

Trustee Report – Piers Island Volunteer Fire Department – December 1, 2022 through January 31, 2023

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General Information

1. The PIVFD responded to medical, environmental, and law enforcement call outs during December and January. The calls were handled routinely by the membership with no issues or negative results.
2. Piers Island had no house fires this winter and the PIVFD wishes to thank all islanders for their diligence in keeping Piers fire free.
3. The cold, snowy weather saw the PIVFD plow the roads, shovel the hall apron, clear off all the standpipe bases and chain up the tires on all emergency vehicles in preparation in the event of a fire or medical emergency. The high tides caused some localized flooding, but the roads were kept open and passable and with the assistance of PIEP and many islanders, sandbagging kept the flood waters at bay.
4. The Thursday practices focused on how to manage chimney fires and communications on the Fire Ground. The medical team meets regularly and continue to hone their first responder skills.
5. Two new members have joined the department: Marni Friesen and Mike Harris.
6. Chief Cruise was unavailable for practices in January, but Captain Hall has run interesting sessions for the team in his stead.

FireSmart – British Columbia

Piers Island was one of the first communities in the province to join this initiative and have been certified as a FireSmart Community every year since 2016. FireSmart board member, Ann Bell has stepped down as a board member and Carol Fevang has stepped up to replace her. A great debt of thanks is due to Ann Bell for her many years of service.

Pauline leads the charge with the help of the board members and Chief. The FireSmart board reports to the PIVFD and is an extremely important component of PIVFD's fire prevention strategy. It takes a lot of work to organize the events, disseminate the information and to engage community participation.

So, what is British Columbia FireSmart? FireSmart is founded on 7 disciplines. The disciplines address wildfire preparedness from different angles. They are legislation & planning, education, development considerations, vegetation management, emergency planning, and inter-agency cooperation.

Together these disciplines help educate and prepare residents, their homes and neighbourhoods, critical infrastructure, and vital natural resources from wildfire.

Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Equipment Grant Application

We are awaiting official documentation (expected imminently) regarding the status of our application for a \$30,000 equipment grant from the UBCM. Upon receipt of same Chief Cruise will share the outcome of their decision. Please refer to the PIVFD Trustee Report submitted at the PIID meeting held on October 4, 2022, for more in depth information.

I wish to thank Fire Chief Cruise for his commitment to the PIVFD. Our PIVFD is first class and as Islanders we should be proud and grateful for the dedication they, and the people who support them, provide us each and every day.

Respectfully Submitted

John de Jong

Trustee – Fire Department