



# LOON LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER



*Loon Lake fire hall render*

## FIRE HALL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

On November 18, 2021, the TNRD Board awarded a contract for the design and build of the new Loon Lake Volunteer Fire Hall. The contract has been awarded to West Alliance Construction Ltd., for a maximum price of \$1,264,120.00. The new fire hall will be built in 2022.

As an important reminder, borrowing for this project cannot exceed what has already been approved by the community, which is \$653,000.00. Other funding for this project comes from a generous donation of \$275,000 by Fraserway RV, as well as smaller public donations and savings. Electoral Area "E" has also allocated \$150,000 as a grant to help fund this project.

We are currently working with the Loon Lake Community & Recreational Society (LLCRAS) for a long-term use on the 2 Bay structure that currently houses the fire apparatus. The 2 Bay structure was built by the TNRD on LLCRAS lease property, fully funded by the Canada Community Building Fund with support from Electoral Area (EA) Director Sally Watson.

**FIRE HALL QUICK FACTS:**

- July 2016: EA Director Sally Watson funded a Loon Lake Volunteer Fire Department 2nd Hall Construction Capital Investment Analysis, authored by FireWise Consulting Ltd. The full report and recommendations can be found at the TNRD Loon Lake Volunteer Fire Department webpage.
- Summer of 2017: Elephant Hill Wildfire destroys many structures in Loon Lake, including the Fire Hall
- June 23, 2018: Referendum on Fire Protection Service passes by vote of 115-31
- Ballot questions: "Are you in favour of the Thompson-Nicola Regional District adopting:
  - Bylaw No. 2651 for the purpose of establishing the Loon Lake fire protection service area within a portion of Electoral Area "E" (Bonaparte Plateau) with a maximum annual tax requisition for operating costs of \$150,000 or \$1.546/\$1,000 of net taxable value of land and improvements, whichever is greater; AND
  - Bylaw No. 2652 that authorizes the Thompson-Nicola Regional District to borrow an amount not to exceed \$653,000 for the purpose of constructing two fire halls for the Loon Lake fire protection service?"
- January 2018: TNRD starts the process of gaining a Crown lease to build the primary fire hall at the abandoned Loon Lake Provincial Park. This was a property identified in the 2016 FireWise Consulting report (pg. 16)
- Fall of 2018: TNRD constructs 2 bay garage @ 1701 Loon Lake Rd, with full financial support via Gas Tax from EA Director Sally Watson. This is the original location of the Fire Department which sits on Crown lease under the Loon Lake Community Recreational Agricultural Society
- July 31, 2020: Land tenure achieved after two years of working through the Provincial process
- Nov. 18, 2021: After a Request for Tender (RFT) process was unsuccessful, a successful Request for Proposal (RFP) process led to the TNRD Board of Directors awarding a contract for the design and build of the new Loon Lake Volunteer Fire Hall

# FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Members of the Loon Lake Fire Department are looking forward to moving into our new fire hall in late 2022. It has been over 4 years since the old fire hall burned down in the Elephant Hill Wildfire in 2017.

Congratulations to West Alliance Construction Ltd.

We have added 2 new members this past year and have 4 others that are at various stages of the application process. This will bring our roster to 20 members and we still have room for more.

If you are interested in becoming a Firefighter at Loon Lake, please give me a call at **250 459-2433** or email me at [loonlakevfd@tnrd.ca](mailto:loonlakevfd@tnrd.ca).

We have had a couple of Medical Assist calls in the past year. Medical calls are not part of our Service Delivery Model at this time. We are not trained or licensed to provide First Responder Medical response. Occasionally though, we do get a request to provide Medical Assistance from BC Ambulance Service. The Fire Department's protocol is to respond to the fire hall and advise BCAS Dispatch when we are at the hall. Dispatch will either tell us when BCAS arrives at the call, or we follow the ambulance to the call when we see it drive past the fire hall.

## "10 CENTS AT A TIME" CONTINUED SUCCESS

Our "10 Cents at a Time" bottle return fundraiser continued to see support from our community members in 2021. The Fire Department Rebuild fund grew by more than \$5,000.00 in 2021, bringing our total to over \$15,000.00 raised.

If you would like to donate your bottles and cans to the Rebuild Fund to help offset the cost of our fire hall, you can take your returns to any Return-It/Encorp Bottle Depot and reference the Loon Lake Community Hall and the phone number, which is 250-459-7921. It's just that easy.



# STRUCTURAL PROTECTION KITS NOW AVAILABLE

In the summer of 2021, the TNRD partnered with New-Line Hose and Fittings on a structural protection kit fundraising program, with the help of the Loon Lake Fire Department and other volunteer fire departments in the region. The kits are offered below retail price, with \$38.00 from each kit sold being donated to your local fire hall.

If you would like to order a structural protection kit, you have the option to order a standard kit (part number CFP-4000) or premium kit (part number CFP-4001). Manual or electronic garden hose timers are also available at a reduced cost.

These kits can be purchased through New-Line Hose and Fittings in two ways:

1) In-person, at any New-Line location. The closest store is in Kamloops at 103-705 Laval Crescent

2) Order, by phone or online

- **ONLINE:** Go to [www.new-line.com](http://www.new-line.com) and login using the fire hall account info: username: loonlakevfd@tnrd.ca, password: firefundraiser (enter "fire protection kit" into the search bar)
- **PHONE:** Call New-Line directly, at 604-455-5400, and use account number T 1127 to get the special pricing



When ordering, be sure to use LOONLAKE as the purchase order number, to make sure the \$38.00 per kit goes to the Loon Lake Fire Department.

More information on the program can be found on the TNRD Loon Lake Volunteer Fire Department webpage.

## FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE



### THREE SEATS REMAIN AVAILABLE ON THE LOON LAKE FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

As members of the Fire Services Advisory Committee (FSAC), a group of residents and property owners provide input to the Electoral Area Director on local fire service, and share important fire-related information to community members.

### ROLES OF AN FSAC MEMBER INCLUDE:

1. Having local knowledge. A committee member can help evolve the fire service by recommending projects and future services to be included in the 5-year Financial Plan (budget), through advice to the Electoral Area Director.
2. Committee members are encouraged to share information provided by the TNRD with their neighbours about the fire service. Information can be shared by putting up posters, forwarding email communications or sharing Facebook and other social media posts about the fire service, projects and emergencies.
3. Committee members can also assist the volunteer fire department by promoting firefighter recruitment and retention.

Membership is voluntary and meetings are held as required.

If you would like more information on becoming a member, contact: [fireprotectionservices@tnrd.ca](mailto:fireprotectionservices@tnrd.ca).



# A REMINDER TO BE “FIRESMART”

It was another difficult year for B.C. wildfires in 2021, and Loon Lake was on evacuation alert for almost 2 months during the summer. It is important that all residents do what they can to reduce the risk of wildfire around their homes. Here are seven recommendations for Loon Lake residents from a FireSmart Community Assessment Report, done in the fall of 2019:

1. Reduce the amount of highly combustible plants used in landscaping, such as cedar and juniper shrubs and hedges, within Zone 1 (<10 metres from the home). Refer to the FireSmart Landscaping Guide for recommended vegetation and landscaping materials.
2. Remove ladder fuels within Zone 2 (10-30 m) and Zone 3 (30-100 m).
3. Fuels located on crown land within 100 m of a resident's home should be assessed by a qualified professional to determine next course of action
4. Remove or store appropriately all combustibles in Zone 1 – including personal items such as trailers, recreational vehicles, tools, building materials, etc.
5. Apply FireSmart principles to any outbuilding within 15 m of a structure.
6. Remove firewood stacks from Zone 1 during times of wildfire threat
7. When away for lengths of time during high wildfire threat, consider items such as rattan door mats, flammable patio furniture, children's toys, trash cans and BBQs as combustibles and store away from *any structures*.



[firesmartbc.ca](http://firesmartbc.ca)



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