

## WATER TRUSTEE REPORT

April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021

BOB & Maureen Crooks

### Transition Plan

As a newly appointed Trustee I have relied heavily on several members of the Water Team. The expertise, knowledge and willingness to help are Bob and Maureen's strongest assets and were instrumental in completing the Water Tower and other Water projects.

The Water on Piers Island remains affordable and plentiful thanks to their constant monitoring of the system. In November 2020 Maureen let me know that she and Bob would be transiting out of their roles on the Water Team. They have contributed for 15 plus years and believed it was time to step down, relax and spend more time with family and friends. They were after all retired, although it was not apparent with all the volunteer work they have done. The new Water Tank Project was their final chapter, and we all know how important that structure is to Piers Island.

To fill their shoes will not be an easy thing to do. There are numerous task that are required to ensure our water system operates at the highest standard. Maureen and Bob have always overseen these tasks and ensured they were completed safely, and according to the current regulations.

Maureen has been working diligently on completing the Piers Island Water System Operations Playbook. This document outlines all the Water Team Roles & Responsibilities that each Water Team Member can follow. Bob has ensured that each Pump House has all the tools and equipment necessary to complete regular and emergency duties.

I know past and present Trustees feel the same and we just want to say thank you for everything you have done, and we wish you all the best of health and happiness.

When the COVID 19 restrictions are lifted we intend to have a special event celebrating their volunteer work at the new Water Tower.

To assist in the transition, I have completed a spread sheet with the Tasks that need to be completed and a list of all the Water Team members. We hope to meet soon to review the document and ensure all the tasks are covered. We will be looking to Bob & Maureen as advisors when necessary.

We are always looking for new people to join and help out in any capacity. Please contact any member of the water team for advice and direction.

## DECONSTRUCTION OF THE OLD WATER TANK

Through my discussions with external demolition companies, it became apparent that our community needs to discuss how we wanted this event to occur. All the companies contacted indicated they would have to view the old tower and surrounding area to determine the safest way to dismantle the tank including what was needed in terms of equipment, barging etc. I am putting a package of photographs and measurements for them to view.

In conversation with members of the community several suggestions included:

- Hiring an external company to Safely dismantle the tank and remove all the contents.
- Hiring an external company to Safely dismantle the tank, removing portions of the structure that cannot be recycled and leaving materials behind that could be disposed of or used by volunteers.
- Hiring qualified local Piers Islanders to safely dismantle the tank
  - This could include burning unwanted wooden structures,
  - Salvaging the yellow cedar wood and selling it or using the wood for other PIID projects
  - Piers Island Auction for the yellow cedar and creosote posts to raise money for Piers Island causes

It appears that a combination of using external help to dismantle the Tank and Piers Volunteers to deal with the remaining products might be a good fit.

There are likely more suggestions or opinions out there and if you have any please email me. If you are interested in decommissioning the old tank please submit a proposal prior to the end of April. All options will be reviewed by the Trustees. **The key issue is Safety.**

## BACKFLOW PREVENTER INSTALLATIONS

I have had several discussions with Bob Skunk, the CRD Manager of Cross Connection Control. He has been helpful in outlining the minimum expected requirements to protect Public Health in the Greater Victoria Drinking Water Supply System.

Currently homes are considered low hazards. The minimum requirement for Piers Island would be a single check valve installed on the owner's side of the meter.

If homes have Irrigation systems, Pools, Hot Tubs, Geo Thermal systems, Boilers hooked into their water system then a Double Check Valve is required under the

Code. This requires a permit, must be installed by a Licenced Plumber and must be tested annually.

As previously outlined in my February 2021 report, between 2016 when the project started to 2020, Check Valve had been installed by volunteers in 28 residences.

Piers Island Water System Bylaw #61 refers to an example of a Service Connection Detail. This was completed in 2017 by Bob Crooks and Ander Wynne-Edwards and is useful to follow.

Owners are expected to complete this installation. Piers Island Bylaw #61 last updated in 1994 refers to the requirements. This Bylaw requires further updating by the Water Team in 2021.

***As Noted in the Bylaw, only Trustees or designated members of the Water Team can open and close the Corporate Box with Curb Stop Valve. When you are installing the single check valve please advise a Trustee to ensure someone is available to assist. This is an old and delicate system.***

#### RESEARCH & NEXT STEPS FOR REPLACEMENT OF THE MAIN RING LOOP

The Main Ring Loop supplies all the residences, fire standpipes and replenishes the water reservoir and new water storage tank. The Main Ring Loop is roughly divided into four quadrants between six Corporate Gate Valves. The aging infrastructure needs replacement. This will be a major time and financial undertaking. We will likely need to strike up a committee to manage this large undertaking.

For the first stage I will seek information and guidance from the CRD, VIHA, Ministry of Community Services, Islands Trust and Ministry of Health to assist in determining what our next steps should be.

COVID 19 protocols remain in place for all water team members.

Piers Island is fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers. Hats off to Certified Operators and Water Team Members for Stepping Up and taking on extra tasks.

Our Water System is in good hands with Phillipa, Katie, Velvet, Ming, Garth, Gary, Cam, Ander, Collin, Steve and Barry.

Gary and Garth are currently working towards obtaining 50 hours of hands-on experience prior to challenging the certification exam.

#### WATER QUALITY

Continues to be excellent.

## ROUTINE MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

- Weekly Water Tests
- Underwater Line Testing
- Visual Inspection of New Tank and Pumphouses
- Generator Maintenance
- Golf Cart Maintenance

Monique Joubarne

Water Trustee