

2005 Protection Island Community Survey - Summary Report

To: Protection Island Residents
From: Protection Island Ratepayers Association, Board of Directors

Date: 18 January 2005, amended from the report presented at the 26 June 2005 PIRA AGM

Every three years PIRA conducts a Community Survey. With the 2005 survey we were overwhelmed by the response! Almost double the number of surveys were returned compared to the last survey, done in 2001.

Not only is this survey a means of polling the Island sentiment, it can also serve as a community action plan. At the PIRA AGM meeting in June 2005, when the survey results were first presented, attendees heard that 86% of the survey responders wanted an annual spring clean up. From there an enthusiastic group of residents formed the seeds of the Junk Away group. As you saw last fall, this initiative made a huge and positive impact in our community.

Time and again we have witnessed fantastic community involvement when it comes to fund-raisers and community spirited events. This led us to consider the idea of determining several potential areas that would benefit greatly from the direct grassroots community involvement in a vein similar to the Junk Away group. The possible action areas are as follows:

What access changes would you support and be willing to pay for, if necessary?

- 49% Allocated downtown parking
- 48% Expanded moorage

Is availability of moorage on Protection Island a concern for you? - 54% yes

Are you concerned about human waste discharge from vessels in the Nanaimo Harbour?
84% yes

Would you support the development of a Community Garden on the island? - 55% yes

Are you concerned with erosion of community shore land on the island? - 68% yes

If coordinated on a community basis, I would use and if necessary be willing to pay a fee for: Septic tank cleanout: - 62% yes

Are you concerned about unsightly premises on the Island? - 58% yes

Are you concerned with the lack of compliance with animal control bylaws, for example, 'poop and scoop' and dogs off leash? - 58% yes

I would support an alternative year-round method of disposing of yard waste (for example, a community chipper). - 61% yes

If you feel strongly about any of the above items or something from the survey highlights that follow, and you wish to form an active group to effect a change in your community, we would love to hear from you and encourage you to strike up a group to start the action.

We hope to call a community meeting in the near future to both celebrate the success of the Junk Away group and to discuss other potential initiatives. Watch for the notices.

The survey facts:

A committee of PIRA directors and residents designed the questionnaire. These folks were DJ Alperovitz, John Routledge, Janet Estes, Trish Birdsell-Smith, Valerie Hennell, and Denise Bonin.

In late February 2005, 310 surveys were delivered (by mail and by hand) to all property owners and 25 to renters.

168 property owners returned their surveys (54%) and 8 renters returned their surveys (32%).

When the surveys were gathered together and sorted we called upon several other community members to assist in the tallying of the results. These were Barb Neild, Thora Howell, and Carol Matthews.

Thank you to all who helped in this community endeavor.

Protection Island is our community and we can all work together to make it a peaceful and livable neighborhood.

2005 – 2006 PIRA Board of Directors

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Protection Island Ratepayers Association (PIRA)

Do you support the idea of having a community association? – 97% yes

Are you currently a member of PIRA? – 61% yes

Is the annual fee a barrier to your being a member of PIRA? – 97% no

Currently only ratepayers can be members of PIRA. Would you support PIRA changing its constitution to include both ratepayers and renters? - 44% yes, 56% no

If yes, would you support renters becoming voting or non-voting members on property issues?
78% non-voting

In addition to the Annual General Meeting, do you think there should be more community discussion events? – 66% yes

Would you be willing to let your name stand for PIRA board of directors? – 10% yes, 90% no

What do you like about Protection Island?

	%
Rural Atmosphere	89
Parks	88
Beaches	87
Trees & Wildlife	87
Not much traffic	84
Peace and Quiet	81
Community Bulletin Boards	79
Sense of community	77
Quality of Life	77
Golf carts	75
No vehicle ferry	73
Sense of Security	70
Dinghy Dock	70
Limited commerce	70
Unpaved roads	67
Burn days	64
Beacon House	62
P I Museum	58
No garbage collection	36
Investment Potential	33

Access to Protection Island

What access changes would you support and be willing to pay for, if necessary?

- 49% Allocated downtown parking
- 48% Expanded moorage
- 39% All-weather emergency service dock
- 7% Car ferry

Boats and Moorage

Is availability of moorage on Protection Island a concern for you? – 54% yes

Are you concerned about human waste discharge from vessels in the Nanaimo Harbour? – 84% yes

Mud Bay Dock

If available, I would pay for additional deep-water moorage – 45% yes

Parkland / Beaches

Should existing interior parks remain undeveloped as wildlife habitats? - 95% yes

Should the city acquire environmentally sensitive lots for additional parkland? – 66% yes

Should beach access trails be cleared and better marked? – 59% yes

Would you support the development of a Community Garden on the island? – 55% yes

Are you concerned with erosion of community shore land on the island? – 68% yes

Protection Island Community Services

Is parking at 'the Circle' (roundabout) a problem for you? – 82% no

If coordinated on a community basis, I would use and if necessary be willing to pay a fee for:
Septic tank cleanout – 62% yes

Do you think that the community facilities at Gallows Point (Beacon House and the Light Keeper's Cottage) are meeting the community's needs? 50% - yes

City of Nanaimo Services

Are you satisfied with the condition of our island roads? 50% yes

Unlike other City of Nanaimo residents, Protection Island residents do not pay user rates for home garbage collection and recycling. If available, I would use and be willing to pay for:

Garbage pick-up	38% Yes	63% No
Recycling	44% Yes	56% No
Annual Spring clean up	86% Yes	14% No

If you want an annual spring-clean up, how should this be financed?

- 48% Voluntary per use
- 47% \$5 annual levy on City of Nanaimo user rates
- 18% Community fund-raiser event

How do you feel about the current level of street lighting?

67% like it as it is

How do you feel about the current amount of signage (for example, dog leash, littering, 'poop and scoop', caution-children playing, speed limit, etc.)

74% like it as it is

City of Nanaimo Bylaws

Are you concerned about unsightly premises on the Island? 58% yes

Are you concerned with the lack of compliance with animal control bylaws, for example, 'poop and scoop' and dogs off leash? – 58% yes

Protection Island has a hard won special exemption from the burning ban now in force in Nanaimo. Do you support these burn days? – 90% yes

Protection Island has a hard won special exemption from the burning ban now in force in Nanaimo. Do you support these burn days? – 90% yes

I would be concerned if burn days were reduced or eliminated.– 85% yes

I would support an alternative year-round method of disposing of yard waste (for example, a community chipper). – 61% yes

Community Communications

Do you read the annual PIRA newsletter mailed to every ratepayer each spring? – 88% yes