

Chief's Chat

Dec. 4th, 2014

Dear Piers Islanders,

It has been a quiet spell for us recently with no medical or first responder call outs in the past 2 months. And for that, we are all grateful. Our 9-1-1 system is in place for you so don't hesitate to use it – we would rather respond and not be needed rather than have you delay and see matters deteriorate. Our first responders are very well trained and experienced. We are so very pleased to welcome back a previous member (thanks Kerry) who has been sorely missed. If you are interested in joining the fire department or becoming a first responder yourself, please let me know. A class is being now scheduled for early 2015 on island and CPR clinics will be offered early in the New Year. It is a wonderful opportunity for you to learn skills that just might save a life.



Our SCBA drive is now over and thanks to the generous donations from a very special group of islanders we have now raised enough money to acquire this equipment so necessary to the safety and well being of our members. To those who were kind enough to contribute, a sincere thank you from all the volunteers – you give us confidence and hope. Adding to our growing band of brothers, the Union Bay Fire Department has donated 4 used Scott SCBA packs to us and our good friends at the North Saanich

Fire Department (led by the indefatigable Chief Gary Wilton) have already delivered first rate training to 5 members of your PIVFD. Now, we just can't wait to don (and duff) those 50lb packs!

The Office of the Fire Commissionaire has now developed minimum training standards for all fire departments in the province. The goal is to see all of us safe and effective and to this end, we welcome these guidelines. While it may prove challenging for us to complete the training, I am confident that our members are up to the task – it will involve many hours of study, practice and examinations but at the end of the day, it will prove well worth our while. Everyone training up will get a nifty t-shirt and the thanks of the community.

While it has been a tumultuous year in many respects for our little community, good things have still happened. We have all lost friends but we have made new ones. We have all made mistakes but we haven't repeated them. And we are all more aware of how fragile a community can become in a very short period of time if we don't pay attention to the thoughts and feelings of our neighbours. As someone once said: "May the bridges I burn, light my way". And so we move on.

The annual Christmas dinner is an event which began with only the fire department members meeting and eating together at this special time of the year. It then expanded into an island wide dinner in acknowledgement that everyone plays a part in the community, so why not include everyone. The island dinner has now become a new tradition on Piers and one which I encourage you to attend if you can. And while you are there, check out the new decor (thanks again to Manon). It is a time to be happy together for all life's blessings.

Safety this Christmas



Just a few facts for you from NFPA and Christmas tree & light safety. We all love those bright colours on the early dark nights, but here's just a few things to remember:

- One of every three home Christmas tree fires is caused by electrical failures.
- Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- A heat source too close to the tree causes roughly one in every five of the fires.

You can visit www.piersisland.ca/pivfd for more tips.

We wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season and all the best in the New Year,

Steve Cruise