

Harbour Commission Report

This year there is an interesting introduction of change in the structure and function of the commission. The position of Ports Manager has been deleted. This has created a loss of a vital link of information and service between wharfingers and the commission. As time passes, mixed opinions have appeared about the role and effectiveness of the Ports Manager in the past. There is a current focus on the new function and responsibilities of wharfingers. One positive outcome is for the first time members of the commission met with all of the wharfingers as a group to open dialogue with regard to the changing roles and responsibilities that they now face. One meeting is a start but there will have to be ongoing interaction. It is clear that the wharfingers have varied talents, backgrounds and potential. We are lucky to have Mike Smart as our wharfinger and at Dolphin road. Not only does he bring integrity but a wide variety of appropriate skills commensurate with the position and has a long term relationship with the commission manifest in mutual respect.

Below is a copy of a report that I recently submitted to the commission.

- Bryce Young

June 20, 2015

Re Piers Island Marine Service Float

The Piers Island float is an anomaly in the Southern Gulf Islands Commission as it serves the smallest community included in the responsibility of the commission.

It can be seen to have a lower priority of needs and services but it is essential to serving the needs of the island and support the functions and lifestyle of the community.

A small community encourages the opportunity to create and maintain a unique quality of life. On Piers Island we have an active and vital fire department, emergency and crisis resources, Medical first responders, environmental control and enhancement, and our library and community centre offer a rich mosaic of culture, fun and a sense of sharing.

Every aspect of life on Piers Island is dependent upon the existence of the float, it's physical status and moorage potential.

In addition to access and egress, the float provides:

- Transportation of goods and services on and off the island.
- Protection from and mitigation of hazards -eg augmentation of the fire department by offshore resources.
- Crisis evacuation.
- Access for Ambulance ,Police and Wildlife control
- Maintenance of Hydro, water, roads, forestry etc

Currently there is an urgent need for:

1. A current engineering assessment of the physical and functional status of the float (we have yet to receive action on recommendations of the Tuttle Engineering Report of 28/12/2009)
2. **INCREASE IN MOORAGE.** The float is located in the only sheltered area on the island. It affords vital protection of boats and islanders in inclement weather. This can occur occasionally year round but is guaranteed in winter. This is confirmed by the number of damaged boats and floats. In addition to the ongoing cost of repairs, unfortunately a number of islanders have sustained personal injury.

- Bryce Young