

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **What will happen to the existing fire hall and land?**

It is the intention of the Town to demolish the existing structure and sell the property.

## **Where will the proceeds of the sale of the existing fire hall be allocated?**

The proceeds from the sale of the existing site are required to be used for future capital projects which could include construction of the new fire hall.

## **There are two pieces of land beside and behind the proposed site. Are those pieces of land part of the fire hall land acquisition?**

No. The land located behind the proposed site is private property, currently owned by BC Hydro; the piece of land to the east of the site is an unopened road allowance which contains a pedestrian path connecting the travelled part of Heddle Avenue to Island Highway. Those two pieces of land do not form part of the fire hall land acquisition project.

View Royal Fire wants to be a good neighbour. These two pieces create an excellent green space buffer between the residents and the new fire hall.

## **How will you access the new site?**

Access to the site will be from Island Highway and not Heddle Avenue.

## **Why can't we keep the existing fire hall going for a few more years?**

The current structure has outlived its expectations. Minimal capital money will be spent on the existing building. Maintenance will continue, along with emergency repairs, however focus will be on a new structure.

## **Will a new fire station be built this year?**

Right now, this process focuses on the acquisition of the land only. If we secure a suitable site, then a plan to design a fire station will be initiated in the future.

## **How did you end up choosing this site?**

It was one of the option sites recommended by the Fire Chief. This recommendation was based on studies and evaluations of the district and industry trends. The criteria for land selection are outlined in the 2007 Fire Hall Facility Needs Analysis report. The right piece of land became available at the right time.

## **There are several expensive projects on the Town's list. How can we afford all of them?**

Council has very difficult financial decisions to make, however a seismically secure and safe Fire Hall is a critical part of the Town's emergency planning and emergency response strategy.

## **When could the new fire hall be ready?**

If residents approve purchasing this piece of land, and if we were to begin planning and construction immediately, a new fire hall could be ready within two to three years.

**Is this enough land for a fire station and training area?**

Size of land required was based on several factors. In the 2007 Fire Hall Facility Needs Analysis report, it was determined that a new building should be constructed near the existing site to maximize response capabilities. As well, sufficient land should be available to conduct training exercises. 12 potential sites were identified based on the evaluation of lot size at nine existing CRD fire stations. Of the 12 sites, three were specifically noted as meeting the Town's needs. The current proposal was identified in 2008 as a potential site and became available for sale in spring 2010.

**Why there, and not on the north side by the Hospital?**

Geographically the proposed site is nearly centred in our response area. By locating the station in the 300 block of Island Highway, requirements for a four and eight-minute response capability are realized. Areas outside the eight-minute response zone do not historically generate sufficient calls to warrant the construction of an additional fire station.

**Did you evaluate other sites?**

Yes, 12 potential sites were evaluated over the course of 3 years. The current proposal was identified in 2008 as a potential site.

**Are there any site plans or drawings available of the new Hall?**

No, not at this time. Council felt it prudent to acquire land prior to designing a building. Design elements and site plans are costly. This two-step process (land first then design) allows the Town time to ensure they have a suitable design with maximum community input, based on a piece of land they own.

**Do we have to move because the future Island Highway project will make the existing site obsolete and useless?**

The established property lines show the back of the sidewalk and boulevard within approximately 10 to 15 feet of the front doors of the current station as well as considerable grade changes. While the expansion of the road may be a factor, it is not the only factor surrounding the move.

If the answer to your question is not here, please email [viewroyalfirehall@cityspaces.ca](mailto:viewroyalfirehall@cityspaces.ca), and we'll get back to you within 24 hours.