

Protection Island Ratepayers Association Newsletter 2008

The 2008 PIRA Annual General Meeting will be held SUNDAY JULY 13, 2008 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:

Peter Frewin
PIRA Treasurer
168 Pirates Lane
Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 6R1

We have forged strong relationships with the City of Nanaimo and the Port Authority and as a result together we have been able to bring about many positive changes within our community. We hope to continue this open dialog with these folks in order to implement future changes.

All residents are invited to PIRA's board meetings at Beacon House on dates posted on island bulletin boards and the Pro-Isle email group. 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 2007-08

For tirelessly pursuing ways to retain our Island's uniqueness while making life better for all, thanks to PIRA Directors Denise Bonin, Peter Frewin, Michael MacColl, Cathy Pearson, Lynn Roberts Liam Taylor, and Shannon Taylor, Alison Watt.

PIRA SURVEY

There will be another PIRA survey sent out in the next few weeks. We are going to be as "green" and electronic as we can. We will be putting a link to the online survey on the PIRA website: www.pira.ca shortly. Keep checking back on the site and watch for announcements in the next few weeks. If you do not

have access to a computer or do not wish to input your opinions online, please let us know and we'll mail or deliver a printed copy of the survey to you.

We hope to have the survey results all wrapped up before the PIRA AGM. These surveys, which are implemented about every three years, can help us gage the pulse of the community on such issues as road surfaces, moorage, lighting, access, parks, city services, etc.

Please help us by completing the survey.

PRO-ISLE EMAIL GROUP



Are you hearing all the island news? Do you want to share some news? Do you have something to sell? Do you have an opinion about an island issue and want to discuss it with others? Then what you need is to become a member of the Pro-Isle email group.

To join, send an email to Barb LaBrasseur at barbith@telus.net and ask to be a member. This forum is restricted to property owners and residents only and is not monitored – so pretty much anything goes. This is NOT a PIRA initiative, although PIRA does use this medium to post notices and to discuss community issues.

MUD BAY DOCK



Major improvements and repairs are ongoing. Larry'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. We have increased moorage spots by a full 1/3 in the last 3 years.

We had two major donations to the dock this year. Thank you Fredrik and the other party who asked to remain anonymous. Users are to be congratulated for helping on work parties and getting their fees and donations toward material paid for the period ending Sept 30/08. Summer users can pay Cathy (at 9 Pirates Lane) and pick up their decal. The registration fee is a flat \$110 for all users through Sept 2008. If you cannot work on the dock you are expected to donate toward materials (usually another \$90). A small increase (10%) will go into effect in October. This in 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. Despite increased capacity we can expect a full dock again this year. 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.

Dock users are encouraged to put their names forward to run as a PIRA Director. Over most of the last year we had only one representative of the 9 member PIRA Board. That term is

up, leaving No remaining Mud Bay Users as of July 2008.

PARKS NEWS AND EVENTS

There has been a great deal of interest these days, among islanders, in parks related issues. The anxiety about losing trees (and Nanaimo's imperfect tree bylaw) has emphasized the importance of the natural habitat provided by our parks. In the last month several things have provided islanders the opportunity to become involved with "habitat" issues:

-On May 15th Rob Lawrance, the city Environmental Planner, spoke to an open meeting at Beacon House about the city's "Urban Forest" initiative. He will be returning on June 25 from 7 to 9pm at Beacon House to discuss Protection Island's role as a model for this program. He encouraged us to review the existing tree bylaw (which the city plans to re-write soon) and make suggestions for improvement and or specific suggestions for Protection Island. A committee has formed and will be working on this issue.

-an idea which came up, partly in response to loss of native habitat, has been to form a native gardening group, to acquire and propagate native plants for islanders who wish to use natives in landscaping, essentially replanting what might have been lost in clearing and building (something we agreed must be encouraged as native animals, especially birds need native plants!) A few islanders have indicated interest in this and will be beginning this process soon.

-another group has and will continue to meet to work on a **Protection Island Map**. Think of this as a treasure map: an image (similar to the community maps reproduced in the book "Islands in the Salish Sea") which can illustrate features of the island we find unique, representative, cherished, strange, or interesting and

include both natural and human history. Once we make the "map" it can be reproduced as a community sign and/or brochures.



THE ROAD LESS POT-HOLED

A meeting was held June 5th to discuss roads and traffic issues. This was one of four topics defined by the group that met with Chris Sholberg in April. The meeting covered a number of related areas:

Pothole / Boulevard repairs – Liam and Shannon presented a map made of the potholed parts of our roads, and a map made by City engineering in 1995 when they did storm drainage study for the island. The City map showed ponding areas in the same places that we get the most potholes. Water builds up in these areas, saturating the roads, leaving water on the surface that is then displaced by the tire of a golf-cart, car, or truck, beginning the manufacture of a pothole. Liam presented the map to the City with the correlations to the engineering study and suggested that we might experience some relief if the potential flood areas had drainage pits placed into the roadsides in those area to carry off the excess water. By the time you read this, City crews will have been over to investigate the potential of this idea.

Liam also presented a notion he had received a favourable response from the City about, whereby the city would pay a contract fee to have pothole repair done by islanders. The crew for this would be made up of islander volunteers a few times each winter (primarily) in a Junk Away-like fashion. The money would go to supporting Beacon House. It's being referred to as Hole-away. Still in the works.

Community truck/carpool - The logistics of a car-pool, if it were not run as the pub once did, were discussed. There was little interest amongst those present to strike a subcommittee to investigate it further though others not present at the meeting have expressed interest in putting together a group, so you may see a posting in the near future inviting input into a community vehicle steering committee.

As of this writing on June 12th the rains have not let up much but pothole repair and the annual dust-suppressant are still scheduled for sometime later in June.

DRINKING AND DRIVING

Just a reminder - If you can't walk without weaving, you won't be able to drive without weaving either. Our roads are our sidewalks. Please don't drink and drive.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS



Message from the chief

1. It's time to think about chimney cleaning soon. Also smoke alarm testing & battery replacement if you haven't already done so. Smoke alarms should be tested each month to ensure they are operational.
2. Summer weather & fire season are approaching, please advise guests not to throw cigarette butts on the boulevards or in the parks. No smoking in the parks when "extreme fire conditions" signs go up. There is a metal bucket with sand in it at the Cutlass Lookout entrance to

Smugglers, please use it for butts. (It's not a garbage can.) Did you know, cigarette filters do not degrade over time but remain in the environment & hundreds of birds & marine life die every year ingesting them, mistaking them for food-So please do your part & help keep our wildlife healthy as well as being fire conscious.

3. Change the water in your earthquake survival kit & check the expiry date on any medications. Remember you should have at least a 10 day supply of any prescription medications in your kit.

4. TRAFFIC SAFETY- The Motor Vehicles Act & ICBC requires that:

A. **"Golf carts MUST have license plates & current insurance visibly displayed as well as headlights, mirror & horn"**. If your cart doesn't have lights a retrofit is necessary, quite simple & inexpensive. (The fine for no insurance if caught is \$500.00).

B. **"The operator must have a valid driver's license: NO MINORS are permitted to drive on the roads."** Please do not allow your children to drive. Your insurance is invalid if you do & they could have an accident & injure someone or damage property.

Parking at the circle has been revamped to accommodate more vehicles & bicycles while allowing for a clear 'fire lane'. Please note this is 24 hour Parking NOT a weekly or monthly storage facility, as some people seem to think. So please, if you are going away for more than a couple of days, drop your bags off & take the vehicle home again, don't take up the already extremely limited parking for those of us still here on a daily basis.

Also, please note the inner circle facing the park is parallel parking, if you angle in that area you stick out too far & there is not enough

clearance between the vehicles angled on the outside.

...Have a safe and enjoyable year.

V. 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

JUNK AWAY AND RECYCLING



October 20th saw an incredibly well organized and enthusiastic group of volunteers pick and move a great mountain of junk off the island. Thanks to the Junk Away Committee who made this all happen so beautifully!

The city of Nanaimo generously sponsored a derelict vehicle removal day on April 1 to remove unwanted cars, trucks, golf carts and boat trailers off the island. Approximately 30 vehicles were removed and the island is much lighter for it. Thank you to Fred Munroe, Bylaw Enforcement Officer of the City of Nanaimo and Nella Frewin of Junk Away for making it happen.

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

Fraser and Alice Farquhar offer an **occasional garbage removal service** along with their delivery and other handy-person duties. Contact them at 754 5548 cell 739 2491 or scallywagman@telus.net for more information.

Bob and Jo offer a regular **recycling** pick-up service taking glass, plastic, paper, metal, etc. off the island. They can be reached at: 714-0523 or jobob23@telus.net.

COMMUNITY GARDEN YEAR END SUMMARY



The past year has been a very productive one for your community garden. During the fall and winter volunteers put the garden structures in place. In practical terms that meant building seventeen raised beds and filling them with soil, moving a donated shed to the site and enclosing it all with a deer proof fence. This spring the volunteers planted all the beds and a gardening program for "Little Diggers" was developed and runs Saturday mornings at the garden.

On May 25 a grand opening of the Garden in the Park was held and attended by many islanders. Thanks must go to the city for its capital funding and to all the volunteers who have worked in all sorts of ways in all sorts of weather to bring the garden to its current state.

On June 25 the DIGS executive will ask the city for permission to expand your garden. Plans for that expansion include a greenhouse, eight allotment beds, a heritage apple orchard and more small fruit beds. Volunteers meet every Saturday between 10:00am and noon and anyone is welcome.

Memberships are available from Josephine Kenchenten (714-0523) – \$10.00 for an individual membership and \$15.00 for a family. This membership fee, besides supporting garden endeavours, will provide you with a card which gets you a ten percent discount at Buckerfield's, Art Knapp's, Long Lake and Green Thumb garden centers.

PROTECTION ISLAND GARDEN TOUR

There will be a Tour of Protection Island Gardens on Sunday June 22nd. Meet at the turnaround starting at 10am for a map and garden descriptions. Donations to Museum, Archives and DIGS. For more info contact Barb Neild 755-1855.

ENTRANCES AND EXITS



In the past year, we welcomed some new little faces to our community. They include Lily-Anna a daughter for Amie and a granddaughter for Sharon and Al, plus Amber a little sister for James and a daughter for Penny and Bruce.

We mourn the loss of several island stalwarts, including, Cam Aird, Andee MacIntyre, Norah Melsness and Priscilla O'Brien.

LANTERN FESTIVAL



Snow and a rising full moon welcomed this year's lantern festival on April 19 in Pirates Park. There were spontaneous snow built lanterns and a 10 ft. red dragon flying under a branch. Thanks to Jo, Bob, Coreen, Wendy and others in making this a fun annual event.

PROTECTION ISLAND MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

The PI Museum is operated at the Lightkeeper's Cottage at Gallows Point 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 Colin and Brenda Henderson. The Society's mandate is '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 building at 33 Cutlass Lookout, housing historical documents, maps, research material, photographs, personal collections of former residents and administrative files. Resources are also available to anyone researching any aspect of our island's history from coal mining to current events. For information, call Barb Neild at 755-1855.

Over the winter the Museum has been renovating the Lightkeeper's Cottage with a new coat of paint, minor repairs and upgrading of permanent displays, with handmade frames for text and images to compliment new cabinets and display cases thanks to Tauno!

The Museum will be open Saturday and Sunday from July until Labour Day weekend, with special events including:

July 12 & 13 Canada's First and Smallest Dulcimer Festival--displays, workshops and a concert

July 27 - Bathtub Race exhibit

August - Exhibit of the art and sculptures of Danny Muhi

September - Children's Art Exhibit

Watch poster boards and Pro Isle for details.

PRO-ISLE 360



Forty-four boats and sixty-three boaters battled the seas last July during the inaugural PRO-ISLE 360. After loading up on a hearty Lion's Club breakfast, getting inspiration from the island's brave tubbers, and enjoying Protection Island history and the hard work of the Museum Society, circumnavigators took to their vessels. Only the wind, their strength and their will could help them find their way around the island through what ended up being shark infested waters thanks to Ken Pepperdine.

Don't miss the second annual PRO-ISLE 360, July 27, 2008. There will be more prizes for the kids, more celebration of your spirit, and more fun. You can pre-register by emailing proisle360@hotmail.com or calling 754-7245. For photos of last year's race and race rules and details visit <http://pro-isle360.spaces.live.com/> or watch the bulletin boards. PRO-ISLE 360 planners would like to thank all of last year's supporters and competitors for making the first event a blast!

HOUSE 2 HOUSE



The First Protection Island House 2 House Concert Festival. Will be one day event - Sunday, September 14, 2008. Sound intriguing? Watch for further details closer to that date.

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:

Denise Bonin
dbonin@telus.net

51 Pirates Lane
250-716-1166

PIRA is between permanent addresses, so to speak, as a result please contact a board member if you need further PIRA information.

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.

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.

**Have a safe and fun
summer!**