



NEWS RELEASE

parksvillefirerescue.ca

October 15, 2024

Parksville Firefighters Annual Food and Toy Drive

Parksville Fire Rescue is once again asking the community to support the 2024 "Fill the Boots for Food" drive. Firefighters will collect cash donations for the Salvation Army and new unwrapped toys for the Society of Organized Services on **Saturday, November 16 (9 am to 6 pm)** and **Sunday, November 17 (10 am to 2 pm)**. Firefighters will be at various locations in the City, such as grocery stores, asking residents to generously support the Salvation Army food bank with cash donations. Please watch our social media feeds and website for locations.

Each year, residents in the Parksville Fire Protection Area generously support the annual drive and are the reason the food and toy drive is an incredible success. With \$94,070 in cash donated in 2023, this drive and the generosity of our residents makes a true difference to many during the holiday season.

The first drive for the Parksville Volunteer Fire Department in 1988 helped stock the Salvation Army's shelves for Christmas with about 5,000 pounds of food collected door to door. Over the years, local departments joined the campaign and now Parksville Fire participates in the District 69 drive with seven other departments collecting cash donations for the Salvation Army food bank and new unwrapped toys for the Society of Organized Services.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Donations are extremely important to the Salvation Army food bank and Society of Organized Services to provide for less fortunate in our community. Donations may also be made as follows:

- Society of Organized Services (SOS) is gratefully accepting donations for its Caring for Community at Christmas program. The program provides special gifts for local children and youth, and grocery store gift cards are provided to families, adults and seniors so they may choose food that is meaningful to them over the holidays. Financial donations can be made online at sosd69.com, in person or by phone (250 248-2093), Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4.30 pm. New, unwrapped gifts can be dropped off during the same hours at the SOS Community Services Centre in Parksville (245 Hirst Avenue West) and at Qualicum Commons (744 Primrose Street, Qualicum Beach).
- Salvation Army food bank donations are accepted at 886 Wembley Road - Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 8.30 am to 4 pm (closed noon to 1 pm); Wednesday and Friday, 9 am to noon.

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For more information:

Parksville Volunteer Fire Department

250 248-3242; fire@parksville.ca

The City of Parksville is located on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish Nations, home to the Snaw-Naw-As First Nation and the Qualicum First Nation.

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