

PIVFD Trustee's Annual Report - 2022

Major capital expenditures for big-ticket items related to the PIVFD during the past year have not been necessary, thanks in large part to previous purchasing decisions by members of the PIVFD and as approved by past and current trustees. The addition of a new fire truck in 2018, followed by an ambulance, Firehall apron, and wood chipper in 2019, provided the infrastructure required for Piers Island to deal with a wide range of emergency situations on Piers Island.

Over the past couple of years, the PIVFD has continued to concentrate its efforts on the training and education of its fire fighting & emergency response volunteers as well as on educating Piers Islanders on effective ways to reduce fire risk. Thanks in large part to the training provided by Captain Sandy Burnham, our firefighters are receiving cross-training as first responders with the goal to have each member of the PIVFD trained to deal with medical emergencies as well as fires.

For the 6th year in a row, Piers Island received recognition as a FireSmart Community. FireSmart initiatives, under the management of Pauline Olesen, Gloria Morson, and Anne Bell, continue to grow thanks to a host of volunteers, including Brent Schorr providing tips on FireSmart landscaping recommendations, Pauline Olesen's skills in obtaining funding from FireSmart Canada, and Derek Morrison & Bob Crooks work in training mower operators to keep Island grasses cut short. Thanks also to Ann & Gary Cooney for creating a mobile fire hazard sign and to Grant Warrington for coordinating the Piers Island Chimney Sweep Program.

Three Covid-19 immunization clinics have been held on Piers Island, organized by many volunteers including Dr. Michal Pawlik, Ming Pawlik, Fire Chief Steve Cruise, Captain Sandy Burnham, and members of the PIVFD. Island Health officially recognized the contribution provided by Piers Island Covid-19 clinics in reducing the risk of Covid-19 to Piers Islanders and others.

I would like to thank Frances Glover, who has stepped down after 16 years as the Coordinator for our Emergency Program. Under Frances's guidance, the Emergency Program created a team structure that allowed it to expand its scope. Frances is not retiring as a volunteer as she has stepped into the position of Piers Island Commissioner, working alongside Commissioner Kerry Keats, on the Southern Gulf Islands Emergency Advisory Commission, as her husband Gary Glover steps down after 9 years as Commissioner. Velvet Warrior is our new Coordinator for our Emergency Program and will be working in conjunction with the PIVFD for the management of catastrophic events on our Island.

This will be my last meeting as a Trustee and as such, I would like to thank the many, many volunteers, all of whom contribute greatly to the quality of life on Piers.

I'd especially like to thank my fellow Trustees and other members of the PIID for all that they do to benefit our Island and who have greatly aided me in my position as Fire Trustee;

- Velvet Warrior, for her expertise and guidance in ensuring Piers Island continues to meet the Provincial requirements set for an Improvement District in her position as PIID Secretary.
- Brent Schorr as Financial Administrator made it easy to understand the complexities of different budgets and funding sources making it possible to plan and execute short and long term projects.
- Gloria Morson in her daily work in overseeing and managing our firehall and keeping it in optimum condition.
- Monique Joubarne stepped into a very challenging position as Water Trustee overseeing and ensuring the successful completion of the water tower, of which she has done an excellent job and has been great to work with.
- Julien Bahain has provided ongoing assistance and guidance in his position as the PIID Chair and as Buildings and Land Trustee. Without Julien's managerial and organizational skills and ability to get things done, Piers Island would not be where it is today. A year ago, when no one else stepped forward to fill his position as Chair and Trustee, Julien agreed to an additional 3-year term as Trustee.

Last, but certainly not least, I'd like to thank all the members of the PIVFD. Our volunteer firefighters and first responders, under the leadership of Fire Chief Steve Cruise, are committed to ongoing training for the benefit of all of us on Piers. They receive no compensation and are on call 24 / 7 to ensure that we, our families, and visitors, are as safe as possible while on island.

Both Steve Cruise and Pauline Olesen deserve special thanks. Without them, the PIVFD just wouldn't be the same. The condition of our two fire halls, the quality of our firefighting equipment, and the high level of training of our firefighters & first responders, have all been directly influenced by the actions of Steve and Pauline. With Steve Cruise as Fire Chief of the PIVFD, my position as Fire Trustee has been very well supported. It's been an honour, a privilege and a pleasure to have had the opportunity over the past 3 years to work with Steve, the PIVFD, the PIID, the other Trustees, and our community.

Thank you all.

Doug Turner – Fire Trustee