



# PARKSVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



## Annual Report

2021

**2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

Parksville Volunteer Fire Department

For the year ended December 31, 2021

Parksville Volunteer Fire Department

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[www.parksvillefirerescue.ca](http://www.parksvillefirerescue.ca)

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## MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

It is my pleasure to present the 2021 Parksville Volunteer Fire Department Annual Report on behalf of our fire rescue service.

The pandemic continued in 2021 though which the membership of the Parksville Volunteer Fire Department persevered, meeting the challenges head-on. The following list highlights some of challenges, successes and benchmarks achieved:



- Pandemic
  - Continued COVID-19 related response, training, and socializing protocols.
  - Started to resume face to face, regular training by end of year.
  - Strict pandemic based occupational safety protocols continued and evolved to maintain member health and safety and the ability to continue to provide response.
  - Recruiting and retention of volunteer on-call members continued to be a challenge throughout 2021.
- The fire chief sharing arrangement between the City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum Beach continued through to May of 2021.
- Members continued to provide high quality fire rescue services while maintaining pandemic safety protocols.
- Added one additional career Fire Rescue Service Technician as per our staffing plan.
- Significant increase in calls for service incidents returning to and exceeding pre-pandemic levels.
- Decontamination/OHS deficiencies and space restrictions are an issue in the current fire station.

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.

I would like to acknowledge each member of the Parksville Volunteer Fire Department. The department consists of volunteer on-call and career firefighters who provide effective and efficient services to citizens and visitors and have demonstrated adaptability during the pandemic. Their service and leadership are notable.

Sincerely,

**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).

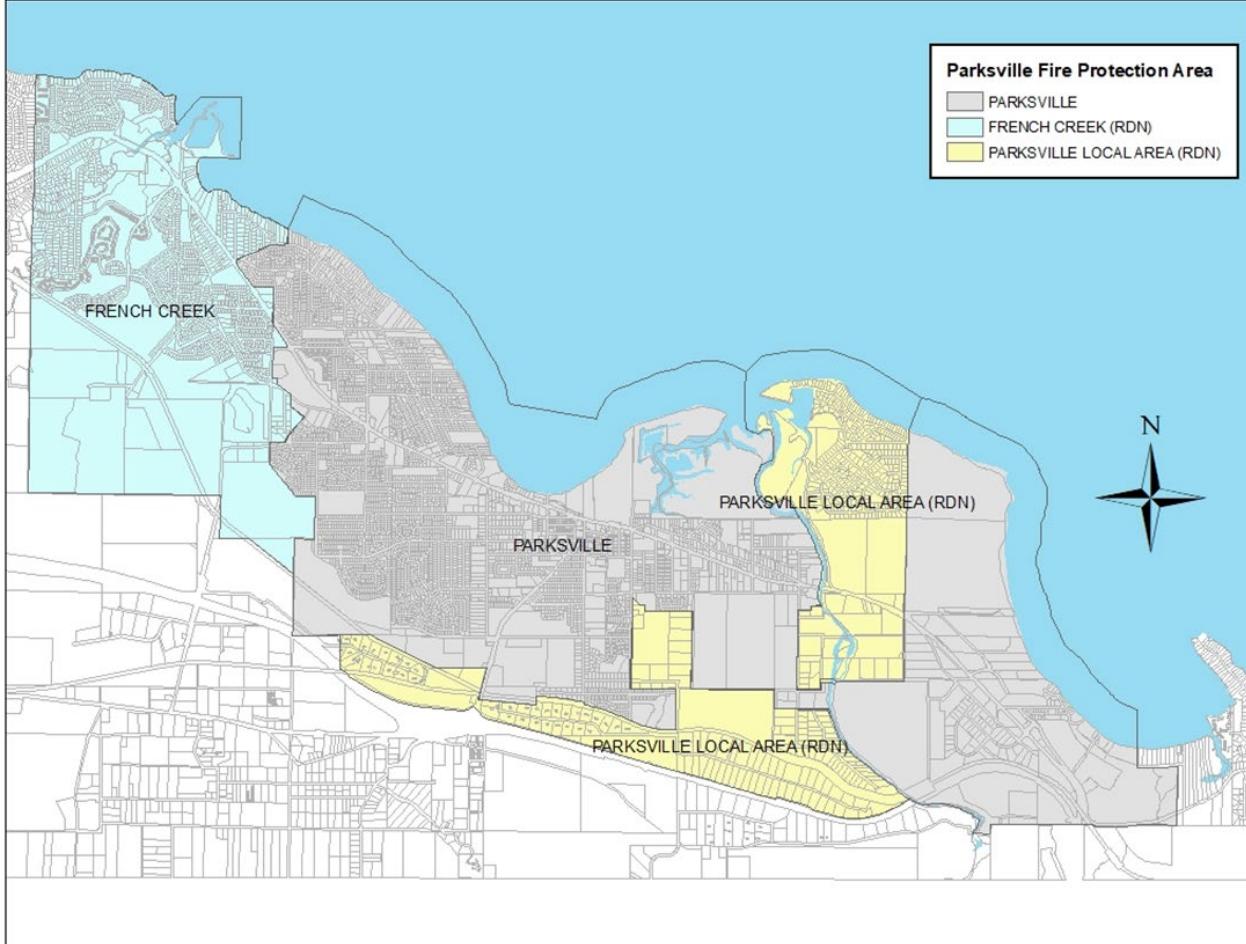
**Departmental Values:** Integrity and service.

**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.

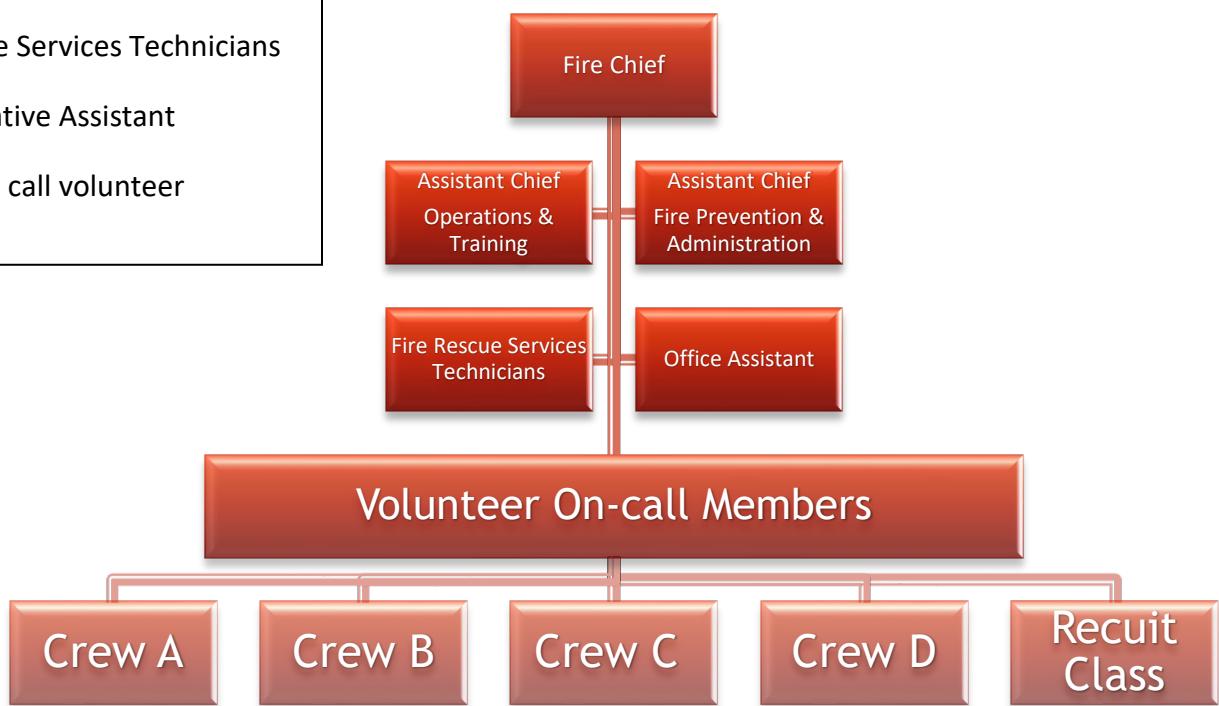


	Population	Building Stock by unit (estimated 2018)
<b>City of Parksville (BC Gov Pop. Est. 2021)</b>	<b>13,642</b>	<b>6,928</b>
<b>RDN Areas (estimate 2020)</b>	<b>5,669</b>	<b>2,772</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>19,311</b>	<b>9,700</b>
<b>Seasonal Influx (2021)</b>	<b>8,000+ (at peak)</b>	
<b>Total with Seasonal (est.)</b>	<b>27,311</b>	

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## DISTRIBUTION OF PERSONNEL

1 - Fire Chief
1 - Assistant Chief – Operations, Training, Equipment & Facilities
1 - Assistant Chief – Fire Prevention, Administration, IT and OHS.
3 - 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.

During 2021 COVID again impacted how fire prevention is delivered. Some businesses have remained closed or imposed restrictions not allowing visitors. The PVFD will continue to work with business and buildings throughout the community as restrictions ease.

In 2021 the prevention division purchased two new personalized 10' x 10' canopy tents that will be used for future events such as static displays or water parks.

Additionally, the department worked with a marketing group to produce 2500 reusable shopping bags with branding and relevant fire safety messaging. The bags reminded residents that only working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms can save lives. The bags were successfully distributed throughout the community during the department's annual Food Drive held in November.

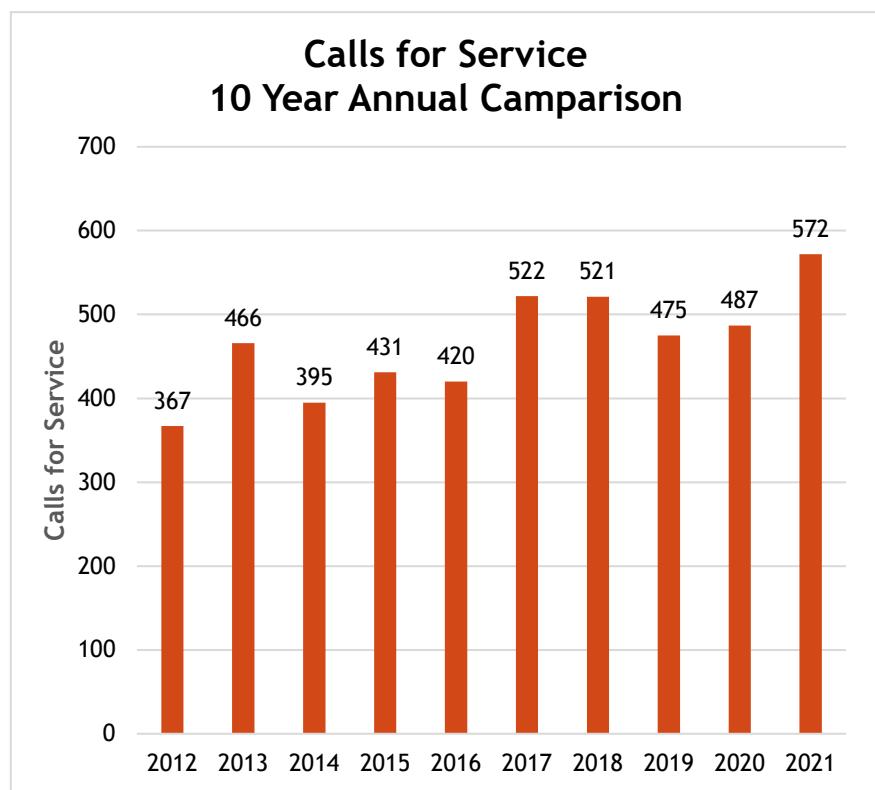
- In **2021**, the PVFD facilitated 15 public education events, equalling 304 person-hours and reaching 400 citizens.
- 46 fire cause investigations were undertaken in 2021.
- 720 fire safety inspections were completed.
- 21 development plan reviews were completed in 2021.
- 15 buildings will have the new Knox boxes installed on them.



## INCIDENT RESPONSE



**Calls for service** - PVFD responded to or dealt with **572** incidents equalling **3,353** 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.



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## TRAINING

The year of 2021 was challenging with not only the Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19) continuing but with the introduction of the Delta and Omicron variants. Our firefighters once again rose to the challenge to maintain their knowledge, skills, and abilities. In **2021**, members completed over **10,622** person hours over **496** sessions to build and maintain the necessary skills to be effective in their roles. 2021 training highlights include:

- Seven (7) members received their Airbrake Endorsement License (Class 15).
- Eight (8) members completed their initial First Responder Emergency Medical Attendant training (52 hours, per member).
- Ten (10) members completed their recertification for the First Responder Emergency Medical Attendant training (20 hours, per member).
- One (1) member completed a First Responder Instructor Course (32 hours, in-class).
- One (1) member completed a First Responder Instructor Recertification Course (8 hours, in-class).
- Eight (8) members completed the S.T.A.R.T program at Comox FD (8 hours, per member).
- One (1) member completed their Level 2 Fire Attack at Comox FD. (16 hours, per member)
- Six (6) members completed their Level 1 Fire Attack at Comox FD. (16 hours, per member)
- Ten (10) new recruits started in May, none with previous firefighting experience; 4 remain.
- Six (6) members completed their Emergency Scene Traffic Control (ESTC) Training. (8 hours, per member)
- One (1) member completed their Fire Service Instructor Level 1 (20 hours).
- Three (3) members completed ICS 100 (online course – 10 hours per member).
- Three (3) members completed RIT Technician training (40 hours, per member).
- Four (4) members completed Emergency Scene Management 1 course (40 hours, per member)
- Two (2) members successful obtained their Class 3 license.
- Two (2) Officer Training Days (Face to Face or via Zoom) attended by PVFD Company Officers and/or Senior Firefighters.
- Four (5) Technical Rescue Training Evening Sessions (168 person hours).
- Friday Morning Training Sessions (583 person hours over 39 sessions).



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## IN THE COMMUNITY

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

In 2021, the Parksville Volunteer Fire Department's Boots for Food drive was a huge success! A total of \$93,464 was collected over the weekend along with new unwrapped toys for the Society of Organized Services. Craig Bay residents donated a record amount of \$58,635 and 3,676 pounds of food and the fire department raised \$34,829 and 600 pounds of food.



### 911 Memorial Stair Climb

The Parksville Volunteer Fire Department, along with the Errington Volunteer Fire Department, came together on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021, to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 343 firefighters who lost their lives during the attacks on the United States. The participants climbed the 8 sets of stairs, on the 4-story tower, at Parksville Fire Department's training grounds.



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