

## Piers Island Road Committee

I am pleased to report, as self-appointed chair of the unofficial Piers Island Road Committee, that the Improvement District Trustees have agreed that since maintenance of the road is essential to their responsibility for fire protection and water services, they should take the lead in liaison with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and with the contracting firm responsible for providing road base material under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2009. Advice on use of the road by large vehicles during the wet winter months should now be directed to them. The Trustees must now determine what sort of advisory process they need, if any.

Although the 2009 memorandum formally acknowledged provincial responsibility for the road allowance turned over by the developers when subdivision began in 1959, and has resulted in regular provision of road base material and some other improvements, the amount of actual support has been limited by the fact that from the contracting firm's point of view, it is doing us a favor. Since maintenance was privatized in in the 1980's, our road has not been included in the official inventory for which the contractor assumes responsible.

It is my hope that by formally taking on responsibility for liaison with the Ministry and the contractor, the trustees will be able to improve this situation. It makes sense that when new developments are being created, the developer is obliged to bring the roads to provincial standard before the government takes over responsibility for their maintenance. We have been victims of the retroactive imposition of a policy that is impractical when applied to an established community whose only road was built by and used to be maintained by government and which is only asking that it be maintained to a standard that ensures safe use by emergency vehicles. Restoring our public road to the ministry inventory could then be followed by a reasoned discussion about the level of appropriate maintenance.

Finally, I am happy to report that with access to one of the fire department's new floating pumps, a small team of volunteers has been experimenting with the periodic application of salt water to the road. We are hopeful that once this process is perfected, we will be able to greatly reduce the amount of dust produced during the summer months.

Gerry Kristianson

Former Road Committee Chair