



STAFF REPORT

To: Board of Trustees
SUBMITTED BY: Fire Chief Arjuna George
DATE: July 15 2017

Ganges Core Density

The Downtown core is for the most part protected with fire hydrants and serviced by the main Ganges fire hall #1.

A good relationship is needed between the CRD building Department, Islands Trust and Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue to ensure all new developments are within our capabilities. Opportunities to discuss driveway access, water supply, building access and design, and fire sprinkler systems are critical. Our greatest challenge is that SSIFR doesn't have any bylaws or mandate to demand anything greater than what the *BC Building Code* states. Development permits do not hinge on the needs of the Fire Service.

Currently three storeys complexes are the tallest we can conduct a rescue. We have 35' ladders that reach a maximum of 30-32 feet. There are some buildings on the island that due to construction design we cannot access all side of the structures. Structures that are not accessible by our current apparatus or resources may have potential implications to our Fire Service.

As Fire Underwriters have noted in the past two FUS reports, Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue should consider an aerial device for structural Firefighting.

By increasing the density in the downtown core fast and efficient response times will be achievable and sustainable. The proposed Islands Trust Bylaw No.491 Ganges Village Plan may bring some unique challenges, but with cooperation and planning many of the fire and life safety concerns may be addressed. The proposal covers several changes to our downtown core that need to be reviewed, such as narrowing of roads, pedestrian only zones, and 3+ storey buildings.

We do not oppose development and expansion of buildings in the town core providing we have input on the needs for fire and life safety.

Arjuna George
Fire Chief
Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arjuna', is positioned below the typed name and title.