



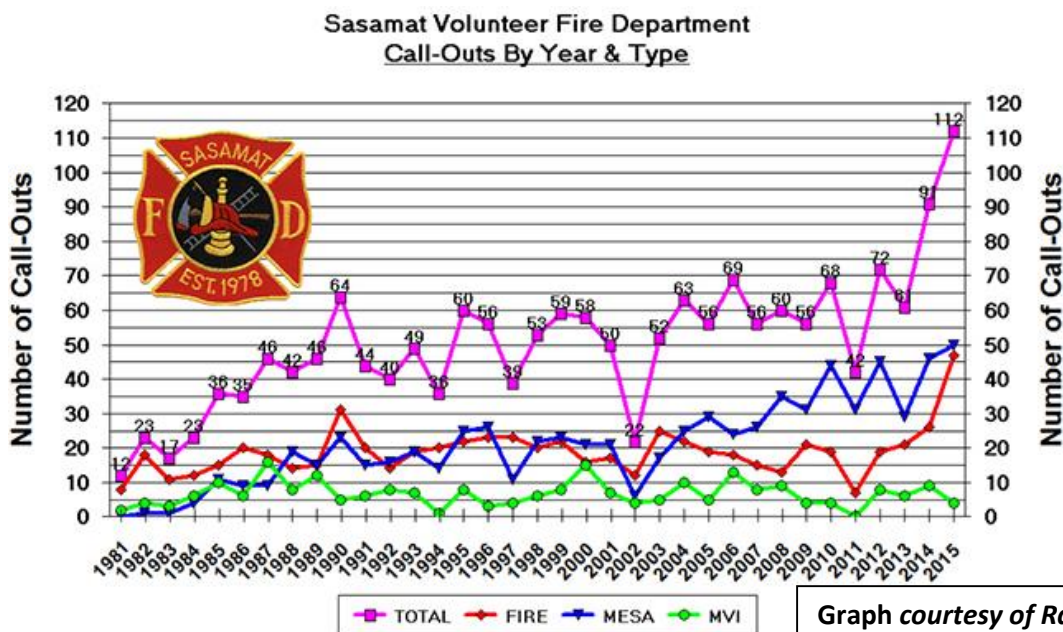
Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department May News



Anmore Fire Hall Garden Cleanup:

On Sunday, April 17th, the community came together to revamp the gardening area at Anmore Fire Hall. Firefighters, other groups, and members of the public spent the afternoon clearing brush and rejuvenating the garden layout at Sunnyside and East Road. A big “thank you” goes out to all those residents who came out to lend us a hand – particularly the Anmore Garden Club for stepping up to organize the effort. The Garden Club also made a kind donation towards our growing SCBA fundraiser. Thanks ladies for the support!

SVFD Emergency Responses in Anmore and Belcarra:



Volunteer Dedication:

Despite a significant rise in the number of callouts over the past two years, our membership is large and diverse enough to respond to any emergency in Belcarra and Anmore, whatever the time of day. Some of our members are available evenings and weekends, some are available on shift schedules, while others work at home (or are retired). If the incident is large, recent experience demonstrates that we can typically rely on having between 30 and 40 firefighters respond to the scene over the course of the event.

This month’s firefighter profile, **Doug Bakker**, is one of the reasons why our response model works. An Anmore resident, Doug works during the day for the *Village of Belcarra’s Public Works Dept.* Always looking to chip in, Doug responds to more callouts than almost anyone on our team. He serves on our safety committee, helps with training, and is a director on our Firefighter Association – in short, he’s the sort of member who makes a substantial difference. Have a sudden emergency at home? Odds are, day or night, that Doug will be one of the firefighters showing up at your door to lend you and your family a hand. Hats-off to one dedicated guy!

Sincerely,

Jay Sharpe (*Fire Chief*)
Dave Gregory (*Dist. Chief Anmore*)
Jol Drake (*Dist. Chief Belcarra*)

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Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department Member Profile



Name: **Doug Bakker**

Home Municipality: **Anmore**

Work Background: **Village of Belcarra Public Works**

Years as SVFD Member: **5 Years**

Why I joined the SVFD:

For me, joining the SVFD seemed a natural fit as I was involved with family members who were committed to the fire department. I remember many family events interrupted by the fire pager sounding off. Dinner was put on hold and off they would go, responding to some event within the community. I started my first run with the SVFD in 1989, and then moved to Gibsons, BC where I

continued to volunteer with the fire service. I was also a member of the West Kelowna Fire Department and then, as life would have it, I moved back to Anmore and started back with SVFD.

What the SVFD means to me:

For me, the relationship with SVFD is all about the people. I get to train and work with like-minded individuals who, on a moment's notice, throw themselves into fire apparatus and respond to a scene without knowing what that will be. (Medical Emergency, Structure Fire, Motor Vehicle Accident,) The amount of training and time committed by these individuals in the SVFD is staggering - they inspire me.

I don't look at it as giving back to the community – it is more like the community is giving back to me.

A memorable moment as a volunteer:

The Birch Wynde structure fire was memorable. We were approaching the scene and I could see the smoke billowing up through the trees. I have multiple family and friends that reside on Birch Wynde and Alder Way. It was a friend's home and I am so sorry for their loss, but the potential of a much bigger disaster meant that we needed to contain that fire from spreading to surrounding homes and forest. The SVFD, with strong leadership and dedicated members, contained the fire to one home and in my view saved the rest of the subdivision. That is why I do what I do. Thank you, SVFD.

