



We often hear that many people don't realize just how much the Protection Island Lions Club quietly does behind the scenes to keep our community connected, cared for, and thriving — so we thought we'd share a little about it!

Your Lions Club is made up of island volunteers who give their time and energy to make good things happen right here at home. Here are just a few of the ways we serve our community:



Beacon House – The Heart of the Island

We manage and maintain **Beacon House** and its property on behalf of the City of Nanaimo, ensuring it remains a welcoming space for meetings, celebrations, and community events.

It costs roughly **\$1,300 a month** to keep the doors open — covering utilities, insurance, and maintenance. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers who now clean and maintain the building weekly, we've been able to reduce these costs significantly.



Winter Speaker Series

During the winter months, we host a **Speaker Series** at Beacon House, inviting guests to share their areas of expertise and experiences. Islanders can attend in person — enjoying coffee, treats, and camaraderie — or listen via live feed from home. It's a wonderful way to stay connected, informed, and inspired during the darker months.



Island Clothing Drive

Last year's **Island Clothing Drive** was such a success that we'll be doing it again early in the new year!

Generous contributions filled multiple bags with warm clothing, and together we raised **significant funds for both Haven Society and Nanaimo Family Life**. It's a beautiful example of how our small island can make a big difference.



Our Dedicated Recycling Team

Our hardworking **recycling crew** plays a huge role in supporting our community. This team diligently **collects, sorts, and barges recyclables off-island**, ensuring materials are handled responsibly.

The proceeds from this ongoing operation go directly back into **funding community projects and maintaining Beacon House**. Their efforts contribute immensely to the financial stability of the Protection Island Lions Club — and by extension, to the well-being of our entire island.



Libraries for All Ages

We operate the **Protection Island Library**, a cozy hub for reading, connection, and lifelong learning.

We also maintain a **children's lending library**, offering toys, playpens, high chairs, and other helpful items for island families.



Lending a Helping Hand

Our **medical equipment lending library** provides walkers, crutches, wheelchairs, and even a hospital bed — all available at no cost to islanders when needed.



Lifesaving Equipment for the Community

We've funded several **Automated External Defibrillator (AED)** machines located around the island — essential lifesaving equipment available to everyone in case of cardiac emergencies.



Events that Bring Us Together

We host much-loved gatherings such as the **Pancake Breakfast, Easter Egg Hunt, Bunker Bear Swim**, and **Children's Christmas Party** — all non-profit events that celebrate community spirit.

Occasional fundraisers, like our recent *Community Fundraiser at the Dock*, help support specific island projects.



Caring for Our Parks and Trails

We help manage and maintain our island's **parks and trails**, keeping them clean and welcoming.

In Pirates Park, we're leading a **multi-year remediation project** to remove invasive plants and reintroduce native species — restoring and protecting our island's natural habitat.



Community Emergency Preparedness

We proudly supported the **Protection Island Emergency Preparedness Committee (PIEPC)** by covering the cost of an **electric watermaker** and **generator** to ensure access to safe drinking water during emergencies.

This portable system can convert ocean water into fresh, drinkable water in minutes.

The generator also allows **Beacon House** to serve as a **warming station** and gathering place during power outages — a safe, warm spot to connect and recharge.



Quiet Support When It's Needed Most

We quietly assist island families in need, whether through grocery gift cards, ferry passes, or by cutting and delivering firewood.



Investing in Our Youth

We offer **bursaries** for island students pursuing post-secondary education — helping them reach their goals and celebrating their achievements.



Compassion Beyond Our Shores

We're proud to contribute to the “**Home Away From Home**” project — a compassionate initiative similar to Ronald McDonald House that will provide accommodations for families whose children are undergoing treatment at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital.

With generous donations, **contributions have also been made on behalf of Protection Island to Nanaimo Harbour Watch and RCMSAR (Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue)** — two vital organizations that directly impact the safety and well-being of everyone who lives, works, and plays in our local waters.



A Community Kitchen in the Making

We're currently fundraising to make **Beacon House an approved kitchen** with Island Health, which will allow our community to safely host more potlucks, dinners, and celebrations.



A Step Toward Safety

Our newest project focuses on building a **safe staircase in Ben Gunn Park** to provide easier access to **Cutlass Lookout**.

All of this happens thanks to **volunteers and donations** from people right here on the island.

If you've ever thought about getting involved, we'd love to have you — whether it's helping at an event, joining a committee, or simply sharing your ideas.

Together, we make good things happen.

