

A QUICK LOOK BACK AT 2024

The SCA Santa Breakfast was again a popular community event in December. It had Santa in attendance to visit with the children who came to enjoy a hearty breakfast with their families. The SCA volunteers served a total of 105 breakfasts the morning of December 15th – 85 breakfasts and 20 children's breakfasts (6 & under). Thank you to all who came out for this annual festive fundraiser for the Community Association!

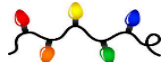


Rhett & Renn Christian with Santa

Polar Bear Plunge - January 1st brought back the Polar Bear Plunge after an absence of many years. Organizer Corey Stickler has brought it back – marking this event as the 1st annual Polar Bear Plunge. The event had about 8 – 10 people in attendance with 5 brave people who swam in the icy waters of Kamloops Lake at Steelhead Provincial Park.



Photo Submission: Barb Gale



Savona Community Association Holiday Lights:

Did you have a chance to drive around Savona during the month of December? It sure looked festive with all the Christmas lights around the community! The SCA had their annual holiday lights event where community members were able to vote on their favorite light display in town. For the 2024 Christmas season, the Top 3 most voted for:

- (1) Bonnie Boule (Savona Access Rd)
- (2) Barb & Bill Gale (Watson East)
- (3) Regina & Klaus Langner (Savona Access Rd)



Flooding on the Access Road by Kingsley Trailer Court was reported to SID office on December 26th (Thurs.) around 3pm. SID staff went to the reported location of the flooding and contacted TNRD Utilities and ARGO.

Both TNRD and ARGO were on site by 4:45pm. After the water was tested, it was determined that the water was coming from a broken watermain. The TNRD closed the Access Road on December 27th to isolate the location of the break and repair the watermain. Thank you for your patience while this repair was taking place.

ATTEMPTED BREAK IN

On the evening of January 10th, SID staff noticed that one of the office windows was broken.

The RCMP and glass company both stated that the damage to the window was done with much strength and intent, possibly with a blunt object.

The damage was done on the night of January 9th. The vandal was deterred and did not gain access to the building.



INTEREST RATE ON 2024 TAXES IN ARREARS OR DELINQUENT

The Province of BC has let Improvement Districts know that the interest rate established under Section 11(3) of the *Taxation (Rural Area) Act* shall be 8.45%.

8.45% will be added to the accounts of property owners who have not paid their 2024 taxes and statements will be mailed out in March.

BURNING PERMITS

Just a reminder that if you are spring cleaning and would like to burn yard waste in your yard – **you need a burning permit**. The burning permits are FREE and are good for two weeks.

Bylaw No. 184 – open burning in Spring burning is restricted to the month of March and April. The permit allows for a Category 2 open backyard burning.

Contact the office to get your Spring burning permit



MUCH NEEDED BREATHING AIR COMPRESSOR

Savona Volunteer Fire Department has been fundraising and applying for donations for a new breathing air compressor. A breathing air compressor plays a critical role in fire services. It is used to fill up breathing tanks worn by firefighters while in the line of duty.

It ensures that firefighters have the air supply to do their jobs safely and effectively.

During a structure fire in 2023, the firefighters were emptying their breathing tanks during the 4-hour fire fight and had to get tanks refilled. The current breathing air compressor was bought over 10 years ago, and it was bought refurbished.

Over the 10 years, the capacity of the breathing tanks has increased, and the compressor could not fill the tanks fast enough for the firefighters on scene.

After this fire, the purchase of a new breathing air compressor became a priority. During 2024, the fire department applied for grants and sought donations, and they are happy to announce that they have raised enough funds to purchase a compressor in 2025.

The Savona Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank and acknowledge the following companies for their generous donations:

Highland Valley TECK (\$15,000)

Enbridge (\$7,500)

Savona Equipment Inc. (\$1,000)

The purchase of a new breathing air compressor has been made, and it is currently being built. The fire department anticipates the arrival of the compressor by the summer.

Thank you, TECK, Enbridge and Savona Equipment, for believing in the service we provide the community!

BEAN SUPPER

Another community event that has been revived is the Bean Supper! The Savona Seniors and the Community Association came together to organize the Bean Supper that was held on February 22. The event was sold out with all 120 tickets being sold!

The funds raised went to the fire department for the purchase of medical supplies and equipment. When the fire department is dispatched to a medical call, they use supplies that need to be replenished in their ambulance and medical bags for the next call.

There were over 15 fabulous raffle draw prizes donated to the event. The winners of the three BIG ticket raffle prizes were:

- Drew Drozda – 2 nights stay at Blue Shore Resort
- Patti Woods – Chromebook donated by Enbridge
- Denise Anderson – 20 sheets of ½ inch sheathing plywood donated by Savona Specialty Plywood

The 50/50 draw had winner Euc Tomlinson walk away with \$325!

Ham dinner with all the fixings and baked beans as well as delicious dessert was served by the Seniors with plenty for seconds. Thank you to everyone that attended the Bean Supper and for their support – the event raised \$5,075 for Savona Fire Rescue!!

Savona Fire Rescue

would like to remind residents to take the time this Spring to clear their yards of any dead cedars and trees, clean and maintain gutters and roofs, keep decks and balconies clear of leaves and debris. This will ensure that our yards and neighborhoods are FireSmart[™]. Thank you for your assistance in keeping our community safe.



CANADIAN DENTAL CARE PLAN

Do you know about the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP)? Since December 2023, the CDCP has been rolled out and as of February 7, 2025, 3,329,199 applicants were approved and of those applicants 435,617 were British Columbians.

The CDCP helps make the cost of dental care more affordable for eligible Canadian residents.

You must meet all 4 requirements to qualify:

1. You do not have access to dental insurance
2. You and your spouse/common-law-partner (if applicable) must have filed your tax returns in Canada so that your family income can be assessed for the previous year
3. Your adjusted family net income is less than \$90,000
4. You are a Canadian resident for tax purposes

If you meet all 4 requirements, applications are open right now for:

1. Aged 65 or older
2. Adults with a valid Disability Tax Credit certificate
3. Children under the age of 18

All remaining eligible residents (not in one of the above groups) will be able to apply sometime in 2025 – check online for when applications open.

For more information go to www.canada.ca and go to the MENU tab. There you will go to “Benefits” and click on Canadian Dental Care Plan.



The Hudson's Bay Company built a large warehouse in Savona which held goods brought in on the wagon road from Cache Creek and awaited shipment to Kamloops. In 1872, James Sabiston was placed in charge of the warehouse but was fired in 1873 for drunkenness. James Sabiston then settled into small-scale ranching and married. The area of Sabiston Lake was his summer range.

Savona Improvement District AGM **April 8, 2025**

There will be **2 vacancies** on the Board of Trustees.

The time commitment for a trustee is 1-2 hours, once a month for meetings and the occasional email from the administrative officer and the term is for 3 years.

The SID Board consists of 5 trustees who are elected by the Savona landowners present at the AGM.

Save the date!! See you there!!

PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOGS



Savona Elementary school has been having a lot of trouble in recent months with the increased amount of dog waste in the school field.

The school will be putting up signs saying that dogs are not allowed on the school field but knowing that this may not deter residents from using the field as a “dog

run,” they respectfully ask the community to pick up after your dogs.

The school would like the school field and property to be a safe space for the children to use.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

SAVONA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PAC is hosting their annual **adult only Spring Fundraiser** on March 8th (Sat.) at the Community Hall.

Doors open at 5:30pm
Auction at 7:30pm

Taco Dinner is at 6:30pm
Dance starts at 9:00pm

There will be a cash bar, a silent auction with many amazing items and services **PLUS** dancing the night away to a DJ. **Tickets are \$20.** If you don't have your tickets – GO GET THEM NOW! Tickets are at Miller's!

Savona PAC is also looking for donations for their Silent Auction so if anyone would like to donate anything they will gladly accept. Any questions can be directed to savonapac@gmail.com

THE ANNUAL LAKESHORE PARK CLEAN UP will be on April 13th (Sun.) starting at 10am. Hot dogs and beverages will be provided to volunteers. Put on your volunteer hat, grab your rake and see you there!

HERITAGE MUSEUM ANNUAL SPRING TEA & LUNCHEON will be held on April 27th (Sun.) from 11am to 2pm at the Savona Museum. "Come & join us for tea on our new outdoor patio or in the Heritage Museum."

SAVONA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AGM will be on April 28th (Mon.) at 7pm at the community hall. They will be electing 11 directors for a 1-year term. The AGM is open to all paid SCA members (membership will be available at the door). "Come and learn about SCA's plans, have input into the direction of growing Savona and be part of our thriving community."

EDUCATION BURSARY



The 2025 Savona Fire Rescue Bursary is available for local high school students.

If you know of a Savona student in Grade 12 who attends South Kamloops Secondary School – let them know that there is a **Savona Fire Rescue Bursary** and contact the counselling department at the school for the application process.

KITCHEN UPGRADES

The Savona Community Association has started a much-needed renovation and upgrade of the Community Hall Kitchen. The centerpiece is a new 48" commercial gas range and exhaust hood purchased with a very generous donation from our friends at Enbridge! We will be enhancing our "commercial" cooking ability with layout changes to the decade's old kitchen, dishwashing equipment, etc. Once finished we will be able to host more community events and have a much better facility for rentals such as weddings and fundraiser dinners. Thank you, Enbridge, for kick-starting our project! (Submitted by Savona Community Association)

LAKESHORE PARK & BOAT LAUNCH CHANGES

There are a number of major expenditures the Savona Community Association will be faced with in the next few years. The original boat launch ramp is at end-of-life and requires replacement, the bandshell has some major rot issues which will require structural repairs, and the washroom facility requires immediate repairs and upgrades. One of our major sources of income to offset these costs is the boat launch fees. For the 2025 season the fees will increase to **\$20 per launch**. This makes our rate comparable to the only other Kamloops Lake access at Tobiano. Residents living within the Savona Improvement District will be eligible for an annual **Savona \$10 annual boat pass** in recognition of a portion of the SID taxation already going to help fund the SCA. TNRD funding from the area residents paid for the 2015 second launch ramp and dock installation. In recognition of that contribution the current **TNRD Area "J" resident \$60 annual boat pass** will continue. These changes are being implemented for three reasons: recognition of the Savona Community building and maintaining the facility, raising funds for needed improvements and lessening pressure on our community by boaters from other communities choosing Savona as the cost-preferred option for lake access. Details on qualifying for and purchasing the annual boat passes will be announced by the beginning of April. (Submitted by Savona Community Association)

Next newsletter will be out in JUNE. Let SID office know your news by the middle of May. Call the office (250-373-2513) or email savonadistrict@telus.net.