

2019 Piers Island AGM Report

Southern Gulf Islands Harbours Commission

The 2019 Southern Gulf Islands Harbour Commissioners Report is respectfully submitted by John Hall, Harbour Commissioner.

Overview of Responsibilities

The Southern Gulf Islands Harbour Commission (SGIHC) is a volunteer committee under the purview of the CRD, the Commission represents 12-dock facilities across the Gulf Islands and Swartz Bay.

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

Facility Upgrades

In October of 2018, the Government dock on Piers Island received the first of two planned upgrades.

The first upgrade featured a structural overhaul of the facility. New floatation, new pilings, new footings, shore erosion protection and new chains were installed to bolster the integrity of the facility. The upgrades proved to be timely, as just months after the work was completed, the dock weathered the winters worst southern storm with no issues.

Phase two of the upgrade will see an additional 80 feet of usable dock space installed. As mentioned in last year's Commissioners Report, the expansion is modest, but will be appreciated for all of us who use the dock and have experienced the day- in and day-out overcrowding.

The expansion work has commenced with the float currently being constructed, installation is expected to occur within the next 4-6 weeks.

The Swartz Bay facility is slated to receive minor upgrades in the coming year, included in this will be power washing, paint and the addition of anti-slip materials.

This winter the dock weathered the northerly gales with some impact. Twice the ramp came off of its rails during significant winter winds, both times Wharfinger Mike Smart was able to remedy the situation in short order.

Spill Kits

Both the Piers and Swartz Bay docks now have Spill kits located within the dock facility. These kits are for anyone who comes across a spill that poses an environmental risk. The spill kits are located in the Big Blue Cans, which contrary to popular belief **are not** garbage cans.

Dock Etiquette

The Piers Island Dock shelter does not have garbage service, so please ensure your guests and trades people don't leave their garbage there. This is an ongoing issue, that seems to be getting worse.

Spring Lines are critically important to the safe moorage of your boat, please be sure to use both an aft and forward spring lines at all times to protect your boat from causing and being damaged.

Our docks are shared spaces, please ensure you optimize the available dock space. This 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 and not the rear cleat.

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.