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## PEOPLE



# PIVFD

## 2020 AGM REPORT

### SEPTEMBER 2020

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This past year has been a very active one for the PIVFD however our initiatives and accomplishments have only been possible due to the dedication of the PIVFD members and others in the community who gave so generously of their time and expertise. For our department to sustain this level of activity, we will all have to give again this year. For what you have all done and are about to do, a huge thank you. I believe that our Fire Department is the best its ever been and that Piers Islanders should be proud of what we have accomplished together.

### PEOPLE

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We currently have 21 active members including 7 who are certified both as fire fighters and medical first responders, 5 who are medical responders only and 9 who are firefighters only. Training takes place every week in two-hour sessions. Some are classroom and some are in the field, but the time spent by our volunteers is considerable. It is important that each of you recognize the membership:

Officers

**Steve Cruise** – Chief – First Responder and Firefighter  
**Pauline Olesen** – Risk Management Officer and Firefighter  
**Derek Morrison** – Captain and Firefighter  
**John Hall** – Captain and Firefighter  
**Sandy Brunham** – Captain- First Responders

Firefighters:

**Philippa White, Alan Bryce, Katie Steenman, Kelly Stevenson, Terry Swan, Michal Pawlik**

Firefighters & First Responders –

**Gerry Kristianson, Kerry Keats, Burke Stancill, Lloyd Phillips, Garth Irvine, Guy Plante**

Additional Medical First Responders – **Kerry Wheeler, Evey Gabile, Deneen Cunningham, Graham Gilley**

Pauline is also leading our newly formed Rapid Attack Team. This specialized crew includes:

**Phil Macoun, Cam Russell, Gary Cooney, Jacquie Troger, Charlie Troger and Tracey Landerkin**



## EQUIPMENT



Thanks to Monique Joubarne for Bobcat loan to test on trailer.

## INFRASTRUCTURE



## Looking Forward

Our goal this year is to fully integrate the RAT crew into our operations in both forest fire fighting and in providing exposure protection for structural fire events. Our membership has been consistent over the past 6 years and we see no impediments to a continuance of this. We welcome anyone to join us if you are interested and able to commit to attending our practice sessions on Thursday afternoons.

## EQUIPMENT

This year we disposed of the 4x4 and replaced it under the Capital Asset Plan with Squad 1 and a fully equipped Forestry Trailer. **Lenny Green** was instrumental in preparing the hall to accommodate our acquisition of the engine from the Town of Sidney. Derek Morrison and Kelly Stevenson arranged to deliver the new forestry trailer to Sidney, **Allan Warrior** and **Steve Thornton** delivered it to Piers. With this new equipment, we will be able to defend the island quickly and efficiently from either a forest or structure fire. We have also now put into service the new P25 CREST radio system. Our communications will now be much clearer with this digitalized signal. **Jim Merritt** has been looking after our Type IV ambulance (T-4) and the Chief's Cart as well as helping with the tractor maintenance and troubleshooting the hall furnace. Fuel is delivered to the hall by **Gary Glover** and **Colin Robertson**; without them we would not be able run any of our equipment. We acquired over 4000' of fire hose at no cost from Saanich Fire Department. This was all transported to Piers by John Hall, Kelly Stevenson and Derek Morrison.

## Looking forward

The Chief's Cart might need to be replaced with a more robust vehicle soon as we are now using it as part of our First Response to any fire event. It carries the first officer to the scene quickly and it holds water, extinguishers, entry tools, communication equipment and our FIT 5 automatic fire interruption device. This cart might also be asked to pull the forestry trailer if we have a fire in the centre of the island - it is becoming a more important piece of our fire response.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

We are in the process of converting the old Fire Hall into our Forest Fire Centre and have found that it wonderfully fits our needs in that role. The new Hall has also been great and does everything we need it to do. **Gloria Morson** continues to deliver us a beautifully maintained building in her role as Hall Manager and **Steve and Michelin Tait** keep the grounds trimmed and shipshape. **Barry Tate** has helped us with changing out some of the lighting and he has revised the Island Map in his usual professional way. **Ian Moskaluk and Tracey Landerkin** have



## TRAINING



replaced the kitchen floor and they built some beautiful picnic tables that everyone can enjoy out front. Libby Kaul just finished painting the kitchen – she did this solo over the course of three days. Our venerated Hall sign made so lovingly by **Dave Poulosom** all those years ago needed major roof repairs. To the rescue, **Gerry Kristianson**. The sign should be good for another 30 years now. With the heavy rains last fall, the drainage around the hall needed some rehabilitation which was performed with dispatch by **Ander Wynn-Edwards**. The Paver Project was completed last October during those horrible rains. It was a struggle to have this finished but we are well done now, and we have a lasting platform for training and for vehicle and equipment maintenance. Another thank you is owed to Trustees past and present **Greg Miller** and **Doug Turner** for their support.

### Looking Forward

The electric furnace is 30 years old – it might be time to replace it with a more energy-efficient exterior heat pump and we should work toward replacing the florescent lighting with environmentally friendly and efficient LEDs.

## TRAINING

Firefighters continue to train to the level requested by the Trustees – Exterior Operations Level Fire Fighter (EOLFF). Most of the membership has attained that level with the remainder working towards completion. We are fortunate that we are able to train “in-house” which saves us considerably in both time and costs. There was a brief, unavoidable hiatus in our training schedule this year but we were quickly able to catch up and stay on target. **Christina van der Kamp** made masks so our firefighters could get back practicing safely as a group. Off island training opportunities were all cancelled this spring which was a disappointment. We focus on structural training most of the year but we dedicate 2 months in the summer to Forest Fire fighting techniques. The RAT group is also training weekly during the summer. It remains to be seen if they will continue in the fall and winter but if you have a yen to help out and are not sure if you can commit to full time training, please ask RMO Pauline Olesen for more details. The Medical First Responder team was able to continue training via Zoom sessions. A special course on Emergency Childbirth was cancelled in the spring. **Graham Gilley** has been tremendously helpful in enhancing our medical response abilities. If you are interested in joining this very special and essential group, please contact Captain Sandy Brunham.

### Looking Forward

We will endeavour to continue with our training and practices this coming year. In the past twelve months, the teams have logged a total of 1047 hours training. Hopefully we will be invited to participate in some off-island training with other departments for our fire team and with VIERA for our medical team.

## FIRE PREVENTION



## OUR MANY VOLUNTEERS

An AGM provides an opportunity to acknowledge our firefighters, first responders and many volunteers who help with various tasks to keep your

## FIRE PREVENTION

We need to continue our work on fire prevention. It is probably the least exciting part of what we do but it is critical. The **Monday Morning Crew** spends over 1000 hours every year removing forest waste, clearing the hydro lines of branches, cutting the meadows and side verges. Without **Derek Morrison, Gerry Kristianson, the Taitts, Cam Russell, Phil Macoun, Jacquie Troger, Lloyd Phillips, Craig Benson, Mike Fevang, Conrad van der Kamp, Philippa White and Will Perkinson**, our island would not be as safe and resilient as it is. **Bob Crooks** and **Gary Glover** are the guys you'll often see on the small garden tractor donated by **Fran Primrose** to keep those roadside and meadow grasses low and green. The FireSmart Program is here to stay. Piers Island is one of the leading communities in the entire province in this regard and once again was awarded the FireSmart Designation for 2019. Each of you must continue this good work at your own home for it to be successful. The Chimney Sweep Program was a huge success this year. Creosote build up in chimneys is one of the leading causes of accidental fires. Thanks to **Grant Warrington**, we have a program that makes it inexpensive and easy to eliminate this risk from your home.

### Looking Forward

Besides continuing with our FireSmarting activities, Captain John Hall has now completed a fire extinguisher campaign for Piers Islanders. Our hope is to have every home, golf cart, truck, garden tractor equipped with a working fire extinguisher and with the 50 ordered, we are well on our way to achieving that goal. If anyone one of us can get to the fire at the incipient stage with a fire extinguishing device in hand, that fire will be out before it becomes much more dangerous. Thank you to everyone who participated!

Pauline Olesen, Kerry Keats and John Hall worked together to acquire a resiliency grant from UBCM this year for \$24,000. The monies are all being spent developing our Resiliency Attack Team (RAT) program and equipment. As part of the program, the RAT team will be looking at how best to protect properties from ember propagation fires via sprinklers protection. While there, they will look for FireSmart improvements you could make to your property. Please allow them to help you by inviting them to practice at your property.

## CALL OUTS

Thankfully, we had fewer call outs this year than in the past. This is in no small part due to the pandemic but it is also due to our fire prevention and fire preparedness activities. We've had 9 calls since the last AGM.

department running. As I can't ask them to stand to be recognized we've highlighted their names for you in this report.  
Thank you all.

### **Looking Forward**

We encourage anyone who sees or smells smoke to immediately check it out and call 911 if they suspect a hostile fire. Anyone who needs immediate medical attention must call 911 without delay. The PIVFD is committed to rapidly respond to any life or property threat on our island. The budget we have from the Trustees is sufficient for us to meet the needs of our community.

Respectfully submitted  
Steve Cruise  
CHIEF PIVFD