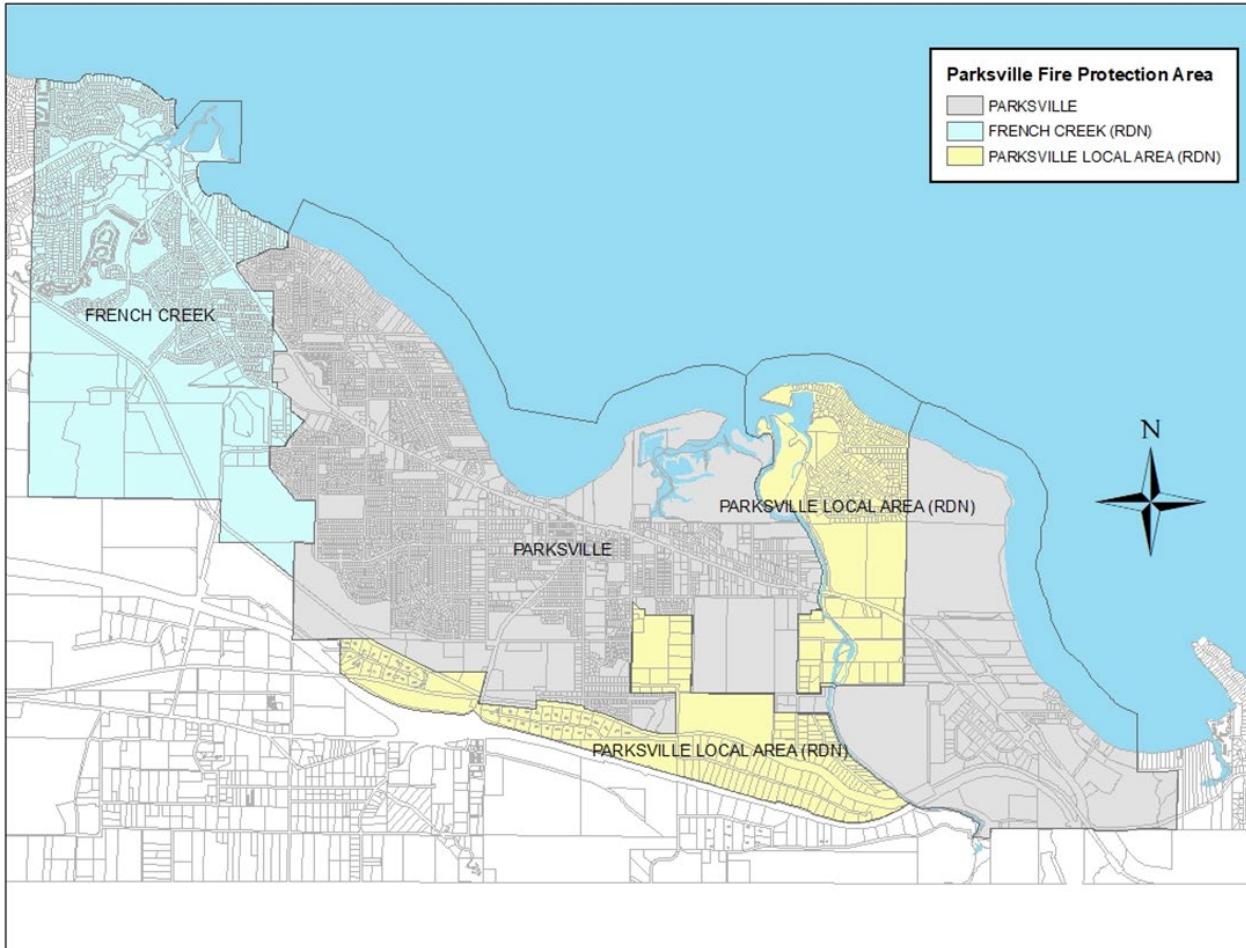
**Departmental Values:** Integrity and service.

**Vision:** Commitment to the betterment of the community through dedication and sacrifice and through actions and behaviours which exemplify core beliefs and values. Choose what is right over what is convenient and comfortable.

**Motto:** Pride, Courage, Passion, Teamwork.

## SERVICE AREA

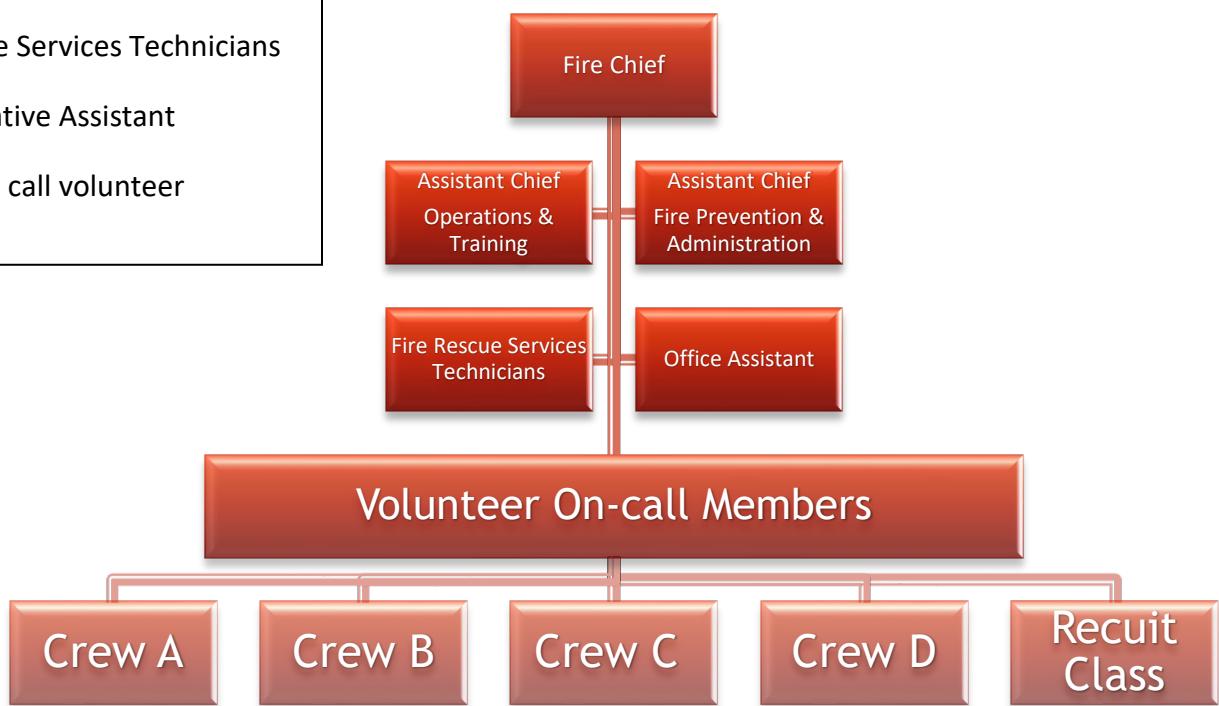
The Parksville Fire Rescue Protection Area consists of the City of Parksville and the French Creek and Parksville Local Service Areas of the Regional District of Nanaimo. Reciprocal service is also provided to our neighbouring partner fire rescue agencies via our regional mutual and automatic aid agreements.



	Population (estimated 2020)	Building Stock by unit (estimated 2018)
<b>City of Parksville (BC Gov Pop. Est. 2020)</b>	<b>13,511</b>	<b>6,928</b>
<b>RDN Areas (estimate 2020)</b>	<b>5668.8</b>	<b>2,772</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>19,179.8</b>	<b>9,700</b>
<b>Seasonal Influx (2019)</b>	<b>8,000+ (at peak)</b>	
<b>Total with Seasonal (est.)</b>	<b>27,179.8</b>	

## DISTRIBUTION OF PERSONNEL

1 - Fire Chief
1 - Assistant Chief – Operations, Training, Equipment & Facilities
1 - Assistant Chief – Fire Prevention, Administration, IT and OHS.
2 - Fire Rescue Services Technicians
1 - Administrative Assistant
Up to 44 – On call volunteer members



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## FACILITIES AND APPARATUS

The PVFD operates out of one fire station located at 160 Jensen Avenue West (corner of Jensen Avenue and Alberni Hwy). The fire rescue department also operates a training facility located at 1159 Franklin's Gull Road.

### Station 41 – 160 Jensen Avenue West



### PVFD Training Centre – 1159 Franklin's Gull Road



### Apparatus

- 2 – Engines (Pump Trucks) – E41 & E42
- 1 – Quint Aerial Apparatus / 105' Rear Mount Ladder – L49
- 1 – Rescue Pumper – R45
- 1 – Water Tender – T47
- 1 – Special Operations Trailer – SOT41
- 3 – Command / Utility / Training / Inspection Vehicles – C41, C42 & C43



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## FIRE PREVENTION - REDUCING RISK

**Fire Prevention** activities of the PVFD include public fire and life safety, education, fire and life safety inspections of all public occupancies, fire cause determination investigations and building plan reviews.

Covid-19 did have an impact on some prevention programs. This was mainly seen with public education events and fire and life safety inspections. Limitations with allowing in person events and businesses throughout the city responding differently made it a challenging year. In 2020 the department welcomed the second FRST with a focus on fire prevention, this greatly assisted the department with reaching its goals.

In 2020 the department was able to purchase three mascots to enhance public education events and promote fire safety messaging. These mascots included Sparky the Fire Dog, Burny the Beaver, and Marshall from Paw Patrol. The department was also able purchase a digital fire extinguisher and may be used in conjunction with the departments current digital training prop. This will aid in teaching members and the public of how to use a fire extinguisher.

Additionally, a voluntary lock box program was created to allow quick access into building throughout the city. Business can purchase and secure a box on the outside of their building containing keys that would allow access.

- In **2020**, the PVFD facilitated 14 public education events, equalling 68 person-hours and reaching 173 citizens.
- 35 fire cause investigations were undertaken in 2020
- 588 fire safety inspections were completed.
- 15 development plan reviews were completed in 2020.



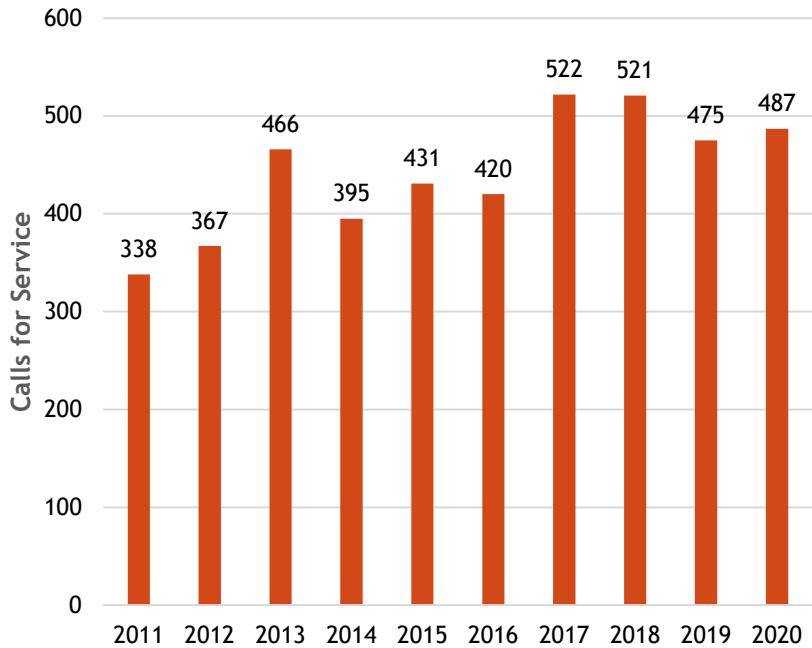
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# INCIDENT RESPONSE



**Calls for service** - PVFD responded to or dealt with **487** incidents equalling **2,075** person hours. Responses included fire, medical aid, hazardous materials, rope rescue, confined space rescue, auto extrication, alarms, motor vehicle incidents, burning complaints and miscellaneous public service.

## Calls for Service 10 Year Annual Comparison



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# TRAINING

The year of 2020 was challenging with the Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19) and how it affected our training. Our firefighters raised to the occasion and took on this new challenge by utilizing online video training platform in place of hands-on training. In **2020**, members completed over **7,900** person hours over **407** sessions to build and maintain the necessary skills to be effective in their roles. 2020 training highlights include:

- Three (3) members received their Airbrake Endorsement License (Class 15).
- Four (4) members completed Incident Safety Officer – NFPA 1521
- Four (4) members completed their initial First Responder Emergency Medical Attendant training
- Three (3) probationary members, with experience joined our department; 2 remain.
- Three (7) members recertified as First Responder Emergency Medical Attendants
- Three (4) members completed the S.T.A.R.T program at Comox FD.
- Two (2) members completed their Level 2 Fire Attack at Comox FD.
- Four (4) members completed Hazardous Material Emergency Response - Operations Level at Comox FD.
- Eight (8) new recruits started in May (Spring), none with previous firefighting experience; 7 remain.
- Six (6) new recruits started in November (Fall), one with some firefighting experience; all remain.
- Ten (10) members completed their Emergency Scene Traffic Control (ESTC) Training.
- Ten (10) members attended a JIBC Pumps and Pumping Training program
- Two (2) members completed Fire Service Instructor Level 1
- Seven (7) members completed their Hazardous Material Awareness Level
- Eight (8) members completed ICS 100
- Eight (8) members completed ICS 200
- Five (5) members completed Live Fire 1 & 2 as part of Firefighter I & II, NFPA 1001 certification.
- Eight (8) members completed Fire Service Evaluator
- Three (3) members successful obtaining Class 3 license.
- Four (4) Technical Rescue Training Evening Sessions
- Four (4) Officer Training Days attended by PVFD Company Officers and/or Senior Firefighters.
- 35 Friday Morning Training Sessions



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## IN THE COMMUNITY

### Annual Food & Toy Drive for the Salvation Army

In 2020, the Parksville Volunteer Fire Department had to move away from collecting food and toys door to door and started setting up collection points at major locations across the community. Because of Covid, the food collection was significantly down at 1,084 pounds. However, we raised the most money to date, \$93,051 was collected for our local food bank.



### Fire Truck Drive-By Rolling Recognition Program

The Parksville Volunteer Fire Department introduced Rolling Recognition Program which helped members of our community celebrate birthdays and significant milestone events during Covid. Our members completed 105 drive-byes between March and May of 2020.

## CHALLENGES



**COVID was our biggest challenge of 2020** which had us pivoting and come up with creative ways to continue our service, training for members and community programs

- **Training of volunteer on-call members** - utilizing online video training platform in place of hands-on training. This new way of training allowed our firefighters to continue and maintain their high level of knowledge, skills and abilities.
- **Public Education** - do to COVID no events were held between the months of March and August. In September events were able to be held but with modifications as per provincial regulations. The department was unable to participate in many events such as Kidfest, Canada day parade, or any event with 50 or more people
- **Fire Prevention Week** - this year was a little different as we were unable to hold our annual open house. A virtual approach was taken by sharing a different fire safety message about kitchen safety each day during fire prevention week. Additionally, residents of Parksville were invited to stop by the station for take a free bag of fire safety activities, coloring books, stickers, and informational brochures.



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