

Trustee Report – Piers Island Volunteer Fire Department – January 31, 2023 Through April 4, 2023

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General Information

1. We are entering the new fire season on Piers Island as of April 15th. After this date no open outdoor fires will be allowed on Piers without a permit issued by the PIVFD. Chief Cruise will be sending out more information shortly.
2. The PIVFD responded to one medical emergency during the current period.
3. Matthews family at #119 donated a brand-new fire hose supplied by the Burnaby Fire Department, valued at \$5000.
4. Many islanders volunteered their time to get a host of improvements completed this winter.
5. More awards for our Fire Smart Crew.

Fire Smart – British Columbia

The Piers Island FireSmart committee (Pauline, Gloria Morson and Carol Fevang) have once again led us to our seventh consecutive *Neighbourhood FireSmart Award*. One of the mandates the island has given the PIVFD is to carry out fire prevention and fire mitigation work. Fire Smarting work is an important component in our overall strategy. While this award may not translate into any immediate saving insurance wise, it shows our island's intent to reduce fuel loads and to make changes to mitigate the severity of a wildfire in our community. Again, we have been successful in acquiring a FireSmart grant for \$500 which will provide us with the opportunity to sponsor a special FireSmart Event on the island on May 27th. A contest is in the works with details to follow!

Fire Hall Improvement Work

Bruce Mallory kindly donated his time and equipment to improve the lighting in the hall. We now have automatic lighting. Walk in the door and the lights come on. Walk out, and they are turned off within five minutes. This coupled with the brighter fixtures installed by Barry Tate last fall means that we have a much-improved building for community and fire department use.

We are also exploring replacing or improving the fire alarm system inside the hall. Currently it is monitored by Prices Alarms for an annual fee, but the sensor is triggered only by heat, not smoke or carbon monoxide.

The sirens mounted in the tree in front of the hall failed this winter due to age and exposure to weather but Colin Robertson was able to repair and reposition them on the radio mast, without cost.

The truck bays had not been painted in 30 years and desperately needed to be refreshed. Bob Johnson, a painter who has worked on Piers before, offered to paint the bays free of charge. Bob was able to obtain paint to complete the project from Sherwin-Williams Paint in Courtenay at no cost. Assisting Bob in this work was our very own Karen Bloudell and Isabel Bliss.

Reflooring the training room has been put on hold for the time being due to costs being outside of the budget amount originally approved. Improvements to the radio/dispatch desk will be undertaken this summer.

Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Equipment Grant Purchases

We are pleased to report that the grant application for \$30,000 was granted in full. Chief Cruise has started the process of ordering equipment and supplies keeping in mind that the cost of equipment has increased in the past six months or more. A pump capable of using the ocean as a primary water source is on order. The PIVFD Trustee Report submitted on October 4, 2022, outlines the plan of how the grant will be used.

Chief Steve Cruise Retirement

It is official, after leading our PIVFD as Chief, Steve has decided to retire effective May 31, 2023.

“It is with mixed feeling that I offer my resignation as PIVFD Chief effective May 31, 2023. Leading the Fire Department for the last nine years has been one of most rewarding and satisfying experiences of my life. When I joined the fire department in 1998, I had no idea what a wonderful group this would become. But I recognize that my ability to motivate the team and to see it flourish is hampered by my age and by my longevity in this leadership role. It is time for me to step aside so that new people can have the opportunities I had. I would be honoured to remain a part of the PIVFD team and take on whatever duties the new Chief may have for me.

I have learned so much from every member of this Department both past and present and I have always appreciated the confidence the Trustees have placed in me. It has been a privilege to work with such a resolute and talented team. None of what we have accomplished over the past nine years would have been possible without the help of every one of the members. Pauline deserves special mention as she has been so instrumental in the success of the PIVFD; whatever credit is given me, is to be doubled for her.

Thank you, John, for your on-going support. I know it will be best for the island to have a new Chief and I know that you and your fellow Trustees will appoint someone who can take us to the next level. I am certainly happy to help in any way I can for a smooth transition and to offer whatever guidance I can.”

Sincerely yours,
Steve Cruise

We can't thank Steve and Pauline enough for their hearts and souls that they have dedicated to the department and our community. A process to identify and appoint a new chief will begin shortly.

Thank You for Your Service

- To the Matthews family at #119 for arranging the fire hose donation from the Burnaby FD.
- To Pauline, Gloria Morson and Carol Fevang for their Fire Smart work.
- To Bob Johnson for painting the firehall bays, getting the paint donated, ably assisted by Karen Bloudell and Isabel Bliss.
- To Bruce Mallory for improving the lighting in the Hall.
- To Barry Tate for installing brighter lighting fixtures.
- To Colin Robertson for repairing and remounting the siren in front of the new firehall.
- To Steve Cruise and Pauline Olesen for their commitment and dedication.

Respectfully Submitted

John de Jong
Trustee – Fire Department