

## **SATURNA ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION SOCIETY (SIFPS)**

by Bill Schermbrucker

It's been quite a few months now since SIFPS paid off the mortgage on the two new Emergency Services Buildings (ESB#1 and ESB#2) Some doubted that it could be done, and expressed concern about cost, aesthetics, location and disturbance to the flight of birds.

But the persistent diligence of the previous Boards got it done, and Wayne Quinn presided over the mortgage burning ceremony. Fire Chiefs and other officers from all over BC have occasionally come by to inspect and admire what we accomplished so inexpensively on Saturna. Are the buildings pretty? Not so much, but they should outlast all of us and make the island a safer place to live. Thank you Saturna-ites for passing the referendum to allow the borrowing necessary to build.

As previous Safety Officer, I am gratified that our men and women no longer have to struggle into heavy turnout gear in the half metre space between a wall and a moving truck in the old Fire Hall, and that they have an industrial grade machine to wash the contaminants out of their turnout gear after attending an emergency.

Dial 911 and our firefighters and/or Saturna Island Rescue (SIR) crews should reach you within about ten minutes.

The AGM of SIFPS is on Saturday 16 June at 1 pm in ESB#1. Membership in SIFPS is no longer restricted to invitees but open to all Saturna residents who apply. Think about attending the meeting. Think even more about standing for the Board, as we have barely a quorum at present. (Call SIFPS John Hutchinson to indicate your willingness to stand, his phone number is in the directory.)

And one more thing: although Fire Chief Brent Sohier and SIR Crew Chief Kate Vigneault have sufficient willing volunteers to cover the basic first response calls, they can always use more volunteers. Excellent training is provided. And even one more thing: when I was a firefighter, it really gladdened my heart when recipients of emergency aid were thoughtful enough to send a card and sometimes even enclose a cheque in thanks.