

## SIFPS AGM AND SOLAR POWER

By John Wiznuk and Wayne Quinn

Saturday, June 27, at Emergency Services Building #1, the Saturna Island Fire Protection Society (SFPS) convened it's Annual General Meeting at 1pm. In accordance with provincial health recommendations the chairs were 6 feet apart, participants wore face masks and brought personal pens to sign the attendance sheet. It was a small meeting with many Society members giving it a pass unfortunately.

Change was the wind as previously serving directors stepped aside, with new members taking their place; John Hutchinson, after serving 2 years as Society President; Priscilla Zimmerman, Chair of the Human Resources Committee; and Dan Thachuck, Operations/Asset Management, have retired from the board; many thanks to these community leaders for their time and energy. Newly elected are Wayne Quinn as President, Melanie Watson, Ron Monk and Tony Marchiagiano; they will fill positions on the Board's committees and were welcomed by the current directors.

The usual business of an AGM proceeded with dispatch; approval of previous AGM minutes and business arising, outgoing President's report, Financial Report and 2019 Financial Statements from Field and Company, Corporate and Administration Committee report, Asset Maintenance Committee report, Human Resources Committee report and New Business items were received and approved. All of these reports and much more useful information is available on the newly renovated SIFPS website <http://www.sifps.ca> which all islanders are encouraged to visit regularly. It was one of the best meetings I have attended in years, business done and adjournment before half an hour was up.

A major project has been completed at ESB #1 with the installation of solar panels on the roof. SIFPS was able to undertake this project with a sizable grant from the Federal Gas Tax Rebate Program. The 15KW system has the ability to reduce the annual hydro cost at ESB #1 by about 45%. The funds were forwarded to SIFPS by the Capital Regional District, through the work of our area Director, David Howe. The installation was done by Viridian Energy Co-op in partnership with the Salish Sea Renewable Energy Co-op.

