



Village of **PEMBERTON** | *Community Update*



Remembering the fallen.

The Legion hosted Remembrance Day services on Sunday, 11 November. More than 200 people, including many young families, attended the ceremonies to share a minute of silence in honour of the 1918 Armistice and to ensure that the sacrifices made by those who have served in armed conflict around the world are not forgotten.

Village seeks fire protection fair-play

An important community asset.

The Pemberton Fire Department was established in 1969 to preserve life and property, to promote fire safety, and to cooperate with other organizations within the community in the event of an emergency.

Chief Russell Mack who has headed the department for 11 years says, "This Fire Department has come a long way, and we're very proud of that." Each year, 32 volunteer fire-fighters and 5 dispatchers, under Chief Mack and two deputies, respond to more than 200 calls for fire and rescue incidents in the region.

The Fire Department serves the Village of Pemberton and the Pemberton Fire Service Area - a jurisdiction that covers portions of Electoral Area C of the Regional District, west to the Ryan River bridge, south to the Rutherford Creek bridge, east to the pole yard property in Mount Currie and north to railroad tracks in Mount Currie. All residents in the Fire Service Area contribute to the service, through a specific line item in their taxes.

The principle of emergency service is to share the risk of the few amongst the many. "You might never need the service," says Mack. "But we all pay, to help each other."

In 2007, the SLRD contributed \$114,000 to the Fire Department - \$75,000 from fire service area residents, \$24,000 in rescue costs, and \$15,000 as a contribution for fire protection provided to the outlying areas.

This left Village of Pemberton residents covering the remaining \$294,000, paying for 72% of the total budget, despite amounting to less than 50% of the total calls responded to.

It's Fair to Share. Residents of outlying areas, in communities like Walkerville, Owl Ridge, Ivey Lake or the Upper Pemberton Meadows, are not covered under the Fire Service Area. They do not contribute at all to the cost of fire protection.

Under a different SLRD Bylaw, all residents of Area C and the Village contribute to the Rescue Service. Rescues cover motor vehicle accidents, typically a third of the Department's calls.

Even though residents in outlying areas are not contributing financially to the Fire Service, the department has historically responded. "That's what we do," says Chief Mack. In fact, about 20% of fire calls are to the outlying areas.

The money that Pemberton residents are paying for a service provided to residents in outlying areas could be directed towards other needed community amenities. If the SLRD were to contribute on a per call basis the Village could potentially have another \$50,000 in their budget to reallocate.

Council of the Village of Pemberton has been working well over a year on this issue and is resolved to have an equitable solution to funding the region's fire and rescue service by this year's end, and have been in ongoing discussions with the SLRD.

"It is not a question of not wanting to provide fire service to our neighbours, we absolutely want to continue providing this service," said Pilon, "but we also have a responsibility to our Village residents to be sure the financial burden of the service is shared equitably amongst those enjoying its protection."

On September 11 2007, the Village provided the SLRD with notice that as of December 31 2007, if no agreement has been reached for 2008, the fire service to any area beyond the Village boundaries will be suspended.

This means residents that are currently protected (Taylor Road, Pemberton Meadows Road to the Ryan Bridge, Collins Road, to the Pole Yard in Mt Currie, Hwy 99, Airport Road), no longer will be.

The Village respects whatever the SLRD decides regarding the delivery of fire service to their residents. Given it took 10 months, 3 deadline extensions, and 16 days of suspended fire service, before the 2007 service agreement was resolved, the Village wants to ensure that the 2008 agreement is in place by December 31, 2007, so all parties can move forward with certainty.

Recreation Grants-in-Aid due November 22 2007

Community sport and recreation organizations can apply for funding for fall and winter activities from the Pemberton Recreation Commission's bi-annual grant-in-aid. Past recipients have included Pemberton Youth Soccer, Pemberton Secondary Snowboard Team, Pemberton Girl Guides, Pemberton Boy Scouts, Spud Valley Nordic Team and the Elderfit Group. Grant-in-aid applications are available by emailing Recreation Commission Chair, Stephanie Coughlin, at stephaniec@shaw.ca. Requests are due November 22 2007.

Winter Parking Regulations Speed Snowclearing

Frost in the Air Means Parking on the Odd Side of the Street Only. Once snow has stopped falling, it takes a minimum of 10 hours to plough and/or sand all Village streets. In order to facilitate snow-clearing throughout the village, Winter Parking regulations are in effect from November 1. From 9pm to 9am, parking is permitted only on the ODD side of the street throughout the Village.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

on these or any other topics, please:

- *Visit our website at www.pemberton.ca,
- *Email us at admin@pemberton.ca,
- *Call us at 604.894.6135, or
- *Drop by the Village Office

