



Protection Island Neighbourhood Association

A Yearly Newsletter

May 2016

**The 2016 P.I.N.A.
Annual General Meeting**
will be held
Sunday June 12 2016
at Protection Island Fire Hall
26 Pirates Lane

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

The change of venue is due to the Beacon House Renovation Project's uncertain commencement date. Our thanks to Nanaimo Fire Rescue for hosting us this year.

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.



*PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**April 2016*

Hello members of PINA. I continue to be impressed by this very special neighbourhood in the harbour of Nanaimo. What makes us special, in addition to the natural beauty and physical nature of being an island neighbourhood, is being a true community neighbourhood. The number of individuals, too numerous to list here, who share their knowledge, expertise, labour, artistic talents, leadership, compassion, humour, and even their money is unparalleled—and they do so without any expectation of special recognition or reward. It is this special nature that your Protection Island Neighbourhood Association Board of Directors is committed to maintaining, nurturing and promoting. To all the individuals who contribute their time and energy so willingly, I want to express a most-deserved thank you.

Your Board of Directors, a committee of volunteers, meets monthly to work proactively to maintain what all islanders cherish about our small but precious haven. As president, I would like to express my most sincere thank you to each of the directors for their dedication to our community. Some issues we are currently focused on include the following: guaranteed access to the city; safety and security of our parks along with new signs; secure bicycle storage; vehicle parking on the city side; health services available to our aging population as well as housing options for the future; and a new process for setting Mud Bay Dock fees to ensure a sustainable maintenance budget into the future.

To our membership, I want to thank you for your support (\$10/year membership fee) so that we may meet our financial obligations for insurance coverage, paper and mail-out costs and incidentals that enable us to continue working on your behalf. I encourage all residents, even if you are not currently a paid member, to come join us at the Annual General Meeting and bring along one of those John A. MacDonalds taking up space in your wallet. \$10 is a small price to support the important work we do as a registered association. For members of the old "PIRA" who walked away from membership for one reason or another, we invite you to join the new and improved "PINA" as we work toward a better tomorrow!

*Sincerely,**Kevin Pistor**13 Treasure Trail***P.I.N.A. Board of Directors**

Kevin Pistor, President
 David Carter, Access
 Chris Carrier, Director
 Catherine Eck, Director
 Francine Dupuis, Director
 Jane Garcia, Secretary
 Doug Naylor, Vice President
 Gary Weikum, Director
 Veronica Zehntner, Treasurer,
 Roads and Parks

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

“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.”

P.I. ROADS REPORTS

By VERONICA ZEHNTNER

Our roads took a beating this winter with the heavy rains coupled with the poor grading job last summer. A site meeting was held Mar.22nd to assess the roads and it was agreed we need a touch up before the annual June maintenance work. Barging of material and a roller is scheduled for April 7th. to address the worst heavy traffic areas.

The small grader that usually comes over was sold last year. The one they sent over not only had a different operator unfamiliar with our roads but the blade was too wide for our roads resulting in the crown being flattened so they did not shed the water as well. We spent considerable time discussing the problem and the City will try and find another company with a smaller grader. In any event they will concentrate their efforts on rebuilding the crown and narrowing the roads again. Work is planned for early June with dust suppression to follow soon after.

THE CIRCLE IS NOT A VEHICLE STORAGE FACILITY.

We have received complaints of people storing their vehicles at the circle. Summer is fast approaching and with the associated congestion it is doubly important that people are courteous and respect the 24hr. 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 parking available for people who need it for daily commuting.

The inside of the circle is for golf carts or very small cars (as signage indicates). Please ensure you are not encroaching on the Disabled Parking spot, remember, those folks are not as agile in squeezing in and out of their vehicles and may have to maneuver walkers, etc. If YOU are using the Disabled Parking spot, please don't forget to display your special parking sticker.

NOTE: PINA leases vehicle access to the Mud Bay dock. This goes to the dock only (gravelled 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.

REMINDER: Golf carts on Protection Island are required by law to be equipped with lights, horn 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 \$276.00 fine, 3 demerit points, (held over for 5 years on record should child apply for 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 regularly and ticket violators: no insurance is a \$600.00 fine (double car insurance and triple golf cart insurance). Parking an unlicensed vehicle on the road or boulevard is a \$35.00 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.

For those of you new to the Protection Island within the last 5 years the following is some P. I. history of "The Evolution of the Golf Cart on Protection Island"

Golf carts made their debut on Protection Island in the early 90's. Though not then legal, more and more residents began buying them while we tried

to get Motor Vehicles to insure them. (Carts are only licensed to cross a highway to access a golf course, not to travel down one.) The police kept ticketing – first \$250.00 then up to \$500.00 fines and we kept on pressuring for legalizing them. After 6 years of lobbying and a meeting at Beacon House with Motor Vehicles, ICBC and a vocal crowd of 68 residents, ICBC agreed because we are a gated community. However, the conditions for this hard-won privilege were that the carts must be equipped with lights, horn, mirror and that they ALL have current insurance coverage. The operator must have a valid driver's license and that minors NOT be allowed to drive. This point was of great concern to ICBC. We assured them that we would comply with all these conditions and the vast majority of cart owners do; it's just a few who continue to flaunt the rules and jeopardize this privilege for the rest of us. As for the police, they are just doing their job and will ticket any vehicle (cart, car or truck) that is being operated without insurance, as they should, for everyone's protection.

THE SPEED LIMIT throughout Protections Island is 20 kmh and our roads are shared equally with bikes, kids, dogs, wheel barrows, ambling pedestrians and of course the odd deer, it's always interesting. Have a safe enjoyable summer, see you



Daphne pull crew

at the AGM June 12th at the fire hall.

PARKS REPORTS

By VERONICA ZEHNTNER

Last summer a solid set of stairs was constructed down to the beach from the access to Blunderbuss Bay. The dam sack repair to the Ben Gunn Park beach access to Jim Hawkins beach hardened into cement steps and held up well over the winter even with the severe storms and high tides.

Last October PINA, DIGS and Lions Club collaborated for the fall chipping program and clean up of Hidden Treasure Park. We had a big turn out of over 15 people and over 2 hrs. hauled out a huge amount of dead limbs, we also cleared up the mess from the fallen dead tree along the trail in Ben Gunn Park. The City contracted VI Tree (the chipper) who also chipped residents' prunings left on the boulevards which were then dumped beside the community garden for anyone to help themselves. Each house was entitled to a pile 4x4x8 ft. (1 cord). VI Tree remained on the island a couple of extra days to do private contracting for those with extra needs.

Everything went very smoothly except some people still didn't follow guidelines and put out small branches less than 1" dia. which did not chip, leaving DIGS with a pile of branches which had to be burned. VI Tree also complained about people putting rakings in their piles with rocks in them which could do serious damage to the equipment. Piles with

"invasive" plants vines or canes were not picked up. The plan is to have the service again this fall before burn season.

While meeting with the City we also expressed concern over Smugglers Pond drying out the last 2 summers. Parks had also been over taking pictures of it. The outlet appears to have been tampered with a couple of winters ago, which may have seriously impacted normal water levels combined with the long drought. A weir may be needed to maintain water levels and the encroaching perimeter bushes should be cut back.. Rick Biller of the Lions is following up with the City. There was a report last fall of someone driving a golf cart over the foot bridge in Pirates Park. The bridge is for pedestrians only with bicycles or wheel barrows. Complaints of motorized vehicles in Smugglers Park were also received. New signage will be going up shortly, please read and respect the bylaws so we can all enjoy the parks.

A meeting with Parks in town in December and networking with other neighbourhood volunteer groups on eradicating invasive plants was very informative. On Sunday April 3rd. PINA & the Lions held a Daphne eradication work party in Pirates Park and 9 enthusiastic volunteers made short work of the infestation with City supplied tools. We will be holding more of these "invasive" work parties throughout the year, so stay tuned. It seems the dreaded Knotweed has made landfall on Protection Island. Native to Asia it can push its way through concrete and grow up to 4cm a day! Its extensive root system can damage your foundation and septic system. To learn more go to: www.knotonmyproperty.com The root systems are capable of travelling 20m (65ft.) horizontally (it's very neighbourly!) Knotweed is serious stuff, in the UK some homeowners have been denied property insurance or mortgages on properties with Knotweed. Here in B.C. this hasn't happened yet but the BC WEED CONTROL ACT does require any land owner or occupier to control Knotweed on their property. www.knotonmyproperty.com/property-values DO NOT: cut, weed whack, or mow Knotweed - these activities will turn 1 plant into thousands. DO NOT try to dig out large infestations, roots go as deep as 3m (10ft) any fragment left will regrow. DO NOT put any Knotweed parts in your composter. www.knotonmyproperty.com/what-knot-to-do For solutions go to: www.knotonmyproperty.com/treatment

Our parks are especially vulnerable to any yard cuttings. That's how invasives take over, crowding out, smothering and eventually killing native flora. Please, do not use the park behind your property as a dump site for garden refuse. Let's keep our beautiful native habitat "native" for us and the wild life that rely on it.



Hidden Treasure Park clean-up

PROTECTION ISLAND LIONS CLUB

pi-lions.org

By LIN NEUFELD

Here we are, another year under our belts. Like last year, the PI Lions Club has been busy organizing many activities for residents and friends to enjoy. Lions members and volunteers have logged over 2500 hours of volunteer service supporting our activities. Included in the Lions regular activities; the Children's Christmas Party, Bunker Bear Swim, Pancake Breakfast, Children Easter Egg Hunt, providing 'Bar' staff for many events just to name a few.

There have been many fabulous fundraising events; a number of Bake Sale & Coffee Houses, the awesome Apple Pie Sale, a Progressive Dinner, British Pub Night, Salmon BBQ, Cocktails, Canapés and Desserts event, an evening at the Dingy Dog Saloon... all fun and fabulous! Last year we reported in this newsletter the Beacon House Renovation Project (BHRP) Fundraising Committee had raised \$17,000. This year through the great participation of island residents and friends we have reached and surpassed the original fundraising goal for Phase 1 of the renovation and have raised just over \$33,000. (BIG applause please for the Fundraising Committee!!!)

The Beacon House Renovation Project is a shared project between the PI Lions Club and the City of Nanaimo. Last September all the initial design work done by Lions Club members was handed over to the city. The city has taken this information and will use it to finalize the blueprints, building permits, etc. for the renovation. The renovation was slated to start Spring 2016, however, given the many steps it takes to start a renovation, the start date has moved to the Summer of 2016. For additional information please see the BHRP Newsletters posted on the PI Lions web site... www.pi-lions.org

The Protection Island Lions Club runs a number of programs. The Bottle and Can Recycling Program is a very successful program thanks to all the residents who contribute...Keep drinking! The use of Beacon House for other public and private activities such as private parties, Karate, Girl Guides, Women's Fitness Class, the Sierra Leone Medical Supplies Fundraiser, DIGS Dessert Auction and the DIGS Fall Fair are managed by the Lions Club. If you wish information on renting or using Beacon House visit our web site: www.pi-lions.org and click on 'News & Events'.

Our Club co-ordinates with the city and provides the maintenance of all the islands parks and pathways as well as the Gallows dock. Our role is basic maintenance and observation. If we note capital works that are needed for improvements or safety we notify the City to schedule the works. The city has an annual budget for these parks and trails so projects that are above this budget are dealt with through capital projects. Currently we have applied for capital funding for four projects including the soccer field, Pirates playground, Smugglers pond and one of the beach access trails.

This year we are also working with PINA and the fire department on maintenance of some road side features. We are mowing a strip about 3-4 feet wide along the road to allow safe passage for carts and people if they need to get off the road. We are also clearing obstructed corners for visibility and brushing around fire hydrants. This is a pilot project for 2016. We ask that if people observe something that needs attention or have comments about park maintenance they contact Rick Biller rather than calling the city. We are trying to find island solutions for our Parks Program so your input is appreciated.

Another of the Lions programs is the Medical Supplies Lending Program. The Lions maintain an inventory of crutches, canes, walkers, wheelchairs and even a hospital bed for the use of island residents. If you are in need of a medical aid contact Sharie Biller, [250-740-1156](tel:250-740-1156) or Sandra Nisbet, [778-846-2997](tel:778-846-2997)

The PI Lions Club is a vibrant, action focussed group. We are always happy to increase our numbers. If you are interested in becoming a member or volunteer speak to any Lions Club member or contact Shawne Wasilieff, [250-753-5102](tel:250-753-5102). A list of members is available at www.pi-lions.org.

Thanks to all the Lions Club members, volunteers and PI residents who support all the events and activities and make this community an awesome place to live.

BLOCK WATCH

By STEVE PECK

Quoting from Blockwatch.com:

The Block Watch program fights the isolation and separation that crime creates and feeds upon, it forges bonds among area residents and businesses, helps reduce burglaries and other crime, and improves relations between the police and the community they serve. The Block Watch Program was started in BC in 1986 in response to the concerns of citizens about crime. The program was modelled on a similar project in Seattle which was effective in reducing residential Break and Enters by up to 60 percent. In 1993 the Block Watch Society was officially registered as a non-profit society. Since its inception the Block Watch Program of BC has been influential in reducing residential crime and promoting increased feelings of neighbourhood security. The Main objective of the Block Watch Society of BC is to partner with communities to build safer neighbourhoods by encouraging residents to take a proactive approach to crime prevention and safety. Through education on target hardening, property marking and reporting suspicious activity Block Watch provides a means for the community to take responsibility for its own safety by reducing the opportunity for crime. Block Watch Member programs operate under the mandate of the Block Watch Society who in turn provide: Support, training, mentoring and materials to police agencies & community programs. Coordinate the link of community programs to each other. Provide ongoing

training and sharing of best practices. Work with police agencies to assist with problem solving, suggesting and supporting strategies for positive change. Focus on reducing the risk of property crime – particularly residential and auto crimes. Block Watch operates through grants from the Ministry of Justice and donations.

Protection Island has one of the greatest concentrations of Block Watch participants in the entire province. Of course this is partly due to our geography/separation from other communities, but I like to think that it is also due to our tendency to want the best for ourselves and all of our neighbours.

It is an honour and a privilege to be a part of this Block Watch family we have created, and I know that it will continue to grow and flourish as long as we have members like you.

If you have any questions about the program, after reading the above tidbit from the official website, please feel free to email me, Steve Peck, at stpeck@hotmail.com or call or text ([250-713-1975](tel:250-713-1975)) and I will be happy to provide/find answers to your questions.

If you don't have any questions, that's cool too. Just know that I and my co-captains, Peter, Veronica and Lynn are here to share.

Sincerely,
Steve Peck
PI Block Watch Captain [250-713-1975](tel:250-713-1975)
stpeck@hotmail.com

Peter Frewin [250-741-0542](tel:250-741-0542)
pfrewin@telus.net

Lynn Roberts [250-755-1112](tel:250-755-1112)
lynnwatneyroberts@hotmail.com

Veronica Zehntner [250-754-6759](tel:250-754-6759)
Verzehn160@shaw.ca

OFF-LEASH DOG PARK

By VERONICA ZEHNTNER

The off-leash dog park at Gallows Point continues to be a popular meeting place for dogs and their owners. Please remember to return any sticks to the beach that your dog drags up to the grassy area before heading home; lawnmowers and wood don't mix well.

Signs are posted outlining the rules and etiquette, take a minute to review them before using the park. Because Protection Island does not have public garbage removal, no poop bag dispenser 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 toilet or bury it). This rule also applies wherever you and your dog are on the island. We are still finding poop bags tossed in the parks, sometimes strategically hidden just off the trails.

Our thanks once again to the Protection Island Lions Club who are the stewards of this property. Please respect the rules and enjoy this wonderful waterfront space with your dog for play, exercise and meeting friends.

NANAIMO FIRE DEPARTMENT STATION 7 NEWS

By JASON METZ

On-call Captain

Station 7 Protection Island
Nanaimo Fire Rescue

Open House

Nanaimo Fire Rescue Station 7 will be holding an open house during Fire Prevention Week, Saturday October 15th, 2016 from 1-3pm. Come and join us for the afternoon to learn more about fire safety, your fire station, have some fun, service your fire extinguisher, and enjoy some refreshments. More details will follow in September.

Recruitment

Are you interested in contributing to your community? Mastering practical knowledge and skills in a fun environment? Station 7 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 critical 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 740-1524 or Jodi Le Masurier 754-7245 or stop by Station 7 on a Tuesday evening at 6:30.

We would like to recognize Pam Murray, who recently resigned from our crew, for her service and dedication to the community during her time with us. Pam maintained a high level of skill and expertise that will be hard to replace. Thanks for the time you shared with us Pam!

Currently Station 7 has nine members: Fredrik Collin, Don Corfield, Steve Johnson, Summer Laurie, Guy Le Masurier, Jodi Le Masurier, Jason Metz, Gillian Saunders and Rob Timbrell.

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 740-1524 or Jodi Le Masurier 754-7245.

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 the 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.

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.

For major earthquake preparation have a contact person outside the province who all household members can check in with by phone; know the location of your propane shut off, electrical panel and main water valves; review where the safest spots are in your residence, next to or under sturdy furniture, beside a solid inside wall, in a corner or inside hallway. Change the water and replace any expired prescription medications in your earthquake survival kit, making sure you have at least a 10 day supply of medications and supplies.

There are a number of excellent resources for emergency personal preparedness on the city website:
<http://www.nanaimo.ca/EN/main/departments/Fire-Rescue/4232/emergency-preparedness.html>

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. Cigarette butts are a fire hazard, and the filters in factory made cigarette butts are lethal to wildlife. Please do not throw cigarette butts on the ground or in the ocean.

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 with Engine 7 to 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. 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 please give the fire fighters room to do their jobs.

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.

As with anywhere else, whether walking or driving, if you hear sirens that you believe are on the island, please move off the road to allow trucks to easily pass by. Flashing lights and sirens mean the trucks are travelling to an emergency.

Earthquake:

In the event of a major earthquake, shelter until the shaking stops, then proceed to high ground until the risk of tsunami has passed. Station 7 will respond to fire and medical emergencies as they are reported and assess the roads to ensure that we have access to all parts of the island. If you do not require emergency assistance place a sign that says "OK" prominently on your house. If you are not safe in your home, proceed to the basketball courts which will be used as an assembly area once the risk from tsunami has passed. Understand that we will largely be on our own for at least 10 days in the event of a major earthquake.

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.

Burning Regulations and Restrictions

There is a copy of the Burning Regulations available at: http://www.nanaimo.ca/assets/Departments/Fire~Rescue/Burn_Permits.pdf

Open Burning of organic yard waste and prunings is only allowed from sunrise to sunset on Fridays and Saturdays in April and November. A free verbal permit is required for each day you burn, so phone Nanaimo Fire Rescue 250-753-7311 before you start to burn. Calling for a permit is **MANDATORY**. 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.



HERON HAPPENINGS SPRING 2016 PROTECTION ISLAND

By TRUDY CHATWIN

Another early and warm spring was signalled by the arrival of our Great Blue Herons at the beginning of March. Their characteristic gronks and bill popping were heard as the first birds showed up in fine plumage; chest plumes of white and blue-grey, head plumes of slate blue grey. There was the characteristic vying for nests, then the settling. Remarkably, this year an albino (leucistic) Great Blue Heron has claimed a nest high in the arbutus near Pirates Park.

At this time, after refreshing the nest with boughs, the herons are just beginning to incubate turquoise eggs. On March 31st I counted 20 nests but this may be modified if some of the scanty looking nests become occupied. Some of the birds are still in courtship mode with fabulous displays, but most are settling into the rhythm of changing incubation duties. For a great look check out the City of Vancouver, Stanley Park heron web cam <http://vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/heron-cam.aspx>

April is a relatively peaceful time of year for the heron when Bald Eagles are busy elsewhere and the young hungry eaglets haven't hatched. However, on the morning of March 29th I watched an immature Bald Eagle chasing adult herons off their nests and dive-bombing adults.

Come May, the eggs hatch and the first peeping comes from the tiny chicks. As the chicks grow, their peeping turns into incessant, loud calling for food. Parents are kept busy feeding the insatiable appetites of 2 to 4 hungry chicks. The chicks are fed for over 2 months and if all goes well, they fledge in late July/early August and go out to the world to forage on their own and survive the perils of winter. In winter when the tides are only low in the middle of the night,

herons have a difficult time feeding. They spread themselves out along the coast and defend their area. About half the chicks that fledge, survive to the next summer. Other researchers estimated that 1.9 fledged chicks per nest are required to maintain Great Blue Heron populations. In 2015 there were 20 active nests which produced 27 fledglings for an average of 1.35 fledglings per nest. The overall productivity on Vancouver Island for 2015 was 1.5 fledglings per nest.

Great Blue Herons on our coast face many perils. There are only about 500 nesting pairs on the entire Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands. They are listed under the Species-at-Risk Act as a Species of Special Concern. Increasing numbers of Bald Eagles attack and kill the chicks and even adults. As our human population on the coast burgeons, herons have less nesting habitat to choose from. As you can see on Protection Island, their nesting trees deteriorate and are threatened by development. As a predator of fish, heron eggs show high levels of contaminants in their eggs. While high levels of DDT and Dioxins were issues up until the 1980's, these days there are relatively high levels of PCB's and emerging contaminants such as flame-retardants.

The herons have had a colony on Protection Island since 1997. The biggest year was 2012 with 32 active nests. Since that year the colony has diminished somewhat. The reasons aren't clear, but the failing arbutus cannot be discounted. I am hopeful that birds will colonize the healthier adjacent Douglas-fir trees. Hoping for a happy heron year. . .

Trudy



If you need further information or happen to see a young heron chick in distress, call me at 250 741-1641. I would like information if neighbours see a nest in the Douglas-fir trees. The North Island Wildlife Recovery Association in Errington (250 248-8534) will care for injured birds if arrangements are made for delivery. Thanks to Marion for her ongoing rescue of young herons. Also thanks to Jim and Lauren, new owners of the log house, the Bradleys and the Gulkas for their tolerance of the important but smelly and noisy herons!

PROTECTION ISLAND GARDEN TOUR

Sunday May 22 starting at 10 am

By HEATHER COOLING

Protection Island's own annual garden tour, sponsored by The P. I. Cultural Historical Society (PICHS) will take place on Sunday, May 22, when 'north' end gardens will be featured. Rain or shine.

We'll set up a table for 10:00 am at the parking turnaround, and be there until the 10:10 ferry arrives. For your 'entry' donation, you'll receive a route map and descriptive information on each garden. Raffle tickets for gift baskets may be purchased. Tickets for the popular gift baskets, plants and garden related items will be in demand, and can be purchased both before and just after the tour. A silent auction is being planned as well.

A barbecue with hot dogs, smokies, cookies and drinks will be offered at the end of the tour at the Museum at Gallows Point. Any donation will be appreciated – all proceeds to museum and archives activities of PICHS. For information call Wendy Chandler, 753-6899 or Heather Cooling, 753-8162.

Rides around the route will be available, plus to the starting location. Please contact us, we can arrange a ride from your home via our golf cart fleet.



PROTECTION ISLAND MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

By HEATHER COOLING

The P.I. Museum and Archives is operated at the Lightkeeper's Cottage at Gallows Point by the Protection Island Cultural Historical Society. PICHS was incorporated as a non-profit society in 2001.

A little bit of history: The museum and archives collections were started in the 1990's by Parker Williams. He was dedicated to telling the story of Protection Island and held an informed interest in local history. As his Protection treasures grew, they eventually took over the small lighthouse keeper's cottage, and the collection kept growing as

islanders donated found objects from their gardens, excavations, and photograph albums. A group of like-minded islanders joined Parker, and the society was born in 2001. A variety of exhibits and events were then offered to the community to augment the artifacts and archival materials.

Parker is remembered as the instigator of the golf cart saga in the 1990's – which led to the legalization of our unique island vehicles. Current Directors of PICHS: Wendy Chandler, Heather Cooling, Mike Gillespie, Brenda Henderson, Barb Neild, Rick Scott, and Tauno Tuominen. Barb and Rick are founding Directors.

We will reopen soon for summer programming to fulfil the mandate of the Society – to nurture, foster, and develop community awareness of local history and culture through activities and events, and to maintain and develop the Museum collection. The Museum, Archives and Gift Shop will be open weekend afternoons, 12 noon to 4 pm, in July and August.

An Annual General Meeting is held each year in April. Membership in PICHS is \$10 for an individual and \$15 for a family. Contact Secretary Heather Cooling, 250-753-8162. Memberships are available year-round.

PICHS also maintains the P.I. Archives at the Museum. Historical documents, maps, photographs, personal collections of former residents, books and newspaper files are available to anyone researching the island's past events and history. Please call President Barb Neild for information on the Archives.

The Museum Gift Shop offers cards, books, music CD's, jewellery, decorative items, cloth bags and posters – made by P.I. residents. Call Wendy Chandler, Director-in-charge, for information, 250-753-6899.

PROTECTION ISLAND BEACON LIBRARY

208 Colville Trail, Beacon House

By CATE MUIR

Your island community library opened 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 from the free exchange shelves, 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 4 books and 4 dvds per week, due in two weeks with a possible renewal for two weeks. Currently there are 258 registered members and 1290 total visits for the year.

The library collection consists of over 3326 catalogued books (adult fiction/non-fiction, children/youth books) and 840 dvds, all donated by islanders. There were 2560 items borrowed, including storytime sign-outs, for the year.

Every Thursday, starting at 10:30 am is the Island Storytime hour with stories, rhymes, songs, fun and play enjoyed by everyone. It is suitable for all children accompanied by an adult. There are 4 storytellers and a total of 665 visits for the year.

The past year included: Haiku poetry reading, Pipedreams film presentation, book sale at fall fair, December holiday readings, in-house book displays, DIGS agm garden book display, and Little Diggers storybooks at the end of each lesson.

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 library volunteers with over 810 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: Christine Firth, Thora Howell and Cate Muir





MUD BAY DOCK

By VERONICA ZEHNTNER

Both spring and fall work parties were held in 2015 with volunteers putting in many hours of work completing 2 new sections in spring. In October another 11 man days of labour resulted in a new platform at the dock head and a wonderful non slip surface on the ramp - way to go Larry! The unseen work was re-nailing all sections as required and replacing chains, eyes and shackles. A big thank you to Larry Iwaskow for his continued hard work in procuring materials and coordinating these very important annual maintenance projects and to all who turned up for the work parties and to Ruth for providing lunches for the hungry crews.

After the December windstorm some repairs were needed (installing new eye bolts, shackles & chain) thank you to the 3 amigos, Mike Beecher, Rob Timbrell and Larry Iwaskow for braving the elements to complete this task keeping all our boats safe! PINA held an information meeting Feb. 21 for all Mud Bay dock users, to update them on the new NPA lease requirements, surveys, water lot encroachment and related financial burden, followed by a Q and A session and ideas for the dock going forward.

Larry is planning a spring work party in April or early May working with tides, to address realigning the dock to within our water lot lease, reinstalling chains and pin anchor. At time of writing there are no funds available for the 1 new 30 ft. section Larry had plans for this spring. Once the realignment and final survey & lease costs are completed, we will know if we have any additional funds for this part of the maintenance plan. If the 4 delinquent boats finally pay their moorage, we will be able to complete this work, otherwise it will have to be deferred until fall. We were blindsided this year by the larger than predicted NPA water lease and the extra cost of surveys and related expenses, so we have no reserve left to carry us through to October, our next revenue cycle.

Mud Bay community dock is a vital link for many islanders to Nanaimo for work, shopping, school and other activities, its upkeep is essential both for insurance purposes and water lot conditions. Apart from volunteerism which also plays a big role in qualifying for the City's property tax exemption grant, **MOORAGE DUES ARE WHAT PAY THE BILLS**, for materials for the maintenance, the water lot lease and insurance which names both the NPA and City as well

as PINA. Dues will have to increase for the coming year to cover costs. The more people who contribute their fair share, the less the burden on the rest and our ability to keep per boat costs down.

(Moorage dues for current year Oct.1/15 - Sept.30/16 \$200.00 +100.00 in lieu of 1 day labour at annual work parties) If you still haven't paid, please see Catherine Eck ASAP at 12 Capt. Kidds Terrace. to register your boat and she will issue you with a current decal. Thank you all again for your support.

DOCK COMMITTEE

By DAVID CARTER & DOUG NAYLOR

The dock liaison directors Dave Carter and Doug Naylor have been busy this year. We are negotiating a new lease for the Mud Bay Dock, and attending City meetings outlining the future of the Welcox lands.

A Mud Bay lease awaits a new survey after re-anchoring the existing docks. We hope to achieve the new lease by early summer. P.I.N.A. has held one meeting so far, to discuss dock issues with users and more meetings will follow.

The Welcox lands are waterfront and may have importance to Protection Island's future. To that end, P.I.N.A. hopes to raise awareness with Nanaimo City administration as to the importance of development and their effects on Protection Island. This property extends water rights that are the City of Nanaimo's. So far, connectivity, transportation and awareness of our needs on the island appear to be important to the process. We will continue to attend meetings and monitor the developments.

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 eleven communal beds and ten allotment beds which are leased for private use each year. Please contact Norah Curtis for more information about the allotment beds – norahknitter@hotmail.com DIGS work parties meet on Saturdays (in the winter) or Sundays (May 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 meharris@telus.net) - \$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.

We also offer a gardening program for younger islanders – tots to teens. Starting in April and running until September "Little Diggers" meet on Saturdays through April then Sundays – May to September from 10:30 am to 12:00. The theme for this year's Little Diggers' program is "Flowers". 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 Swap and Bake Sale on Sunday, May 15 from 10:00 to 12:00 at the garden. 2) a Dessert Auction held at the Beacon House on Saturday, June 18 (pending work starting on renovations at Beacon House). 3) the annual P.I. Fall Fair held on September 10 (pending renovations at the Beacon House).

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



ISLAND HEALTH COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

By CATHERINE ECK

Concerns over simplifying access to updated Vancouver Island Health Association (VIHA) community health information resulted in PINA meeting with VIHA representatives at the Island Health Centre in March. Questions were answered and information gathered which has been simplified into a two-page document (thanks to Don McQueen) on how to proceed if you or family members are in need of health related information. The document along with the latest brochures explaining services will be available in our P.I. library.

Meals on Wheels

PINA is in the process of gathering information regarding the feasibility of providing Meals on Wheels services to Protection Island.

P.I Bicycle Lock-up

The City of Nanaimo has given permission for Protection Islanders to use a bicycle lock-up in the Bastion street Parkade. Presently we are exploring ways to keep bikes safe from thieves.

PI Supply: – Will's Barge RECYCLING, GARBAGE & THRIFTY'S

By VALLEY HENNELL

Will Chadwick's barge delivers building, garden, hardware and many other items of importance to you upon request, and every second Wednesday does a recycling, household garbage and Thrifty's run. Recycle dates and info are posted on all PI notice boards.

Summer dates. May 11 & 25, June 8 & 22, July 6 & 20, Aug 3, 17 & 31.

The barge picks up from THRIFTYS Port Place on Recycle Wednesdays. Shop and pay in person at Thrifty's on Tuesday, 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.

RECYCLING must be clean and sorted into smaller bags placed in a regular sized bag on the boulevard, as follows:

- Paper and newspaper together
- Perforated cardboard separate
- Plastic containers, clamshells, milk jug, milk containers and tin cans, ALL TOGETHER (no longer separate);***
- Clean soft plastic (grocery bags)
- Foam such as egg cartons, food trays DIVIDED into pure white and coloured/inked
- Non-refundable glass jars. (broken glass i.e. cups, windows... etc.)***
- Refundable drinking containers, or there is the option of dropping off bottles and refundable items to Lions Club drop off points.***

NOTE: Soup and broth boxes, coffee bags, pet food bags and litter bags are not recyclable.

GARBAGE: Light household Garbage must be bagged and MARKED to distinguish it from recycling. Any drop fees will be billed later.

PAYMENT: Attach money to bag: \$5 per bag; \$10 per TV or computer element; \$15 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. Payment may also be left in mail box at bottom of path at 25 Captain Kidds Terrace.

For scheduling or special requests, email wmchadwick@gmail.com Will & Jase.

Email for billing:

hermit_kidd@icloud.com Will & Tyson PI Supply phone 250-751-4877.

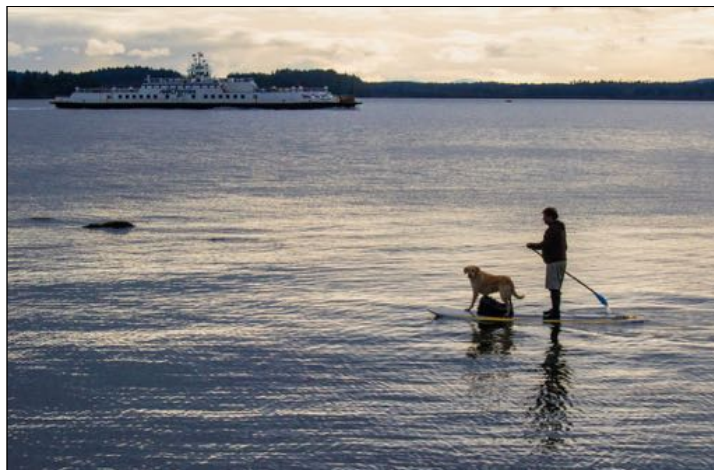
PROTECTION ISLAND FACTS, FIGURES AND SERVICES

- 360 properties, approx. 85 are undeveloped
- 330 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 high speed internet
- Shaw Cable and Telus internet services
- 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.) – Homepage for archive of newsletters and other documents: <http://proisle.ca/>
- Block Watch
- Lions Club
- Historical Society & 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>





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.

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.

P.I. CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2016

Sunday **May 15**: Plant Swap & Bake Sale at the Community Garden: 10:00-12:00

Sunday **May 22**: Garden Tour starting at 10:00 am

Sunday **June 12**: PINA AGM at Station 7 Fire Hall 1:00 pm

Saturday **June 18**: Dessert auction, venue TBA pending renovations at the Beacon House 7:00 pm Summer Solstice Celebration

Sunday **July 24**: Lions Club Pancake Breakfast (& start of Nanaimo Bathtub Race) Pro Isle 360 RACE

Saturday **Sept 10**: Fall Fair – venue TBA pending renovations at the Beacon House

Saturday **October 15**: Nanaimo Fire Rescue Station 7 – Open House 1-3 pm

Sunday **Dec 4**: Lions Club 11:00 – Children’s Christmas Party

Protection Island Information & News

Check out the PINA website: <http://www.proisle.ca> for helpful information about the Island, minutes and notes from Board meetings and other news.

Thank you to Denise Bonin for maintaining this 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.

This newsletter was compiled by Francine Dupuis & Veronica Zehntner.

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

Photographs graciously provided by Rick Biller, Jennifer Cluff, Joanne Leslie, Jim MacQuarrie and Bruce Schuck. Thanks to all.