



Protection Island Neighbourhood Association

A Yearly Newsletter

May 2017

**The 2017 P.I.N.A.
Annual General Meeting
will be held
Sunday June 11 2017
at the “beautiful newly renovated”
Beacon House on Gallows Point**

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



Photo Jim MacQuarrie

Please Join P.I.N.A.

All Protection Islanders are welcome to attend the AGM, however, voting is restricted to members only or with proxy. Any Protection Island resident, regardless of whether they rent or own property, is encouraged to join our Neighbourhood Association.

Membership is \$10-/year/person. Make cheques out to PINA.

If you cannot attend the AGM, please deliver or mail annual dues to the treasurer:
Veronica Zehntner,
160 Pirates Lane, Nanaimo,
BC. Canada, V9R 6R1.

PINA members 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.



Off-Leash Dog Park

Photo Jennifer Cluff

*2017 PINA AGM President's Report**April 11, 2017*

The Protection Island Neighbourhood Association is one of a number of groups that have been organized to contribute to the well-being and sense of community on our Island. I am constantly awed at the volunteers who generously give their time to make our neighbourhood a special place. From musicians, artists, gardeners, carpenters, organizers, computer experts, to bakers; we truly live among wonderful people.

The PINA Board of Directors has been busy this year, initiating a number of activities for the benefit of Islanders, and responding to outside events to ensure that resident interests are considered. I would like to touch on some highlights.

We had two new Directors join the Board this year. As always, new eyes bring fresh ideas and questions to the organization, and we are very appreciative that Jim Menzies and Jim MacQuarrie have contributed ideas and services to improve Island life. Jim Menzies mapped out ideas for a new webpage and Jim MacQuarrie spent considerable hours building the new webpage. Information of various webpages have been consolidated into a one-stop Protection Island information source. www.protectionisland.org The webpage provides comprehensive access to organizations and services on Protection Island. Please share the site with neighbours, new residents and visitors.

Kevin Pistor will provide information on activities of the newly formed Dock Committee and Veronica Zehntner will provide information on park and road activities as well as the Treasurers report.

In December 2016, the City of Nanaimo began acting quickly on a proposed Events Centre for the Wellcox Lands next to the Seaspan dock. The Board made a presentation to City Council reinforcing our long-standing request for boat access to the City in this area. The Events Centre project was lost in a referendum, but PINA continues to use every opportunity with Council and staff to pursue public water access on the Nanaimo side. David Carter and Doug Naylor are currently pursuing the City for potential access through a small City-owned property next to the Seaspan dock.

The Nanaimo Marina Association has recently started an initiative to create a not-for-profit society to manage the Nanaimo harbour. PINA has a strong interest in this matter due to the fact that all of us use the harbour to access our homes and the city. We have been monitoring this issue and will be seeking direction from the membership.

The Provincial government has made changes to the Societies Act and as a result some housekeeping needs to be done to the PINA constitution. This will be initiated over the coming year and is not expected to result in any changes to the purpose or function of PINA

We have a membership of 90 residents and encourage everyone to promote PINA membership and involvement to their neighbours. This is another way to build community on our island.

Thanks for all your support

Gary Weikum

President, Protection Island Neighbourhood Association

P.I.N.A. Board of Directors

Gary Weikum, President
 Kevin Pistor, Vice President
 David Carter, Access
 Catherine Eck, Director
 Jane Garcia, Secretary
 Jim MacQuarrie, Director
 Jim Menzies, Director
 Doug Naylor, Director
 Veronica Zehntner, Treasurer,
 Roads and Parks

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."



Photo Jim MacQuarrie

ROADS REPORT

By VERONICA ZEHNTNER

The City did a wonderful job on our roads last June but we have come through the wettest fall on record and the coldest winter in decades with constant freezing & thawing (pot hole weather) and the roads certainly bear testament to it. The City roads department was snowed under, pardon the pun, and conditions here for a touch up were not possible. Thank you to the good samaritans who took it upon themselves to fill pot holes, we all appreciated it.

Due to City equipment breakdown and backlogs, everything is a month behind schedule and a touch up prior to the annual work is not scheduled until early May this year and barging of materials late May, with grading planned for June as usual, followed by dust suppression. Yes, dust suppression, it's hard to imagine dust at time of writing!

2 Work parties to prune back encroaching blackberries were completed in March - organized by the Lions Club, who have the City contract to maintain the boulevards. The corner at the foot of Capt. Morgans @ Pirates Ln. and around the culvert and the corner of Cutlass onto Capt. Morgans as far as opposite Keith's. Visibility is greatly improved on the corners and a narrow strip of boulevard has been exposed so people can step off the road for traffic and access the recycling bins without being snared by thorns.

The plan is to mow a narrow strip again this spring and summer to keep the boulevards green all summer lessening the fire hazard and maintaining visibility on blind corners by keeping vegetation in check. The Lions have a copy of PINA's map, with the problem areas around the island marked, that we previously requested the City to address. This new arrangement should be a better solution than relying on the City to come over at their convenience and bush whack in a haphazard sort of way as in the past.

CIRCLE PARKING: With summer comes the usual added congestion at the circle, so it's doubly important that people respect the maximum 24 hr. parking limit and not "store" their vehicles there. If you are going to be away more than 2 days, please drop off your bags and take your vehicle home again or have a neighbour return it until you come back, leaving the already limited spaces available for people who need it for daily commuting.

The inside is for golf carts or very small cars (as signage indicates) and larger ones on the perimeter, making sure you don't stick out on the end obstructing traffic on Pirates Lane. Also, please ensure you are not encroaching on the Disabled Parking spot, remember, those folks are not as agile in squeezing in and out of their vehicles and may have to maneuver walkers etc. Users of the spot must display their special parking tag.

NOTE: PINA leases the vehicle access to the Mud Bay dock which goes to the dock head only (gravel surface). The purpose is for PICK-UP and DROP-OFF ONLY. As part of our lease agreement with the City, there is to be No Parking in the park. Dock users are asked to park their vehicles in the circle.

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 WITHOUT A VALID LICENSE (i.e. under 16 yrs. of age) ARE NOT PERMITTED to drive and doing so invalidates your insurance and is subject to a \$276.00 fine, 3 demerit points, (held over for 5 yrs.on record should the child apply for a license in future) and if pulled over, the vehicle could be impounded at the officer's discretion. This also applies to motor vehicles. The RCMP bike patrol visit regularly and ticket violators, no insurance is a \$600.00 fine (double car ins. & triple golf cart insurance). Parking an unlicensed vehicle on the road or boulevard is a \$35.00 fine. Also be aware, if they stop you, you will be asked to provide your registration and driver's license for both cart and cars.

We may be on Protection Island's gravel roads but as far as ICBC and Motor Vehicles Dept. are concerned we are driving on "Provincial Highways".

THE SPEED LIMIT throughout Protection Island is 20 kmh and our roads are shared equally with bikes, wheel barrows, ambling pedestrians, kids, dogs and sometimes deer, you never know what you'll find around the next corner. Have a safe enjoyable summer, hope to see you at the AGM June 11th. at our beautiful newly renovated Beacon House community hall.

PARKS REPORTS

By VERONICA ZEHNTNER



Photo Francine Dupuis

The new board walk was finally constructed in early fall over the muddy beach access (between 102 & 104 Pirates Ln.) to Blunderbuss Bay, allowing access without wearing hip waders all winter. There is a small muddy area as you approach but this has been an exceptionally wet winter. The dam sack steps to the beach in Ben Gunn Park have held up well and there

doesn't seem to be any further major erosion to the bank. The normally dry beach access at the foot of Capt. Morgans (between 66 & 68 Pirates) is still a bit muddy at the beginning, as of early April. The dam sack steps at the beach have held well but there is serious winter storm erosion beside them undermining the bank a good 2 1/2 ft. and exposing the tree roots, which will have to be addressed by Parks this summer.

Once again we collaborated with DIGS & the Lions the end of October and a small work party tackled the Capt. Morgans side of Smugglers Park to the pond, hauling out a huge amount of fuel load. the pile stretched the length of the tennis court. We also did daphne

removal along the trail from the pond to the tennis court and bagged it ready for removal by the City. The Lions removed debris from a broken tree top across the trail in Ben Gunn Park, leaving the main trunk beside it for regeneration and a big thank you to Ross Somerville for hiring a clean up of the park behind him.

VI Tree was over for the annual fall chipping program and chipped all the wood from the park clean ups as well as residents' yard prunings (up to 1 cord per household 4'x4'x8') left out on the boulevards which was dumped adjacent to the community garden for residents to help themselves; it disappeared as fast as it arrived. Nearly everyone followed the guidelines this time which made for a smooth operation and the chips were of good quality. VI Tree also felled the dead tree by the stairs to Pirates Park leaving a wild life stump as requested and a couple more posing a hazard to residents' properties and remained on the island a couple of extra days to do private contracting for those with extra needs.

We received correspondence over concerns about fire wood being removed from parks. Fire wood is distributed by the Lions after the City's arborist or contractor has topped or felled trees in "developed parks" i.e. Smugglers or Pirates. Trees felled or downed in undeveloped parks are generally left to regenerate growth as nurse logs. Cutting of trees in the parks by residents is not permitted. Some Grand Fir trees in Ben Gunn Park have several tops that seem to break off every winter often blocking the beach access trail, as happened in October, so proactive work to address them might be in order this year when VI Tree is over again. In collaborating with DIGS and the Lions, our vision is to keep the parks natural and free of invasive plants and fuel load, to keep access trails open and monitor for dangerous trees near the trails or houses. Also, to liaise with the Lions Club who have the contract with the City to maintain beach access and the developed parks i.e. Smugglers & Pirates parks.

Some ivy pulling has been done over winter & is ongoing at the Cutlass end of Smugglers Park and at time of writing a work party for invasive removal is planned at a site to be determined sometime in April.

The Lions organized a joint work party at Pirates Park Apr. 2nd and 26 people turned out with rakes and tarps and cleared leaves and winter debris and a million fir cones - ready for the annual Easter egg hunt.



Smugglers Park clean-up crew

Photo Gary Weikum

PROTECTION ISLAND LIONS CLUB

pi-lions.org

By RICK BILLER

2016 was an extremely busy one for PI Lions. Lions members and volunteers have logged hundreds of hours of volunteer service in support of our activities and our island. In addition to our regular activities like the Children's Christmas Party, Bunker Bear Swim, Pancake Breakfast, Children Easter Egg Hunt, we were able to complete Phase One of our Beacon House expansion.

The Beacon House Renovation Project is a shared project between the PI Lions Club and the City of Nanaimo. We are currently in the process of conducting assessments to determine if Phase 2 of the project can go ahead and develop a funding formula for doing that. Our fundraising team, who have done such good work over the past two years, will be taking a bit of a break until there is more certainty on Phase 2. For additional information please see the BHRP Newsletters posted on the PI Lions web site... www.pi-lions.org

The Protection Island Lions Club runs a number of programs. The Bottle and Can Recycling Program is a very successful program thanks to all the residents who contribute. We estimate that we recycle over 100,000 bottles and cans annually. The revenue from this program goes directly to supporting our island activities. Our Club co-ordinates with the city and provides the maintenance of all the islands parks and pathways as well as working with DIGS & PINA organizing the annual Chipping Program. We have started posting new signs on the trails that we are responsible for. Each trail will have a sign at the road that indicates "BEACH" and at the beach side there will be a sign saying "TRAIL". This is to direct folks on to the trails and hopefully out of people's yards. Many thanks to Lola, Ruby and Krista Winter for making such awesome signs and to Dave Webber for donating the sign material.

The use of Beacon House for other public and private activities such as private parties, Karate, the Sierra Leone Medical Supplies Fundraiser, DIGS Dessert Auction and the DIGS Fall Fair are managed by the Lions Club. If you wish information on renting or using Beacon House visit our web site: www.pi-lions.org and click on 'News & Events'. Another of the Lions programs is the Medical Supplies Lending Program. The Lions maintain an inventory of Crutches, Walkers, Wheelchairs and even a hospital bed for the use of island residents. If you are in need of a medical aid call Sandra Nisbett at 778-846-2997.

You will be seeing a new box outside the fence at the tennis court. This is our 5-2-1-0 initiative Playbox. The playbox is a joint venture between PI Lions, City Parks and the Nanaimo Division of Family Practice. Inside is equipment for kids of all ages to use with the objective of promoting

physical activity. The box is locked and the code to open it is 9219 (until Sept. 1) in order to access the contents. Use the equipment as you wish but please return it to the playbox following use. Thanks very much to Emily Barnewall for all her help in making this playbox a reality. We are open to suggestions as to things to add to the box.

The PI Lions Club is a vibrant, service oriented group. We are always happy to increase our numbers. If you are interested in becoming a member or volunteer speak to any Lions Club member or contact Shawne Wasilieff at 250-753-5102. A list of members is available at www.pi-lions.org.

Thanks to all the Lions Club members, volunteers and PI residents who support all the events and activities and make this community an awesome place to live.



Lions Club Bottle and Can Recycling Crew Photo Rick Biller

OFF-LEASH DOG PARK

By VERONICA ZEHNTNER

Sunday March 26th. the dog park hosted the 1st. "dog" group photo shoot, (with owners in Pirate dress). The weather was rather damp, (awful actually) which didn't bother the canines in the least but judging from the turn-out some humans had second thoughts. Everyone (4 legged anyway) was very well behaved if a little mystified at remaining "on leash" when they knew perfectly well they should be "off" after the shoot. There was the odd growl but mostly leash straining and tail wagging. For those who missed it, there is another shoot planned for late spring or early fall when the weather is better, watch for notices on bulletin boards & pro-isle. If enough interest is shown we are hoping to make this an annual event.

The park continues to be popular with dogs and their owners, it's hard to remember when we didn't have it. Before heading home, please remember to return any sticks to the beach that your dog drags up to the grassy area, lawnmowers and wood don't mix well.

Signs are posted outlining the rules and etiquette, take a minute to review them before using the park. For those of you new to the island, because Protection Island does not have public garbage removal, no poop bag dispenser or garbage can has been installed, so remember to bring your own bags and to remove your dog's waste for disposal at home (either empty down toilet or bury it). This rule applies wherever you and your dog are on the island. Please don't toss poop bags in the parks and bushes off trails.

Our thanks once again to the Protection Island Lions Club who are the stewards of this property and keep the grass mowed. Please respect the rules and enjoy this wonderful waterfront space with your dog for play, swimming, exercise and meeting new friends.

Emergency Preparation Checklist from City of Nanaimo:

For emergency planning, and for more information on how you can prepare, please visit this website:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/preparedbc/prepare-your-home>

Karen Lindsay
Emergency Planning Director, City of Nanaimo.

- 1. Identify the risks for your region.
- 2. Make an emergency phone list with at least one out-of-area contact.
- 3. Pick a meeting spot if you're separated from family members.
- 4. Assign someone to collect your children from school or daycare if you can't.
- 5. Identify what official sources you'll get information from.
- 6. Learn how to turn off utilities.
- 7. Store enough emergency water for your family.
- 8. Store enough emergency food to support your family for a minimum of three days.
- 9. Identify any special needs, such as medications, and make sure a proper supply is on hand.
- 10. Secure your space.
- 11. Create grab-and-go bags.

NANAIMO FIRE RESCUE STATION No. 7

By JASON METZ

On-call Captain – Station 7
Protection Island Nanaimo Fire Rescue

Recruitment

Are you interested in contributing to your community? Mastering practical knowledge and skills in a fun environment? Station 7 is looking for healthy, level-headed candidates to join our team. On call fire fighters at Station 7 learn to fight fires and give emergency first aid in a supportive and fun environment and provide a critical service to our community. We train on Tuesday nights 6:30-9:30, and are paid for our time during training and incidents, which averages to approximately four hours a week.

For more information contact either Jason Metz 740-1524 or Jodi Le Masurier 754-7245 or stop by Station 7 on a Tuesday evening at 6:30.

We would like to welcome Andrea L'Heureux Maki and Josephine Kenchenton who joined Nanaimo Fire Rescue at Station 7 last fall.

Currently Station 7 has eleven firefighters: Fredrik Collin, Don Corfield, Steve Johnson, Josephine Kenchenton, Summer Laurie, Andrea L'Heureux Maki , Guy Le Masurier, Jodi Le Masurier, Jason Metz, Gillian Saunders and Rob Timbrell.

Preparation

Are you prepared for an emergency? 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 calls for fire and medical emergencies.

Help your firefighters improve their emergency operations at your home by providing us with a basic drawing/sketch of your floor plan. This is an invaluable tool to help us find you quickly in the event of a fire. Don't delay. Drop it off with any firefighter or at Station 7 on Tuesday nights.

We are also always looking for locations to run brief practice scenarios during Tuesday night training, so if you would like us to visit your yard to familiarize our crew with your property, please contact Jason Metz 740-1524 or Jodi Le Masurier 754-7245.

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 surprise fire drill every 3 months, it only takes a few minutes and keeps the plan fresh in everyone's memory, especially the little kids.

Check the service date on your fire extinguishers at home, they should be serviced yearly. 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 and fall). Smoke alarms should be tested every month; only working alarms save lives. 3 out of 5 residential fire deaths were in fires without working smoke alarms. 1 in 5 residential fire deaths were in fires where smoke alarms were present, but not working. Smoke alarm failures usually result from missing, disconnected, or dead batteries.



Photo Francine Dupuis

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 a sooty chimney is a major cause of chimney fires.

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 911 if you see smoke that is not coming from a chimney, cooking pit or open burning fire.

Smokers, please make sure to fully extinguish your cigarettes and dispose of your extinguished butts in the garbage. Cigarette butts are a fire hazard, and the filters in factory made cigarette butts are lethal to wildlife.

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 your 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:

Station 7 on-call fire fighters are licensed First Responders and will remain with you until BCAS paramedics arrive, you will be transported to the Harbour Patrol vessel at Gallows Point and then by ambulance to the hospital. We do not, however, provide non-emergency transportation to or from the PI ferry.

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 that are touching a power line is dangerous, since trees conduct electricity. Contact with an energized power line, tree, or building can result in serious injury or death. Always treat a downed wire as if it is live – it can be re-energized remotely by Hydro at any time. If trapped in a location that is energized, stay in place and wait for help. If trapped and there is a clear threat to your safety, jump clear or shuffle away so your ankles are never more than six inches apart until clear.

Burning Regulations and Restrictions

There is a copy of the Burning Regulations available at:

http://www.nanaimo.ca/assets/Departments/Fire-Rescue/Burn_Permits.pdf

Please note that though the posted Burning Regulations state that you will need to phone in for a verbal permit, this is not required on Protection Island, only on acreage within the city. The rest of the regulations apply to open burning on Protection Island as stated.

Open Burning of organic yard waste and prunings is only allowed from sunrise to sunset on Fridays and Saturdays in April and November. An open burning fire may be up to a maximum diameter of 1.5 meters, must be 3 meters from any combustibles, must be hand fed, and must be attended by a competent person until it is completely extinguished. You are only allowed one open burning fire at a time.

Burning wooden construction material, stumps, land clearing materials/debris or household garbage is NOT permitted.

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 neighbouring buildings, please be considerate and try burning another day when the wind is better. Keep a hose near the fire and make sure your fire is attended by a competent person until it is completely extinguished and cold.

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

Cooking Fires fuelled by clean seasoned wood or briquettes 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.

If you see a fire that is not an emergency, but you believe is in violation of the burning regulations, please call 250-753-7311 to register a burning complaint.

Protection Island Parks have no designated cooking fire or smoking areas. Fires, BBQs, and smoking of any kind is not permitted at any time in the parks or on the beaches above or below the high tide line.

SEASHORE SENTINELS: HERON HAPPENINGS 2017

By TRUDY CHATWIN



Photo Jim MacQuarrie

Pacific Great Blue Herons are sometimes called "seashore sentinels" since they are dependant on inter-tidal fish during the summer breeding season and nest within 5 km of the shore in our very populous and busy Salish Sea. Although visible due to their tall and stately appearance, heron populations are showing warning signs. While there are about 540 pairs of Pacific Great Blue Herons nesting on Vancouver Island at present, many of their colonies fail and the average number of young produced has declined. In the late 1980's there was over 1000 pairs of herons. By 2002 their numbers had halved. Over the past 15 years the

decline seems to have stabilized but Pacific Great Blue Herons are on a "watch" list as a Species-of-Special Concern in Canada.

It was an eventful, but rather sad year for the Protection Island herons. In late March about 20 Pacific Great Blue Herons returned to their nest site in Pirates Park and began courting, carrying nesting material and rebuilding their stick nests. There were fewer herons than usual but with the warm April, nesting seemed to be progressing normally. However in early May there were signs that something wasn't right. Most of the nests weren't occupied and I didn't hear the usual peeping of new chicks. By May 15th evening the Pirates Park colony was empty. The usual summer commotion of herons coming and going and chick's incessant calls for food was not to be. It is still a mystery why the previously successful colony had abandoned.

By July Emily Barnewall had located a new heron nest high up in a Douglas-fir off Treasure Trail. Chicks were heard at this site until August. I found a new colony of nesting herons in Departure Bay near Cottle Creek through a tip from a colleague. The first clue that this colony might have resettled from Protection Island was that the 6 nests were in arbutus trees. Secondly, since the herons at Departure Bay/Cottle Creek were first noticed in June and were feeding noisy young in July, the timing coincides with the abandonment of the Protection Island colony. This colony nested successfully and as of mid-March 2017, the herons are courting and vying for nest space. I am not sure how many herons are nesting at Cottle Creek in 2017.

Last September, I also found a single heron nest in an arbutus tree off Promenade by the Protection Connection ferry! It was nearly under our nose, but surprisingly hard to spot. Since I only found the one empty nest, it was hard to know if it was a successful or failed attempt.

By fall, heron's colonial and breeding inclinations begin to diminish and a heron must "stake" out a winter feeding ground. This is a time when herons become territorial and will defend their chosen site. In winter, the low tides are at night. Usually only one solitary heron can occupy a stretch of shore to fish. Sometimes wharves with lights provide a perch and extend the fishing window for a heron.

All fall 2016 there was a heron at the wharf at Dinghy Dock. On one October evening, Tim from the pub called me to rescue a heron that became stuck under the wharf. I wouldn't have believed the scene unless I was actually there. The Dinghy Dock heron was somehow wedged between the dock surface and the supporting beams. We covered the heron's head with a tablecloth and Tim bravely extracted the soggy and chilled heron from between the beams. Cheryl found a big box to keep the heron covered, warm and contained. A few telephone calls later, the heron was whisked to Island Veterinary Clinic, warmed and cared for until Dr. Ken Langelier could see it in the morning. Dr. Langelier declared that there were no broken bones and all the heron

needed was rest and food. So I picked it up (in a dog kennel this time) and took it to North Island Wildlife Recovery Centre in Errington. It spent a couple of weeks of rest there and then was picked up and released at the Dinghy Dock. In the meantime another heron had taken up dock residence. Shortly after the first heron was released there were a few altercations. Lindsay Waterman sent me a photo of the two herons scrapping.

Heron face many perils living in the Salish Sea with our burgeoning seashore development and high populations of Bald Eagles that predate on adults and young. Fighting with each other seems counter-productive in our present situation, but this territorial aggression must have evolved to ensure survival of the fittest heron.

Reports that I have written which include information and photos of the Protection Island colony are on line at:

Pacific Great Blue Heron Population and Monitoring on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands 2013 -2015 and Pacific Great Blue Heron Population and Monitoring 2009 -2012.

PGBH 2009-2012 <http://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/eirs/viewDocumentDetail.do?fromStatic=true&repository=BDP&documentId=12625>

PGBH 2013-2015 <http://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/eirs/viewDocumentDetail.do?fromStatic=true&repository=BDP&documentId=12626>

PGBH 2013-2015 <http://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/eirs/viewDocumentDetail.do?fromStatic=true&repository=BDP&documentId=12626>

I am missing watching and listening to the repertoire of heron calls from the Protection Island herons in Pirates Park this year, but there is hope that the herons will return to the island again and they certainly will feed in the "Gap" between Protection and Newcastle Island at low tide this summer. Be sure to not let dogs or people bother the herons, so they can feed in peace.

BLOCK WATCH

PI Block Watch Captain 250-713-1975
emmapeck007@hotmail.com

Peter Frewin 250-741-0542
pfrewin@telus.net

Lynn Roberts 250-755-1112
lynwatneyroberts@hotmail.com

Veronica Zehntner 250-754-6759
verzehn160@shaw.ca

Becoming a member of Block Watch can qualify you for a discount on your house insurance. Contact Lynn Roberts to sign up.



Photo Francine Dupuis

GARDEN TOUR 2017

**South End of Protection Island
Sunday June 4 starting at 10 am**

By HEATHER COOLING



With such a cold, snowy and wet winter that seemed to go on forever, our shrubs and trees were slow to bud, and bulbs and perennials took forever to appear. Many a semi-tender or vulnerable plant was lost. Island gardeners may have grown weary and frustrated with the slow spring, however you can't keep a real gardener down for long – we do love to get 'down in the dirt' and better weather raised our spirits. Our gardens are now flourishing with colour and texture, and we welcome another annual tour of island gardens.

Just as there are no cookie-cutter houses on PI, our gardens reflect a wide variety of plant and design choices and preferences. This year's garden tour is no exception – a sheltered shade garden, sunny waterside gardens, native plants, a garden with decorative and impressive gates and rock work, an enclosed vegetable and fruit garden, and rock and deck gardening. From established gardens to one just being planned and planted – an impressive display of the 'growing bug'.

Meet June 4, starting at 10 am, at 129 Pirates Lane (Linda Van Os's garden). Please arrive by 11 am at the latest. Tour entry by donation. A golf cart fleet will meet the 10 am ferry to pick up 'off-islanders', and be available along the route – just flag one down, or let us know beforehand.

Bring lots of change for raffle tickets – \$2 for one, or \$5 for three. A first for us – a silent auction offering a few choice items.

The tour ends at the Museum where our popular barbecue starts around 12:30 pm. Again a donation for smokies, drinks, and cookies. The raffle will be held around 1:00 pm.

We love planning this event every year, a fundraiser for the Museum and Archives, sponsored by the PI Cultural Historical Society (PICHs).

The Tour Committee is Wendy Chandler, Heather Cooling and Brenda Henderson.

PROTECTION ISLAND MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES (PICHs)

By HEATHER COOLING

Hello to Locals, new, old and those just passing through!

We are The Protection Island Cultural Historical Society, also known as The Museum. The "we" are Directors: Tauno Tuominen, Heather Cooling (secretary), Mike Gillespie (vice president) Wendy Chandler (gift shop manager), Brenda Henderson (co-treasurer), Barb Neild (president/co-treasurer) and Rick Scott (curator).

Since 2001 we have taken care of the Museum behind Beacon House at the southernmost spot on the island, presenting a permanent historical display of artifacts, photographs and maps as well as a comprehensive archive which includes hundreds of documents related to PI history.

The cultural part of our title refers to our commitment to reflect and illuminate the fascinating and talented inhabitants of our island by presenting their art, wisdom and various collections. Our programs have included lectures on modern art and bottle collecting, exhibits of crafts and antiques, and a cookbook of islanders' favourite recipes.

'Look What I Made' Returns for Second Run! (With NEW show-stopping stuff)

This summer one of our most popular and successful exhibits returns to strike awe and admiration in the hearts of islanders and visitors alike. 'Look What I Made' reflects the talent and skill of residents of our fair isle. If you have created something you feel is interesting, extraordinary, unusual or beautiful that you would like to share, please call Rick at 740-0047. It could be a drawing, photo, weaving, carving, sculpture...

Also this summer the Society will celebrate Canada's 150 years plus with a historical timeline of Protection Island.

Please come see us! The Museum is open from July 1st to the end of August, Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4 pm.

Special events are presented year-round and tours are available off season. Admission is free but we welcome donations!

We have a gift shop featuring cards, sculptures, jewellery, posters, books and recordings all created by islanders --did we mention the cookbook?

Membership in PICHs is \$10 individual/ \$15 for family. Memberships available year-round.



P.I. Museum

Photo Francine Dupuis

The Society's annual fundraiser – the PI Garden Tour – will be held June 4. This not-to-be-missed event funds our exhibits and the on-going renovations. We've just finished a kitchen/office re-do, and installed new museum lighting.

We want your input! Ideas for exhibits or events... this is what keeps us going and interesting... call Barb Neild 755-1855 or Rick Scott 740-0047.

PROTECTION ISLAND BEACON

LIBRARY

208 Colvilleton Trail, Beacon House

By CATE MUIR

Your island community library has been opened since September 2012. It is located downstairs at Beacon House community hall, and provides a comfortable and inviting space for islanders, to borrow books and dvds, take books from the free exchange shelves, children's play area with loads of toys, meet and chat with fellow islanders, have a self-serve hot or cold beverage and enjoy programs and celebrations.

Thanks to dedicated volunteers, the library is open every Sunday from 1 to 3 pm, unless otherwise posted. All islanders can register for a free library card with borrowing privileges. Borrow 4 books and 4 dvds per week, due in two weeks with a possible renewal for two weeks. Currently there are 268 registered members and 823 total visits for the year.

The library collection consists of 3512 catalogued books (adult fiction/non-fiction, children/youth books), over 700 board books for children, and 914 dvds, all donated by islanders. There were 1799 items borrowed, including storytime day sign-outs.

Every Thursday, starting at 10:30 am, is the Island Storytime hour with stories, rhymes, songs, fun and play enjoyed by everyone. It is suitable for all children accompanied by an adult. There are 4 storytellers and a total of 578 visits for the year.

The past year included: author readings with Nancy and Bob Turner, Tribal Journey presentation by Liz Hammond, annual book sale, December holiday readings, in-house book displays and storybooks for Little Diggers at the end of each community garden lesson.

Also PIBL sponsors PI families for the annual children's BookFest in downtown Nanaimo in May... an incredible day of children's authors and their books, with music, activities and loads of fun.

In appreciation of all the many volunteer hours as a library committee member that Kerstin Serenius tirelessly gave to our library from its conception, there is now a plaque in the library in her honour.

Thanks to islanders and library volunteers with over 546 hours for the year, the library continues to grow and thrive. Please give your suggestions or consider volunteering your time for staffing, fundraising or programming, to keep your community library a vital place for everyone to enjoy.

Come on down to the library and check it out!!! There is something for everyone!!!

"There is more treasure in books, than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure [Protection] Island" -- Walt Disney.

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

MUD BAY DOCK LEASE REPORT

By DAVID CARTER

The Mud Bay lease is still proceeding towards renewal. A decision was made to attempt moving the lease boundaries to encompass the current dock configuration.

This would eliminate enlarging the lease area and the attendant extra cost. To date, the City of Nanaimo, and the Nanaimo Port Authority, have agreed to this process.

We hope to soon have a successful survey and lease signing. Protection Island Neighbourhood Association has also continued to engage City of Nanaimo staff with regards to maintaining an eye towards future access points to downtown.



Mud Bay Dock

Photo Francine Dupuis

DOCK COMMITTEE REPORT

By KEVIN PISTOR

This year was a busy one regarding the Mud Bay Community Dock (MBCD) on three fronts.

Firstly, the newly elected committee of Rob Timbrell, AI Bishop, Jim Menzies and Kevin Pistor, met to review the MBCD budget, to examine current and future maintenance needs, and to present a budget plan to PINA. This committee will be meeting again to recommend the fee structure for next year and to organize a fundraising event (TBA). Thank you, Rob, AI and Jim, for your time and thoughtful consideration on the matters we discussed.

Secondly, PINA Directors Dave Carter and Doug Naylor have been meeting with NPA reps to finalize the water-lot lease agreement for the MBCD. Details will be shared once they are finalized. Thank you, Dave and Doug, for your time and attention to detail on this matter.

Thirdly, and most importantly, Larry Iwaskow led four Saturday work parties during the month of March. One new dock section was constructed and installed, an older section was dismantled with the materials reused where possible, decking was installed on the end dock section, and other repairs were completed. The dock is an ongoing project. Many thanks to Larry for the countless hours put into planning and organizing for the work parties, to the many volunteers who contributed their time, energy and enthusiasm, to Ruth for the fresh sandwiches and cookies, to Erin for the excellent pot of chili that warmed us up on a cold and rainy day, and to all the others who, not only contributed to the building of the Community Dock, but contributed to the building of *community*. Volunteerism plays a big role in qualifying for the City's property tax exemption grant which is reviewed every 3 yrs., and people who can't attend work parties can pay \$100 in lieu of labour in addition to moorage fees.

Thank you to all the dock users who have paid their fees and to all those residents who have made donations to keep the MBCD afloat!

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 – tots to teens. Starting in April and running until September "Little Diggers" meet on Sundays – April to September from 10:30 am to 12:00. The theme for this year's Little Diggers' program is "Growing Pancakes". There is a \$5.00 registration fee per child.



Mason Bees

Photo Jennifer Cluff

COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWS

By MARGARET HARRIS

Douglas Island Garden Society or D.I.G.S. manages the community garden on the island. The garden consists of communal beds and allotment beds which are leased for private use each year. Please contact Sharie Biller for more information about the allotment beds r_biller@telus.net.

DIGS work parties meet on Saturdays (in the winter) or Sundays (April to September) 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 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 m.e.harris50@gmail.com) - \$10 single/\$15 family. Your DIGS

Each year DIGS hosts a variety of events to which everyone is invited. Upcoming events include: 1) a Plant Swap and Bake Sale on Sunday, May 14 from 10:00 to 12:00 at the garden. 2) a Dessert Auction held at the Beacon House on Saturday, June 17. 3) the annual P.I. Fall Fair held on September 9.

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



Chrysanthemums at DIGS

Photo Jennifer Cluff

**PI Supply: – Will's Barge
RECYCLING, GARBAGE &
THRIFTY'S EVERY 2nd WED**
By VALLEY HENNELL

Will Chadwick's barge (PI Supply) provides much valued service to our island, delivering building, garden, hardware and other items of importance upon request.

Every second Wednesday PI Supply does a recycling, garbage and Thrifty's run, delivering groceries to your door and picking up garbage and recycling from your boulevard after 10 am (often afternoon).

The morning of Recycling Wednesdays the barge picks up from Thrifty's Port Place. Shop and pay in person on Tuesday, tell cashier it's for PI. Your order will be kept in cooler until barge picks up and delivers on Wednesday, \$3 per bin, delivery time will vary.

Recycle dates and info are posted on all PI notice boards. Spring/summer dates are April 26, May 10 & 24, June 7 & 21, July 5 & 19, Aug 2, 16 & 30.

HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE ONLY (no construction waste). Please MARK YOUR GARBAGE to distinguish it from recycling. Even better, put your recycling in clear bags and your light household garbage in black bags (labelled 'Garbage'). There's no limit on recycling but if you have more than 3 bags of garbage please email Jase at wmchadwick@gmail.com to let him know.

RECYCLING must be clean and sorted into smaller bags placed in a regular sized bag on the boulevard, as follows:

- Paper and newspaper together
- Perforated cardboard separate
- Plastic containers, clamshells, milk jug, milk and juice containers, SOUP and BROTH BOXES (NEW!) and tin cans, ALL TOGETHER***
- Clean soft plastic (grocery bags) separate
- Foam from edibles (egg cartons, meat trays, take-out containers) DIVIDED into pure white and coloured/inked
- Packing foam separate
- Non-refundable glass. (jars, broken glass i.e. cups, windows... etc.)

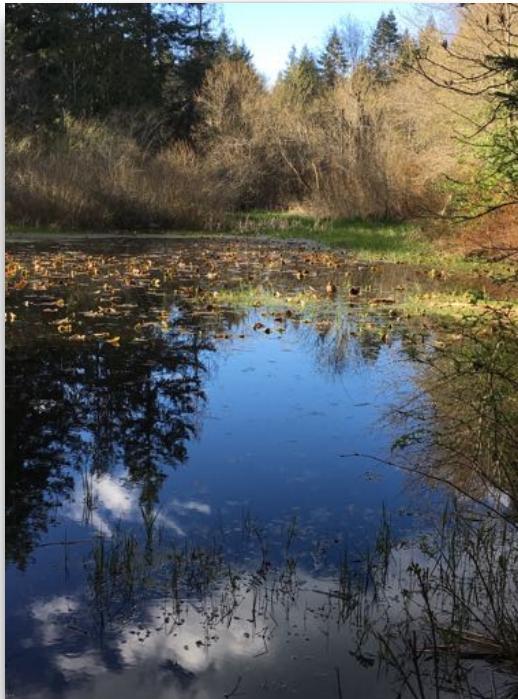
NOTE: Bottles and other refundable items should be dropped to Lions Club drop off points. Coffee bags, pet food bags and litter bags are not recyclable.

PAYMENT: Attach money to bag: \$5 per bag; \$10 per TV or computer element; \$15 per hot water heater; \$30 per appliance (+\$15 fee for

freezer, fridge or anything with Freon). Any drop fees for garbage items may be billed later.

Payment may also be left in mail box at bottom of path at 25 Captain Kidds Terrace.

For scheduling or special requests, email wmchadwick@gmail.com Will & Jase. Note email for billing: hermit_kidd@icloud.com Will & Tyson PI Supply phone [250-751-487](tel:250-751-487)



Smugglers Park

Photo Francine Dupuis

PROTECTION ISLAND FACTS, FIGURES AND SERVICES

- 360 properties, approx. 85 are undeveloped
- 330 full time residents
- 10 minute ferry ride from downtown 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 internet
- Shaw Cable service & internet & optional wifi service
- No Post Office but postal delivery to boxes at 3 locations on the Island
- No School but Fairview Elementary & NDSS are district feeder schools

- 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 – every second Wednesday PI Supply picks up regular sized garbage bags (\$5/ea) of sorted recycling and/or garbage from the boulevard. Also provides Thrifty Foods delivery (you shop on Tuesday). See details under PI Supply. 250-751-4877
 - 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.) – **New PINA webpage: www.protectionisland.org.**
 - Block Watch
 - Lions Club
 - Cultural and Historical Society (PICHs) & 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-groups.com
The group home page location:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pro-isle2>



Photo Francine Dupuis



Photo Francine Dupuis



Photo Jim MacQuarrie

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 2017

Sunday May 7 through 9: "The PI Players" present WEEK- END COMEDY @ Dinghy Dock Pub at 7 pm

Sunday May 14: Plant Swap & Bake Sale at the Community Garden: 10:00-12:00

June (TBA): All-group open house (Block Watch, DIGS, Library, Lions, PICHs –Museum, PINA, etc.), each group outlining what they do for islanders, and table discussion.

Sunday June 4: Garden Tour starting at 10:00 am

Sunday June 11: PINA AGM at Beacon House at 1:00 pm

Saturday June 17: Dessert auction at Beacon House

7:00 pm Summer Solstice Celebration

Sunday July 23: Lions Club Pancake Breakfast (& start of Nanaimo Bathtub Race)
Pro Isle 360 RACE

Saturday Sept 9: Fall Fair at Beacon House

Sunday Dec. (TBA): Lions Club at 11:00 – Children's Christmas Party

Protection Island Information & News

Check out the new PINA website: <http://www.protectionisland.org> for helpful information about the Island and minutes from board meetings, etc...

Thank you to Jim MacQuarrie for setting up this comprehensive new website.

In addition, minutes and notes from all PINA Board Meetings are posted on the bulletin boards.

Thank you to Danny Faris for taking over our Pro-Isle forum.

Photographs graciously provided by Rick Biller, Jennifer Cluff, Jim MacQuarrie and Gary Weikum. Thanks to all.

This newsletter was compiled by Francine Dupuis & Veronica Zehntner.

We thank all the contributors for their reports. For any errors in copying & pasting, apologies.