

Protection Island Ratepayers Association Newsletter 2007

The 2007 PIRA Annual General Meeting will be held SUNDAY JUNE 24, 2007 at Beacon House on beautiful Gallows Point. Registration begins at 12:30 pm and the meeting at 1:00 pm.

PIRA is Protection Island Ratepayers' Association and all property owners are invited to join. PIRA membership costs \$10 a year per person. This newsletter is our annual report, recapping significant events of the past year.

PIRA has the following objectives:

- To secure improvements in the best interest of Protection Island ratepayers;

- To promote and develop the welfare of residents and ratepayers of the community;

- To own and maintain buildings and property for the betterment of the community.

PIRA has a board of nine elected volunteer directors. Every year at the AGM, three PIRA directors are elected for a 3 year term. We will be electing three new directors this year.

We invite you to stand for election as a PIRA director—it's a great way to get to know your fellow islanders, learn about the community, and contribute to its well being. If you are interested in standing for nomination, contact Liam at 714-0320 or Denise at 716-1166. Nominations can also be made from the floor at the AGM.

The AGM is our annual opportunity to get together and talk about issues of concern to us all. If you can't be at the AGM in person, please mail annual dues of \$10 per person to:

PIRA
1135 Pirates Lane
Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 6R1

We are a growing community with diverse needs and require our membership to grow if we want to effect acceptable change or retain the lifestyle we have adopted. A strong community has the backing to approach the necessary bodies that govern what happens on our island, such as the City of Nanaimo and the Port Authority. We are respected by both but need the strength of numbers to back up any suggestions, demands, or revisions that could impact us.

All residents are invited to PIRA's bi-monthly meetings at Beacon House on dates posted on island bulletin boards and Pro-Isle. We welcome your participation and input. Look for PIRA's suggestion box on the notice board by the Ferry.

PIRA's website continues to evolve and serve as a source of community news and events. See us at: www.pira.ca

PIRA DIRECTORS 2006-07

For tirelessly pursuing ways to retain our Island's uniqueness while making life better for all, thanks to PIRA Directors Denise Bonin, Fredrick Collin, Peter Frewin, Ralph Kirby, Michael MacColl, Cathy Pearson, Steve Peck, Liam Taylor, and Shannon Taylor.

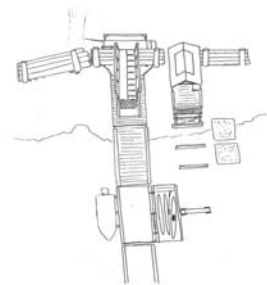
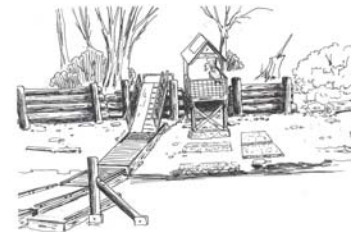
MUD BAY DOCK

Major improvements and repairs are ongoing. Larry Iwaskow's work parties continue to do great things. Please remember he is not responsible for the dock. All users are. The expectation is that the fees will cover overhead only. That does not include the labour and material for ongoing maintenance and improvements.

The Alumni Social and dock fundraiser in February gave us extra dollars toward stabilizing the dock for storms. Users are to be congratulated for helping on work parties and getting their fees and donations toward material paid for the period ending Sept 30, 2007.

Summer users can pay Cathy (at 9 Pirates Lane or mail to PIRA) and pick up their decal. The registration fee is a flat \$100 for all users through

Sept 2007. If you cannot work on the dock you are expected to donate toward materials (usually another \$100). A small increase (10%) will go into effect in October. This is to prepare for anticipated rate increases when we renew our current contracts. This is our commuter dock. Please don't "park" your boat and leave the Island for weeks at a time. Expect a full dock this year as we are at capacity. Rafting can be expected. Please don't lock your fellow boater in. Remember to use lines that can be moved without forcing someone on the bow of a boat to get out.



Sketch of Mud Bay dock by Carl Ashley

LEESHORE



What seemed a persistent issue going nowhere and in limbo, the Leeshore initiative has been invigorated through a number of events this last year.

Don McIntosh, whom many knew and was the most involved of the Leeshore owners, passed away July 17th, 2006. His surviving brother Brian and a niece are now the remaining company (Leeshore Resorts) directors.

Over the course of the fall and winter we have been in close contact with both the Port Authority (Mike Davidson) and the City (Toby Seward) who in turn have been in contact with Brian McIntosh regarding the condition of docks and structures on the Leeshore site. We have taken the position that access to the island is our priority and while there are a number of scenarios as to how we might achieve improved access through the Leeshore site, we also want to ensure that any other development or consequences for the property will be in keeping with the character and needs of the island. The City has made it clear to both ourselves and Brian McIntosh that they want both the property remediated and are willing to facilitate a possible purchase of Leeshore from the owners at a market rate.

What goes up, can come down (and wobble from side to side along the way). Things took dramatic turn on the evening of March 28th when the dockhead collapsed. Both the City and the Port Authority requested action be taken by the owners and Brian McIntosh is now in the process of having contractors remove collapsed and collapsing structures.

Brian has indicated subsequent to clearing up some remaining issues, he will indicate his intentions with the property by the end of August 2007. In the interim, the City has requested that we make some suggestions or options for land use available to Brian for consideration.

Suggestions are welcome. Please send these to Michael MacColl, maccollm@mala.bc.ca.

PROTECTION ISLAND LIONS CLUB

The Lions would like to send a heartfelt thanks to all those islanders who come out to help us with our various functions such as park cleanups, garden work parties at Gallows and our bottle drives. The bottles are a major source of funding for Beacon house. A special thanks to Gloria Craig, and Pam & Russ Morgan for their collection and sorting of all those bottles and cans; to Al & Josie Thornton for bringing contributions from a recycling bin across the water, and finally to John Logan and his staff for the many bags of bottles we get throughout the year from the pub. The Lions accept recyclable wine bottles and pop and beer cans which can be deposited into the plastic box that is generously hosted in front of Keith and Andie's house at 63 Captain Morgans. Please put bottles and cans in bags and sort them if at all possible, it really helps the volunteers do the necessary sorting.

The fundraiser for an ambulance was a great success with many generous contributions from islanders, (more detail is available in the Fire Department News). Thank you so much, and a special thanks to Pamela Morgan who kicked it all off by hand delivering notices of the fund-raiser house to house around the island.

For further information contact Liam Taylor at liamt@telus.net.

ROAD REPORT



The conventionally scheduled June road maintenance will start during the last week in May this year.

The city has supplied us with our own on-site backhoe, placed here to quickly repair potholes as needed. It's obvious lack of current use has been due to a union problem, which is almost resolved. So watch for the backhoe in full form shortly.

The road crew has been experimenting with different road surfaces and have been testing these throughout the winter months. You may have noticed these. Once they determine which one(s) work best they will be applying them elsewhere.

JUNK AWAY



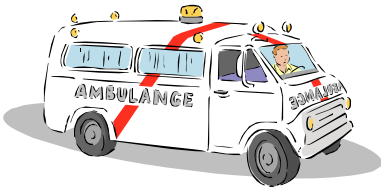
Thank you for your continued support of our island clean-up endeavours! We've had 3 successful pickups and the next one is scheduled for non-metals, Sat Oct 20, 2007.

Watch for our information flyer and questionnaire in June. Please return your form ASAP. Volunteers will be needed once again.

Questions or comments, please contact Nella nellaj@telus.net or Kathleen muswisdom@telus.net.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Message from the chief



Support for the **ambulance** fund raiser was amazing; a huge thank you to Al Thornton of the Lions Club and all the residents who contributed. The total amount raised including the generous Lions Club donation came to \$8,880.00. Well done!

On May 11th we purchased a 1998 Ford ambulance in excellent condition with low hours. At the time of writing, it is at the fire department's compound in Nanaimo undergoing a thorough mechanical inspection, servicing, radio installation, and decals. It should be arriving on the island some time in June. Watch for the announcement to come and view our latest acquisition.

Fire Safety

Another hot dry summer has been predicted this year, so please be careful with BBQs and smoking. Watch for "Extreme Conditions" signs in the parks by mid-summer and remind your guests not to throw cigarette butts on the boulevards or in parks.

Now the warm weather is here, it is a good time to have your chimney cleaned, ready for that first chilly evening come fall. It is also time to change the batteries in your smoke alarms, if you have not already done so.



Traffic Safety

Regarding parking at the turnaround, please be aware the fire engine is 8 ft wide and 31 ft long; it does not have the turning radius of a golf cart or car. We must have access to Pirates Park at all times. Please check that you are not blocking the FIRELANE before leaving your vehicle. Also, when you meet us on the road or we come up behind you, please pull over and let us pass; the weight of the engine does not allow for us to take the soft shoulder.



Emergency Preparedness

With all the new homes under construction this year, it is especially important to make sure your street address (not lot number) is clearly visible from the road so that in an emergency we can respond as quickly as possible, instead of wasting valuable time searching for numbers particularly in the dark. Also ensure you always have a 10 day supply of any prescription medications in your earthquake survival kit. The document, "52 Weeks to Being Emergency Prepared" was posted on the PIRA website earlier this spring for those of you who have not got around to assembling a kit yet. Remember, we will be on our own for at least 10 days in a major disaster.

Have a safe enjoyable year,
Veronica Zehntner

BURNING REGULATIONS

Burning of organic yard waste and prunings is allowed during daylight hours on Fridays and Saturdays in April and October ONLY.

A FREE VERBAL PERMIT is required for each day you burn. Phone Nanaimo Fire Dept. non-emergency number 753-7311 in advance any time in the week you wish to burn.

Calling for permits is MANDATORY. It also gives the City an indication of PI's need for backyard burning. If we don't demonstrate our need we could still lose this privilege!

Garden waste fires may be a maximum diameter of 4 feet in daylight hours only. Cooking fires must be in a container no more than 2 feet in diameter for a maximum of 2 hours.

Land clearing and burning of plastics, household garbage, stumps and wooden construction material is NOT allowed.

Burning regulations are posted on community bulletin boards.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



We are a Neighbourhood Watch community. Contact Josie Thornton 753-9568 or Roger Gumbert 753-5343 for more information.

ISLAND CAFÉ



A group of islanders got together to set up a forum for discussions concerning community. The broader goal was to begin the process of developing a neighbourhood strategy or plan. To begin this we started with what was to be a series of meetings and guest lectures that would help to define what was unique about our natural setting and community culture. This led through several meetings and presentations to a community mapping process. There was some strong interest in the community but life caught up with the organizers and alas the whole thing was put on a back burner. The flame has not gone out however and a new set of meetings and presentations will begin again.

Contact Jodi (754-7245) or Barb (741-8905) to get involved with the Island Mapping Project.

AN UPDATE ON THE COMMUNITY GARDEN

On March 28th DIGS members met with the Parks, Recreation and Culture commission at the Beacon House and presented the proposal for a community garden in Smugglers Park adjacent to the basketball court. The Parks committee asked for clarification of several issues and deferred their decision pending further discussion with Parks staff. To that end the DIGS committee met with the Parks staff on April 4. Several issues were dealt with at that meeting and two issues – soil testing and restrictions on land use were set aside for further study. The Parks staff also recommended that DIGS

meet with the Parks committee to fine tune our plans.

DIGS met with the Parks committee on May 10th and at this meeting it was reported that soil testing results were negative in all respects and that there were no conveyances attached to the deeding of the land. A motion was made to approve funding for the first phase of the garden. Some details regarding licensing, water usage and size are yet to be finalized with Parks staff. The motion passed and will be taken to the May 30th meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Culture commission for final approval.

When we get final approval we plan to begin our membership drive as soon as possible thereafter. Thanks to everyone for your support throughout this process. Contact Margaret Harris for more information at: meharris@telus.net.

*** Garden Newsflash ***

On May 23 the Parks Recreation and Culture commission voted unanimously to approve DIGS proposal for a community garden on Protection Island subject to several conditions. The Commissions' decision must still be ratified by City Council sometime in early June. When the City's approval has been received DIGS will hold a public meeting at the Beacon House to outline details of the changes we made and to begin planning for our garden.



PROTECTION ISLAND GARDEN VIEWING

This year the garden tour will take a breather, but not entirely! Instead there will be Garden Viewing (visiting, touring, admiring, oohing and aahing, envying, etc).

Over the next few months islanders will have the opportunity to tour some great and inspiring gardens (instead of the one day tour). If you have admired these gardens while gazing over the fences, down the paths and through the bushes, now the creators will have time to identify their plants and explain their choices. An ideal way to learn what plants work best, where, on our island.

Watch the bulletin boards and pro-isle for locations, dates and times or contact Heather Cooling, 753-8162 for more information.



PLANT INVADERS

Some people are concerned about the monopoly of certain invasive plants in our Islands small public parks. As a result people have been working individually or in small groups to pull some of them out. Ivy, Daphne, Lamium, and Broom have been and still are main concerns here. Please help by controlling your household plants. Make yourself familiar with the mentioned plants. A group of us have been gathering in the winter season on a Sunday afternoon to do what we can and learn more about our plants on the island from each other. Keep an ear out for further postings (on Pro-Isle and billboards). And post any special areas in our public parks you see that you would like help with also feel free to contact Josephine at:

jobob23@telus.net

PROTECTION ISLAND MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

Good news! The Protection Island Museum will re-open at the lightkeeper's cottage at Gallows Point on Bathtub Weekend, July 22 following the race start. Admission is by donation.

The museum is operated by The Protection Island Cultural Historical Society (TPICHS) — a non-profit society incorporated in May, 2001. Current directors are Rick Scott, Jurgen Goering, Sandra Hedley, Barbara Neild, Heather Cooling, Tauno Tuominen, Fredrik Collin, and Brenda Henderson. The Society's mandate is twofold: 'to nurture, foster and develop community awareness of local history and culture through activities and events and to maintain and develop the museum collection'.

TPICHS also maintains the Protection Island Archives in their building at 33 Cutlass Lookout. The Archives houses historical documents, maps, research material, photographs, personal collections of former residents and the Society's administrative files. Look for Black Frank, the pirate at the site. When his sign says 'open' (and hours vary), Please drop in and take a look. Our resources are also available for anyone researching any aspect of our island's history—from coal mining to current events. For information or an appointment, call Barb Neild at 755-1855.

Hope to see you at the Museum on Bathtub Race Day!



IMAGING COMMUNITY: THE PROTECTION ISLAND PORTRAIT PROJECT

TPICHS newest project involves the creation of an on-going, interactive digital collection of portraits of islanders, and of island groups and organizations, along with oral and written records of their stories and activities. A grant of \$1000 has been received from the BC Museums Association, and \$700 from the Nanaimo Port Authority. The project begins this summer with photos of groups and organizations and island 'old timers'. A committee has been meeting along with principal photographer, Mark Kaarremaa, and equipment and supplies are being purchased.

ISLAND MUSICIANS



2007 has been a busy one so far for some of the island's musicians.

Rick Scott and the legendary Pied Pumkin have recorded (on island) and released their 1st studio album in around 20 years. The children's CD entitled "Pumkids" was launched with a benefit kid's show at Beacon House that raised nearly \$400 for the Lions Club ambulance fund.

By the time you read this, Pied Pumkin will be touring across the nation as far east as Thunder Bay, bringing their collective genius to Children's Festivals in a dozen cities.

Check the following links for more info: www.rickscott.ca/tourdates.htm
www.piedpumkin.com/tour2007.shtml
www.etchedinsound.com/news/pumkin/pied-pumkin-12-2006.html

Trish Clair-Peck has also just wrapped up mixing for what will be

her debut CD, entitled "Dawson's Tumble". It features 12 tunes, from jigs to soundscapes to high energy originals. It is due for release in mid June.

Check the following link for more info, including dates on upcoming house concerts:

www.myspace.com/fiddletrish

Part time resident, Trooper keyboardist and savior of groove-ness, Paul Gogo has a busy summer of touring ahead of him.

See the Trooper site for more info:

www.trooper.ca/default.php?cat=gogo&subcat=none

Our hats go off to Larry Iwaskow for hosting Wednesday open mic jam nights at the pub throughout the winter months. As word of the quality music spread, we had guest musicians from all over the known universe congregate at its center!

The Islands musical culture has also been immensely enriched with the arrival of guitarist, vocalist and producer David Essig - he is considered one of Canada's finest interpreters of original, contemporary folk music, always paying homage to his roots in Bluegrass and Country Blues. His intense energy and incisive wit have made him a favourite with audiences around the world.

Check out his site:

www.davidessig.com/

Anthony Maki recorded and mixed Pied Pumkin's "Pumkids" and Trish Clair-Peck's "Dawson's Tumble" CDs right here on PI. He has also been running a music Instruction/participation program at Nanaimo Youth Services Association - called "Cookin' With the Blues". It offers at risk youth access to musical instruments and instruction.

Check out his site:

www.etchedinsound.com

LANTERN FESTIVAL



Prepare your homemade lanterns for Protection Islands Fourth Annual Lantern Festival. Saturday, April 19, 2008. Times will be posted closer to the date.

Our past celebrations have included local musicians, advance workshops, poi, shadow theatre, parade of lanterns, costume, clowning, firewire, hot chocolate, and much more. Some artists pre-plan a special installment area.

We hope this sparks your imagination and you will join us. If you are interested in participating and helping out contact Coreen or Wendy at 753-8672, jazzea@telus.net, Josephine at 714-0523 jobob23@telus.net, or Paula Ng at 716-0355.

CROKINOLE



The Gallows Point Crokinole Championship Challenge has been held at Beacon House held every 3 months since March 2006.

Champions have been Liam Taylor, John Routledge, Rod Page, Neil Hawkes, and Rod Page (twice!). Next tournament will be Friday June 22, 2007. We need a new name on the cup!

Everyone is welcome. Tickets \$2.00 at the door or call Barb at 741-8905

P.I. WOMEN'S GROUP

Meets monthly for social and creative activities.

All P.I. women welcome. Watch bulletin boards for date in early Sept for planning the year ahead.

Last scheduled get together for this year is June 29 at Barb Neild's. Questions, please call Sandee 753-0805



IF YOU NEED TO CALL 911

- ◆ You will be asked whether you require Police, Fire Dept or Ambulance service.
- ◆ All 911 calls go to an operator who is NOT in Nanaimo.
- ◆ It is **ESSENTIAL** to identify your location as **PROTECTION ISLAND IN THE HARBOUR OF NANAIMO**.
- ◆ You **MUST** give your **STREET ADDRESS** which must be **CLEARLY VISIBLE** on your property so you can be found.

Our Fire Dept. will respond to all **MEDICAL EMERGENCY** calls. Each on call fire fighter is trained in First Response First Aid and will stay on the scene until paramedics arrive.

PIRA MAILING LIST

We are trying to keep our mailing and email list current. Please forward any address corrections, changes, and updates (including email) to:

PIRA
1135 Pirates Lane
Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 6R1

If you have sold your property in the past year and receive this newsletter, please inform us so we can take you off our list.

If you do not wish to receive information from PIRA, please let us know.



Have a safe and fun summer!

Protection Island Frequently Asked Questions - 2007

QUICK FACTS

- 355 properties; approximately 90 are undeveloped; 325 full time residents
- 10 minute ferry ride from downtown Nanaimo
- part of City of Nanaimo
- City of Nanaimo water
- Hydro and sewer
- Phone service including high speed internet
- Gravel roads
- No post office, but postal delivery to boxes
- No school, but Fairview Elementary and NDSS are the district feeder schools
- No store
- Most vehicles are golf carts, which enjoy a lower insurance rate than cars
- All vehicles, wheelbarrow, bikes and golf carts are privately owned.
- There are several public parks on the island, however there are no public washrooms or garbage service.
- Islander do not pay for garbage service however there are garbage bins located at the Nanaimo Boat Basin



PIRA WEBSITE

www.pira.ca

PROTECTION ISLAND MUSEUM WEBSITE

www.protection-island-museum.ca

PRO-ISLE E-MAIL GROUP

Keep on top of all the Island happenings; join the Protection Island Pro-Isle e-mail group and easily post or receive messages of interest to Islanders.

To join Pro-Isle, contact Barb LeBrasseur at barbith@telus.net

PROTECTION ISLAND ROADS

According to the city the usual road maintenance schedule is as follows:

1. Each week: Road condition survey is done by the Sewer Utility Worker.
2. Three times per year: (usually late November, late January, and March if required). Grading, and shoulder repair, pot-hole filling and general maintenance.
3. June: Grading and shoulder repair, drainage maintenance.
4. June: Application of dust suppressant.
5. June: Vegetation control and brush cutting.

MUD BAY DOCK & ISLAND PARKING

The Protection Island Rate Payers Association leases an access to the Mud Bay Dock. This goes to the dock only. **The purpose is for pick up and drop off only.** As part of our lease agreement there is to be no parking in the park. Dock users are asked to park their vehicles in the circle. Please do not park in driveways. Parking in front of residents is limited to 24 hours maximum.

Mud Bay dock is for residents only. It is not for visitors or commercial use. Dock users are expected to pay dock fees and to contribute to dock maintenance. For more information contact Cathy Pearson at 753-9699.



Protection Island Frequently Asked Questions - 2007

SPEED LIMIT 20 KPH

It took an epic effort to legalize golf carts on this idyllic island where children, pedestrians, bicycles, wildlife and wheelbarrows abound. Please honour the 20 KPH speed limit!



PROTECTION CONNECTION FERRY

The Protection Connection ferry leaves the island on the hour and leaves Nanaimo at ten minutes past the hour daily. See posted ferry schedules for seasonal hours.

DINGHY DOCK PUB

(since 1989)

Location: At anchor and rising and falling on the tide off Good Point, Protection Island in Nanaimo Harbour.

Pub Hours of Operation: Open year round. Open daily for lunch at 12 noon and staying open until the last ferry sails.

Entertainment: Music, live and in person every Friday and Saturday starting 7pm

Shower: Yes, coin-operated.

Getting There: Private boat or the Protection Connection Ferry

P.I. LIONS CLUB

The Protection Island Lions Club is a volunteer service organization whose membership works to support the local community in a variety of ways including the sponsorship and maintenance of the Beacon House Community Center at Gallows Point. The Community Center is made available whenever possible to support the wide range of islander interests and activities, and this in turn is only possible through the generous donations of time and energy from people within the community itself. The Lions would like to thank all those who continue to support this process that helps us all get together, solve problems, learn, have fun, and build a spirit of community on our little island.

KNITWITS

“Drop in” after 1:30 pm on Thursdays 47 Capt. Morgan’s – Contact Lynn at 755-1112 for more information

BEACON HOUSE

For information on renting Beacon House for private or community functions, call Anne Millington at 753-6736. The main building features a gazebo and a deck overlooking the water as well as a well stocked kitchen.

RECYCLING

Protection Islanders are encouraged to use the following recycling depot located on 2477 Kenworth Rd., approximately 10 minutes drive from downtown. Corrugated cardboard can be flattened and recycled at the Nanaimo Harbour side. For further information please contact Josephine jobob23@telus.net or go to: <http://www.recycling.bc.ca/index.htm>

PROTECTION ISLAND BOOK CLUB

Protection Island Book Club meets every month except July and August on the second Wednesday of the month. Contact Shawne at 753-5102 for more information.

BURNING REGULATIONS

Burning of organic yard waste and prunings is allowed during daylight hours on Fridays and Saturdays in April and October ONLY.

A FREE VERBAL PERMIT is required for each day you burn. Phone Nanaimo Fire Dept. non-emergency number 753-7311 in advance any time in the week you wish to burn.

Burning regulations are posted on community bulletin boards.

