

PIVFD Chief's Chat Oct 2015



Dear Islanders,

Whether we stand or whether we fall, in our small tight knit community we do it together. Great job everyone keeping our island fire safe during one of the longest droughts in recent history. The danger rating was EXTREME for over 2 months – with a few unfortunate exceptions everyone was compliant with our burning and machinery ban. The benefits were obvious but we cannot stop now. The question must be asked: **Would you rather be a pine tree or a Douglas fir?** To intelligently make your choice, you will need to read the [Wildfire News](#) attachment (page 3 for those who just can't wait). And once you have read the entire newsletter, please let me know if you would like to sign up for the two day seminar. It may well be the beginning of a project which will end with our island much safer than we can imagine – it will be more valuable than all the tools and equipment and personnel we now have. Many Piers Islanders are independent souls and are loathe to work with authority or the government. But if there is one thing our Provincial government is good at, it is Wildfire Management. Please read the attached Newsletter-I know you will be impressed and I hope you will be tempted to be the one individual who steps forward to help not himself or herself, but the entire community. That is the essence of the Piers Island spirit.



I would like to thank everyone who attended and contributed to the PIVFD annual Pancake Breakfast. Libby Kaul led the team in her usual redoubtable (awe-inspiring) fashion raising enough money to fund our post practice needs for the next year. But the best part was the awards. Outstanding Service awards were presented (in absentia) to PIVFD members Bob Crooks, Gerry Kristianson and Bob Snelling. As for our First Responder activities, we did have three medical calls outs – one was so successful that the patient called us again for a second session! **Docside Charters** once again came through for us to quickly and efficiently transport the patients to the BCAS waiting at Swartz Bay. And we also enjoyed a 2 day Spinal Management course put on by Gerry Kristianson. Happily, Sandy Brunham has offered to take the latest FR Instructor program with Gerry at the end of the month thus doubling our ability to train our volunteer fire fighters on island. This is a huge time commitment

by both Gerry and Sandy – they have our deepest and most sincere appreciation.

Our Smoke Alarm inspection initiative was completed in August with every home visited by both an Emergency Service and PIVFD member. If you weren't home for their visits please check your own alarm or call us.



Fire forest hand tools have been purchased for use in the centre of the island: Pulaskis, shovels, McLeod tools (pictured). Bob Crooks has been instrumental in the organization of these tools. We are converting the old fire hall into a Forest Fire centre much like it was 20 years ago. We'll have a forestry trailer, the tractor, hand tools, portable pumps and whatever else it

takes to make this a viable and functional facility. Chief Barnes (retired) is now working on designating danger zones (priority) in the centre as part of our fire response plan. We have 2 sets of **ThermoGel** Protection kits for forestry or structure fire deployment and the training has begun on these.

We recently met with Chief Mike Dunn of North Cowichan Fire Department. This is the largest volunteer department in the entire Province. Chief Dunn was very interested in Piers Island and has given us some great plans for dealing with chimney fires this heating season. As always, our neighbouring departments are filled with such generous and knowable folk; we would be remiss if we didn't take advantage of all they have to offer.

Finally, thanks to the tireless and continuing efforts of Pauline and Gisele, the PIVFD is now using a web based application to track our ability to respond to any emergency on the island. The system is called **IamResponding**. It lets us know which fire department members are available on the island at any time and it lets those members notify our Incident Commander whether they are on route to the emergency or whether they will muster at the fire hall. This is just such a wonderful and reliable tool for us. We are also using it to track all our training data and in the future – our preplan data as well.

Pauline and I are presently out of the country but you are left in the very capable hands of Deputy Chief Kelly Stevenson until Oct. 28th.

Steve

PIVFD - Prevent/Protect/Preserve

