

Piers Island Harbours Commissioner's 2020 Annual Report

The Southern Gulf Islands Harbour Commission (SGIHC) is a volunteer committee under the purview of the CRD, the Commission represents 11-dock facilities across the Gulf Islands and Swartz Bay.

The Piers Island Harbours Commissioner (John Hall) and Wharfinger (Mike Smart) are responsible for both the Piers Island and Swartz Bay facilities.

After a comprehensive engineering review of the Piers dock, the SGIHC voted in October 2017 to approve funds for the structural upgrade and expansion of the Piers facility. The upgrades have improved the safety and longevity of the current infrastructure.

In 2019, the Swartz Bay dock started to show signs of structural failure on the last float. This float was replaced in the spring of 2020.

In May of 2018, further budget was approved for a modest expansion of the Piers dock. Engineering reports were completed, and a design finalized. The initial submission for approval was rejected and sent back for a new environmental review. That review has been completed but not presented. Final presentation was put on hold due to COVID-19. I anticipate the document to be submitted in the fall of 2020 for approval

At this stage of the process, it is not clear when the Piers Island government dock upgrade will occur.

Currently, the Piers Island government dock is well-over capacity, and there is no room at the dock. Arguably, this is not a tenable situation for the winds of the fall and winter.

On a somewhat related note, the yellow bull-rail on the dock is for **15-minute maximum** tie ups, if you are tied up in the yellow paint, **someone must remain in the boat at all times**. Please relay this information to visitors, Real Estate agents, trades people etc. Over the last 6-weeks, we have had a few run in's with strangers tying up in the emergency area, resulting in less than friendly exchanges.

A few reminders on dock etiquette.

As mentioned the Piers Island and Swartz Bay docks are currently at full capacity, requiring Islanders to raft up to one and other.

These docks are shared spaces so please ensure you optimize the available dock space you use. That means if you are occupying the front of the dock, please ensure your bow extends to the very front or beyond. If you are at the back of the dock, your aft should align with the end of the dock.

Rafting is a reality of using the Government docks. If you are the outside boat in a rafting situation, please ensure you have enough line to tie your boat to the dock, and not the boat next to you. It is recommended that you carry line that is 20-25 feet long and both port and starboard bumpers.

The yellow bull rails are for Emergency Services, please don't leave your boat unattended.

Moorage on the dock is not free. Be sure to deposit your payment in the payment box on the dock at the time of use.

Finally, a big thank you to Wharfinger Mike Smart for working diligently to ensure that the docks are kept in good working order throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted by,

John Hall
Southern Gulf Islands Harbour Commissioner