



PIID Fire Trustee's Report March 2020

Due to coronavirus, the PIVFD is unable to offer their usual practice session this week, and instead they are continuing with the on-line training.

- The PIVFD was awarded a \$24,000 grant under the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund from the Union of BC Municipalities. The funds will be used to provide training and equipment so our that Fire Department can be more resilient and self-sufficient in the event of a disastrous fire. Included in the application was the purchase of a Hale Super Chief floating pump, which has arrived. This special pump can deliver an endless supply of water to every waterfront property with up to 400 gallons per minute of sea water and will in effect be like having a “portable” city fire hydrant right in front of almost every home on Piers. It will operate completely independent of our standpipe and water tower system. Special thank you to the hard work of Pauline Olesen and her assistants John Hall, Kerry Keats and Steve Cruise.
- The Paver Project were installed in the Fall and due to the heavy rains, the finishing touches (placement of finishing sand in the joints, cleaning and seal coating of the stones) were delayed and are expected to be completed before summer. Our fire Chief has asked for community ideas on landscaping the area so that it's less industrial looking and would be grateful if someone could take on arranging some beautification work at our Community Fire Hall. Please contact Steve Cruise if you can assist.
- Wildfire Preparedness Day be held on May 17th. Our trail system in the centre of the island is crucial to our ability to manage a forest fire. These trails need be kept clear and open so we can use them to access a fire and we rely on them to be effective fire “stops” or fire breaks. To this end, all islanders will be asked to sign up for a few hours of work on May 17th to help keep these trails viable in accordance with established PIA guidelines. We are planning special work parties in the morning, followed by a centre of the island picnic lunch for our volunteers.

Thanks again to the organizing and documentation work from Pauline Olesen, Piers Island has been awarded a \$500 grant to help make our Wildfire Preparedness Day a success. Out of a total of 245 grant submissions this year, Piers Islanders should be very proud to have received this grant.

Another milestone for Piers Island; we have been recognized as a FIRESMART COMMUNITY for 2019. Only 30 communities in BC are awarded the Fire Smart designation and Piers Island has received this designation for 5 consecutive years. Congratulations and thanks to everyone who helped out with this ongoing and so important initiative.

- A request was put forward to the trustees on behalf of the fire chief to move the firehall building to the portfolio of the fire trustee. The rational being that the maintenance and future upgrades required at the firehall could be more effectively managed within the fire trustee's portfolio. Up until about 5 years ago, the firehall was part of the fire trustee's portfolio, and it was put forward that the reason the firehall changed portfolios was to even out the workload within the two portfolios. The Chief suggested trying it for a year and if it doesn't work out, to revert back to what it is now.

The trustees asked the fire trustee to follow up with the fire chief to identify and provide a budget for projects that will be needed over the next calendar year. It was decided by the trustees that for the time being, not to move the firehall to the fire trustee's portfolio.

- Promotions and congratulations to the following individuals: Derek Morrison & John Hall - after several years of hard work and training, they have been promoted to Captains in the PIVFD.
- Sandy Burnham, having taken on more and more duties with the PIVFD in her role as educator for our first responders, Sandy has been promoted to Captain, responsible for the First Responders.
- Gerry Kristianson for his 26 years of service in providing First Responder training and in managing medical operations for our Fire Department. Gerry has led with confidence and skill during his almost three decades of volunteer work on Piers.

Thank you to all our volunteers.

Submitted by:
Doug Turner
PIVFD Trustee