



The **Protection Island Lions Club** is a group of dedicated volunteers committed to keeping our community connected, supported, and thriving.

This year, we continued to manage and maintain Beacon House on behalf of the City of Nanaimo, introducing a donation-based model and a volunteer cleaning team to keep the space accessible while reducing costs.

We proudly continue to operate our Medical Equipment Lending Library, providing essential items to residents at no cost. We maintain a strong inventory stored at Beacon House, including hospital beds, wheelchairs, a transport chair, post-surgery bathroom equipment, walkers, ice therapy machines, canes, crutches, and more.

We also offer a Toy and Baby Supplies Library—perfect for visiting grandchildren—with portable cribs, strollers, and a wide selection of high-quality donated toys. Work is ongoing to expand and improve these valuable community resources.

Community events remained at the heart of what we do, including the Pancake Breakfast, Easter Egg Hunt, Bunker Bear Swim, Children's Christmas Party, and our ongoing Speaker Series, all of which bring islanders together to connect and celebrate.

Supporting education remains a priority. This year, we were pleased to award bursaries to Chloe McKinnon and Eric Eck as they pursue their post-secondary studies.

We continue to support the Home Away From Home project—an initiative similar to Ronald McDonald House—which will provide accommodations for families with children receiving care at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital.

Beyond Beacon House, we manage and maintain our parks and trails, working closely with the City on ongoing improvements, with more developments to come.

A highlight this year was Community Clubs Day at Beacon House, which brought together newcomers and long-time residents to learn about the many organizations, groups, and clubs on the island. The event saw strong participation and featured a guest presentation by Michael McDonald on septic tank care—an especially relevant and practical topic for island living.

We continue to make strong progress in Pirates Park restoration, removing invasive species and reintroducing native plants, supported by several well-attended community work parties throughout the year.

Our Recycling Program remains a valuable and impactful initiative. It is supported by a fantastic group of dedicated volunteers who contribute many many hours of collection, sorting and compiling recyclables. While it is often a messy job, it generates meaningful revenue for the island and is made possible by this hardworking and committed crew.

A major highlight this year was our Dockside Silent Auction fundraiser in support of achieving approved kitchen status at Beacon House. This was a significant undertaking involving renovations, the purchase of a commercial dishwasher, and extensive plumbing upgrades. Not only was the auction a tremendous success, it was also a fun and lively evening that brought out strong community participation – something we all needed! Thanks to that support and the efforts of many volunteers, the project was completed smoothly. We're pleased to share that Beacon House successfully passed the final inspection with Vancouver Island Health Authority and is now an Approved Kitchen—an asset for the benefit of the entire community!

We are proud to be part of such a caring and engaged community. None of this would be possible without the time, energy, and generosity of our volunteers and supporters. Thank you for helping us continue to make Protection Island such a special place to live.

Website: www.pi-lions.org

