



PROTECTION ISLAND LIONS CLUB

December 2019

PROTECTION ISLAND LIONS CLUB – www.pi-lions.org

2019 was a busy year for PI Lions. Here is a quick summary of the things we did:

- Held a huge Polar Bear Swim and chili feast
- Organized a public meeting to discuss emergency preparedness
- Hosted the ever popular “Taste of PI” event
- Organized a fantastic Easter Egg Hunt preceded by a wonderful turnout for cleaning Pirates Park
- Recycled over 100,000 bottles and cans – the Lions meet and sort bottles 50 weeks per year.
- Managed the PI Lions Parks contract with the City including Gallows, Pirates and Smugglers Parks and several beach access trails
- Managed the removal of 60 trees that had died in our parks dispersing the firewood to islanders
- Mowed verges, pruned blackberry canes, and cleared hydrants
- Held a massive pancake breakfast before the bathtub race
- Organized the annual Children’s Christmas party
- Rented Beacon House for many events such as karate, weddings, yoga, games night, line dancing, seminars, etc.
- Acquired medical supplies for loan to islanders
- Hosted “Get to Know Your Neighbours” coffee house presentations
- Supported the DIGS Fall Fair
- Supported various groups such as Emergency Preparedness and FireSmart through donation of seed money and use of hall space
- Participated and helped organize the sand bagging effort to save Garry Oaks in Pirates Park
- Played a key role in the replacement of the Pirates Park stairs
- Played a key role in the repairs to the Gallows dock and look forward to the dock replacement

Through funds raised from recycling, fundraising and our parks contract we were able to give back to our community. This year we will have returned approximately \$30,000 into our community in funds and in kind services.

- We provided support to islanders in need due to various situations in their lives
- We donated to various groups on the island such as Fire Station #7, PI Museum, and the Beacon House Library
- We provided bursaries for three Protection Island youth who are moving on to post-secondary school
- We gave to charitable causes that are important to island residents such as Sierra Leone, PI’s entry into the Silly Boat Race (in support of the Children’s Development Centre), Leader Dogs for the Blind, and Nanaimo homeless shelters and soup kitchens

Funds from recycling and the parks contract also help the Lions Club to operate Beacon House as a community centre. The Lions Club provided almost \$11,000 on top of rental revenue to operate and maintain this facility. In addition, we are working towards covering the deck to expand our seasonal space for Beacon House. We are working with the Emergency Preparedness group to develop Beacon House as



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a warming, charging and information centre in the event of an emergency. Presently we are close to acquiring a generator for our facility.

We could not achieve a fraction of the things mentioned without the ongoing support of you – our community – so thank you to everyone. PI Lions are always appreciative of islanders who give their valuable time to either become Lions members or assist in our activities.

We have a significant supply of medical equipment available for islanders to use; please let Sandra Nesbit know if you are in need. If you want to use the toy box at the tennis court and have trouble with the lock or do not know the access code, please contact Emily Barnewall and she will assist you. Questions about the parks noted above should be directed to Rick Biller. The PI Lions have a bursary program for island kids graduating from high school and heading to post-secondary; let any Lion member know if you or your child fits this description and we will arrange for this one-time bursary. Lastly, if you know of any islanders who need a hand please mention it to any Lions member and we will do what we can.

2020 is shaping up to be as busy as 2019. We will repeat many of the popular items and will introduce a few new ones as well. Our Fundraising group is hard at work and they will be putting on events during the year. We are excited about the upcoming coffee houses and associated speakers for 2020, it is going to be great to listen to these wonderful women of PI and learn a little bit more about them. We will continue to serve and support our community.

Lastly, as always, check our website for upcoming events and contact information.

<https://www.pi-lions.org/news-and-events>

Have a great 2020!

Rick Biller, President

Protection Island Lions Club