

COVID-19 PIRATES

www.protectionisland.org

(then click on the red button in top right corner)

Update # 4

March 29, 2020

*We are going to get through this together by supporting each other.
Thanks to all Islanders for Supporting their Neighbours*

Island Life is not Normal, But it is Stable

If you have any ideas for communication techniques, Island initiatives, or how to access resources, please let us know by responding directly to Kevin Pistor (kpistor@telus.net)

Jim MacQuarrie has uploaded COVID-19 information links to the Protection Island Neighbourhood Association webpage. You can access important information at www.protectionisland.org Simply click on the COVID-19 button in the top right corner

Government Assistance Programs: People & Businesses

The provincial and federal governments have announced a number of programs to provide assistance. These include: expanded employment benefits, rent assistance, tax credits, tax deferrals, bill deferrals, wage subsidies, etc.

Please consult the following links:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020PREM0013-000545>

<http://news.gov.bc.ca/factsheets/bc-takes-steps-to-support-people-businesses-during-covid-19-pandemic>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-finance/economic-response-plan.html>

Boat Matching Service

Richard Gafney, Jean Compton and Gillian Bigl created an online tool which will allow boat operators, passengers and cargo requests to be coordinated. It is proposed that the boat matching service be used when the ferry is not running, or if ferry service is cancelled. Contact Richard at rgafney@hotmail.com for more information.

We are going to get through this together by supporting each other and trusting that everyone is following the advice provided by health experts

Some Island Services are Changing

Recycling Services Suspended

Recycling services provided by PI Supply have been suspended indefinitely. Garbage pickup is still available.

Fire Ban in Effect

The City of Nanaimo has banned all backyard burning on Protection Island. There will be no burning this April as in previous years. The ban is meant to reduce the level of respiratory irritants in the air.

Future Initiatives

We all need to start thinking of how we may deal with things we take for granted today. In the coming weeks, some of our usual services may not be available. Appliance repair, septic pump maintenance and repair, plumbing issues, etc. may be difficult. If you have any skills to offer or ideas, please let Kevin Pistor know at kpistor@telus.net.

Wardill Barge Operating

The Wardill barge is still operating. We will remain in contact and advise if there are changes.

Grocery Delivery

Larry, Vicky, Valley and PI Supply continue to try to make arrangements for on-line grocery ordering. Meanwhile, you can shop in person at Thrifty's on Tuesday, March 31 and have PI Supply delivery your groceries on Wednesday. Contact Valley at vhennell@island.net for more information

Ball Court is Closed

The City of Nanaimo has closed the Ball Court next to the Community Garden. Keep your children safe by not using the ball court.

Survivor Mode & Support

It is important that each individual keep up on current information and apply for the supports they need.

Everyone should have a buddy system for immediate support.

Take care of as many of your own needs as possible (take the ferry, order groceries, take advantage of PI Supply services, check the list of volunteer drivers (rgafney@hotmail.com), etc)

If these supports fail, then reach out via Proisle with your request for support. If that fails, and/or your needs are not being met, then contact kpistor@telus.net and the team will try to arrange support.

1. We have the following suggestion for individuals returning to Protection Island from international travel, from a situation that requires you to self-isolate or to quarantine, and for anyone showing signs of infection: **please do not take the PI Ferry**. We recommend contacting someone for private transportation. If that is not possible, contact Kevin Pistor, at kpistor@telus.net, in advance if possible, and our team will assist in making suitable arrangements to get you home safely without threatening the health of Islanders.

Due to the number of residents who are highly vulnerable to Covid-19, we think this is a fair and reasonable expectation. We will do everything we can to find a safe solution for everyone.

2. The Ferry Skipper is doing everything possible to safely provide transportation services. There is a certain level of trust in riders that they are observing the safety protocols, which by now should be well known and understood by all, as outlined by the Chief Medical Officer of BC, or as described on the BC Ministry of Health website at

<https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-feature/coronavirus-disease-covid-19>

or the Government of Canada health website at

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

Islanders, during this anxious time for all, please refrain from posting comments, questions, opinions, or musings about ferry services. They create an unnecessary burden. We place our full confidence in the ferry skipper's ability.

3. For islanders who are symptom free and are travelling to and from Nanaimo on **essential** errands, please utilize the ferry as a way of supporting the efforts being made to keep it running. Please follow proper distancing measures while travelling.
4. "For anyone who starts experiencing symptoms of C-19, but is not ready to call 911, call 811 for advice."
5. "As of March 23, the Prime Minister and Health officials are urging that everyone STAY HOME, with exceptions for essential workers."