

Gabriola Island Utility Services Update

Due to power outages on Gabriola Island, a warming station has been set up at the Gabriola Fellowship Church on the corner of Church Street and North Road that will run tonight, December 4 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. and on Monday, December 5, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. If you need a ride, GERTIE will take you to the warming center. To reach GERTIE, call the Gabriola Volunteer Fire Department (GVFD) duty officer at 250-755-9289 (cell) or the main fire hall at 250-247-9677. The GVFD fire hall is staffed 24/7 for emergencies.

BC Hydro is asking customers on Gabriola Island to conserve electricity and limit use for essential needs only. When the TELUS line snapped during the last storm event, it damaged BC Hydro lines enough that it has been deemed unsafe to fully re-power Gabriola Island. As result, BC Hydro will only be able to restore power to sections of the Island at a time. Power will be available for the village centre and critical services, but other parts of the Island may experience intermittent outages of two hours. It is critical, that for the next 24 hours, residents conserve as much electricity as possible so that the other lines can provide power to as many customers as possible until temporary repairs can be made.

The emergency satellite cell repeater at Gabriola Volunteer Fire Department Fire Hall #1 on Church Street is still in place to provide cellular phone connectivity at the fire hall. Those needing cell service can park in the lower parking lot by the GERTIE building (old fire hall) to try to connect. Please do not park in the main fire hall parking lot, or on Church street, and for your safety, stay 50 meters away from the booster.

In case of an emergency, residents are advised to take the following steps:

- If you have an emergency try 911 first
- If you cannot get through, call the Gabriola Fire duty officer cell at 250-755-9289 (this phone is monitored at the fire hall 24/7)
- If you cannot contact anyone, please go directly to the hall and speak with a fire department member at any time.

Until phone services are restored, residents are advised to ensure they have sufficient cash on hand for purchases where cashless payments are not available, as well as enough fuel in their vehicles, before travelling to Gabriola Island.

Get Involved RDN!