



# PIID Fire Trustee's Report

## May 2020

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- Due to coronavirus, the PIVFD have begun practices again in a limited way (masks+social distancing) and are also offering on line training for those who are not comfortable attending.
- PIVFD has an adequate supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for our first responders. There have been no call outs during the pandemic but if called, they have very specific safety protocols to follow. Our Captain of the First Responder team (Sandy Brunham) has done an excellent job keeping the team trained via Zoom sessions.
- PIVFD is planning on offering summer training again (8 sessions on Saturday mornings) this summer for anyone interested in getting involved in the Fire Department in a less formal manner. Last year was a real success and we are hoping graduates from last year return along with some new recruits.
- Big thank you to Fran Primrose for the donation of her diesel-powered mower. This will be very helpful in keeping the grasses cut and green in the meadows, orchard and along the roadsides. Long dry grasses are an extreme fire hazard. This generous donation by Fran Primrose will be very beneficial to our fire prevention and fire mitigation programs.
- PIVFD is currently arranging purchases for outfitting our Rapid Attack Teams via the UBCM \$24,000 Grant we succeeded in obtaining. These teams will provide Structure Protection Units (SPUs) to Piers Island homes which may be in the path of a Wildfire. Pauline Olesen has done an outstanding job obtaining the grant, organizing the equipment purchases and training the teams.
- PIVFD is going ahead with purchasing a forestry trailer and hose etc. as per the Bylaw passed Sept 3rd, 2019. of which \$14,549 is budgeted for this equipment. Derek Morrison is organizing some of the acquisitions which will result in a significant improvement in our ability to manage a centre of the island fire.
- This past week PIVFD members witnessed firsthand the attack on the fire at North Saanich Marina by NSFD and SFD volunteers. The volunteer fire departments were successful in gaining control in a relatively short period, in large part due to the use of portable pumps and their training in setting up the pumps. Our PIVFD are equipped and well trained in the use of the portable pumps and deserve all islanders support for their dedication and ongoing training.
- Summer is fast approaching and with forecasts for extreme forest fire hazards in Western Canada, PIVFD is proceeding with our annual FireSmart program for the centre of the island on our designated FireSmart Awareness day - May 30th. So far there have been about a dozen islanders who have signed up to help which is much lower than past years. Understandably some people may not be comfortable in helping out during this pandemic, but the cause is good, the work is extremely important and pandemic protocols for distancing, etc. will be in effect. Anyone wishing to join should sign up by May 15 (Friday) at the following link: <https://www.piersisland.ca/firesmart.html> Pizza, pop and eclairs will be provided for lunch.

Submitted by:  
Doug Turner  
PIVFD Trustee