



Location: 2036 Marble Bay Road
(Firehall)

Mail: Box 115
Van Anda BC V0N 3K0

Phone: 604-486-7035

Email: contact@vananda-id.ca

Website: vananda-id.ca

Ratepayers should phone the Water Operators directly if they experience issues such as no water, low water pressure, or leaks.

Austin Rycroft: 604-413-1402

Marianne Segers: 604-315-1363

Office phone messages and email are checked daily in the morning; urgent items will be responded to immediately, and non-urgent during office hours.

VAID Trustees and staff continue to work 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. Remember to treat everyone in a respectful manner.

If you believe an error may have been made in your billing, contact the office as soon as possible. You can also register for the 2024 Court of Revision which will be held on Saturday February 10th at the Van Anda Firehall.

The Annual General Meeting will be Saturday April 21 at the Legion. Consider volunteering for your community as a Trustee; we will be voting for 2 Trustee positions. Make a difference in your neighborhood!

As a registered municipal public body, we are qualified to receive gifts of money, supplies or work-in-kind, and issue Official Donation Receipts that you can use in your tax return. *Thank you to our generous donors!*

Water Quality

Our water continues to be of excellent quality, thanks to the water treatment plant installed in 2020. The system filters, removes sediments and organics, and disinfects our water using both ultraviolet light and chlorine. Our water routinely exceeds Vancouver Coastal Health requirements and there were no water quality warnings or boil water advisories this year.

Leaks Status

Leaks in VAID's water mains are continually being discovered and repaired, and leak detection is ongoing, including waterlines on private property.

Growth & Development

Real estate movement has slowed down, as has land development. Note that developers pay for any system upgrades needed to provide water to their developments. Upgrades that may be needed for development include increased water treatment plant capacity, larger water mains, and possibly other distribution components. Engineering reports that the board deem necessary to determine if current water users will be impacted are also at the developers cost.

Climate Change & Water Restrictions

As last 3 summers brought extended dry periods, we are seeing lower lake levels than previously recorded. Last summer we installed the intake pump on a float to ensure that low water levels at the intake well did not impact pump operation. Our water supply, Priest Lake, has plenty of water however we need to deepen the water intake well to adapt to lower water levels. Well maintenance performed this year showed cracks in the well casing and we are still determining the best way to proceed.

Seasonal water restrictions are put in place to manage the volume of water that is treated, as high usage can max out the plant capacity and water supply for fire protection. Please ensure your hoses have attachments to restrict full flow and let us know of concerns about excessive water use. Insulate pipes to avoid freezing: if you absolutely have to run water a trickle is all that's needed.

Encouraging Water Conservation

We have noticed that the increased water usage in summer decreases noticeably for a couple of days after it rains. VAID will be starting a new program to ease up the summer load on the Water Treatment Plant. Drip irrigation is a method of plant watering that uses much less water than traditional methods. VAID will help you reduce the costs of purchasing a drip irrigation system – please contact us for details.

Employee Changes

We have 2 new employees who started working for VAID in 2023. Joseph Scott (Administrative Assistant) and Marianne Segers (Water Operator) are excellent additions to the team. Austin Rycroft continues as Water Operator and Sandra Haszard as Administrator.

Tolls & Taxes

We managed to keep this year's increase of Water Tolls and Parcel Taxes down to 6 %, which is quite reasonable, and a lower increase compared to many jurisdictions, especially given the inflationary pressures that hit us this year. Payment plans are available; see your invoice for details.

*Thank you, Van Anda Improvement District Board of Trustees
Ron Smith (Chair), John Colongard, Jennifer Moore, Philip Tidd, Jane Waterman*

Members of the public are invited to join us at our regular monthly board meetings. 2024 dates:

Jan 17 - Feb 17 - Mar 13 - Apr 10 - May 15 - Jun 12 - Jul 10 - Aug 14 - Sep 11 - Oct 16 - Nov 13 - Dec 11

Court of Revision: Feb 10

Annual General Meeting: Apr 21

Van Anda Fire & Rescue

2024 Newsletter

Interested in keeping your community safe?

A couple of hours a week are all you need to become a volunteer firefighter:

- No previous experience necessary.
- All required personal protective equipment and training are provided at no cost.
- Only have to fill out an application form and criminal record check.
- On duty insurance coverage.
- Practice once a week for two hours with occasional weekend training.
- Tax credits from the federal government are provided to volunteer firefighters who serve at least 200 hours per year.

The Fire Act changes mean that all members don't need to be trained in everything. There is room on the team for people who just want to drive the truck, run the pump, or do any other activity.

Anyone interested in joining is welcome to attend a practice. These are held on Monday nights beginning at 6:30 pm. (This may be changed to weekends to accommodate shift workers.) You don't have to live in the Van Anda District to join.

Phone or text Mark Robert for more information
604-414-9662

Training

Hall training focuses on practical skills, hazard awareness, SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) training, ropes and pulleys, pumper skills, hydrant hookup with truck pressurization, traffic control, and radio use. First Responder medical scenario training is ongoing, as is forestry training.

VAFD and Gillies Bay Fire Department train together often and work well together at incidents. Training with GBFD this year included: BCAS ambulance familiarisation; naloxone use; forestry structure protection; road traffic safety; structural protection practice/training; MVA incidents; fire tactics; hydro.

Volunteer Firefighters training and expenses will be covered by the Fire Department for training away, including items such as Live-Fire, EMA accreditation, Critical Incident Stress Management, Air Brakes endorsement, and Class 4 endorsement on Driver's License.

Equipment Upgrades

VAVFD has purchased 3 sets of safety boots, 4 wildland helmets, 2 SCBAs with 4 tanks, one hydrant, 2 climbing harnesses, 1200 USG portable water tank, hoses, pager, radio, 2 trauma bags, hydrant flow test



2023 CALL OUTS

- 1 structure fire
- 2 fire complaints during burning ban
- 51 medical calls
- 2 MVI
- 4 help other agencies

The fire attended was a chimney fire that spread to the structure. It was inside Gillies Bay Fire Protection area and VAFD responded as per our auto mutual aid agreement with GBFD. The quick actions of both fire departments stopped the fire from spreading into the forest. This was the first auto aid response, and it went very well.

kit. The bay doors were replaced with powered doors that can be opened and closed with a remote. The old doors were heavy, unsafe, and had been repaired multiple times. The new doors seal properly and are saving on hydro costs.

Grant Received

In October, we successfully applied for a \$ 24,644 grant through UBCM for Community Emergency Preparedness Funds for Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments. The funds are to be used for training and the following equipment: turn out gear; wildland firefighting PPE; 1200 USG portable water tank; mark-3 water pump, suction hose, foot valve, fuel line and fuel can; incident command Wildland PPE; shovels, pick-head fire axe, and other fire tools; First Aid kit and case; and more.

Increased Fire Protection Area

Property owners in Crescent Bay and the surrounding area have expressed interest in obtaining Fire Protection from VAVFD. This can be done by amending the ID boundaries. If boundaries are amended, these new properties will share in the Fire Protection Tax that is collected as part of the Rural Property Tax. Owners have been providing Applications for Boundary Amendment so that we can move forward with this change.

Merging Fire Departments

Van Anda and Gillies Bay Fire Departments are again discussing the possibility of merging. The 2 FDs already work well together as well as sharing training and resources. If we can find a suitable method to merge, one major benefit would be that only one new Fire Truck (each costing over a million dollars) needs to be purchased every 25 years, instead of the 2 required while the Departments are separate. Thus, merging the Fire Departments would decrease the tax burden to Texada Island residents while maintaining the same level of protection from fire. The possibility of a merge was explored about 10 years ago and was ultimately decided against, but many things have changed since then. There may be alternatives to those presented previously. Investigations are ongoing, with the assistance of Provincial authorities such as Municipal Government and the Fire Commissioners Office.

Mike Craggs Retirement from Position of Fire Chief – a message from Mike:

As I reflect on my retirement as Fire Chief, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the unwavering support of the incredible residents of Van Anda. These past 15 years have been a journey filled with both trials and triumphs, and it is through our unyielding commitment to continuous training that our department has blossomed into a force to be reckoned with. But let me tell you, none of this would have been possible without the extraordinary firefighter volunteers who fearlessly rise to every challenge that comes their way. Their resilience and dedication have left an indelible mark on my heart, and I will forever cherish the moments we shared. As I embark on a new chapter in my paramedic career, I want to assure you all that Van Anda Fire Rescue will forever hold a special place in my heart. It has been an honor and a privilege to lead these exceptional firefighters, and I am eternally grateful for the opportunity you have given me.
With heartfelt appreciation, Mike Craggs, Retired Fire Chief, Van Anda Fire/Rescue

We are very grateful to Mike for his dedication and years of service to our community and wish him all the very best as he moves forward with his paramedic career.

General Information

The Fire Department and Firefighters continue to assist BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) with patient movements and transport. A Texada Emergency Response Plan is being developed that all Texada emergency departments on the island will be able to follow and have a guideline to work by.

Mark Robert will continue as Acting Fire Chief. Phone or text 604-414-9662 Email: firechief@vananda.ca
Please think about becoming a volunteer member and helping your community!