



R-L: Ryan Parker, Bill Williams, Joe Williams, Maria Williams, Samson Hawley, Charles Colville, Dan Dollimont (Enbridge), Dallas Embury, Dyke Anderson, Darren Embury, Sara Green, Cole Greer

MOCK DISASTER TRAINING

Enbridge contacted Savona Fire Rescue to partner in a simulated disaster response scenario at Compressor Station 07 in September. Enbridge staff attended fire practice on September 10th to do a briefing and Savona Fire Rescue members prepared for the emergency call. Members attended and responded to a mock pentane spill and fire.

In appreciation of doing the training with Enbridge, Dan Dollimont on behalf of Enbridge delivered a YETI cooler full of refreshments to the fire department on September 17th.

KAMLOOPS FIRE RESCUE NEW RECRUIT



In September, Kamloops Fire Rescue (KFR) welcomed seven new recruits from across Canada with one of the recruits being Dayna Embury. The new

recruits went through 8 weeks of rigorous training to learn about the KFR mission of community safety.

Dayna was raised in Savona and joined Savona's volunteer fire department as soon as he was eligible. His involvement with Savona Fire Rescue sparked his interest in a career in firefighting. With training from Savona Fire Rescue under his belt and his intensive two-week training in Texas for his NFPA 1001 in 2021, Dayna started applying for Kamloops recruitment in 2022.



Dayna is the son of proud parents and long-time Savona Fire Rescue members – Darren & Dallas Embury. Congratulations Dayna! KFR is lucky to have you!



In 2022, the Savona Improvement District was informed that Fire Engine #1 had reached its 24-year mark where replacement was necessary as 25 years is the maximum life span for a rural primary engine.

In March 2023, the Board of Trustees accepted a bid package and agreement to work with HUB Fire Engines & Equipment Ltd. in Abbotsford for Savona's new truck. HUB Fire Engines & Equipment then ordered a chassis from the United States which arrived in Abbotsford in January 2024 – at this point the Savona's truck was 10th in line for the build with a tentative start of August 2024.

As of September 2024, the build had not started, and the Improvement District and Savona Fire Department had to wait patiently for an update of when it would start.

Finally, the Board received word in January 2025 that the build for Savona's fire truck would start with a tentative delivery date of mid-summer.

Summer delivery was not possible as HUB Fire Engines had issues with the pump controls when they were testing the truck. But after all testing was cleared, the new truck was delivered on October 15th.

The Board of Trustees started saving annually for the purchase of the new fire truck over 25 years ago. Because of this, the Improvement District was able to purchase the new truck without a bank loan. The cost of the new fire truck was \$700,386.40.

The fire department had an Open House on November 11th to show the new truck to the community. The Open House was very well attended and gave a chance for everyone to see and ask questions about the truck.

This fire truck is Savona's third pump truck. The first pump truck was purchased in 1963 from HUB Fire Engines for \$12,000.00.

PEEWEE RACER

6-year-old, Weston Stuart started riding his first electric dirt bike when he was 2 years old and by the time he was 3 – the training wheels were off. Last autumn Weston entered his first Pacific Northwest Motorcycle Association (PNWMA) race and placed 5th place.

This PNWMA season Weston started his first full race season with a second-place finish and after that came in with 6 first place finishes which made him the Interior Champion for the Peewee Beginner race class this season.

Weston's favorite thing about dirt biking is that "it's really fun and my Pops (Darin Eliason) always takes me."

Since 1931, the PNWMA has been committed to the growth of off-road motorcycling and the development of future racers. In addition to producing an annual calendar of motorcycle events, they are the governing body that has facilitated generations of local motorcycle racing.



Weston Stuart (center) standing at the top of the podium after one of his races this 2025 season.



Next newsletter will be out in MARCH 2026. If you have anything to share let the SID office know by the middle of February. Call 250-373-2513 or email savonadistrict@telus.net 😊



The Seniors Spaghetti Fundraiser took place on November 1st (Sat.) and again, was supported well by the community. 175 spaghetti dinners were sold this year making the takeout dinner a success once again! The Savona Area Seniors Society would like to thank Savona and area residents for supporting their spaghetti fundraiser. And a special thank you to Andrea Farmer, Ronaye Elliot, Darlene Baitz, Edith Ayers, Dallas Embury and Stela Meloche for their donations to the Spaghetti Takeout Dinner. THANK YOU for your support!!

CONCERNS IN SUBDIVISION

A few residents of the Watson subdivision have come to the SID office with concerns regarding off-leash dogs.

There are no local bylaws requiring dogs to be leashed in public areas but if residents can be mindful of their pet dogs and call them when you see them approaching seniors in the community – making sure that your dog's freedom does not negatively impact others would be much appreciated.



Heritage Museum ladies brought a Remembrance Day wreath to the cemetery to honor and remember the sacrifices made by those who died in the line of duty and local veterans who served.



The SID office will be closed from Dec. 22 – 26, 2025 & Jan. 1, 2026 for the Holiday Season

SAVONA BRINGS BACK MEDALS

Local karate students traveled down to Burnaby for the 24th Annual Sato Cup tournament held on November 8th. 300 competitors from Canada and Washington State convened at BCIT with 5 among them representing Savona. Though not all returned home with a medal, everyone's efforts did not go unrecognized. 3 students brought back 5 medals – 2 silver and 3 bronze. The karate club would like to thank the community for supporting their lemonade fundraiser this past summer as it assisted in tournament expenses.



LOCAL HOLIDAY EVENTS

December 3rd (Wed.) – The Savona Elementary School's annual Christmas Craft Fair. In the school gym from 10am to 2pm. Come out and support our local school!

December 11th (Thurs.) – Savona Elementary School Christmas Concert. Performance times are 1:30pm and 5:30pm.

December 14th (Sun.) – Santa Pancake Breakfast at the Community Hall from 9am to 11am. \$10/plate with children 6 years and under free.

CPKC Holiday Train will be rolling into Savona on **December 18 (Thurs.)** with an ETA of 7:05pm. Performers this year are 8-time JUNO award winners and Canadian Music Hall of Famers – Barenaked Ladies!!

Savona Community Association Holiday Lights: Vote for the outdoor light display you like the best! Go for a drive around town and drop your votes off at the collection box at Miller's Crossing! ***The voting cutoff date is December 20th.***

GARAGE HISTORY

In the summer of 1930 Ted Villiers came to Savona where he bought two pieces of property – an empty lot and the old blacksmith shop which he turned into Savona's first garage.



Ted Villier's garage on the left

Ted applied to Imperial Oil Limited for a hand-operated gas pump which he mounted on a small concrete pad beside the highway (The dirt road running in front was the main highway from Vancouver to Kamloops but now is the Savona Access Road).

Ted closed his Savona Garage in 1939 and that is when Ivan Bigham, a long-time resident of Savona, opened a new garage just east of the Savona Hotel. Until electricity came to Savona in 1954, Bigham's garage was powered by a 32-volt DC lighting plant. Bigham's garage had two gasoline pumps by Standard Oil Company of BC.



Ivan Bigham's garage (early 1940s)

In the mid-1960s, Louis Drozda bought the garage and ran it until his son Don (aka Duck) took over and is now run by his grandson – Blair Drozda.