



100 years of firefighting in 36 hours

 Fire Chief Jason Brolund

Canadian firefighters steal the show at UN climate talks

By James MacLennan | [West Kelowna](#) | September 21st 2023



West Kelowna fire chief's harrowing tale opens eyes at United Nations

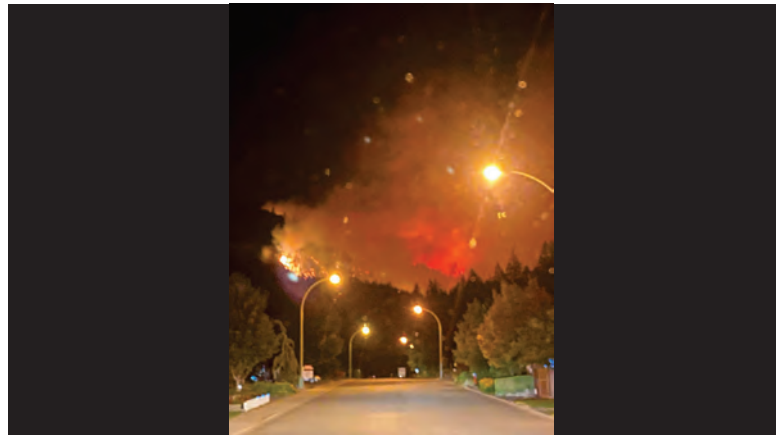


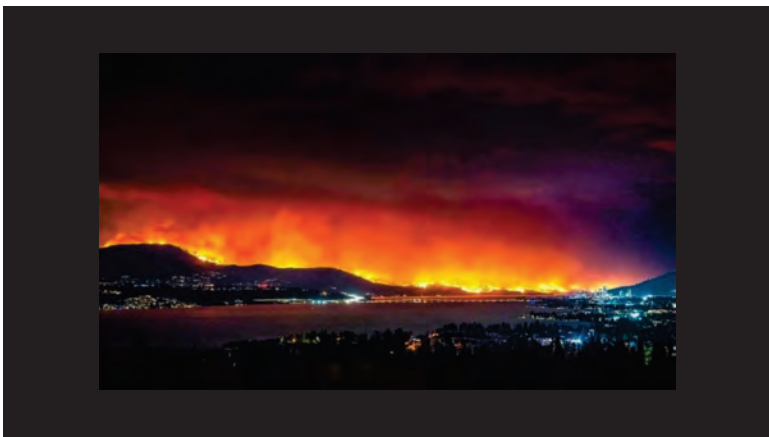
Michael G. Holzhey

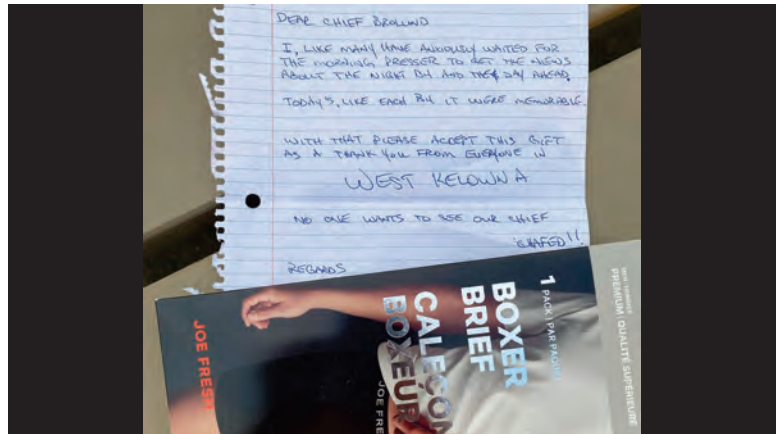




EMERGENCY ALERT / ALERTE D'URGENCE now
BC EMERGENCY ALERT issued by West Kelowna and RDCO due to the McDougall Creek wildfire. Evacuate immediately if you are in the following area: Rose Valley, West Kelowna Estates, all properties off Westside Rd north of West Kelowna to Nahun. The wildfire poses a threat to human life. If you live north of Traders Cove, evacuate north to the Vernon Reception Centre at Kal-Tire Place. If you live south of Traders Cove, evacuate south to the Reception Centre at 2760 Cameron Rd in West Kelowna. If you are unable to evacuate call 9-1-1. Click for more info: www.emergencyinfo.bc.ca/17aug23a/

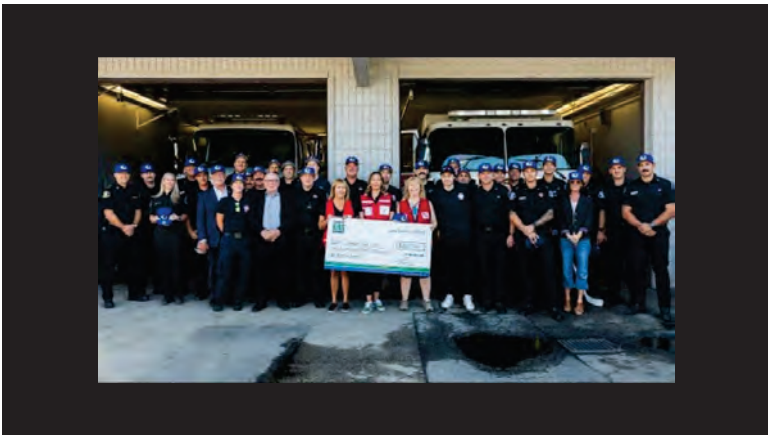


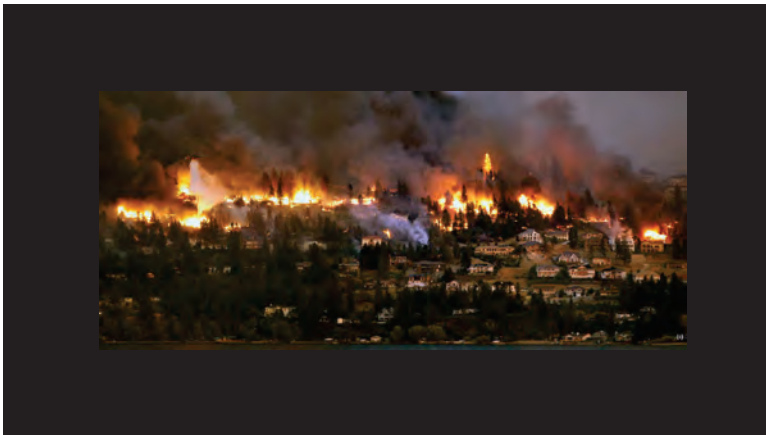
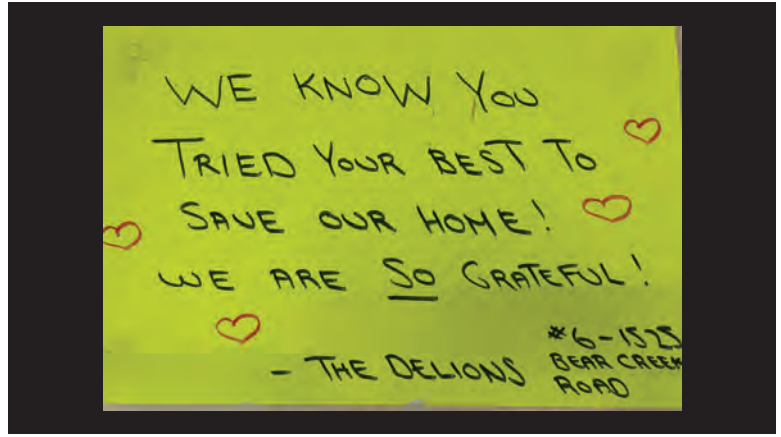




Later in the day, West Kelowna fire firefighters responded to the endearing comment by Brolund with a light-hearted comment on their social media. "Please don't bring our chief underwear, we'll take care of him," they wrote.







West Kelowna woman looking for lone firefighter she says saved her home with garden hose

The Canadian Press - Aug 22, 2022 / 12:12 pm

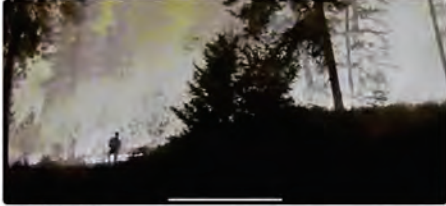
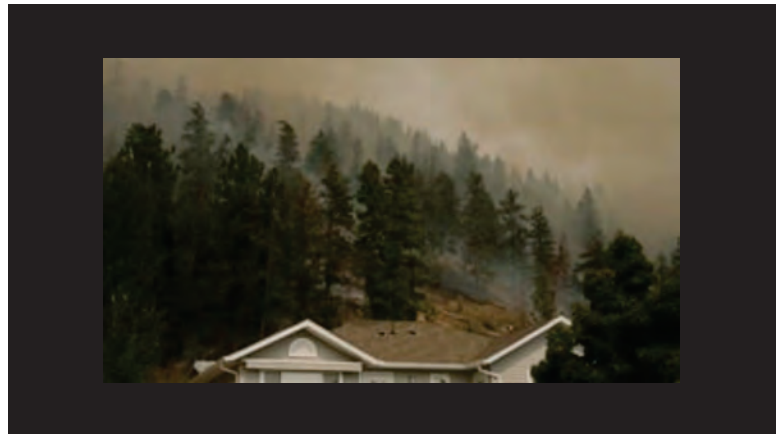


Photo: The Canadian Press
A West Kelowna resident feels so thankful after watching a lone firefighter saving her home from flames with a garden hose from her home security camera and she spends all night watching the heroic efforts. A lone firefighter, who disclosed, is seen fighting flames at a residence in West Kelowna, B.C., in an undated still image taken from residential security camera footage. THE CANADIAN PRESS/D-WAVE/ANDREW



**WE ARE SPENDING THE
MONEY ON THE
WRONG END OF THE
PROBLEM!**





BRITISH COLUMBIA FireSmart

FireSmart shifting to allocation-based funding for higher risk areas in 2024

Publishing Date: September 13, 2023
As part of the 2024 FireSmart Community
Funding and Supports program, funding
for eligible recipients in higher risk areas of
the province will transition to an allocation-
based model.



Intersection Between Recreation, Parks & Climate Change

Vancouver Extreme Heat
& Wildfire Smoke

BCRPA Panel Discussion
May 2, 2024



Agenda



- Introduction
- Extreme Heat
 - The current context
 - Recreations Role & next steps
- Wildfire Smoke & Air Quality planning
 - Recent Context
 - Recreation's role & next steps



Extreme Heat, The Current Context

Local Context: extreme heat

2050s projections for "business as usual"

Case Study: the Heat Dome (2021)

1. Exceeded 2050 climate change projections
2. More deaths than any other weather-related hazard in Canada (117 in Vancouver and over 600+ across BC).
3. +12,000 calls to 911 in one day - double regular volume.
4. 98% of deaths indoors, 56% lived alone, and 67% of deaths 70+ years

2.4°C
Average temperature increase of 2.4°C

9x as many days over 30°C
3x as many days over 25°C

Heatwaves will be 4x more frequent

warmer temperatures and more frequent & intense heatwaves

Extreme Heat

By the 2050s Vancouver will have

HOTTER, DRIER SUMMERS

MAJOR IMPACTS:

- more frequent heat waves
- hotter and drier summers 20°C
- 20% less rain
- increased health risks to vulnerable people
- increased water evaporation

Image from City of Vancouver Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2018)

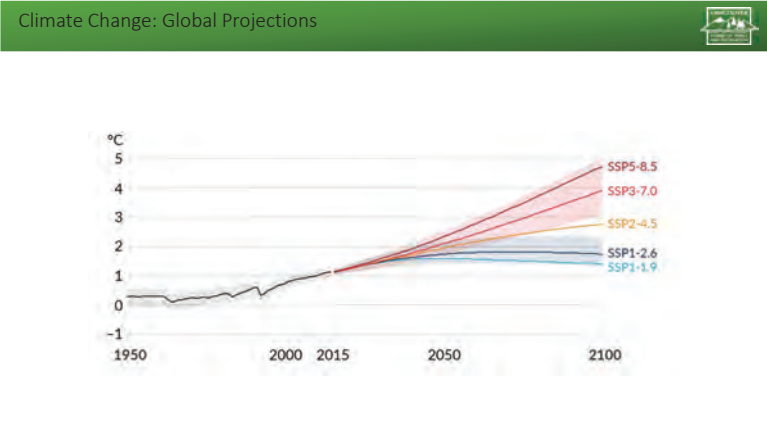
REVIEW OF HEAT-RELATED DEATHS IN B.C.

Heat dome from June 25 - July 1

619 deaths

67% of deaths were aged 70 & up

Participant, Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Engagement



Recreation's Role in Extreme Heat



Main City functions:

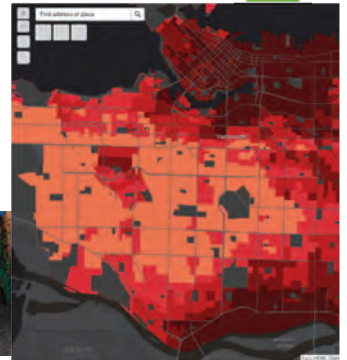
1. Increase access to drinking water, spray parks, misting stations, bottled water
2. Provide indoor shelter from the heat (Cooling Centres)
3. Shaded Parklets
4. Cooling in Nonmarket Housing and SROs
5. Public Information and messaging (translation 10+ languages)
6. Support and coordinate with community partners (funding + materials)
7. Cool Kits + DIY Air Filters



Recreation's Role in Extreme Heat



- 17 Community Centres as cooling centres
- 25 Neighbourhood wading pools & spray parks
- Misting stations & drinking fountains



Moving Forward – Next Steps



- Retrofit Older buildings
- Adding AC to New buildings
- Push button spray parks/splash pads
- Maintaining tree canopy
 - Expanding tree watering program
 - Increasing tree canopy



Wildfire Smoke & Air Quality – The Current Context



Poor air quality

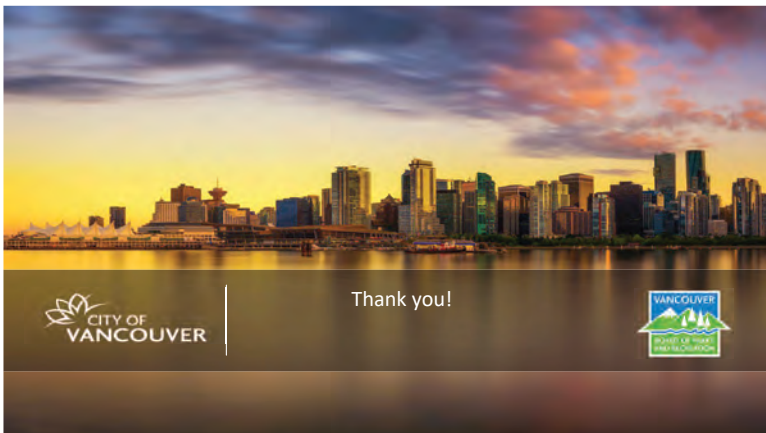
Climate change-related poor air quality has two main causes:

wildfire smoke	ground-level ozone
 <p>Longer fire seasons cause more exposure to smoke</p> <p>Increasing wildfire frequency and intensity</p>	 <p>The main cause of this harmful gas is vehicle exhaust</p> <p>Warmer and drier summers can lead to elevated levels</p>

Recreation's Role



- 4 Cleaner Air Centres in Community Centres
- Cancelling events and programs
- Disproportionate impact
- What else?
 - New builds having improved filters
 - New approach for 2024



Looking Forward

Key points

- Our Journey
- Lessons Learned
- Moving Forward

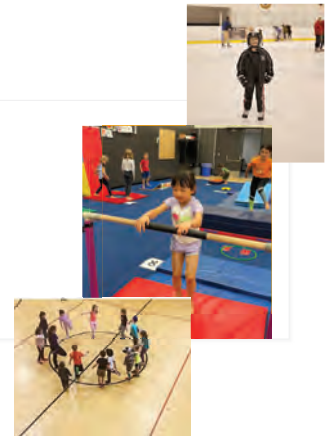


The Journey



Lessons Learned

We CAN get things done!



Breaking Tradition?
Looking Forward



Why it matters



Presentation Title