

PIVFD Trustees Report – February 1, 2022

The 3 main issues that the PIVFD has had to deal with over the past couple of months was dealing with the ongoing pandemic, extreme weather and the radio switchover from Langford to the Saanich Fire Department.

1. Surging cases of Covid have restricted weekly fire practices, in person meetings, Christmas celebrations and continuation of the vaccination clinic. The last Covid vaccination clinic was held January 28th. under the direction of Captain Sandy Brunham, with the assistance of several members of the fire department and our medical first responders.
2. Fall brought atmospheric rivers to our Island followed by unusually high snow falls into the new year. The high moisture content caused McKenzie Crescent to be fragile, resulting in a suspension of heavy vehicles using the road, including our fire trucks during Thursday practices.
3. The radio switchover from Langford to the Saanich Fire Department occurred in December and is due to a council decision within Langford and has resulted in Saanich taking on 14 additional communities, including Piers Island. There have been growing pains with the switchover and the Saanich Fire Department, CRD and Communities are working hard to ensure the radio system works seamlessly.

In spite of these challenges, 2021 set a record for the number of practice hours recorded by PIVFD thanks to our hard-working and dedicated volunteers under the leadership of Chief Steve Cruise.

Other noteworthy events to report;

- The Fire Hall was decorated for Christmas thanks to the volunteer work of Kelly Stevensen, Rick Schnurr, Pauline Olesen and Karen Blundell.
- The lawnmower used to cut the meadow and grass along the road shoulder will soon need replacing. The estimated cost to replace the lawnmower is about \$5,000. A proposal was put forward to the PIA to share in the cost of replacing the lawnmower.
- A major goal for the PIVFD for 2022 is to have all of our Fire Fighters cross trained as First Responders. Currently we have about 10 First Responders and 15 Fire Fighters. The goal is to have each member trained so that our firefighters can deal with medical emergencies as well as fires.
- The PIVFD would like to formally thank Frances Glover for her 16 years of leadership and service to Piers Island as the Coordinator for the Piers Island Emergency Program. The Emergency Program provides support to the PIVFD and the community in the event of an emergency. Under Frances guidance, the Emergency Program created a team structure which allowed it to expand its scope. Frances is not retiring as a volunteer. She has agreed to step into the volunteer position of Piers Island Commissioner, working alongside Commissioner Kerry Keats, on the Southern Gulf Islands Emergency Advisory Commission, as her husband Gary Glover steps down after 9 years as Commissioner. Thank you Frances & Gary for your many years of volunteering and contributions to the health and enjoyment of life on Piers Island.

