



# HORNBY ISLAND FIRE HALL PROJECT UPDATE

February 2015

## What's Inside?

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April 18, 2015**

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## Off Island Resident Referendum Voting

**Are you going to be away  
from Hornby Island during  
the referendum vote on April  
18, 2015? You can still vote!**

**Eligible voters can request a  
mail ballot package** by filling  
in a mail ballot application.

Mail ballot applications are  
available online at [www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/referendum](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/referendum),  
in person or by phone at the  
CVRD office located at 600  
Comox Road, Courtenay, BC  
(250-334-6000) and by email  
request at [administration@comoxvalleyrd.ca](mailto:administration@comoxvalleyrd.ca).

The CVRD will send out  
voting packages to those  
registered by application on  
or about March 15, 2015.  
To ensure your vote will be  
counted, your mail ballot  
with all required paperwork  
must be received by the chief  
election officer at the CVRD's  
close of business at 4:30 p.m.  
on Friday, April 17.

## Referendum Voting Date April 18, 2015

A Select Committee meeting was held following completion of the AAP and, based on the results, the Committee requested that a referendum be held on Saturday, April 18, 2015.

A referendum is the mechanism by which the CVRD board must obtain assent of the electors to adopt a bylaw to borrow \$1.6 million with a term of 20 years for the construction of a new fire hall on Hornby Island. The present cost estimate for construction is \$1.9 million and includes a \$200,000 grant from the Community Works Fund and \$100,000 from reserves.

***"We Hope You Register Your Vote!"***

**If you are unable to vote on Hornby Island on Saturday, April 18, 2015** or are a off island resident please see the sidebar on "Off Island Resident Referendum Voting" so that you can register your vote. It's as easy as calling the CVRD at 250-334-6000 or by email at [administration@comoxvalleyrd.ca](mailto:administration@comoxvalleyrd.ca). Do it today!

## Lower Fire Insurance Premiums from STSA

A new fire hall and added tanker truck means we could apply for Superior Tanker Shuttle Accreditation. STSA is a program that changes your insurance designation from **"Semi-protected (Fire Hall)"** to **"Hydrant Protected (Superior Shuttle Tank)"**.

In addition, residents of Hornby Island will have a **higher level of fire protection service** and most island residents and homeowners will see **a reduction** in their fire insurance premiums.

**The annual savings in house insurance premiums will more than offset the taxation costs.** It is important to use the terminology **"Hydrant Protected (Superior Shuttle Tank)"**

when asking your insurance broker about potential savings.

If you would like to receive direct information about reduced insurance premiums from STSA, please contact **Debra Pelletier, Branch Manager of HUB International Barton Insurance Brokers in Nanaimo.** Debra has provided us with STSA savings examples and can assist you with your needs. Please contact Debra at (250)-758-4606 or by email at [debra.pelletier@hubinternational.com](mailto:debra.pelletier@hubinternational.com).

If you do not carry house insurance for your property on Hornby Island, the enhanced fire protection means HIFR has a **better chance to save your property in the event of a fire.**

Please **TURN OVER** to read a letter from Rick Jackson, Fire Chief, Gabriola Volunteer Fire Dept.

## Letter from Rick Jackson, Fire Chief, Gabriola Volunteer Fire Dept

My name is Rick Jackson, and I am the Fire Chief on Gabriola Island.

I am writing to inform your community of the benefits realized by my community from our Fire department successfully earning the Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) / Superior Tanker Shuttle Accreditation (STSA).

For many years we planned to challenge the FUS rating on Gabriola, with the intent of decreasing the insurance costs for our residents. At that time, we were considered 'semi protected' by the insurance companies.

Wherever possible, we installed gravity fed hydrant systems- currently 5 locations in total- fed from ponds with millions of gallons in reserve, and flow rates from 400 to 800 GPM.

In 2007 we were ready to challenge the test, and contacted the FUS to make arrangements. A location to pump and discharge the water was chosen by mutual agreement with the FUS staff, and on the day of the test, we were successful in pumping 200 igpm, non stop, for 2 hours, while bringing that water from a hydrant source 5kms. away from the pumping site as required by the test criteria. This was a total of 24,000 gallons of water we delivered and pumped.

Our successful challenge resulted in our entire island (20 sq miles) being awarded the Superior Tanker Shuttle Accreditation for our residential properties This now appears on everyone's insurance papers as 'hydrant protected'.

The insurance savings for each property greatly exceed the annual tax charges for our fire department operations. Those fire department taxes include the cost of a full time Fire Chief, part time training officers and secretary, paid on call and for practice fire fighters, a new \$4M. fire hall, a second fire hall at the south end of the island, and all of our equipment.

We received and continue to receive kudos from our community for this acquisition. We were the second community west of Ontario to earn it, and we are justifiably proud of this accomplishment.

In November 2013, we recertified for our STSA , and this time, earned our commercial property owners on the west end of the island the same 'hydrant protected' rating. We were the first volunteer fire dept. west of Ontario to earn the newly established commercial level STSA. Commercial test was 400 gpm for one hour.

In conclusion, I would like to encourage your department to do whatever it takes to plan for and acquire the STSA for Hornby Island. Call your insurance company and ask what the premiums would be if Hornby was rated as 'hydrant protected'. Not only will your residents enjoy the benefits of lower insurance costs, but your volunteer firefighters will be justifiably proud of the accomplishment, which naturally leads to a happier, more stable team of volunteers- a huge bonus for small, self-reliant islands such as Hornby and Gabriola.

Sincerely

Rick Jackson, Fire Chief  
Gabriola Volunteer Fire Dept.  
250-247-9677 office  
250-755-9369 cell/text  
[www.gabriolafire.ca](http://www.gabriolafire.ca)

### **Contact Us:**

Hornby Island Fire Hall Project  
Tor Nawrot  
Pre-construction Coordinator  
[tor@hifd.org](mailto:tor@hifd.org) or 250-335-2214

James Bast  
Manager of Fire Services  
Comox Valley Regional District  
[jbast@comoxvalleyrd.ca](mailto:jbast@comoxvalleyrd.ca) or 250-334-6044

### **Website Links:**

***The Hornby Island Fire Hall Project has a website which is hosted by the Comox Valley Regional District. It is located at:***  
***[www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/hornbyislandfirehall](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/hornbyislandfirehall)***

***Hornby Island Fire Rescue Department***  
***[www.hifd.org](http://www.hifd.org)***