

2025 TAXES

Invoices for 2025 Savona Improvement District tax were mailed out at the end of May. Just a reminder to get your payments in **before July 3rd** to avoid any late penalties.

You can make payments by:

1. Mailing a cheque to PO Box 113
2. Coming into the office to pay by cash or cheque
3. Dropping off payment in the mailbox outside the office
4. Sending an e-transfer
 - savonadistrict@telus.net

After July 3rd 5% interest will be placed on unpaid taxes and then in March 2026 if anything remains unpaid then under the Province of BC's Section 11(3) of the Taxation (Rural Area) Act, an interest rate set by the Province will be added.

As of March 2025, the interest rate set is 8.45%. (The next rate setting by the Province will be July 1, 2025)

SID AGM RESULTS

On April 8th, the Savona Improvement District had their AGM at the Community Hall.

There were 19 Savona landowners who attended along with the SID Board of Trustees, KPMG representative, and SID staff.

The meeting reviewed:

- The minutes from 2024 AGM
- 2024 audited financials presented by KPMG auditor – Amanda Potter
- Fire Department's Annual Report
- 2020/2025 Works & Projects
- Trustee Election

The 2025 / 2026 SID Board of Trustees

Chair - Jamie Drozda

Adrienne Teague

Dave Carr

Shane Spitman

Henry Pejril

Thank you to all who attended the AGM! Your community engagement with the trustees is valuable!

2025 WORLD BUTCHERS' CHALLENGE

The 9th World Butchers' Challenge took place on March 30 – 31st in Paris, France. Local butcher, Ronnie Keely, attended this biennial event to enter the World Champion Young Butcher Competition which took place in the afternoon of March 30th at the Paris Expo Porte de Versailles where emerging talent took center stage.



The World Butchers' Challenge broke new ground this year, with a record 14 nations competing and attracting over 6000 spectators over the two-day event – making it the largest event in WBC history.

This year the event welcomed 5 new countries to the competition – Indonesia, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Romania and Spain.

Though France swept the competition in all categories securing gold in the Youth Butcher title, Butcher Apprentice title and World Butchers' Team Challenge, our local butcher, Ronnie Keely held his own producing a fabulous display.

Canada entered the WBC in 2022 which was also Ronnie's first time participating. This year Ronnie again competed in the "Youth Butcher" category for people under 35. This individual contest has competitors break down a range of primal cuts into a display of pre-determined products and their own creations within a 2.5-hour time limit. **Way to Go Ronnie!**



MEETING WITH TNRD

The TNRD General Manager – Jamie Vieira – reached out to the Savona Improvement District to have a meeting in hopes that a regular touch base throughout the year would strengthen partnerships.

On April 3, Jamie Vieira and TNRD Area J Director Michael Grenier met with the Board of Trustees in Savona. The Improvement District invited Savona Fire Rescue to have a representative at the meeting as well and the executive team attended. There was no formal agenda for the meeting but it was a time to initiate dialogue between the two organizations.

Director Grenier spoke about resident concerns regarding the boat launch, creation of walking path in the community, and opening up public lake access in Savona. Jamie Vieira gave updates on Cherry Creek/Tobiano fire department build and process, which spurred discussion on catchment for road rescue and the potential of collaborating with the TNRD on training. He also spoke about different bylaws and the role of the TNRD bylaw officer as well as potential grant opportunities for Savona's water treatment build.

GM Vieira fielded SID concerns about community fire hydrant use by contractors and questions on how the TNRD monitors the amount of water is taken from the hydrants.

Most of the meeting had Director Grenier informing the SID trustees of the things he has been doing for Area J and what he has been hearing from his constituents.

It was a meeting that prompted dialogue and provoke deeper thought. Though the meeting had fruitful conversations, nothing was decided upon for future action by the SID Board as further research and dialogue at the Board table is needed.

SID Board meetings are open for residents to attend. The next SID Board meeting is on September 2nd (Tues.) at 5:30pm. If you would like to address the board at a meeting on a subject on an agenda item, please let the office know the Thursday prior to the meeting.



HERITAGE MOMENT:

Albert Fehr came to Savona from England in 1889 as a bookkeeper for the “Cattle King” – John Wilson Sr.. Albert soon became a rancher and operated Indian Gardens Ranch from 1904 to 1922 and supervised the Deadman's Relief Camp in the 1930's. Fehr Lake at Indian Gardens is named after Albert Fehr as well as Mt. Fehr southwest of Savona. Members of Albert's family still reside in Savona. *Fun Fact from the Savona Heritage Museum*



The Savona Improvement District

submitted a grant application in the Fall of 2024 to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) under the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for the 2024 Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments Equipment and Training funding stream. SID applied in hopes of receiving funds to assist the fire department to purchase equipment and supplies to replace old and outdated equipment they have been making do with. SID is happy to announce that the Board was successful in receiving \$40,000.

Thank you to UBCM for approving our application and for supporting emergency preparedness and resiliency in our community!

BURSARY RECEIPT

The Savona Fire Department is pleased to announce that the successful recipient of their educational bursary for the 2024/2025 academic year is **Alexander Teague**. The fire department would like to recognize his hard work and determination that allowed Alexander to graduate early this year. Congratulations and good luck in your pursuits in carpentry!!



Chief Charles Colville, Alexander & Firefighter Dyke Anderson

Four members of the Savona Karate Club competed in the 52nd Steveston Invitational Karate Tournament on March 17th that saw approximately 300 competitors from BC, Alberta, Ontario and Washington attend. LittleFawn Deneault brought back a silver medal in her 14-15 year old,



LittleFawn Deneault

orange to green belt female kata (formal exercise) division; Sunshine Deneault fought and brought back bronze in her 10-11 year old, white to yellow belt female kumite (sparring) division and Akira Susanj sparred in the Men's Black Belt Open Weight kumite division and brought home a silver medal. Special thanks to QED Technical Services & GM Craig Haight for assisting in registration costs for the competitors of this tournament.



Sunshine Deneault receiving her medal

2024 PNWMA/BCOFCS SENIOR EXPERT CLASS CHAMP



On March 22nd at the Clarion Hotel in Abbotsford, BC the Pacific Northwest Motorcycle Association (PNWMA) Awards Night was held to celebrate the 2024 season winners.

PNWMA is known for hosting one of the oldest, gnarliest off-road racing series in Canada – the BC Off-Road Championship Series (BCOFCS).

In the 2024 Senior Expert class series, local racer, Wayne Reimer placed first and not only did Wayne place first in the BCORCS in the Coastal and Interior regions, but he also placed first in the Senior Expert Class in the Western Off-Road Championships (WOC)!

The WOC is a premier championship series that is a joint effort between BC and Alberta racing associations which is a series of races that saw Wayne race between BC and Alberta. ***Congratulations Wayne on your great 2024 racing season!***



The Savona and Area Seniors Society had their annual pancake breakfast fundraiser on April 26th – the building was hopping with lively conversation and visiting as well as great food and service.

“Our annual pancake breakfast was a huge success thanks to the citizens of Savona. Keeping a house for our seniors is a serious commitment. Our members work hard at all our fundraisers.

The groups that meet daily will continue for the summer with the exception of crafts & quilters. Leaving Monday afternoon and Thursday afternoon free for anyone to start a new group.

June 10th is our year-end BBQ and we will meet again in September. Enjoy your summer everyone!

~Ronaye Elliott, President

The Heritage Museum had their Spring Tea on April 27th that served a variety of sandwiches, strawberry shortcake, tea and other goodies for lunch ...

“It was a beautiful day for our Savona Heritage Museum Spring Tea. Many attendees enjoyed lunch on the new patio which was our fundraising and improvement project last year.

We had approximately 70 guests of all ages. It was nice to see some of the younger members of the community join us. Thanks to all who came out to support this event through donations and the silent auction.

We encourage everyone to come down and check out the local history on display and in written archives. Opening hours are on Wednesday afternoons 1-3 pm and for July and August hours extend to Saturday and Sunday 1-3pm. If you have guests visiting in the summer bring them in for a visit.” ~Heritage Committee



Next newsletter will be out in September. If you have anything to share – let the office know by the middle of August. Email: savonadistrict@telus.net or call 250-373-2513.

BC VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER SPRING TRAINING SEMINAR

6 members of the Savona Fire Department,

Charles Colville, Ryan Parker, Bill Williams, Sara Green, Marie Williams and Akira Susanj,



Akira, Charles, Sara, Ryan, Marie & Bill

went to Oliver, BC for the 2025 BC Volunteer Firefighters Spring Training Seminar held May 2 – 4th.

The Oliver Fire Department hosted the Spring Training Seminar at Oliver Community Park. Over 400 firefighters, instructors and vendors from BC, Alberta and Washington representing over 75 volunteer fire departments were at the event.

It was an opportunity to participate in many training scenarios. Oliver Community Park hosted 25 hands-on training sessions which ran simultaneously; each fire fighter got a chance to attend 7 stations over the two days. Some of the training stations included were live-fire scenarios, interior search, forcible entry, vehicle fires, and auto extrication just to name a few.

One of the stations was the “Firefighter Challenge” where participants donned in full gear had to run through a series of events designed to test the physical and mental endurance of firefighters, simulating the demands of real-life firefighting scenarios and with a time of 2 minutes and 3 seconds, Akira was the winner in the Men’s Under 25 division. **WTG Akira!** An **honorable mention to Marie** who made it onto the leaderboard in the Women’s Under 25 division but was knocked off by a faster time at the end of the day.



CANADA DAY Beach BBQ!! The Savona Community Association is having their Canada Day Celebrations at the Lakeshore Park on **July 1st from 11am to 2pm**. There will be food and refreshments available, live music, activities for all ages! Save the date!!

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Savona Improvement District is looking to fill one part-time student maintenance worker position.

This position will be from June 30 to August 29, 2025, and will require a commitment to working 4 hours/day with a 3-4 day work week.

The student will work under the direct supervision of the maintenance supervisor with duties including weed eating, general labor and adapting to physically demanding tasks in diverse weather conditions.

Students must be 16 years of age or older with a genuine interest in working outdoors. Preference will be given to students returning to school in the fall.

***For more information, please contact the office.
Application deadline is June 9, 2025***

The Savona Area Seniors Society is having a Yard Sale fundraiser on **June 7 (Sat.) from 10am to 2pm** at the Seniors Center (6605 Savona Access Road). Coffee & goodies will be available. Tables will be \$10. Please come out and support our Seniors! For Tables contact Irene (250-373-2464) or Ruth (250-373-2692).



The Savona Community Association has set rates for the Savona Boat Launch at \$20 this year. Local residents and taxpayers are eligible for an annual launch pass. Visit SavonaCA.ca for information and to apply or contact the community association at SavonaCA2@gmail.com.

The Savona Elementary School PAC would like to remind the community to support their beer garden on **August 16 & 17** during the 25th Annual Spank It Beach Volleyball tournament. Come down to see and support the school with your beverage purchase while watching some entertaining volleyball!



SID Office will be closed on June 12 (Thurs.)