



## **FortisBC Receives BCUC Approval to Purchase Stargas!**

The long-awaited approval for the sale and transfer of natural gas operating assets from Stargas Utilities to FortisBC Energy Inc. has been given by the BC Utilities Commission!

This approval is one component of the sale and over the next few months, FortisBC and Stargas will be working towards finalizing the acquisition.

FortisBC is a leading utility in the province, currently serving over 1.2 million customers with natural gas, electricity, propane, and alternative energy solutions such as renewable gases. Silver Star ratepayers will now have access and benefits of the resources and infrastructure of FortisBC, including reduced Natural Gas rates. Current customers of Stargas Utilities can look forward to the many benefits of becoming a FortisBC natural gas customer including the opportunity to participate in their conservation and energy management incentive programs, high efficiency appliance rebates and the Renewable Natural Gas program. To find out more see: <https://www.fortisbc.com/rebates-and-energy-savings>

Updates and information will be available on the Fortis BC website at the Stargas Utilities asset purchase website page:

<https://www.fortisbc.com/in-your-community/working-in-your-neighbourhood/fortisbc-to-purchase-the-assets-of-stargas-utilities#:~:text=FortisBC%20Energy%20Inc.%20has%20an,the%2>

Over the coming months, FortisBC will be working towards finalizing the acquisition and we will provide SSPOA members further updates as information becomes available.

## **Membership Renewal**

We are totally dependent on our membership fees to keep this volunteer organization running. With not being able to hold an in-person meeting these last two years, we have tried to make it as easy as possible by providing several ways to send in your \$20.00. You can e-transfer, pay via PayPal, or do the old fashioned things and mail us a cheque! PLEASE...send in your dues!

## **FireSmart Videos to Watch**

### **Logan Lake Town was Prepared to Wildfire!**

A video regarding fire preparedness as Logan lake Town survives behemoth wildfire after years of preparation and fire mitigation. Logan Lake was prepared and ready when a 63,000 hectare wildfire started heading toward their community.

### **White Rock Lake Wildfire**

Have you ever wondered what Structure Protection crews do when wildfires threaten communities? Neill Moroz, Structure Protection Specialist, has worked on the White Rock Lake wildfire. In this video, Neill provides an overview of what the Structure Protection Branch does on a wildfire and shares some stories of the tireless work that crews have been doing.

These video links and more information are available on the SSPOA website on the FireSmart Tab  
<https://www.sspoa.ca/firesmart/>

## **Aim Road Maintenance Update**

On January 25, 2022, the road maintenance contractor AIM Roads met with Amanda Shatzko RDNO Area “C” Director, Silver Star Resort Management, and representatives from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. The purpose of the meeting was to address the quality of winter road maintenance in the resort and Area “C”. There have been many complaints on the frequency and the width of the snow clearing on the public roads.

The result of the session was to reinforce the need for a collaborative working arrangement intended to address concerns from the RDNO and Silver Star regarding winter operations with AIM Roads and MOTI.

### **Action Items:**

- Communicating via email, moving forward with any concerns
- Sending out direct phone line for communication on pressing issues
- Communicating the specs with the public for more knowledge about the road classes and response times

We look forward to seeing improved snow removal and we thank SSMR’s Brad Baker for instigating the meeting. The following day there was equipment to widen the roadways and haul snow away.



## **Silver Star Wildfire Pre-Plan Steering Committee**

For many of us, last year’s exceptional fire season is a receding memory, with another 5 months before we are likely to understand what sort of fire season 2022 may have in store for the Province and our community. Fortunately, there is a lot of activity going on in the community to ensure we are in the best possible position to tackle the coming fire season and as importantly, those that will follow.

The SSPOA initiated the Silver Star Wildfire Pre-Plan Steering Committee late last year to bring together the key stakeholders in this important initiative. The committee is co-chaired by our President, Mike Waberski and Vice President Ross Foden. Membership of the committee comprises, Norm Crerar and Michel Woodman (Silver Star FireSmart Committee), Brad Baker (Silver Star Mountain Resort), Chief Mills and Deputy Chief, Marty Howells (Silver Star Fire Department) and Amanda Shatzko the RDNO elected representative for Area C.

Work is ongoing to formalize wildfire response plans and to assess what else the community can do to help protect itself. A more detailed update will be provided in due course but having the activities of key stakeholders coordinated under one steering committee will enhance efficiency, reduce duplication and help the community focus on what we know will be a key risk in the years ahead.