ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Parksville Volunteer Fire Department



2023 Annual Report

Parksville Volunteer Fire Department

For the year ended December 31, 2023

Parksville Volunteer Fire Department

Mailing: Box 1390, Parksville, BC V9P 2H3

Physical: 160 Jensen Avenue West, Parksville, BC V9P 1K3

Phone: 250 248-3242 | Website: parksvillefirerescue.ca

Message from the Fire Chief



It is my pleasure to present the annual report for the Parksville Volunteer Fire Department for fire rescue activities during this past year, 2023.

2023 was the busiest year on record for our fire rescue service in relation to calls for service, with a 22% increase over the previous year. Increasing occupancies, tourism and other circumstances continue to increase both our permanent and transient populations; More people equal more calls for service.

Our members, a highly committed group of women and men, continue to meet current and new challenges through their amazing dedication to community, organization and team. The PVFD continues to focus on member health and safety, delivery of effective emergency services, staff training, fire and life safety, public education, and charitable contributions.

In addition to the core services of response to calls for service, fire prevention, apparatus and equipment maintenance and member training highlighted further into this report, the following are additional accomplishments from our 2023 workplan:

- Fire Rescue Remuneration Policy housekeeping completed
- Records Management Systems On-Call Member Compensation Module implementation completed
- Renewal of command/utility vehicles started
- Fire Station Project - Demolition of houses at 198 and 206 Jensen Ave West completed
- Renewal of Automatic Aid Agreement initiated.
- Mobile Data Terminal replacement in fire apparatus completed

As we look ahead to increasing demand for service, there is a growing imperative of upgrading our facility. This renewal will address existing occupational health and safety deficiencies and support the expanding needs of our community and evolving workforce.

In closing I wish to extend my thanks to our community and Parksville Council for supplying us with the resources to provide safe and effective service. Most importantly, I extend my gratitude to our members, both volunteer on-call and career, who commit their time and energy to the provision of exemplary service to our community.

Sincerely,

Marc Norris
Fire Chief

About the PVFD

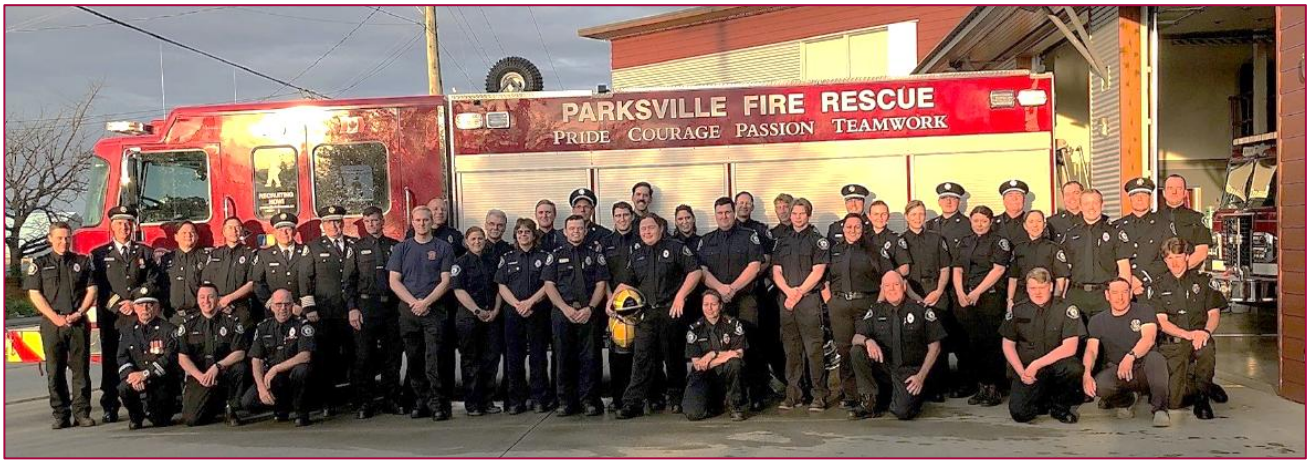
The Parksville Volunteer Fire Department (PVFD) is staffed by seven paid members and up to 44 volunteer paid-on-call firefighters as well as a full-time administrative assistant. Firefighters are a dedicated and diverse group of highly trained professionals, both women and men, most of whom volunteer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

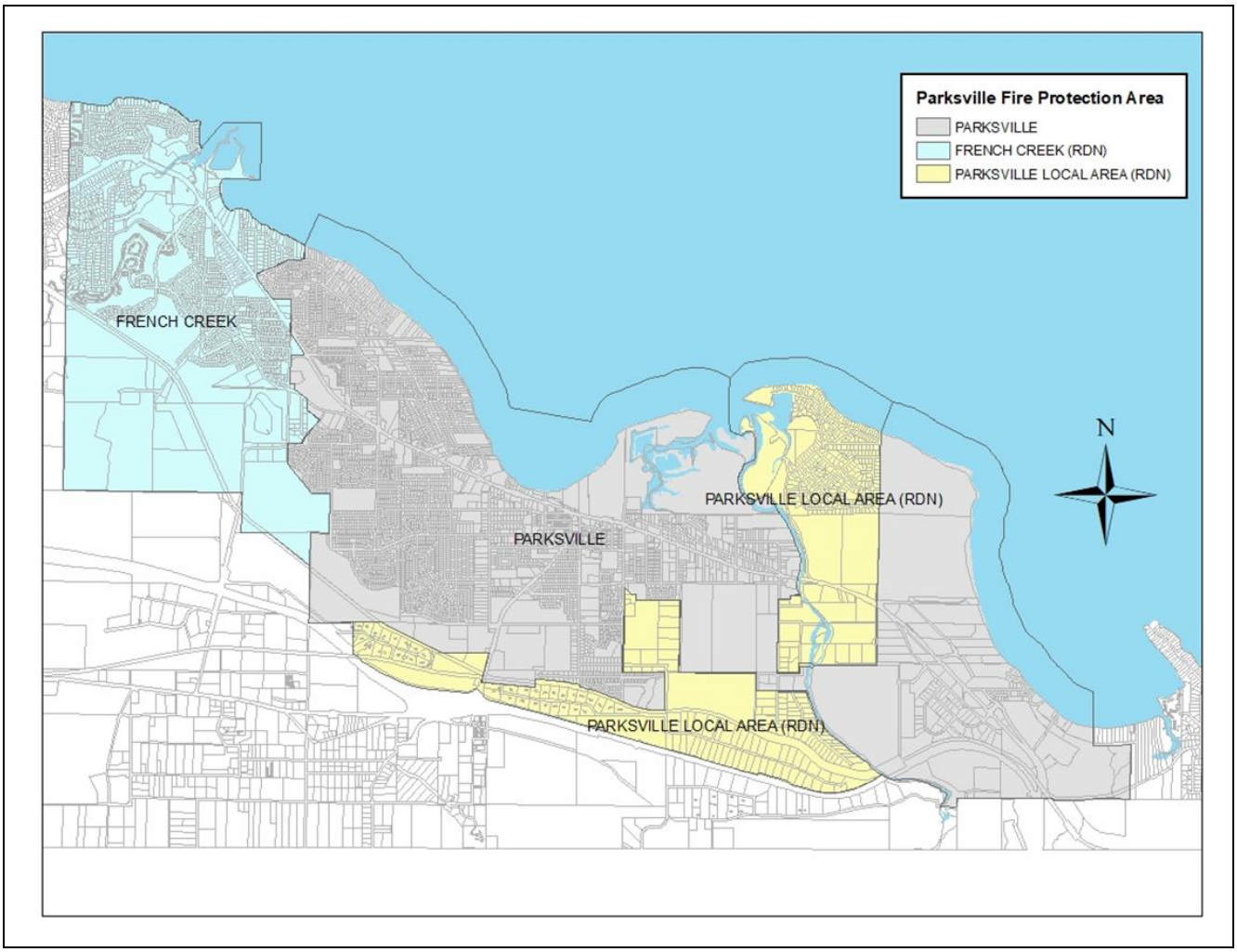
Vision: Commitment to the betterment of the community through dedication and sacrifice and through actions and behaviors which exemplify core beliefs and values. Choose what is right over what is convenient and comfortable.

Motto: Pride ▪ Courage ▪ Passion ▪ Teamwork

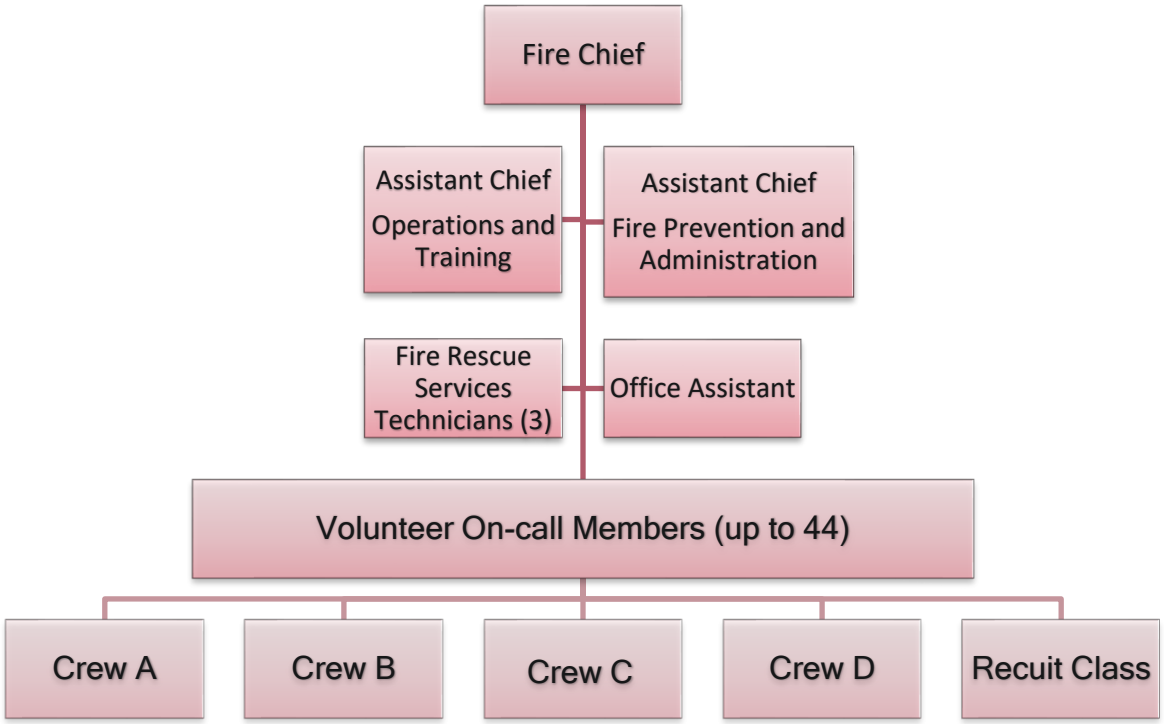


Service Area

The Parksville Fire 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.



Distribution of Personnel





Facilities and Apparatus

The PVFD operates from one fire station located at 160 Jensen Avenue West (corner of Jensen Avenue and Alberni Highway). 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 (Frontline Pump Trucks) – E41 and E42

1 – Reserve Engine – E43

1 – Quint Aerial Apparatus / 105' Rear Mount Ladder – L49

1 – Heavy Rescue – R45

1 – Water Tender – T47

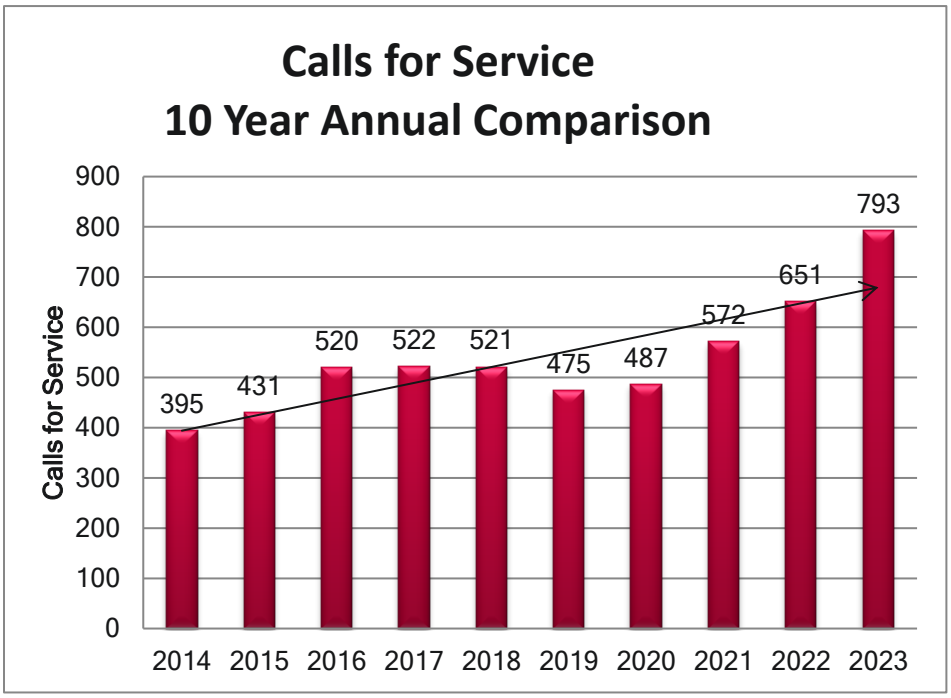
1 – Special Operations Trailer – SOT41

3 – Command / Utility / Inspection Vehicles – C41, C42 and C43

Incident Response

PVFD responded to 793 incidents in 2023. This represents a **22% increase** in calls over 2022 (142 calls).

The nature of calls included fire, medical aid, hazardous materials, rope rescue, confined space rescue, auto extrication, alarms, motor vehicle incidents, burning complaints.



Calls for Service (Incidents)
793

Incident Person Hours
4,532

Incident Hours
543

Fire $ Dollar Loss Est.
$3,038,250

22%
Increase over 2022

Fire $ Dollar Saved Est.
$7,894,000









Training

Essential within a fire department is a highly trained and effective membership. The training division is responsible for developing and delivering firefighter and company officer training to the men and women of our fire department. We train rigorously every year in preparation to deliver high quality and effective fire rescue service.



Training takes place weekly on Monday or Tuesday evenings, with an optional or make-up session on Friday mornings. Recruit members now train on Tuesday evenings, and an extra Friday session is available for those needing additional or make-up training. Third-party providers also deliver local and out-of-area training to ensure our members have the necessary fire and rescue skills for Parksville residents and visitors.



2023 Training - By the Numbers			
Attendee Hours 8050	Instructor Hours 1427	Total Person Hours 9477	Total Training Sessions 525

2023 Training Examples:

- Five members received their Airbrake Endorsement Licence (Class 15).
- Four members completed their initial First Responder Emergency Medical Attendant training (52 hours per member).
- Ten members completed their recertification for the First Responder Emergency Medical Attendant training (20 hours per member).
- Five members completed the S.T.A.R.T (FF Survival) training at Comox FD (8 hours per member).
- Four members completed their Level 1 Fire Attack at Comox FD. (16 hours, per member).
- Four members completed their Level 2 Fire Attack at Comox FD. (16 hours, per member).
- Seven new recruits started in May, one with previous firefighting experience.



2023 saw training sessions and hours return to near pre-covid numbers.

- Nine members completed their Emergency Scene Traffic Control (ESTC) Training. (8 hours per member)
- Eight members completed Technical Rope Rescue Training (Low Slope, Confined Space, High Angle). (60 hours per member over three weekends).
- Two members completed their Fire Service Instructor Level 1 Training - (20 hours per member).
- Five members completed Incident Command System (ICS) 100 (online course – 4 hours per member).
- Three members completed ICS 200 (online course – 14 hours per member).
- One member completed ICS 300 (online course – 14 hours per member).
- One member completed ICS 400 (classroom – 21 hours per member).
- One member completed Emergency Scene Management 1 course (40 hours per member).
- One member successfully completed Incident Safety Officer. (17 hours per member).
- Ten members completed Emergency Vehicle Operation in-house driver training program. 10 hours per member. Cleared to operate apparatus – (Engines, Rescue, Tender only).
- Eight members successfully obtained their Class 3 licence.
- Five members successfully completed Emergency Vehicle Operation in-house driver training program with Class 3 (EVO-All) (5 hours per member). Cleared to operate all PVFD apparatus – (Aerial, Engines, Rescue, Tender).
- Two members attended the annual BC Fire Training Officers Association Conference (BCFTOA) – Vancouver six days (Handson training and classroom sessions) 8 hours per day.
- Twelve members completed two-day Aerial Strategy and Tactics course – (16 hours per member).
- Four members attended two-day Electric Vehicle Safety Training for First Responders.

Fire Prevention - Reducing Risk and Loss

Fire prevention is an opportunity to interact, engage and educate the public. This includes residents, business owners, building developers, and others who visit the City of Parksville. The goal is to promote positive and proactive interaction that creates awareness about fire prevention and highlights four main areas including public education, fire and life safety inspections, development review, and fire cause investigation. 2023 has seen some increase with regards to fire prevention as the City grows in population and building density.



The PVFD annual open house was held in October during Fire Prevention Week at the department's training ground at 1159 Frankin's Gull Road in the Parksville industrial park. Multiple stations were set up including hose and target, kids' bunker gear challenge, learn how to use an extinguisher, and truck tours.

The department received a grant from the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition of Canada which was used to refurbish two burn cells to demonstrate the effectiveness of fire sprinklers in residential homes. The demonstration occurred in October during our department annual open house.

In 2023, the department completed a total of **724 inspections**. Inspection types include fire and life safety, occupancy walk through for new buildings, daycare licensing, fire safety plan reviews, constructions site visits, and other various inspections/ visits.

The fire department lock box program with Knox Box continued to grow in 2023 with 14 new boxes installed in the City. The program continues to be promoted during annual fire and life safety inspections and with builders/developers on new construction projects. Currently there are 40 boxes that have been installed which have proven to be very effective in accessing buildings quickly.



Fire Prevention: Public Education

In 2023 the department hosted **41** public education events. During these events, our members reached out to hundreds of people in the community, resulting in a total of **417** person hours by volunteer and career members.



This year, the department acquired a digital Bullex screen for fire extinguisher training, which paired with our previously purchased digital extinguisher, enhances our ability to provide education and training to our members and the public.

Below is a breakdown of the events our department hosted.

- 8 Preschool Program
- 7 Fire Safety Mixed Youth Age
- 5 Primary School Program
- 6 Adult-based Fire Safety
- 6 Static Displays
- 2 Fire Extinguisher Training
- 2 Smoke/CO Alarm Installations
- 2 RDN Summer Camp
- 1 Fire & Home Safety for Teens
- 1 School Year End Event
- 1 Tim Hortons Camp Day



Questions about this annual report?
Please call us at 250 248-3242 or email to fire@parksville.ca.

Volunteer Today!

Interested in becoming a Volunteer On-call Firefighter with us?

We offer:

- Paid Call Honorarium
- Volunteer Member Health and Dental Benefits
- Employ Assistance Program
- Full WorkSafe BC Coverage
- Full-Service Firefighter, Apparatus Operator and Technical Rescue Training and more!
- Professional atmosphere
- Public interaction and support opportunities
- Social events
- A challenge, should you choose to commit
- Cool Helmet

What we need:

- Commitment to our mission of service delivery
- Positive can-do team-oriented attitude
- Willing to work all hours, on-call
- Meet minimum attendance requirements
- Honesty and Integrity

For more information, visit parksvillefirerescue.ca,
stop by the fire station at 160 Jensen Avenue West, Parksville,
or give us a call 250 248-3242.

Annual application deadline February 28 for a Recruit Class to start
the beginning of May each year.