

**SATURNA ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION SOCIETY (SIFPS)  
2019-2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**President's Report – 2019-2020**

Historically our volunteers have played a major role in keeping Saturna a safe and special community and this year they have risen to an even higher standard. While as residents, we have had to deal with social distancing, isolation, fear and concern, our volunteer Fire Fighters and SIR Medical Volunteers have put their concerns aside to be on call and ready to respond 365 days a year. A huge shout-out, recognition and thanks goes to them on behalf of us all.

I would like to thank recently retired (December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019) SIR Chief Kate Vigneault for her service to Saturna Island Rescue and our community. Her dedication and tireless efforts saw us, for the first time, receive a new-to-us ambulance from British Columbia Emergency Health Services at no cost to Saturna taxpayers. Under her guidance, we are now closer than ever to a formal working relationship with BCEHS. While still on our own, a formal working agreement can and will give SIR an improved ability to better serve our Island. A special thanks and welcome to our new Chief, Vanessa Verbitsky.

This year saw Fire Chief Brent Sohier retire (May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020) as Chief and move over to take on the duties of Deputy Chief. Brent served, taking over from retiring Chief, John Wiznuk in 2012. With a long history as a volunteer first responder and fire fighter, Brent was ideally skilled and experienced for the role as Chief. SIFPS and the crew are happy that Brent will continue as a well-respected member of the crew, serving in his role as Deputy Chief. Welcome to Peter Clark (former Deputy) to his new role as Chief.

Thank you to our minute taker, Sandy Nelson, for taking on this role. Her attention to this important function made my duties so much easier.

Fire Smart proved to be a very popular and well received new program. (See attached report.)

Lastly, many thanks to Eva Hage, Deb Simpson, Ian Gaines, Harvey Janszen, Priscilla Zimmerman, Dan Thachuk, John Wiznuk and Peter Stolting for their service on the Board. SIFPS is a collective of Islanders, each willing to do their part to carry on the vision of those who came before us.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Hutchinson  
President, SIFPS