

ROAD COMMITTEE REPORT 2016

The condition of our road remains reasonably good, with Piers Islanders again being respectful of the need to avoid bringing heavy vehicles to the island during winter wet periods and understanding the need to effect repairs if damage is caused. Also, while it sometimes is necessary for islanders to store material or equipment on the road allowance, the Fire Chief keeps reminding us that this is supposed to be a temporary measure and that there are places on the island where it is now impossible for emergency vehicles to pass each other because the shoulder of the road is blocked.

The provincial transportation ministry and the maintenance contractor have promised a renewed supply of road base this year. The places to be improved have been marked with small stakes beside the road. Suggestions as to portions of the road that need attention are always welcome.

Following advice from Brad Boyden, the previous area roads manager for the Transportation Ministry, and with the co-operation of Lenny Green who had brought an excavator to the island, the ditch on the inside of the road below the old fire hall has been cleared in an attempt to improve drainage and prevent deterioration of the adjacent road surface during winter rainstorms. The PIID covered the initial cost and the bill has been sent to the new Area Roads Manager, Tina Rogers, for reimbursement.

The Ministry has encouraged us to continue the process of removing brush and trees from the road allowance, especially where it helps maintain a clear sight line for vehicles on corners. This project has been undertaken by the Monday morning work crew with support from the FireSmart program.

With the help of Bob Crooks' Kubota, and their power saws, the Monday Crew also made substantial improvements to the road allowance from McKenzie Crescent to the public wharf, enhancing ambulance access and increasing the space for golf cart parking. Questions have been raised about the responsibility for maintenance of the eight other road allowances from McKenzie Crescent to the beach. The Road Committee encourages the adjacent neighbors, as a matter of self interest, to include these areas in their "FireSmarting" efforts. As with McKenzie Crescent, we need to be careful what we ask for. Any formal request to the Transportation Ministry is likely to prompt only an offer to clear cut the area in question!

We have been promised some additional Calcium Chloride flake to help control summer dust and will be applying it from time to time, when it seems likely to do the most good.

While our mower operators try to keep the grass beside the road under control as a fire prevention measure, they applaud owners who do this job themselves. Material stored on the road allowance also complicates the mowing efforts.

As a final note, the committee urges everyone to keep in mind the need for caution when operating vehicles on our narrow and sometimes bumpy and dusty road. Despite its condition, McKenzie Crescent is a public highway on which vehicle operators require a valid driving licence.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Road Committee; Bill Jordan, Bob Noble, Sandy Brunham, Chris MacKay, Steve Cruise and Gerry Kristianson.



Gerry Kristianson