

Saturna Island Rescue Chiefs Report  
November 16, 2020  
for SIFPS

Car2 continues to be an area of focus for myself and SIR. Equipping her was not as easy as simply purchasing everything in an order as I thought. It is a process. I can say we have most of the new equipment ordered. I searched a few sources for reused/refurbished equipment and unfortunately none of the prospects panned out. There are still a few of the smaller pieces of equipment to order, but most has been completed.

Both ambulances went to the mechanics and received a clean bill of health. Car1 will need its wheels torqued in 200km and I look forward to discussing with assets in the future the eligibility of using Saturna's new mechanic shop for such things.

The Car2 shelter is a separate agenda item, but the tent shelter is down and the proper place for it has been determined. As of this moment I understand that we are in the process of procuring the timber to stabilize the bottom as well as give it height and Tony Simmonds has volunteered to approach Barry regarding buying the wood.

Saturna's Community Paramedic Program (CP) was cancelled. This was due to; Mayne Island having one of their CPs retire, the overtime cost for BCAS, covid-19 prohibiting in-home visits and the number of critical patients going down on Saturna. I have been in talks with various BCEHS members and it does look like Saturna will have this program re-start, most likely through Galiano and their CP, Trevor.

Mayne Islands Chief, Barb Edwards, is retiring. The new Chief has instructions to re-visit its relationship with Saturna to ensure compliance with all of BCEHS' standards. I do not expect very much to change but look forward to any discussion. The Chief would be going through the discussion with Brad, who I have already contacted several times this year to help us and I read him as reasonable.

The CRD has created a new safety position and has hired Rob Roy as a safety manager into that position. He visited Saturna as an introduction and to determine what his position will entail in regards to both Fire and ambulance on Saturna. He did not ask many questions or comment very much - just observed. He toured ESB1 and voiced how well kept and impressed he was with the bays and cars.

I do not have a lot of information regarding this to share with you but wanted to keep you informed.

SIRs training has moved to a model of in-person (Hall or Rec Centre) one month and online the month after. We have just started this and I am constantly assessing how effective it is and what can be done differently. November's training was on respiratory distress with special emphasis on COPD and emphysema.

We hosted Mike Billingham Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> with positive feedback. Half of his session was on stress and in addition to crew Ron Monk, John Wiznuk and Monica Morten attended. The other half was on respiratory distress and specifically auscultation. I requested stress because the science around critical incident stress has changed. In the past there was a definite formula to follow and that is what SIR trained with and implemented. There is now the idea that critical incident debriefs should not be implemented at all. Or if they happen out of a need they are done extremely carefully. Operational debriefs are a necessity to learn and improve from large events, but must also be done carefully. I look forward to discussing with Chief Clark, J.Wiznuk and R.Monk if a plan can be made as well as collect resources for support. A few things we learned in our training- the general population as well as military gets PTSD about 9%, in volunteer Fire and ambulance it is almost 17% of people.

Billingham's training will count as 8.5 credits for emrs, which includes a reading and exam. He has generously offered the emrs who need credits this year one free online course, which can count up to 10 credits. This means our emrs have enough credits to satisfy their license requirements.

For online training I have sourced free pdfs so far, but am working on securing access to PHSA's LearnHub. SIR may be taking part in a large cardiac course and has requested their \$85 book package, which I believe we can get for free but am waiting on BCEHS to make sure. It was from these discussions that BCEHS has promised to reach out more with informing our citizens and they put on the Saturna FB page an invite to an open course (Nov.

26<sup>th</sup>) on the respiratory disease, COPD. I am looking at avenues to inform citizens and will try to advertise in various ways.

We welcome a new recruit, Trish Klinzmann to SIR. I thought carefully the positives and negatives of accepting a new volunteer and came to the conclusion, along with the SIR crew, that she will be a welcome asset. I look forward to discussions regarding what that means in terms of budget and training. For now she already has a cpr course and is working on her class 4 drivers license. She has a daughter who is a paramedic and a son who is a firefighter and has volunteered in the past as first aid attendant. I continue to work with SIFPS in determining our optimal volunteer numbers.

Lastly, a volunteer call-out. Barb Hicks has run the prescription pick-up service a very long time. She is moving off-island and has not found anyone to take over this service. Although not an immediate SIR issue, a loss of this service may very well result in SIR emergency callouts. If you know of anyone, please send them Barbs' contact information.

Thank you,

Vanessa Verbitsky  
Saturna Island Rescue