

Piers Island Improvement District
Piers Island Volunteer Fire Department AGM Trustee Report
June 11, 2023

It has been my honour this past year to serve as a Trustee of the Piers Island Improvement District (PIID) assigned the responsibility of acting as the Board's liaison with the Piers Island Volunteer Fire Department (PIVFD). Being able to support the department and Fire Chief Steve Cruise throughout the past year has been my pleasure.

We believe that open and respectful dialogue is one of the cornerstones that anchors every successful organization. To that end, Chief Cruise and I have endeavoured to talk in person often. Discussion around historical protocols and procedures while at the same time preparing for the future has been one of our foundational perspectives. While not always having concurring viewpoints, we found ways to reach agreement allowing us to move forward together for the benefit of the community.

Some of the areas of our interaction with the PIVFD have been discussions in the following areas:

1. Forecasting and Budgeting.
2. Planning for long-range future needs.
3. Fire Hall 2 upgrades.
4. FireSmart, its positive impact on our community and the support it provides the PIVFD by making Piers more fire resistant.
5. UBCM grant application and agreeing to provide financial oversight.
6. Uses of the new equipment being purchased.
7. The ability of the PIVFD to provide outside small island fire departments and provincial and federal government parks personnel, reports of their experience relating to our new equipment purchases and using the ocean as an unlimited water source.
8. Retirement and the process of naming a Fire Chief to succeed Chief Cruise.
9. Discussions on Fire Hall use.
10. The huge challenge presented by the new training protocols put forward by the Ministry.
11. The need to re-start off Island training post COVID.
12. The makeup of the departments calls. Medical Emergency/Fire and training.
13. The reality of changing demographics generally in our country and Piers relating to volunteerism.
14. The complexity of meeting the needs of Piers as it moves steadily to a more 'full time' populous.

Aside from tackling the new training standards and programs which is expected to take a year of instruction to complete, Chief Cruise submitted a comprehensive and detailed grant application to the UBCM resulting in the PIVFD being granted the full \$30,000 asked for. His approach to the Thursday afternoon practices provides the volunteer firefighters a positive learning experience where inhouse instruction is applied to follow-up practical field applications. His leadership style and stewardship, plus the contributions of department and non-department volunteers of providing after practice meals and goodies, helps create a setting where strong relational bonds and comradeship flourishes.

It has been our privilege to name John Hall as the new Fire Chief as of June 1, 2023. Our selection process allowed us to get to know him better at the PIID level and to ascertain his vision for the PIVFD and management ideology. Chief John Hall's report will be covering many of the PIVFD's

accomplishments of the past year and will articulate what he sees are his and the department's priorities for the next year.

We can not thank Steve and Pauline enough for their contributions to the department for the past nine years as Chief and as a firefighter prior to that. Although Steve has retired as Chief he is staying on as a volunteer firefighter for the foreseeable future, planning to contribute where and when needed.

And finally, a huge thank you to the volunteer firefighters whose commitment to our community is unparalleled. Their dedication to the well-being of our small community in answering all medical and fire emergency calls is not to be understated. Our community can rest well knowing that this service is available day and night, each and every day of the year.

Respectfully submitted.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John de Jong', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John de Jong
PIID Trustee