

Protection Island Neighborhood Association

Coordinates: 49°10'44"N 123°55'12"W

A Yearly Newsletter

May 2013

**The 2013 PINA
Annual General Meeting**
will be held

Sunday June 9, 2013 at Beacon House on
Beautiful Gallows Point

AGM Registration
begins at 1:00 pm
Our Meeting begins at
1:30 sharp.



All Protection Island Residents

are welcome to attend the
AGM, however, voting is
restricted to members
only. Any Protection Island
resident, regardless of
whether they rent or



All photos in this newsletter by Jennifer Cluff

own property, is encouraged
to join the Neighbourhood
Association.

Membership is \$10- /year/
person. Make cheques out to
PIRA (not to PINA). If you
cannot attend the AGM, you
may mail annual dues to the
treasurer: Veronica Zehntner,
160 Pirates Lane, Nanaimo,
BC. Canada. V9R 6R1. PINA
residents are invited to stand
for election to the Board.

*The AGM is an opportunity for all
residents and property owners to
discuss issues of importance to
Islanders. The Board would like to
extend a special welcome to
our new Islanders.*

DEAR NEIGHBOURS,

On September 1, 2009, I arrived on Protection Island as a very happy renter living in a great 2-bedroom suite looking onto Newcastle Island. On May 1, 2010, my lease expired and I was lucky to find a 3.5 month lease in a 2-storey home located in the middle of the island - and which fitted perfectly into my plans to return to Montréal to teach for one semester. On December 15, I returned to live in a wonderful, modern cabin behind a big house looking over to the mainland. While living there, I taught for one semester at VIU and when walking back home one day in February, 2011, Thora saw me and said: "Why don't you join the Board of our Association? I said that as a renter, I don't qualify - but Thora then told me about the name change to the Protection Island Association - it became one for Neighbours and was no longer limited to Ratepayers. P.I.N.A. - "I" as in Island.

Thora can be very convincing. I accepted. But I told her I would be away to a conference during the Annual General Meeting. No problem said she. "I'll still nominate you. Just give me your \$10".

In July, 2011, I attended my first Board Meeting and was impressed with the qualities and intelligence of my colleagues. But everything was new to me: Issues about roads, herons, brush and docks. I did my best to contribute - but mostly, I was happy to be learning so much about life on P.I.

A year later, I was again unable to attend the AGM. On returning, I was asked to stand for President. I guess that's the penalty for missing two AGMs in a row. But seriously, I felt that with such a wonderful Board, my main duty would be to Chair the meetings. And then I found-out I had to write this report.

P.I.N.A had it's first renter President.

And then we heard the news that the Nanaimo Port Authority had decided to

lease our Public Harbour to a private developer.

Rather than chronicle the details of our activity, I'll just say that I was thrown into the world of Foreshore Leases and Riparian Rights. Even getting my Canadian Pleasure Craft Operator Card did not prepare me for what was to follow.



Fortunately, a committee headed by David Carter took-up the issue and once again, I became the student. This brought me into the world of politics, City Council meetings, writing politicians, participating in rallies and other activities which had nothing to do with minor-ninth chords or knowing the range of the oboe.

All of this to say that the issue of losing our Public Harbour became a major concern - and doubtless, one year later, you have heard the good news. We live to fight another day.

Besides our Public Harbour issue, I've been meeting the city staff and politicians we chose to manage and develop



Nanaimo. There are some very smart and good people over there, and I look forward to fostering good relationships on behalf of P.I.N.A. with them all. As well, I've attended a number of meetings

and events including the Nanaimo Neighbourhood Network, the 2013 Heritage Summit, the Nanaimo Cultural Plan Community Visioning Forum, the Nanaimo Food Strategy Workshop and The Friends of Morden Mine Reception Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of start-up work at Morden - to name a few -

As the President of P.I.N.A., I realize I've come to this position with very little sense of history as to the customs on Protection Island. Is this a liability or an asset? In any case, I cherish the intelligence and dedication of our Board Members: Veronica, Sara, Karen, Jane, David, and Brenda. I also value the wonderful and incredible contributions of the other organizations which interact with P.I.N.A. - The Mud Bay Dock Crew, directed by Larry Iwascow, The Lions Club, D.I.G.S., those who maintain our Museum, Archives and Library, our ferry skippers, the staff and management of the Dingy Dock Pub and the past Presidents of P.I.N.A / P.I.R.A who have graciously educated and informed me about our little island and the charming town just across the ocean.

And by the way, I'll be at this year's AGM - I can't afford another promotion as a P.I.N.A member.

Every day in Nanaimo is an Adventure.

Andrew Homzy, President
P.I.N.A. ("I" as in Island)





P.I.N.A. Board of Directors

Andrew Homzy, President
 Brenda Henderson, Director
 David Carter, Access
 Jane Garcia, Secretary
 Veronica Zehntner, Treasurer,
 Sara Gogo, Parks
 Karen Lajoy, Communications/
 Liaison
 Kevin Pistor, Director

The actions of the Board have been guided by the following Vision Statement, developed by the Community.

“Our Vision is to continue to be a unique, quiet, friendly, beautiful and safe community, in which residents cooperate to maintain the natural setting, with its beaches, parks, trees, birds and wildflowers. In order to achieve this vision, we will work together to find the most acceptable and respectful ways of dealing with problems and points of difference, (access, moorage, garbage disposal, cars, streetlights, dogs, etc.) while maintaining our informal non-bureaucratic, easy-going Protection Island style of life.”

P.I. ROADS REPORT

BY VERONICA ZEHNTNER

The normal road maintenance schedule is as follows:

- 1) Each week a road condition survey is done by the sewer utility worker;
- 2) Twice/year (usually November & March if required), minor grading and/or pothole filling
- 3) Late March site meeting with Roads Foreman walking the whole island assessing work to be done;
- 4) June annual major road grading and shoulder repair; extra material rolled on and drainage maintenance followed by dust suppression;
- 5) June or July vegetation control – weed whacking, etc.

This year, however, we have been in a holding pattern with road maintenance because the City is going to dig up the sewer lines on the Island. The date for this had not been revealed, despite pleas from the City Roads Foreman for over a month. Finally, on April 15, we were informed the project is postponed until next year.

Barging of truckloads of rap will take place over three days in early May, followed by our usual site inspection to determine the course of action for each area. The actual grading, doming and application of rap will occur in early to mid-June, followed by dust suppression.

Vegetation control, i.e. weed-whacking, will be late June or early July where required.

As mentioned at last year’s AGM, when mowing your lawn & boulevard, please refrain from shooting grass onto the road. Organics is one of the problems for the roads, preventing water from shedding or diverting it in rivulets that cause erosion and potholes.

Also if you see small fir fronds and branches from fall and winter storms on the road in front of your property, please remove them. If everyone did their little bit it would have a huge impact to reduce damage to the roads.

The approach to the traffic circle held up well this winter with all the extra material added last year. The Eco-Grid at the Circle is also still holding up well. The quagmire we used to endure every winter, now a distant memory.

NOTE: PINA leases an access to the Mud Bay Dock. This goes to the dock only. **THE PURPOSE IS FOR PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF ONLY.** As part of our lease agreement there is to be no parking in the Park. Dock users are asked to park their vehicles in the Circle.

As usual, with summer approaching and the associated congestion at the Circle, it is important that people are courteous and respect the 24-hour parking limit; and NOT store their vehicles at the Circle. If you are going to be away more than two days, please drop off your bags and take your vehicle home again, or have a neighbour return it, leaving the already-limited parking for those remaining on the Island and commuting daily. Also, the inside of the Circle is for golf carts or very small cars, (as signage indicates). Please ensure you are not encroaching on the Disabled Parking spot when parking – remember the users are not as agile in squeezing in and out of their vehicles. Also, if you are using the Disabled Parking spot, please do not forget to display your special parking sticker.

A REMINDER: golf carts on Protection Island are required by law to be equipped with lights, horn and **CURRENT insurance decal** clearly displayed. The operator must hold a valid driver's license. **MINORS ARE NOT PERMITTED** to drive and doing so invalidates your insurance. This also applies to motor vehicles. The RCMP Bike Patrol visit regularly and ticket violators: no insurance is a \$600 fine (double car insurance and triple golf cart insurance). Also be aware if they stop you, you will be asked to provide your registration and drivers' license for both carts and cars.

The SPEED LIMIT throughout Protection Island is **20 kmh** and our roads are shared equally with bikes, pedestrians, kids, dogs and or wheelbarrows and the odd deer. You never know what you'll find around the next corner.

Parks Report

By Sara Gogo

7 Pirates Lane – In response to a concern raised regarding the lot for sale at 7 Pirates Lane (Lot 40) and the impact that a sale may have on the Heron Rookery, several city officials and two local experts were consulted. A report was in process of being written when the lot sold in early February. It is understood that before any structural changes to the property can occur, the owner must have an environmental impact study carried out.

Members from the Nanaimo City Parks Department will be coming over to the island in early May to walk through all the parks and identify trees that may be hazardous and to develop a plan to deal with them.

Upcoming events: An Island-wide invasive plant removal will be organized in May that focuses on ivy and Spurge Laurel Daphne eradication. In June, when the Broom is in bloom, we will invite all islanders to participate in the removal of this invasive plant. Dates will be announced on Pro-Isle and be posted on all bulletin boards in early May.

OFF-LEASH DOG PARK

Last spring the City of Nanaimo approved Protection Island's first off-leash dog park, as a pilot project until Spring 2013. The park is at Gallows Point, encompassing the field & beaches between Beacon House & the barge ramp. Signs are posted outlining the rules and etiquette. Please review them before using the park.

Because Protection Island does not offer public garbage removal, no poop bag dispenser or garbage can has been installed. Please remember to bring your own bags and to remove your dog's waste for disposal at home.

If your dog drags sticks or small logs up from the beach onto the grassy area, please return them to the beach before heading home. Lawnmowers and wood don't mix well.

It is our hope that users will respect the park rules as non-compliance could result in never making it past the pilot phase and the project being cancelled.

We hope that you and your dogs enjoy this wonderful waterfront space for play and exercise and meeting new friends.

Many thanks to the protection Island Lions Club for their openness to trial this space as an off-leash area. The Lions are the stewards of this property and their generosity is appreciated

Protection Island Lions Club

By Shawne Wasilieff

This past year has been a very busy and successful time for the P.I. Lions. Our major project for the year was the renovation of the basement at Beacon House to provide a home for the Beacon Library. We received a tremendous amount of community support for this project in the way of volunteer labour, donations of cash, materials and books. Thanks to the hard working library volunteers, Sunday afternoons have become a time for book and DVD selection and

socializing in a warm and welcoming environment.

P.I. Lions provided three bursaries last year to P.I. students pursuing post-secondary education and anticipate another for the coming year.

Although our major focus is maintaining the Community Centre and sponsoring local community events, we also support local charities such as the Wheels for Wellness program and the Nanaimo Hospice Society.

We continue to earn part of our funds from recycling deposit cans and bottles and appreciate donations of these items. (Sorry, no milk containers or food cans /bottles.)

Our executive for this year is: president, Angie Serenius, vice-president, Shawne Wasilieff, secretary, Sharie Biller, treasurer Peter Frewin.

Beacon House rentals are handled by Sharie Biller and Margaret Harris.

We welcome as new members any residents who wish to actively participate in our small but vibrant community. If you would like to attend a meeting or find out more about P.I. Lions, contact Angie Serenius (250 753 4228), or Sharie Biller (250 753 4228).

2013 Garden Tour

By Heather Cooling

Protection Island's own annual garden tour will take place on Sunday, June 23.

We'll meet at the community garden at 10:00 am, where for a donation, maps and garden descriptions will be available. Tickets for the popular gift basket draw will once again be in demand. A barbecue – hot dogs, cookies and drinks will be offered at the end of the tour. All proceeds to museum and archives activities of The PI Cultural and Historical Society. For information call Wendy Chandler, 753-6899 or Heather Cooling, 753-8162.

Fire Department News

By Jason Metz

On-call Captain

Station 7 Protection Island
Nanaimo Fire Rescue

Bryan Paterson and Janet Rygnestad have joined Station 7 since the last newsletter, and our very own Pam Murray has returned to us from Alberta. We welcome them, they are great additions to our crew!

Ian Douglas has left Station 7 and Protection Island for Quadra Island where he will resume service with the Quadra Island Fire Department, his service to our community was exemplary and he will be missed.

Currently Station 7 has 12 members: Fredrik Collin, Don Corfield, Steve Johnson, SummerLaurie, Bob Lawson, Guy Le Masurier, Jodi Le Masurier, Jason Metz, Pam Murray, Bryan Paterson, Janet Rygnestad and Rob Timbrell.

Recruitment

Are you interested in contributing to your community? Mastering practical knowledge and skills in a fun environment? Station 7 is currently looking for a few healthy, level-headed recruits to join our team.

Oncall firefighters at Station 7 learn to fight fires, treat medical patients, get paid for their time, and provide a critical service to the community. For more information contact either Jason Metz 716-0355 or Jodi LeMasurier 754-7245 or stop by the station on a Tuesday evening at 7pm for a chat.

Preparation

Street addresses should be clearly visible from the road so the fire department can find you quickly in an emergency. We respond to all 911 fire and medical emergencies.

Help your firefighters improve their emergency operations at your home by providing us a basic drawing of your floor plan. Drop it off with any firefighter or at Station 7 on Tuesday nights.

Have a fire escape plan for your home with a safe meeting place outside and make sure that all household members are familiar with the plan. Have a fun fire drill every 3 months, it only takes a few minutes and keeps the plan fresh in everyone's memory.

Check the service date on your fire extinguishers, if they need servicing or replacing, drop them off at Mid Island Fire Equipment (MIFEL) 273 Selby St., Nanaimo. If you have a motor driven boat, it is a good practice to carry an extinguisher on board.

Replace the batteries in all your smoke alarms, they should be replaced every 6 months (an easy way to remember is to do it when you change your clocks, spring & fall). Alarms should be tested every month, remember only working alarms save lives.

Now is the perfect time to clean your chimney, so it's ready for that first chilly fall evening. Burning cardboard or paper in a stove with an uncleaned chimney is a major cause of chimney fires.

For major quake preparation have a contact person outside the local area who all household members can check in with by phone; know the location of your propane shut off, electrical panel and water valves; review where the safest spots are in a building, next to sturdy furniture, beside a solid inside wall, in a corner or inside hallway. Change the water and replace any expired prescription medications in your earthquake survival kit, making sure you have at least a 10 day supply of medications. The document 52

Weeks to Emergency Preparedness is posted on the PINA website: www.pira.ca for those who have not put a kit together yet. Secure water tanks. Top heavy furniture, appliances, computers, televisions, speakers, etc. should all be secured in place with brackets or Velcro straps, they could become lethal falling objects in the event of a big quake.

Prevention

Because of all the trees, brush and native plants that we share our island with, Protection Island is a wildland interface fire zone, which means that the risk of a fire

spreading through the forest is higher than it is in most of Nanaimo. All our parks have substantial fire loads that in summer months can become extremely flammable. Large chip piles can self ignite. Please be vigilant for signs of smoke and call 9-1-1 if you see smoke that is not coming from a chimney, cooking pit or open burning pile Friday or Saturdays in April and November. Watch for "extreme fire conditions" signs posted in the parks and on the bulletin boards.

Smokers, please make sure to fully extinguish your cigarettes. Cigarette butts are a fire hazard, and the filters in factory made cigarette butts are lethal to wildlife. Every year birds and marine animals die from ingesting the non degradable filters from cigarette butts, mistaking them for food. Please do not throw cigarette butts on the boulevards, beaches, or in the ocean, and educate your guests and contractors.

Please do not park your vehicles so they block fire department access around the traffic circle and down the fire lanes into Pirates' and Smugglers Parks. The fire department must have access with Engine 7 to the parks at all times. Please take it upon yourself to educate guests and contractors about this.

Emergencies

Call 9-1-1 for assistance in all emergencies

Fire:

Evacuate your house as quickly as possible and assemble at your designated meeting place. Call 911 to report the fire and make sure everyone at the house is out. Do not enter a burning building to retrieve personal belongings or valuables; during a fire people get excited and forget that this will put their life at risk. At the scene of a working fire, do not cross fire line tape or other access barriers and please give the fire fighters room to do their jobs.

Medical emergency:

Our on-call fire fighters are all licensed First Responders and will remain with you until BCAS paramedics arrive on scene, at which time you will be transported to the Harbour Patrol vessel at Gallows Point and then by

ambulance to the hospital. We DO NOT however, give rides to or from the PI ferry. We only transport during medical emergencies when accompanied by the Paramedics or handing a patient over to them on the rescue boat at Gallows Point.

Earthquake:

In the event of a major earthquake shelter until the shaking stops, then proceed to high ground until the risk of tsunami has passed. Station 7 will start a damage assessment of the island, coordinating a house by house evaluation of medical emergencies. If you do not require emergency assistance place a sign that says "OK" prominently on your house for us to see when we are doing our damage assessment. We have pre-made signs that you can pickup from Station 7 on Tuesday nights or by asking a firefighter. If you are not safe in your home, proceed to the community garden area which is central to the island and safe from falling objects. Understand that we will be on our own for at least 10 days. Assuming the fire hall is still standing, there will be electricity and heat at that location but you still need to be prepared.

Power lines down:

Stay at least 30 feet away from downed power lines and anything that is in contact with a downed power line. The ground around trees is particularly dangerous, since trees conduct electricity. Contact with a tree while it is touching a power line, especially a primary line, can result in serious injury or death (a primary line carries from 4,000 to 25,000 volts). Always treat a downed wire as if it is live – it can be re-energized remotely at any time. If trapped in a location that is energized, wait for help. If trapped and there is a clear threat to your safety, jump clear or shuffle so your ankles are never more than six inches apart until clear.

Burning Regulations

There is a copy of the Burning Regulations available at http://www.nanaimo.ca/assets/Departments/Fire~Rescue/Burn_Permits.pdf

Open Burning of organic yard waste and pruning is allowed during daylight hours on Fridays and Saturdays in April and November only. A free verbal permit is required for each

day you burn, so phone Nanaimo Fire Rescue 753-7311 before you start to burn. Calling for permits is MANDATORY. "Burn pile" fires may be a maximum diameter of 1.5 meters, must be 3 meters from any combustibles and must be attended by a competent person until they are **completely** extinguished.

Start a small fire, burn as hot as possible and limit the amount of green material you add at any time to reduce the amount of heavy smoke. Wood smoke contains toxic gases and is a probable cause of lung cancer, so stay upwind and be mindful of the direction and quantity of smoke you are generating. If the wind is causing smoke from your fire to blow continuously onto neighboring buildings, please be considerate and try burning another day when the wind is better. Keep a hose handy and don't leave your fire unattended until it is cold.

Burning wooden construction material, land clearing waste, stumps, plastics, and garbage is NOT allowed.

Also check out burning alternatives, such as composting and chipping.

Cooking Fires fuelled by clean seasoned wood are permitted on private property unless there is a posted Fire Ban because of extreme fire conditions. Cooking fires must be contained and no more than 2 feet in diameter for a maximum of 2 hours.

If the Fire Chief declares a Fire Ban, it will be posted on community bulletin boards.

There is no burning allowed at any time in any of the city parks on Protection Island.

Please note that willful violators of the burning regulations are violating a city bylaw and will be subject to a minimum \$200 fine.



Heron Happenings on Protection Island

By Trudy Chatwin

Spring is my favourite time of year. Everything is bursting with life and beauty. As the waters in the eelgrass beds warm, Shiner Perch give live birth to their young. The herons gather near the nest site, pair up and the female birds feed on the young perch that provide nourishment for her eggs to develop. Male herons develop magnificent head and chest plumes, and then pluck enticing branches to present to the females for the nest. Courtship ensues with much display and vocalization! Tonight as I paddled home, one of the adult herons shifting duty at the nest, flew overhead, its long neck bent in characteristic heron shape. At the colony, you might be lucky enough to see both adults at the nest; one bird turning the eggs or birds crouched low, brooding the pale turquoise eggs. It is a peaceful time of year when Bald Eagles are busy elsewhere and the young haven't hatched. There are over 25 nests occupied this year so far.

Come May, the eggs hatch and the first peeping comes from the tiny chicks. As the chicks grow, their peeping turns into incessant, loud calling for food. Parents are kept busy feeding the insatiable appetites of 2 to 4 hungry chicks. The chicks are fed for over 2 months and if all goes well, they fledge in August and go out to the world to forage on their own and survive the perils of winter.

Great Blue Herons on our coast face many perils. There are only about 500 nesting pairs on the entire Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands. They are listed under the Species-at-Risk Act as a Species of Special Concern. Increasing numbers of Bald Eagles attack and kill the chicks and even adults. As our human population on the coast burgeons, herons have less nesting habitat to choose from. As you can see on Protection Island, their nesting trees deteriorate and are threatened by development. As a predator of fish, heron eggs show levels of nearshore contaminants in their eggs. While high levels of DDT and Dioxins were issues up until the 1980's, these days there are relatively high levels of PCB's

and emerging contaminants such as flame-retardants.

The colony on Protection Island had over 30 nests last year. Bald Eagles did take some chicks and the dead, brittle arbutus branches holding one of the nests with 2-week-old chicks broke with the chicks falling to their death. However overall, 2012 was a good year for the herons and they fledged on average, over 2 chicks per nest.

Winter brought new perils as the lot with the heron colony was offered for sale. In reality the Protection herons have been fortunate to have good neighbours that tolerated noise and smell. However, new owners would likely want to upgrade the old cabin, which could disturb the colony. The City of Nanaimo Arborist and the Environmental Planner have been keeping tabs on the colony and reminding potential buyers of the timing and buffer restrictions on development near this site.

Hoping for a happy year . . .

Trudy

If you need further information or happen to see a young heron chick in distress, call me at 250 618-6668. Also the North Island Wildlife Recovery Association in Errington (250 248-8534) will care for injured birds if arrangements are made for delivery. Thanks to Marion for her ongoing rescue of young herons. Also thanks to Jim and Lauren, Kathy, the Bradleys and the present owner of the heronry for their tolerance of the important but smelly herons!

Dock Committee Report

By David Carter

The privatization of the downtown boat basin and the related political and legal activities are now being taken care of under the umbrella of the Friends of Nanaimo Harbour Society. The society membership includes Protection Islanders, fishermen and residents of Nanaimo. Protection Islanders gain the benefit of having a larger voice in this important community issue. There will soon be an information website available to everyone.

A recommendation would be for PINA to maintain a watching brief over this matter and to ensure all islanders have a knowledge of current activities. [Late breaking news: The Developers have withdrawn from the deal] Further information will be posted on Pro-isle and community bulletin boards.

The wheelchair accessible wharf concept for Gallows Point is still in limbo due to the concentration of effort on the downtown boat basin project.



PROTECTION ISLAND BEACON LIBRARY

By Cate Muir

This is the island library that our community built. The PI Lions renovated and transformed the Beacon House basement into an incredible space; islanders donated books, time and funds; 90 islanders celebrated at the grand opening September 23, 2012 with "8 bells and all's well".

The library has since grown to include 136 members (borrowing is free for islanders), 2,360 catalogued books, 290 DVDs, free book and magazine exchange, self-serve tea and coffee, comfortable sitting and chat area, children's fun space complete with their own branch to decorate seasonally.

Current hours of operation are Sundays 1:00 to 4:00 pm, staffed by a dedicated group of volunteers.

Future ideas are: more readings for children and adults, since the December story times were well-attended and thoroughly enjoyed; a few more shelves for more adult fiction and non-fiction books; more shelving for the children's area; recruit more volunteers and readers; have a book sale at the PI fall fair in September; get the library website up and running; have theme months such as "Pirates, Knots and Boats"; continue monthly/seasonal book displays; continue to survey islanders for their ideas and wishes for their library.

Please give your suggestions or consider volunteering your time for staffing, fundraising or programs, to keep your community library a vital place for everyone to enjoy. Come and check out your incredible island library!!

Library Committee: Chris Firth, Kerstin Serenius, Thora Howell and Cate Muir.

PROTECTION ISLAND MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

By Heather Cooling

The PI Museum is operated at the Lightkeeper's Cottage at Gallows Point by the non-profit society, The Protection Island Cultural Historical Society (TPICHS), incorporated in May 2002.

Current directors are: Wendy Chandler, Heather Cooling, Mike Gillespie, Brenda Henderson, Barb Neild, Lin Neufeld, Rick Scott, and Tauno Tuominen. The Society's mandate is 'to nurture, foster, and develop community awareness of local history and culture through activities and events, and to maintain and develop the Museum collection'.

TPICHS also maintains the Protection Island Archives, housed in the Museum, in a room 'donated' to the Society by the P.I. Lions Club last year. Historical documents, maps,

research material, photographs, personal collections of former residents and administrative files. Resources are also available to anyone researching any aspect of our island's history from coal mining to current events. For information call Barb Neild at 755-1855.

Since the last PINA AGM, the restoration of the cannon at Gallows Point was celebrated, the second Miners Memorial was staged, The Great Gazoon was launched, an afternoon featuring the new books of Robert and Nancy Turner was held, and many visitors toured the museum.

The PI Museum will be open Saturday and Sunday afternoons, noon to 4:00 pm in July and August.

Please support your museum and archives and the activities of TPICHS by taking out a membership. Call Membership coordinator, Brenda Henderson, 250-754-7879. Memberships will be available at all public events sponsored by TPICHS.

Block Watch

By Roger Gumbert

Protection Island is now an established Block Watch community with over 60 registered addresses. We have worked with the police and assisted residents when there have been incidents involving theft and security issues and feel it is a very worthwhile program. This success is the result of the efforts of Peter Frewin, Lynn Roberts and Veronica Zehntner who joined me as block captains and have helped recruit new members. A number of residents have been able to get reduced rates on their home insurance through becoming participants in the Block Watch program. Others have borrowed an engraving tool to mark their valuables which aids police in returning found stolen items. Congratulations to Lynn who signed up more than 20 new members this past year.

Peter is unable to assist as a block captain at the present time due to other commitments and we require volunteers to assist as block

captains or co-captains. There are plans to expand the role of Block watch to include emergency preparedness. Veronica and Roger recognized this requirement and established emergency preparedness through the fire department. If block watch is to become more involved, additional volunteers will be required. We also need volunteers with technological expertise to help set up systems and tools to assist in establishing and maintaining records of critical information.

Please contact one of the following Block Captains to join the program, volunteer, or to answer any questions you may have regarding the program.

Roger Gumbert
250-753-5343

roger_gumbert@telus.net

Lynn Roberts
250-755-1112

lynnwatneyroberts@hotmail.com

Veronica Zehntner
250-754-6759 (no email address)

D.I.G.S.



By
Margaret
Harris

Douglas
Island Garden
Society or
D.I.G.S.

manages the community garden on the island. The garden consists of eleven communal beds and ten allotment beds which are leased for private use each year. Please contact Jim Irvine for more information about the allotment beds – nanaimoirvines@shaw.ca. DIGS work parties meet on Saturdays (in the winter) or Sundays (in the summer) at 10:00 am and offer keen gardeners a chance to help in a variety of garden chores. We stop occasionally for a cup of coffee, one of Lynn's cookies and the opportunity to socialize. Fresh produce is put out on the harvest table at the road side and islanders are welcome to help themselves (a small donation is appreciated). Memberships are available (contact Jim or Margaret at

meharris@telus.net) - \$10 single/\$15 family. Your DIGS membership card entitles you to discounts at most garden centres in town and your fee helps fund the garden.

We also offer a gardening program for younger islanders. Starting in April and running until September "Little Diggers" meet once a week from 10:30 am to 12:00 with the big gardeners. The theme for this year's Little Diggers' program is "Tomatoes, Potatoes and Giant Vegetables." There is a \$5.00 registration fee per child.

Each year DIGS hosts a variety of events to which everyone is invited. These are published in our blog –

www.digsgarden.blogspot.com along with gardening tips and photos from the garden. Upcoming events include: 1) a Plant Swap and Bake Sale on Saturday, **May 11** from 10:00 at the garden 2) a Dessert Auction held at the Beacon House on Saturday, **June 15** 3) the 3rd annual P.I. Fall Fair held on **September 13/14** at the Beacon House (look for notices on the island bulletin boards as to different categories for entries).

Stop by and visit the community garden anytime. We look forward to seeing you.

Mud Bay Dock

Over the 5 work days in March & April significant progress was accomplished, including 2 new dock sections, clean up of the beach and improving the trail from the kid's play area to the dock head. Thank you to Larry Iwaskow & Jason Metz for their hard work and co-ordination of this project and to all those who turned up for the Saturday work parties. Thank you also to those who donated funds in lieu of their labour. There are still a few people who have not yet paid their moorage \$140.00 and or the \$90.00 levy in lieu of labour. Payment is needed A.S.A.P. to cover water lease, Insurance & maintenance costs.

Contact Cathy Pearson at 9 Pirates Lane to register your boat and she will issue you with a current decal upon receipt of fees.

PROTECTION ISLAND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – WITH ANSWERS

- 360 properties, approx. 85 are undeveloped
- 330 full time residents
- 10 minute ferry ride from, down town via the Protection Connection
- Part of the City of Nanaimo
- City sewer & water & fire hydrants every 500 ft.(important for house insurance)
- Fire Hall staffed by N.F.R. paid on call firefighters who are also certified medical 1st Responders.
- Hydro & Phone service including high speed internet
- Shaw Cable service & high speed internet
- No Post Office but postal delivery to boxes at 3 locations on the Island.
- No School but Fairview Elementary & NDSS are district feeder schools (free dedicated school ferry am & pm)
- Floating pub & restaurant (Dinghy Dock Pub)
- No store – Thrifty Foods is 10 minutes away.
- Gravel roads with a speed limit of 20kmh the entire island.
- Most vehicles are golf carts which enjoy a lower insurance rate than cars.
- All vehicles, wheelbarrows, bikes & golf carts are privately owned.
- There are several public parks on the island however no public washrooms or garbage pick-up.
- Islanders do not pay for garbage service however there are garbage

bins for flattened cardboard & garbage located at the Nanaimo Boat Basin at no charge.

- Recycling Service: - P. I. Supply every 2nd Thursday pick up of regular size garbage bag of sorted recycling \$5.00 ea. & p/u of garbage bags, also Thrifty Foods delivery (you shop on Wed.) Also delivers building & hardware items.
- Community garden (D.I.G.S.) also has a number of private allotment beds. Excess harvests left on harvest table in front of garden all growing season.
- Protection Island Neighbourhood Assn.(P.I.N.A.)
- Block Watch
- Lions Club
- Historical Society & museum located at Gallows Pt.
- Community Hall “Beacon House” at Gallows Pt. (available to rent for private functions or community events)
- Library – in the basement of Beacon House open Sundays
- Off-leash Dog Park located in the field at Gallows Pt.
- Community Dock “Mud Bay” for residents only who pay dock fees & do maintenance.

An Island net – Pro-Isle E-mail group
The group email address is:
pro-isle2@yahoo.com
The group home page location:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pro-isle2>



PLEASE RECYCLE

Will's Barge, **PI Supply**, does a recycling, garbage and Thrifty's run every second Thursday (next one May 9). Attach money in a baggie on or under bag on Boulevard. Recycling must be clean and sorted. Cost: \$5.00 per regular bag, \$10 per TV, hot water heater or computer element. \$15 per appliance. Garbage must be bagged and marked separately in a regular-sized garbage bag and any drop fees may be billed later. Will also does Thrifty's pick-up; You select and pay at Thrifty's on Wednesday; Goods are kept in cooler. Barge picks up and delivers on Thursdays. These much-appreciated services are just breaking-even, so please be generous. Tips are welcomed.

The recycling is to be clean and sorted into a regular garbage bag. Put what you have the most of in the bottom garbage bag. Then put smaller bags with tops tied / folded into it.

Recycling Categories to separate into are:

- Plastic bags
- Hard plastic, Not #3 or #6
- Milk or milk replacement tetra packs
- Plastic milk jugs
- Metal
- Glass
- Corrugated cardboard
- Newspaper and inserts from the paper
- Household batteries and electronics (within reason)
- Styrofoam

Questions, special requests or large loads?

Contact Will at **PI Supply** Ph: 250-751-4877
Email: wmchadwick@gmail.com

DRINKING & DRIVING

Just a reminder – If you can't walk without weaving, you won't be able to drive without weaving either. Our roads are our sidewalks. Please don't drink and drive! Remember that the speed limit is 20Km on ALL our Island Roads.

IF YOU NEED TO CALL 911

You will be asked whether you **require Police, Fire Dept or Ambulance** service.

All 911 calls go to an operator who is **NOT** in Nanaimo

It is essential to identify your location as

PROTECTION ISLAND IN THE HARBOUR OF NANAIMO

You **MUST** give your **STREET ADDRESS**, which must also be **CLEARLY VISIBLE** on your **property** so you can be located.

Our Fire Department will respond to all **MEDICAL EMERGENCY** calls. Each on-call firefighter is trained in First Response First Aid and will stay on the scene with you until paramedics arrive.

P.I. Calendar of Events 3012

Saturday May 11:
Community Garden:

10:30 Plant Swap

2:00 Family Scavenger Hunt
Community Garden

Sunday June 9: Beacon House
1:00 PINA AGM

Saturday June 15: Beacon House:
7:00 pm Summer Solstice Celebration

Sunday June 23, 10:00 am
Garden Tour

Sunday July 28, Lions Club
Pancake Breakfast (& start of
Nanaimo Bathtub Race)

Pro Isle 360 RACE

Saturday Sept 14 Beacon House
Fun Fall Fair – Watch for Signs

Sunday Dec 7, 11:00 Lions
Club Children's Christmas Party



Protection Island Information & News

Check out the PINA website: www.pira.ca for helpful information about the Island, minutes and notes from Board meetings and other news.

Thank you to Denise Bonin for maintaining this website.

In addition, minutes and notes from all PINA Board Meetings posted on the bulletin boards and Pro-Isle forum.

Thank you to Barb LeBrasseur for maintaining our forum.



This newsletter was compiled by Andrew Homzy & Veronica Zehntner. No editing or changes to content were made. For any errors in copying & pasting, apologies.

