

Piers Island Harbours Commissioner Report – 2018 AGM

The Southern Gulf Islands Harbour Commission (SGIHC) is a volunteer committee under the purview of the CRD, the Commission represents 11-dock facilities across the Gulf Islands and Swartz Bay.

The Piers Island Harbours Commissioner and Wharfinger (Mike Smart) are responsible for both the Piers Island and Swartz Bay facilities.

After a comprehensive engineering review of the Piers dock, the SGIHC voted in October 2017 to approve funds for the structural upgrade of the Piers facility. The upgrades will aim to improve the safety and longevity of the current infrastructure. Work will commence in the near future and be completed this summer.

In May of 2018, further budget was approved for a modest expansion of the Piers dock. Engineering reports have been completed and design options have been discussed, no final design has been finalized.

At this stage of the process, it is clear that due to available budget and foreshore lease constraints, the dock expansion will be modest. It will help, but not solve our over-crowding situation.

Both the facilities upgrade and expansion are happening because of the perseverance and dedication of Bryce Young. Once again, on behalf of all Piers Islanders, thank you Bryce.

A few reminders on dock etiquette.

The Piers Island and Swartz Bay docks are currently at full capacity requiring Islanders to raft up to one another during peak occasions.

These docks are shared spaces so please ensure you optimize the available dock space you use. On Piers, we need to fit three boats on the east and west sides of the dock. That 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.

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.

Finally, a big thank you to Wharfinger Mike Smart for working diligently to ensure that the docks are kept in good working order throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted by,

John Hall
Southern Gulf Islands Harbour Commissioner