



Protection Island Neighbourhood Association

A Yearly Newsletter

May 2018

**The 2018 P.I.N.A.
Annual General Meeting**
will be held
Sunday June 10, 2018
at the Beacon House on
Gallows Point

*AGM Registration
begins at 1:00 pm*
**Our Meeting begins at
1:30 pm sharp**



Photo Jim MacQuarrie

Please Join P.I.N.A.

All Protection Islanders are welcome to attend the AGM, however, voting is restricted to members only or with proxy. Any Protection Island resident, regardless of whether they rent or own property, is encouraged to join our Neighbourhood Association.

Membership is \$10-/year/ person. Make cheques out to PINA.

If you cannot attend the AGM, please deliver or mail annual dues to the treasurer:
Veronica Zehntner,
160 Pirates Lane, Nanaimo,
BC. Canada, V9R 6R1.

PINA members are invited to stand for election to the Board.

The AGM is an opportunity for all residents and property owners to discuss issues of importance to Islanders. The Board would like to extend a special welcome to our new Islanders.



Photo François Savard

*2018 PINA AGM President's Message**April 2018*

In the late 1800's, landscape architect Fredrick Law Olmsted designed a suburban village outside Chicago, Illinois. The winding curvilinear streets that followed the contours of the land were a unique contrast to the grid-iron street designs that most cities in North America had adopted. The garden suburb had been invented. By the 1950's, car oriented garden suburbs with curvilinear streets were being stamped out in virtually every community across the continent. These popular suburbs were marketed as the ideal neighbourhood, with affordable housing, safe streets, plenty of open space, and parks for children. Unfortunately the suburban dream that was promoted often did not occur, as many suburbs became isolated enclaves of homogenous houses, residents who did not know their neighbours and bedroom communities that were emptied during the day as residents commuted to the city centre for work, shopping and school.

Protection Island was planned in the late 1950's and has all the physical characteristics of a garden suburb. However, from a social perspective, the Island has achieved the goals intended by garden city planners. Residents not only know their immediate neighbours, they also know their fellow neighbourhood residents. Assistance for virtually anything is only a conversation or email away. Daily walks that may take 20 minutes anywhere else, can take two hours, and involve a cup of tea. Children are valued members of the community, to the extent that vehicles are prohibited from using a steep roadway during snowfalls to allow safe tobogganing. My most gratifying moment this year was on the ferry; a new resident to the Island was introduced by being passed from lap to lap and encouraged to coo at all the smiling faces. We truly live with wonderful neighbours.

Numerous individuals and groups support our community with no hesitation or thought of recognition. Obligations, duties and responsibilities are assumed to be attached to the privilege of being a member of the Protection Island community. On behalf of the PINA board of directors, I would like to thank everyone on the Island for helping make this Island such a great neighbourhood.

Gary Weikum

President, Protection Island Neighbourhood Association

P.I.N.A. Board of Directors

Gary Weikum, President
 Kevin Pistor, Vice President
 David Carter, Access
 Jane Garcia, Secretary
 Maureen Johnson, Director
 Jim MacQuarrie, Director
 Jim Menzies, Director
 Doug Naylor, Director
 Veronica Zehntner, Treasurer,
 Roads and Parks

“Our Vision is to continue to be a unique, quiet, friendly, beautiful and safe community, in which residents cooperate to maintain the natural setting, with its beaches, parks, trees, birds and wildflowers. In order to achieve this vision, we will work together to find the most acceptable and respectful ways of dealing with problems and points of difference, (access, moorage, garbage disposal, cars, streetlights, dogs, etc.)

while maintaining our informal non-bureaucratic, easy-going Protection Island style of life.”

The actions of the Board have been guided by the following Vision Statement, developed by the Community.



Photo François Savard

PARKS REPORTS

By VERONICA ZEHNTNER

The hand rail beside the steep steps to Jim Hawkins beach in Ben Gunn Park was finally constructed in late September last year.

The last Sunday in October a work party of a small but mighty crew removed a large pile of fuel load from the Cutlass Lookout entrance of Smugglers Park as far as the bridge. They also did a great deal of invasive daphne and ivy removal. A big thank you to those who volunteered an hour or two of their time,



Smugglers Park clean-up crew
Photo Jim MacQuarrie

refreshments were served afterwards at the community garden.

We are slowly getting a handle on invasive plants in our parks but you can help too. If you have ivy growing up your trees it generally requires a 2 prong approach - removal of ivy from tree trunks (to remove seed source) and the immediate area around the tree and pull any seedlings before they get established. Vines growing up the tree should be cut leaving a gap of about 3 ft. above ground level to kill the upper portions which can be left to decay on the tree or removed when brittle. Broom should be cut at ground level when it is in bloom, after about 3 years it gives up. Daphne is a real scourge, the island is infested with it. We have removed a lot from parks but it is on empty lots often backing onto parks and in some cases it's in people's gardens. Cut at ground level before it blooms forming berries, being careful not to get the sap on your skin or near eyes, it is quite toxic. Any invasive that grows in your garden will eventually work its way into our parks and green spaces either by birds, wind, creep or "toss." If your property backs onto a park please do not toss any of the above over your fence when gardening, we have found a lot of that practice in past clean ups. Bag it, ivy can be balled up and left to dry out in the sun or burned, if it's daphne or broom you can arrange with Veronica & bring it in "separate" bags to the community garden for pick up by the city for disposal. These invasive plants kill

and displace our trees and native flora affecting wild life too.

V I Tree was over prior to the November burn season as usual for the annual DIGS/PINA fall chipping programme to chip residents' yard prunings – up to 1 cord per household (4'x4'x8') left on the boulevards as well as the wood from the park clean up. The chips were dumped in the soccer field adjacent to the community garden for residents to help themselves and disappeared so fast that DIGS barely had time to get any for the garden.

The precarious broken tree horizontal atop two others at Smugglers pond was removed. A dead fir beside the trail from Cutlass Lookout was felled as well as a couple of alder beside the beach access from Pirates Ln., plus a dead fir in a park near a residence. V I Tree remained on the island for over a week for private contracting for those with extra needs and also did the hydro contract, trimming branches near or overhanging power lines before the winter storms. Those chips were also dumped in the field and gobbled up as soon as they arrived. V I Tree did complain that some of the private piles had stones in them which is very hard on the equipment. Something to keep in mind for next year.



If you see a tree that you perceive as posing a danger near a public area or trail, or adjacent to your property (in parks or on boulevard) please contact Veronica Zehntner of PINA or Rick Biller of the Lions Club and WE will make the necessary arrangements with the appropriate department at the City. We are the only 2 contacts Parks Dept. wants to deal with on Protection Island and we are in regular contact with each other. This eliminates confusion or duplication on the part of the City or us and saves precious dollars from our fixed parks budget. There may well be other trees that you are not aware of that we are in the process of arranging to have dealt with and it's very expensive to hire and

barge over an arborist truck and crew each time.

The stairs from Pirates Lane to Pirates Park were closed for several days last summer awaiting a safety inspection and assessment by the City. We impressed upon the City that the stairs are the main access for people from the south end of the island to and from the ferry for work etc. and they responded quickly. Some interim measures were taken but the stairs will need upgrading. PINA met with the Parks Dept. early spring and they have agreed to host an open house here on Protection Is. for community input as to what the upgrades should look like (treads, more user friendly hand rails etc.) probably in the early fall – stay tuned. In the meantime the Lions Club will continue to monitor and maintain the stairs. They also have the parks maintenance contract with the city which involves mowing the major parks and keeping the beach accesses open as well as looking after the Gallows Point end of the island. Our thanks to the Lions for all the work they do for our community.

As requested, we had Parks rotate the bike rack (used by bikes with trailers) at the circle 90 degrees so it can now be accessed from both sides. Also, the bench almost overhanging Smugglers Pond is finally due to be moved back 6 ft. to the original bench site so people can use it again without risking an unscheduled swim.

The park bench at the entrance to Smugglers Park at Capt.Morgans that was installed for people to sit and relax on seems to have become a popular spot for displaying "wares" the last couple of summers. If you have any "free-bees" you wish to put out, please make sure they are on the boulevard of your OWN property. Also the area near the bench and just up from it must be kept clear of obstructions so folks can park their golf carts while they walk in to enjoy the park. Let's keep our parks as clean and natural as possible, and please take a moment to read and observe the park rules posted on the signs as you enter.



Photo Bruce Schuck

PROTECTION ISLAND



LIONS CLUB
pi-lions.org

By RICK BILLER

2017 was a very busy year for PI Lions. A quick summary of the things we did goes as follows:

Completion of Phase 1 of the Beacon House renovation.

Huge Polar Bear Swim and chili feast.

Fantastic Easter Egg Hunt preceded by a wonderful turnout for cleaning Pirates Park.

- Beacon House Concerts including Pete Seager and Cougar Annie and our inaugural Canada Day celebration
- Recycling of over 100,000 bottles and cans
- Management of the PI Lions Parks contract with the City including Gallows, Pirates and Smugglers Parks and a number of beach access trails (thanks to Krista and kids for those wonderful beach signs)
- Verge mowing, blackberry pruning and hydrant clearing
- Massive pancake breakfast prior to the bathtub race
- Children's Christmas party
- Rental of Beacon House for many events such as karate, weddings, yoga, seminars
- Acquisition of medical supplies for loan to islanders
- Fundraising events such as coffee houses and progressive dinners
- Get to Know Your Island event
- Support of the DIGS Fall Fair

Through funds raised from recycling and our parks contract we were able to give back to our community. This year we will have returned approximately \$7,000 into our community. These funds went to islanders in need due to various situations in their lives. Funds also went to island groups such as Fire Station #7, PI Museum, Beacon Library, Everyone Deserves a Smile, Sierra Leone, PI Children's Playgroup and PI's entry into the Silly Boat Race (in support of the CDC) to

continue the awesome work they all do. We could not achieve a fraction of the things mentioned without the ongoing support of our community, so thank you to everyone.

2018 looks to be as busy as 2017 was. We will repeat many of the popular items noted above and will introduce a few new ones as well. Our Fundraising group is still hard at work even though things have slowed somewhat on Phase 2 of the Beacon House expansion. They will be putting on a number of events throughout the year most notably will be the return of the Roadside Sale and Boaters Boutique on June 9.



Pirates Park Clean-up

Photo Bruce Schuck

We have accumulated a significant supply of medical equipment over the past couple years so if you are in need of something please let Sandra Nesbit know. If you are interested in using the toy box at the tennis court and have trouble with the lock or do not know the access code please contact Emily Barnewall and she will assist you. Any questions regarding the parks noted above please contact Rick Biller. Please note that we, PINA and the City have been in discussions regarding the replacement of a portion of the Pirate Park stairs. This will occur in 2019 so for 2018 we will be working to repair areas of concern to ensure the

stairs are safe until replacement. Please give Rick a call if you notice something unsafe on the stairs.

Lastly a reminder that PI Lions have a bursary program for island kids graduating from high school and heading to post-secondary. Please let any Lion member know if you or your child is heading to post-secondary and we will arrange for this one time bursary. If for some reason you have missed knowing about this and are already in post-secondary let us know as well. As always check our website for upcoming events and contact people.

Here's to a great 2018.

OFF-LEASH DOG PARK

By VERONICA ZEHNTER

The park located at the sunny south end of the island continues to be popular with dogs and their owners. Before heading home, please remember to return any sticks to the beach that your dog drags up to the grassy area, lawnmowers and wood don't mix well. Also please scan the area where they played, in case you missed a "deposit" – some of the sacks from the kids' sack race at last year's fall fair were decidedly stinky after the race.

Signs are posted outlining the rules and etiquette, take a minute to review them before using the park. For newcomers to the island, because Protection Island does not have public garbage removal, no poop bag dispensers or garbage can has been installed, so remember to bring your own bags and to remove your dog's waste for disposal at home (either empty down the toilet or bury it). This rule applies wherever you and your dog are on the island. Please do not toss poop bags in the parks and bushes off the trails, on the boulevards or "behind mail boxes" as was the case last year.

Our thanks once again to the Protection Island Lions Club who are the stewards of this property and keep the grass mowed. Please respect the rules and enjoy this wonderful waterfront space with your dog for exercise, play, swimming and meeting both 2 and 4 legged new friends.

EMERGENCY PREPARATION

BY KAREN LINDSAY EMERGENCY PROGRAM MANAGER, CITY OF NANAIMO

The City of Nanaimo, is within an active earthquake zone and has 21 other identified hazards that residents need to prepare for. In the event of an emergency residents and businesses need to be prepared to take care of themselves for a minimum of 72 hours but more realistically 7 days. Preparing is simple and you have most items in your home already. Centralizing them into one location and developing a family emergency plan is critical. Prepare yourself personally and become part of the solution to community recovery in a major emergency event. For more information on how you can prepare visit:

<https://www.nanaimo.ca/city-services/emergency-services/emergency-management/personal-preparedness>

The City of Nanaimo is in **Zone E** for Tsunami Risk which is considered "low risk" by the Province of BC for Tsunami threat. For more information on Tsunami's risk in our area visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/preparedbc/know-the-risks/tsunamis>

Emergency Call Alert - In the event of an emergency that you need to know about, we have the ability to automatically telephone or email you if systems are working, with the nature of the situation and instructions to follow. You can register as a resident, or as a business owner. This information will not be shared, and will not be used for any other purpose. If you require assistance, please call 250-758-5222 between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm Monday to Friday. Visit:

<https://www.nanaimo.ca/city-services/emergency-services/emergency-management/emergency-call-alert-system>

NANAIMO FIRE RESCUE STATION No. 7

By JASON METZ

On-call Captain – Station 7

Protection Island Nanaimo Fire Rescue

Recruitment

Are you interested in contributing to your community? Mastering practical knowledge and skills in a fun environment? The City of Nanaimo Fire Rescue is looking for healthy, level-headed candidates to join our team. On-call fire fighters at Station 7 learn to fight fires and give emergency first aid in a supportive and fun environment and provide a special service to our community. We train on Tuesday nights 6:30-9:30, and are paid for our time during training and incidents, which averages to approximately four hours a week.

For more information contact either Jason Metz 250-740-1524 or Jodi Le Masurier 250-713-0104 or stop by Station 7 on a Tuesday evening at 6:30.

A big shout out to two experienced crew members who resigned this last year, Fredrik Collin and Rob Timbrell. Rob was with Nanaimo Fire Rescue for 6 years, Fredrik for 5 years, they are missed and their years of excellent service to the community will not be forgotten.

We would like to welcome Jack Corfield and Anthony Maki who joined Nanaimo Fire Rescue at Station 7 last fall.

Currently Station 7 has eleven firefighters: Don Corfield, Jack Corfield, Steve Johnson, Josephine Kenchenten, Summer Laurie, Andrea L'Heureux Maki, Guy Le Masurier, Jodi Le Masurier, Anthony Maki, Jason Metz, and Gillian Saunders.

Preparation

Are you prepared for an emergency? **Street addresses should be clearly visible from the road** so the fire department can find you quickly in an emergency. We respond to all 911 calls for fire and medical emergencies.

Help your firefighters improve their emergency operations at your home by providing us with a basic drawing/sketch of your floor plan. This is an invaluable tool to help us find you quickly in the event of a fire. Don't delay. Drop it off with any firefighter or at Station 7 on Tuesday nights.

We are also always looking for locations to run brief practice scenarios during Tuesday night training, so if you would like us to visit your yard to familiarize our crew with your property, please contact Jason Metz 250-740-1524 or Jodi Le Masurier 250-713-0104.

Have a fire escape plan for your home with a safe meeting place outside and make sure that all household members are familiar with the plan. Have a fun surprise fire drill every 3 months, it only takes a few minutes and keeps the plan fresh in everyone's memory, especially little kids.

Check the service date on your fire extinguishers at home, they should be serviced yearly. If you have a motor driven boat, it is a good practice to carry an extinguisher on board.

Smoke alarms need to be replaced every ten years, even the hard-wired ones, or if they aren't working replace them immediately. Replace the batteries in all your smoke alarms, they should be replaced



every 6 months (an easy way to remember is to do it when you change your clocks, spring and fall). Smoke alarms should be tested every month; only working alarms save lives. 3 out of 5 residential fire deaths were in fires without working smoke alarms. 1 in 5 residential fire deaths were in fires where smoke alarms were present, but not working. Smoke alarm failures usually result from missing, disconnected, or dead batteries.

Now is the perfect time to clean your chimney, so it's ready for that first chilly fall evening. Burning cardboard or paper in a stove with a sooty chimney is a major cause of chimney fires.

Prevention

Because of all the trees, brush and native plants that we share our island with, Protection Island is a wildland interface fire zone, which means that the risk of a fire spreading through the forest is higher than it is in most of Nanaimo. All our parks have substantial fire loads that in summer months can become extremely flammable. Large chip piles can self ignite. Please be vigilant for signs of smoke and **call 911 if you see smoke that is not coming from a chimney, cooking pit or open burning fire.**

Smokers, please make sure to fully extinguish your cigarettes and dispose of your extinguished butts in the garbage. Cigarette butts are a fire hazard, and the filters in factory made cigarette butts are lethal to wildlife.

Do not park your vehicles so they block fire department access around the traffic circle and down the fire lanes into Pirates' and Smugglers Parks. The fire department must have access to the fire lanes in the parks at all times. Please take it upon yourself to educate your guests and contractors about this.

Emergencies

CALL 9-1-1 FOR ASSISTANCE IN ALL EMERGENCIES

Fire:

Evacuate your house as quickly as possible and assemble at your designated meeting place. Call 911 to report the fire and make sure everyone at the house is out, if it is safe to do so. Do not enter a burning building to retrieve personal belongings or valuables; during a fire people get excited and forget that this will put their life at risk. At the scene of a working fire, **DO NOT CROSS FIRE LINE TAPE OR OTHER ACCESS BARRIERS AND ENTER A**

WORKING EMERGENCY SCENE. Entering an emergency scene not only puts you at risk of serious injury or death, it also increases the risk for first responders who might have to rescue you.

Medical emergency:

Station 7 on-call fire fighters are licensed First Responders and will remain with you until BCAS paramedics arrive, you will be transported to the Harbour Patrol vessel at Gallows Point and then by ambulance to the hospital. We do not, however, provide non-

emergency transportation to or from the PI ferry.

Power lines down:

Stay at least 30 feet away from downed power lines and anything that is in contact with a downed power line. The ground around trees that are touching a power line is dangerous, since trees conduct electricity. Contact with an energized power line, tree, or building can result in serious injury or death. Always treat a downed wire as if it is live – it can be re-energized remotely by Hydro at any time. If trapped in a location that is energized, stay in place and wait for help. If trapped and there is a clear threat to your safety, jump clear or shuffle away so your ankles are never more than six inches apart until clear. **DO NOT CROSS FIRE LINE TAPE, ELECTRICAL HAZARD TAPE OR OTHER ACCESS BARRIERS AND ENTER A WORKING EMERGENCY SCENE.** Entering an emergency scene not only puts you at risk of serious injury or death, it also increases the risk for first responders who might have to rescue you. We do not put up access barriers if they are not necessary. Please respect them and find another way to reach your destination.

Burning Regulations and Restrictions

The Burning Regulations for the City of Nanaimo are available at <https://www.nanaimo.ca/city-services/emergency-services/fire-rescue/burning-regulations>.

Please note that though the posted Burning Regulations state that you will need to phone in for a verbal permit, this is not required on Protection Island, only on acreage within the city. The rest of the regulations apply to open burning on Protection Island as stated.

Open Burning of organic yard waste and prunings is only allowed from sunrise to sunset on Fridays and Saturdays in April and November. An open burning fire may be up to a maximum diameter of 1.5 meters, must be 3 meters from any combustibles, must be hand fed, and must be attended by a competent person until it is **completely** extinguished. You are only allowed one open burning fire at a time.

Burning wooden construction material, stumps, land clearing materials/debris or household garbage is NOT permitted.

Start a small fire, burn as hot as possible and limit the amount of green material you add at any time to reduce the amount of heavy smoke. Wood smoke contains toxic gases and is a probable cause of lung cancer, so stay upwind and be mindful of

the direction and quantity of smoke you are generating. If the wind is causing smoke from your fire to blow continuously onto neighbouring buildings, please be considerate and try burning another day when the wind is better. Keep a hose near the fire and make sure your fire is attended by a competent person until it is completely extinguished and cold.

Also check out burning alternatives, such as composting and chipping.

Cooking Fires fuelled by clean seasoned wood or briquettes are permitted on private property unless there is a posted Fire Ban because of extreme fire conditions. Cooking fires must be contained and no more than 2 feet in diameter for a maximum of 2 hours.

If the Fire Chief declares a Fire Ban, it will be posted on community bulletin boards.

If you see a fire that is not an emergency, but you believe is in violation of the burning regulations, please call 250-753-7311 to register a burning complaint.

Protection Island Parks have no designated cooking fire or smoking areas. Fires, BBQs, and smoking of any kind is not permitted at any time in the parks or on the beaches above or below the high tide line. All open fires, cooking fires, and BBQs must be located on private property and be compliant with the burning regulations.

HELP PROTECT OUR PRECIOUS WILDLIFE

Please, please, do NOT use rat poison! Our beautiful Banded Owls hunt rodents for food and are dying a horrible death eating poisoned ones. Any carrion eaters are also at risk including pets. USE a TRAP. The "Tom Cat" trap available at Home Hardware or Buckerfield's is fail safe, easy to bait (a dab of peanut butter) & set & easy to reopen and discard the "customer." Every crawl space should have one or two. Check often, business will be brisk at first.

ROADS REPORT

By VERONICA ZEHNTER

The annual roads maintenance last year did not go well (not all of the City's fault) but they were made well aware of our dissatisfaction with the whole process and in particular the associated dust. This year looks positive, they have finally managed to locate and have booked a smaller grader again with a blade that fits our roads. They have also solemnly promised to send over the water truck (requested but not sent last year) to drive around spraying the roads while work is in progress, as was the case 2 years ago, which really kept the dust down and softened the roads so that they packed down properly and accepted the new material and dust suppression.

Barging of the wrap and grading should commence by the end of May, followed by dust suppression which has already been ordered. A site meeting is planned with the roads department for mid-April to assess specific work required.

CIRCLE PARKING: This is NOT a storage facility. With summer and the increase in population comes the added congestion at the circle, so please be considerate of your neighbours and respect the 24 hr. parking limit. If you are going to be away more than 2 days, please drop off your bags and take your vehicle home again or have a neighbour return it until you come back, leaving the already limited spaces available for people who need it for daily commuting.

The inside is for golf carts or very small cars (as signage indicates) and larger ones park on the perimeter. The parking abutting 9 Pirates Ln. is for large vehicles too long to fit most anywhere else, if golf carts take up those spaces, it leaves very little option for those large trucks or vans to park. For those parking there please make sure you don't stick out on the end, creating a blind spot and obstructing traffic on Pirates Lane – "creep" has been observed a few times again this year.

Please ensure you are not encroaching on the Disabled Parking spot, as those folks are not as agile in squeezing in and out of their vehicles and may be maneuvering walkers etc. Users of that spot MUST display the special parking tag.

When approaching the circle please "slow down," there are blind spots, people are pulling out or walking to or from their vehicles or the mail box, not to mention sparing those who live in the immediate area the dust created in summer by fast moving vehicles - we have received many complaints from these poor souls.

NOTE: PINA leases the vehicle access to the Mud Bay dock which goes to the dock head only (gravel surface). The purpose is for PICK-UP and DROP-OFF ONLY. As part of our lease agreement with the City, there is to be No Parking in the park. Dock users are asked to park their vehicles in the circle.

We have received complaints of unlicensed golf carts and vehicles being driven on the island. REMINDER: As far as I.C.B.C. and Motor Vehicles are concerned Protection Island's gravel roads are "Provincial Highways." The privilege of driving golf carts on the island was granted under the following provisions: – Golf carts on Protection Island are required by law to be equipped with lights, horn & mirrors and CURRENT insurance decal clearly displayed. The operator must hold a valid driver's license.

MINORS WITHOUT A VALID LICENSE (i.e. under 16 yrs. of age) ARE NOT PERMITTED to drive and doing so invalidates your insurance and is subject to a \$276 fine, 3 demerit points (held over for 5 yrs. on record should the child apply for a license in future) and if pulled over, the vehicle could be impounded at the officer's discretion. This also applies to motor vehicles. The RCMP bike patrol visit the island unannounced and ticket violators, no insurance is a \$600 fine (double car ins. & triple golf cart ins.) - it's a no brainer, get insurance. Parking an unlicensed vehicle on the road or boulevard is a \$35 fine. Also, be aware, if they stop you, you will be asked to provide your registration and driver's license for both carts and cars.

THE SPEED LIMIT throughout Protection Island is 20 kmh and you never know what you'll find around the next corner - we share our roads equally

with bikes, pedestrians, kids, dogs, wheel barrows and often the odd deer, some of whom have babies again this year. Two (who looked like twins) were spotted on Capt. Kidds the other day (very cute). Have a safe enjoyable summer.

BLOCK WATCH SOCIETY OF BC

By PETER FREWIN

Mission Purpose and Goal

"To be the best program for community engagement and crime prevention in Canada through innovation, accountable and effective program delivery, and the proactive pursuit of excellence."

Mission:

Working together, building safer neighbourhoods throughout British Columbia.

Purpose:

A commitment to communities to build safer neighbourhoods by providing support, guidance, training and resource materials to develop and operate Block Watch programs.

Goal:

To build a crime free British Columbia through community participation. Together we can build safer communities throughout British Columbia.

Protection Island is a Block Watch Community as defined by the Society. Our membership enjoys the benefits of lower insurance rates and a safer community by participating in this program, and about 80% of the island's residents are currently enrolled.

Community members accept the role of Block Watch by being vigilant (not vigilantes) and reporting events that may be harmful to themselves or their neighbours. There are two distinct levels associated with these events: occurring or occurred. If an event such as a break-in or vandalism is occurring, you are advised to call 911 and report immediately. If there is an after the fact event you are advised to call the non-emergency number (250)754-2345. In either case, you will be given a file number which should be shared with your Block Watch resource team who will determine the best way to share with the community at large. In this way, we can avoid rumours and exaggerations that tend to confuse.

Your current Block Watch Resource Team is:

Veronica Zehntner – verzehn160@shaw.ca
Lynn Roberts – lynnwatneyroberts@hotmail.com
Peter Frewin – pfrewin@live.ca

Any Block Watch member can be asked or can offer to be a resource, however there is no obligation. The main task of a resource officer is the maintenance of communications between the community and the RCMP, and the attendance at an annual meeting to hear of any changes or enhancements to the program.

For more information regarding Block Watch please visit the Block Watch Society of British Columbia website, blockwatch.com, or contact any resource person as listed above. Membership is free and requires registration with Lynn Roberts. Please note that home insurance rates are usually lower to members, depending on your carrier.

PROTECTION ISLAND MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES (PICHs)

By HEATHER COOLING

Hello to Locals, new, old and those just passing through!

We are The Protection Island Cultural Historical Society, also known as The Museum. The “we” are Directors: Tauno Tuominen, Heather Cooling, Mike Gillespie, Wendy Chandler (gift shop manager), Brenda Henderson, Barb Neild, and Rick Scott (curator).

Since 2001 we have taken care of the Museum behind Beacon House at the southernmost spot on the island, presenting a permanent historical display of artifacts, photographs and maps as well as a comprehensive archive which includes hundreds of documents related to PI history.

The cultural part of our title refers to our commitment to reflect and illuminate the fascinating and talented inhabitants of our island by presenting their art, wisdom and various collections. Our programs have included lectures on modern art and bottle collecting, exhibits of crafts and antiques, and a cookbook of islanders' favourite recipes.

Please come see us! The Museum is open from July 1st to the end of August, Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4 pm, and from 10 am to noon Wednesdays, September to June.

This summer will feature two new exhibits: History of Station 7: The Story of P. I.'s Volunteer Fire Department.

And History of The Dinghy Dock: 1989 to the Present.

Special events are presented year- round and tours are available off season.



Protection Island Museum and Archives

We have a gift shop featuring cards, sculptures, jewellery, posters, books and recordings all created by islanders --did we mention the cookbook?

Membership in PICHs is \$10 for individual/ \$15 for family. Memberships available year-round.

The Society's annual fundraiser – the PI Garden Tour – will be held May 27. This not-to-be-missed event helps to fund our exhibits and the on-going

renovations. We've just finished a kitchen/office renovation, and installed new museum lighting.

We want your input! Ideas for exhibits or events... this is what keeps us going and interesting... call Curator Rick Scott 250-740-0047.

We are a non-profit organization and rely on donations and gift shop sales. Admission is free, donation always welcome.

GARDEN TOUR 2018 HIGHLIGHTING GARDENS IN THE NORTH END OF PROTECTION ISLAND

Sunday May 27 starting at 10 am

By HEATHER COOLING

Such a cold and wet winter and spring that seemed to go on and on without much relief. Our shrubs and trees were slow to bud, and bulbs and perennials took forever to appear. Many a semi-tender or vulnerable plant was lost. Island gardeners may have grown weary and frustrated with the slow spring, however you can't keep a real gardener down for long - better weather raised our spirits. Our gardens are now flourishing with colour and texture, and we welcome another annual tour of island gardens.



Photo François Savard

Meet May 27, starting at 10 am at the traffic circle. Tour entry by donation. A golf cart fleet will meet the 10 am ferry to pick up 'off-islanders', and will be available along the route – just flag one down, or let us know beforehand.

Bring lots of change to buy raffle tickets for garden related treasures – still \$2 for one, or \$5 for three.

The tour ends at the Museum where our popular barbecue starts around 12:30 pm. Again a donation for smokies, drinks, and cookies. The raffle will be held around 1:00 pm.

We love planning this event every year, the annual fundraiser for the Museum and Archives, sponsored by the PI Cultural Historical Society (PICHs).

The Tour Committee is Wendy Chandler, Heather Cooling and Brenda Henderson.

This year we join island artists in celebrating the opening of a new cultural centre, a place for artists and craftspeople to meet, work and show their

work. Watch for details on the Grand Opening of Studio 33 during the garden tour.

PROTECTION ISLAND BEACON LIBRARY

208 Colvilleton Trail, Beacon House
By CATE MUIR

Your island community library has been open since September 2012.

It is located downstairs at Beacon House community hall, and provides a comfortable and inviting space for islanders, to borrow books and dvds, take books home from the free exchange shelves, children's play area with loads of toys, meet and chat with fellow islanders, have a self-serve hot or cold beverage and enjoy programs and celebrations.

Thanks to dedicated volunteers, the library is open every Sunday from 1 to 3 pm, unless otherwise posted. All islanders can register for a free library card with borrowing privileges. Borrow books and dvds due in two weeks with a possible renewal for two weeks. Currently there are 274 registered members and 699 total Sunday visits for the year.

The library collection consists of 3620 catalogued books (adult fiction/non-fiction, children/youth books), over 760 board books for children, and 946 dvds, all donated by islanders. There were 1440 items borrowed, including story-time day sign-outs.

Every Thursday, starting at 10:30 am, is the Island Story-time hour with stories, rhymes, songs, fun and play enjoyed by everyone. It is suitable for all children accompanied by an adult. There are 6 storytellers and a total of 594 visits for the year.

The past year included: author readings with Alison Watt "Dazzle Patterns" and Joan Morris "Medicine Unbundled", annual book sale at the PI Fall Fair, December Solstice readings, and in-house book displays.

Also PIBL sponsors PI families for the annual children's BookFest in downtown Nanaimo in May... an incredible day of children's authors and their books, with music, activities and loads of fun.

Thanks to islanders and the library volunteers with over 570 hours for the year, the library continues to grow and thrive.

Please give your suggestions or consider volunteering your time for staffing, fundraising or programming, to keep your community library a vital place for everyone to enjoy.

Come on down to the library and check it out!!! There is something for everyone!!!

"There is more treasure in books, than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure [Protection] Island." -- Walt Disney

Library Committee: Chris Firth (Sundays/catalogue), Thora Howell (author readings) and Cate Muir (story-time/book sale).

DOCK COMMITTEE REPORT

By KEVIN PISTOR

Maintenance update:

A successful work party was held on Oct. 28th 2017 with a total of 10 man days of labour by 13 eager volunteers. Lunch of hot chili and sandwiches provided by Rochelle and Ruth, cookies & cupcakes by Lily-Anna and Sharon.

Spring work parties were held on the 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th of April 2018 with plans (at the time of this writing) to complete the following: build one new section; inspect and maintain all chains, eyes, and anchors; rework fingers and make specific repairs; clean-up the beach and upland gravel paths. Our continued thanks goes out to Larry Iwaskow for his planning and organization of the work parties.

For newcomers who use the dock, notices of work parties are posted by Larry on the Mud Bay bulletin board and posted on Prolsle by Jason Metz. Please watch for these notices so that you, too, can contribute your labour to the maintenance of our community dock.



Mud Bay Dock

Photo François Savard

Thank you to Al Bishop, Kevin Pistor, Matt Eck, Sandee Tranfield, and any others, who salted the docks on frosty mornings.

Lease update:

Thank you to PINA Directors, Gary Weikum, David Carter, and Doug Naylor, for negotiating a new lease with the Nanaimo Port Authority that accommodates the actual dock footprint and achieves a smaller overall area measurement. The result of their many hours of work has resulted in a lower-cost lease that will be reflected in next year's rates. The final wording of the lease has not yet been received and we will share all the details once the lease is officially signed by PINA. Thank you to Catherine Eck for collecting dock fees and to Veronica Zehntner for maintaining the financial records.

Gentle Reminders:

If you are not a daily commuter, please be courteous and tie up closer to the dock head, leaving the deep-water moorage for the daily commuters. This is especially important during the low summer tides. After tying up securely, push

your boat forward and backward to test its range of motion so that it won't bump the next boat. Lastly, Dock fees for Oct 2017-Sept 2018 are overdue if you have not yet paid. Please see Catherine at 12 Captain Kidds if you don't have a 2018 decal.

The Mud Bay Dock Committee members are Al Bishop, Rob Timbrell, Jim Menzies, Kevin Pistor, and Larry Iwaskow. On behalf of the committee, a sincere "Thank You" goes out to everyone who has played a part in maintaining and improving our unique community dock.

MUD BAY DOCK REPORT

By DAVID CARTER

This year has been a busy one on the waterfront. We will soon have inked a new lease with the Nanaimo Port Authority for the Mud Bay docks. Some relief of the rates was achieved by changing our lease boundaries to more reflect our actual usage, as well as convincing the NPA that the upland values should be lower.

A new CEO of the NPA has breathed fresh life into our downtown boat basin. My position is the PINA appointee to the NPA committee for the marina redevelopment. We are working to achieve a long term outlook. The vision is one of, a destination harbour, along with commercial boats and most importantly, a solid stakeholder position for Protection Island.

We have promoted and have gained approval for a shared moorage co-op within the boat basin, so as to give islanders economical part time slips, and to further establish our place in the harbour.

The handicap wharf proposition for Gallows Point has again been put forward to the City of Nanaimo. They advised us they would study the submission. To date, we have not had a reply.

COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWS

By MARGARET HARRIS

Douglas Island Garden Society or D.I.G.S. manages the community garden on the island. The garden consists of communal beds and allotment beds which are leased for private use each year. Please contact Maureen Johnson for more information about the allotment beds. DIGS work parties meet on Saturdays (in the fall/winter) or Sundays (April to September) at 10:00 am and offer keen gardeners a chance to help in a variety of garden chores. We stop occasionally for a cup of coffee and the opportunity to socialize. Fresh produce is put out on the harvest table at the road side and islanders are welcome to help themselves (a small donation is appreciated). Memberships are available (contact Jim or Margaret at m.e.harris50@gmail.com) - \$10 single/\$15 family. Your DIGS membership card entitles

you to discounts at most garden centres in town and your fee helps fund the garden.



Little Diggers planting hanging baskets

We also offer a gardening program for younger islanders – tots to teens. Starting in April and running until September "Little Diggers" meet on Sundays – from 10:30 am to 12:00. The theme for this year's Little Diggers' program is "Growing A Soup". There is a \$5.00 registration fee per child.

Each year DIGS hosts a variety of events to which everyone is invited. Upcoming events include:

- 1) a Plant and Bake Sale on Sunday, May 13 from 10:00 to 12:00 at the garden.
- 2) a Dessert Auction held at the Beacon House on Saturday, June 23.
- 3) the annual P.I. Fall Fair held on September 8.

Stop by and visit the community garden anytime. We look forward to seeing you.



Lions Club – A Taste of PI

Photo François Savard

PI RECYCLING, HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE & THRIFTY'S RUN – EVERY SECOND WEDNESDAY

By VALLEY HENNELL,
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Recycling, household garbage and Thrifty's run is operated every second Wednesday by Will's barge (PI Supply). Please have your recycling/household garbage out no later than 12 noon. Recycling dates and info are posted on all PI notice boards and updates sent to Pro-Isle and Facebook. Next run is April 25. There are several changes from previous years:

RECYCLING: please try to put **Recycling in CLEAR bags** to help our crew sort and identify materials. If you have questions, contact PI Supply, they are happy to assist.

GARBAGE: Please **MARK YOUR GARBAGE** bags to distinguish from recycling. If you have more than 3 bags of garbage, call PI Supply to make advance arrangements.

PI Supply phone 250-751-4877. Call for more info or special requests.

wmchadwick@gmail.com
www.islandsupply.ca

RECYCLING must be sorted into categories:

- **ALL MIXED TOGETHER: paper, cardboard, rinsed tins, household plastics and milk containers**

- Bundle large cardboard separately
- Paints, batteries, lights, electronics/computers
- Metal: appliances, aluminum, pie plates, bikes, old/broken tools
- Soft plastic bags (stretchy, not mesh) bundled together within bag

- **PLEASE NOTE:** at this time **PI Supply cannot recycle non returnable GLASS** such as jars, please bundle these separately.

- **Returnable** beer, pop, juice & liquor bottles and cans are not recycling, but can be donated to the PI Lions Club at drop off points around the island. PI Supply will gladly take these but they should have their own place in your bags and not mixed in with everything.

PAYMENT: Attach money to bag: \$5 per bag; \$10 per small TV or computer element; \$20 per hot water heater; \$30 per appliance (+\$15 fee for freezer, fridge or anything with Freon). Any drop fees for garbage items may be billed later. Mark your garbage!

If you prefer to recycle your own materials, you can deposit paper, cardboard and RINSED tins and milk containers in the recycle bin at the Marina (next to where we dump our household garbage) OR deliver to the following places which accept resident recycling: Regional

Recycling on Old Victoria Road (aka Bottle Depot); DBL waste management 333 Tenth St and Alpine Group 2250 McGarrigle Rd.

THRIFTY'S RUN:

The barge picks up from THRIFTY'S Port Place on Recycle Wednesdays. Shop and pay in person at Thrifty's on Tuesday and tell cashier it's for PI. Your order will be kept in cooler until barge picks up and delivers on Wednesday, \$3 per bin, delivery time will vary. If you are a first time user of the Thrifty's pick up or a B&B guest be sure to put your PI address and phone on at least one of the bags.

PI Supply phone 250-751-4877. Call for more info or special requests.

wmchadwick@gmail.com



Photo Jim MacQuarrie

PROTECTION ISLAND FACTS, FIGURES AND SERVICES

- 360 properties, approx. 80 are undeveloped
- 340 full time residents
- 10 minute ferry ride from downtown via the Protection Connection
- Part of the City of Nanaimo
- City sewer & water & fire hydrants every 500 ft. (important for house insurance)
- Fire Hall staffed by N.F.R. paid on call firefighters who are also certified medical 1st Responders
- Hydro & Phone service including internet
- Shaw Cable service & internet & optional wifi service
- No Post Office but postal delivery to boxes at 3 locations on the Island
- No School but Fairview Elementary & NDSS are district feeder schools
- Floating pub & restaurant

(Dinghy Dock Pub)

- No store – Thrifty Foods is 10 minutes away
- Gravel roads with a speed limit of 20kmh the entire island
- Most vehicles are golf carts which enjoy a lower insurance rate than cars
- All vehicles, wheelbarrows, bikes & golf carts are privately owned
- There are several public parks on the island however no public washrooms or garbage pick-up
- Islanders do not pay for garbage service however there are garbage bins for flattened cardboard & garbage located at the Nanaimo Boat Basin at no charge
- Recycling service – every second Wednesday PI Supply picks up regular sized garbage bags (\$5/ea) of sorted recycling and/or garbage from the boulevard. Also provides Thrifty Foods delivery (you shop on Tuesday). See details under PI Supply. 250-751-4877
- Community garden (D.I.G.S.) also has a number of private allotment beds. Excess harvests left on harvest table in front of garden all growing season
- Protection Island Neighbourhood Assn. (P.I.N.A.) – **New PINA webpage:** www.protectionisland.org.
- Block Watch
- Lions Club
- Cultural and Historical Society (PICHs) & museum located at Gallows Pt.
- Community Hall “Beacon House” at Gallows Pt. (available to rent for private functions or community events)
- Library – in the basement of Beacon House open Sundays
- Off-leash Dog Park located in the field at Gallows Pt.
- Community Dock “Mud Bay” for residents only who pay dock fees & do maintenance.

An Island net – Pro-Isle E-mail group

The group email address is:

pro-isle2@yahoo.com

The group home page location:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pro-isle2>



Photo François Savard

HEADS UP – AIR B & B OWNERS

Please be sure to educate your guests about City bylaws and regulations (which also govern P. I.) i.e. dogs on leash except at the off leash park, to pick up their dog's waste and any food/beverage containers or packaging and take it back to the B & B for proper disposal. No fires or smoking or golf carts in parks. Also children are NOT permitted to drive golf carts under any circumstances.

Thanks so much for your help in keeping our island clean and safe.

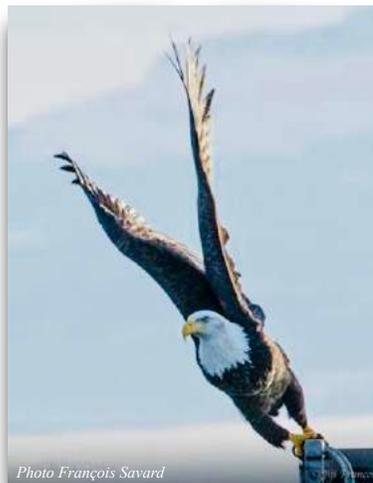


Photo François Savard



Photo François Savard

DRINKING & 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! Remember that the speed limit is 20km on ALL our Island Roads.

**P.I. CALENDAR OF EVENTS
2018**

Sunday **April 29**: The Protection Island Cultural Historical Society (TPICHS) Annual General Meeting: 2:00 pm at the Museum

Sunday **May 13**: DIGS Plant & Bake Sale at the Community Garden: 10:00-12:00

Sunday **May 27**: Garden Tour starting at 10:00 am

Saturday **June 9**: Roadside Sale and Boaters Boutique

Sunday **June 10**: PINA AGM at Beacon House at 1:00 pm

Saturday **June 23**: DIGS Dessert auction fundraiser at Beacon House 7:00 pm Summer Solstice Celebration

Sunday **July 1**: Canada Day Celebration

Sunday **July 22**: Lions Club Pancake Breakfast (& start of Nanaimo Bathtub Race) Pro Isle 360 RACE

Saturday **Sept 8**: DIGS Fall Fair at Beacon House

Sunday **Dec. (TBA)**: Lions Club at 11:00 – Children's Christmas Party

**Protection Island
Information & News**

Check out the new PINA website: <http://www.protectionisland.org> for helpful information about the Island and minutes from board meetings, etc...

Thank you to Jim MacQuarrie for setting up this comprehensive new website.

In addition, minutes and notes from all PINA Board Meetings are posted on the bulletin boards.

Thank you to Danny Faris for taking over our Pro-Isle forum.

Photographs graciously provided by Rick Biller, Jim MacQuarrie, François Savard and Bruce Schuck. Thanks to all.

This newsletter was compiled by Francine Dupuis & Veronica Zehntner.

We thank all the contributors for their reports. For any errors in copying & pasting, apologies.

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 also be **CLEARLY VISIBLE** on your property so you can be located.

Our Fire Department will respond to all **MEDICAL EMERGENCY** calls. Each on-call firefighter is trained in First Response First Aid and will stay on the scene with you until paramedics arrive.