

# Merville Fire Protection Service Update

Spring 2018



## Volunteers Needed

### The Need for a New Fire Hall in Merville

The need to establish a fire hall in the Merville region was identified in a study conducted for the CVRD in 2016.

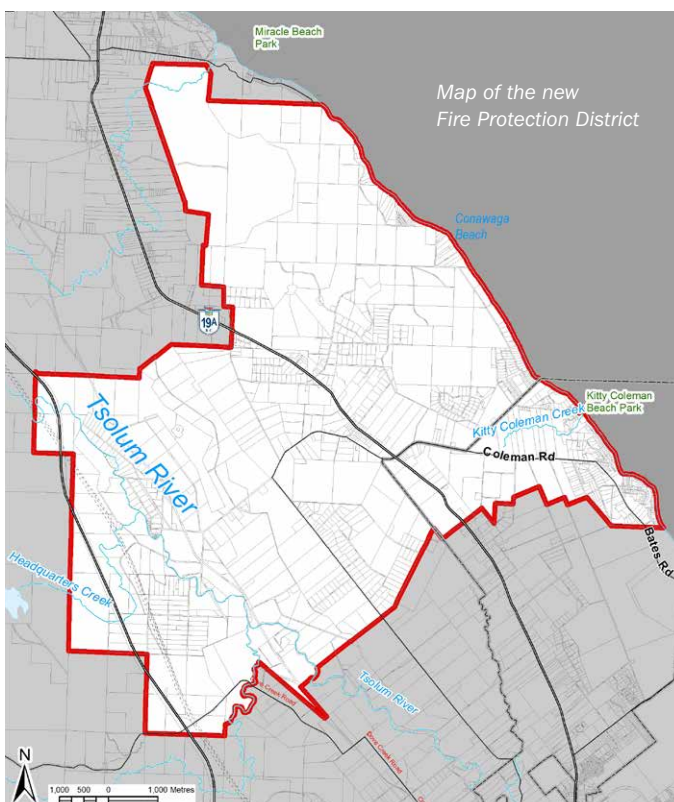
As a new fire hall would benefit both the Merville Fire Protection Service and the Tsolum-Farnham Fire Protection Service, the CVRD has committed to merging these two services. This will make the project more cost efficient and will ensure that property owners pay an equitable amount toward the auxiliary hall project. It could also result in more favourable insurance rates for area property owners.

**“Merging the services will be more cost efficient and will ensure that property owners pay an equitable amount toward the project.”**

Volunteers will be an essential component of providing firefighting, first-responder and non-emergency service to the area. Having local volunteers who live in the area ensures quick response times and better service.

Being a volunteer firefighter is a rewarding way to serve your community while gaining leadership, teamwork and communication skills. Training will be provided, with the goal of having a full compliment of volunteers fully-trained by the time the hall is slated to open in 2020.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter is asked to contact the CVRD at [administration@comoxvalleyrd.ca](mailto:administration@comoxvalleyrd.ca).



# Property Selection Process

Identifying a property for the new Merville fire hall will begin with the establishment of minimum operational requirements. The minimum operational requirements include land size, building size, site layout, water source, septic approval, highway access and feedback received by the public.

The CVRD will use a realtor to identify properties that meet the minimum requirements and could be used for identifying a location for the new fire hall. The CVRD Board would then narrow its selections and acquire its preferred property. A property appraisal may be obtained prior to acquisition. The property identification, selection and acquisition will be conducted through closed meetings without public input to ensure that a fair evaluation for the property is achieved. Following the acquisition, the selected property will be announced to the public.

The target date for property acquisition is late 2018, provided the funding for the project is approved through referendum.

## Project Timeline



## Public Engagement

It is important for the CVRD to hear from area residents to ensure the new fire hall meets local needs. Over the next few months the CVRD will be seeking public feedback on aspects of the new fire hall including noise, traffic and land use.

In providing feedback, the CVRD would like the public to think about topics that relate to selecting a site. These topics could include parking, road accessibility, proximity to farms, noise from the fire hall and/or design of the building. It is important to share your thoughts and concerns so they can be considered as the minimum operational requirements for the property. The minimum operational requirements will be used to identify potential properties.

As public feedback on the fire hall is gathered, CVRD staff will be working to determine the amount of funding that will be required for the project. Staff will also determine the referendum question that will be voted on during the local government elections in October 2018. The referendum is required to obtain funding for the hall construction and equipment purchases.



### Provide Your Feedback

Email comments to [administration@comoxvalleyrd.ca](mailto:administration@comoxvalleyrd.ca).  
Deadline for input is May 4.