

Fires – 1

First Responder – 14

New members - 3



2020 was an extremely challenging year for Van Anda Fire/Rescue. All training was suspended for approximately six months as the initial pandemic response was figured out while, at the same time almost all First Responder medical calls were suspended due to concerns of COVID19 transmission.

The fire hall was split into two functioning units with minimal physical contact between the two groups. Those that were still working toward their Exterior Level Fire Fighter qualifications met in a small group on Monday nights to get their training accomplished and their qualifications in place.

COVID19 restart plan was accepted by WorkSafe and hall reopened to training, however, the hall is still closed to the public to minimize possible exposures.

First Responders are fully outfitted with COVID19 PPE and are again responding to some calls.

VAFD applied for and received a grant from Canadian Red Cross for online courses; our junior members were enrolled into Exterior Level Fire Fighter and our officers into train-the-trainer.

We painted hydrants and colour coded them by flow to rapidly identify hydrant capability, day or night.



We applied for a Fire Chiefs Association of BC grant to assist VAFD in their “Out of Jurisdiction” road rescue and hopefully we will hear about the outcome soon.

Van Anda Fire/Rescue is always looking for interested volunteers to assist/join us. We meet Monday nights at 6:30pm. Find us on Facebook as Van Anda Fire Department.

Thank you, Fire Chief Mike Craggs

604 414 3601



*Be nothing short of amazing!*



The VAID Trustees are working hard on your behalf to supply clean, safe potable water for home consumption and fire protection. Any ratepayers who have concerns or input, please let us know. Call the office at 604 486 7035. Please leave a message if its unanswered and someone will get back to you.

If you believe an error may have been made in your billing, call to register for the 2021 Court of Revision February 13<sup>th</sup> 10 am at Van Anda Firehall.

Also note our Annual General Meeting is tentatively scheduled (COVID restriction dependent) for April 17<sup>th</sup> 10 am. Consider volunteering for your community as a Trustee as we have will be voting for 3 trustee positions in 2021. Make a difference in your neighborhood.

As a registered municipal public body, we are qualified to receive gifts such as monetary, supplies or work-in-kind; therefore, we can issue official donation receipts that you can add to your tax return.

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There have been two significant changes made to our drinking water. First, our water is now of better quality than it has ever been in the past. This is thanks to the new water treatment plant paid for by the UBCM grant received two years ago. The system filters, removes sediments and organics, and disinfects our water. For the first time our water exceeds the Vancouver Coastal Health requirements for potable water and its production.

Secondly, the UBCM grant also covered the costs and installation of a new water storage tank that replaced the smaller, leaking wood stave water tank that had reached end of its life. Together these improvements, paid for by the grant, saved the ratepayers over \$850,000 and with careful operation will serve Van Anda for decades.



With this year's invoice, you'll note that there is an increase in your Parcel Taxes and Water use Tolls. The increase for most, is about \$10/month. Although increases seem to be a regular occurrence in today's world, the VAID Trustees fully realize the hardships that may be incurred by some due to this increase and feel that it is important for everyone to understand the reasons to the rate increase. Many will speculate that the operation of the new water treatment is expensive and caused the rate increase. This did occur to a minor extent last year, while we were troubleshooting and learning about the intricacies of the new system. This took more people hours than we anticipated.



[www.vananda-id.ca](http://www.vananda-id.ca)

In this new year, however, the operating costs of running the treatment system are not the principal drivers of the rate increase. All our major costs (insurance, freight, supplies, hydro) have been increasing with inflation. Staffing costs have increased as we hired and trained an assistant Water Operator to facilitate a smooth succession transitioning, for whenever that may be necessary. Our water operators are Small Water System certified with Environmental Operator Certification Program. One other reason for the increase in our budget, and a focus starting in 2021, are the funds we have allocated to capital projects to improve the efficiency of our water distribution piping system. As treating our water now has a direct cost, finding and repairing leaks in our aged distribution system is a priority. With the new tank and water treatment system we were able to determine that actually half or more of the water we process is likely lost through leaks in the distribution system. Repairing these leaks, replacing old pipes and conserving water will reduce our cost of operations, and ensure that water is available for fighting fires. Please help us in these endeavours by reporting any leaks that you notice. Thank you,

Van Anda Improvement District

Board of Trustees

*Water is life; don't waste it.*