

Your Support Can Truly Make a Difference

The PIHCS relies on community donations to assist with equipping and operating the Health Centre. To ensure a balanced budget in 2018-19, our goal is to raise \$32,000.

Pender Islands Health Care Society

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone# _____ Email _____

Donation Amount \$ _____
(Tax receipts are issued for donations over \$10)

Cheque Card: Type _____

Card # _____

Expiry Date (m/y) _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

**Please mail, or drop-off your contribution at the
Health Centre, to the**

**Pender Islands Health Care Society
5715 Canal Road, Pender Island, BC V0N 2M1
250-629-3326**

_____ I wish my contribution to remain anonymous
Registered Charitable # BN11908-8532 RR001

Pender Islands Health Care Society Newsletter



June 2018

The Pender Islands Health Care Society (PIHCS)

The Pender Island Health Care Society (PIHCS) is a community non-profit society that owns and operates the Pender Islands Health Centre. The PIHCS provides a number of health and social services programs directly, leases space and provides support to private health care practitioners and government agencies delivering services at the Health Centre. For more details on the services provided please go to our website: <http://www.penderislandhealth.ca/services>. The affairs of the Society are governed by a Board of Directors that supervise, and direct activities of the Society. The Directors appoint an Executive Director responsible for the day to day operations of the Society. The Board of Directors meet on a monthly basis.

AGM

Our AGM will be held Monday September 17th when the nomination and election of Directors take place. **If you are interested in joining the Board, please contact Tom Caston at tcaston@outlook.com to receive more information. Each board member serves for a two-year, renewable term.** Five Directors will be elected this year.

Community Kitchen Program

The PIHCS is pleased to announce a grant from Islands Health to establish the new community kitchen program – chop and chat. This is a chance to cook your favorite dishes in a social setting, share information and tips, bring dishes home so meals are already for you, and donate some of the food to those in need in the community. Check it out at community_gathering@outlook.com

Affordable Housing Crisis

As everyone living on the islands knows, there is a new crisis growing on the islands and that is the struggle for affordable housing. The time seems right to look to the future as both Provincial and Federal Governments have come to recognize the urgency of the situation. This is especially evident in rural areas like the Pender Islands, where workers and young families cannot find or afford housing. There is also the problem of older seniors being unable to continue to live on the islands as they age.

The PIHCS has struck a committee to investigate what might be done to improve housing on-Island and how that can be accomplished. This committee is working closely with other Island groups to decide how to move forward. The Southern Gulf Islands Housing Needs Assessment was recently completed looking into our local demographics and needs. It is available on line or through the CRD office.

The group looking into this crisis have concluded that the first step is to find suitable land. With that in mind **should anyone receiving this newsletter wish to donate a property or portion of their property, as was done originally to establish the PIHCS building, please contact Al Bloomenthal at albloomenthal@shaw.ca**. Tax receipts for the donation will be provided.

Community Paramedicine in British Columbia

BC Ambulance has enrolled Pender as a part of their new program, Community Paramedicine. This program has been established to approach health from a 'proactive' rather than "reactive" perspective, and is currently focusing on 3 areas: health and wellness clinics, public health promotion and education, as well as one-on-one visits in the home with clients. These home visits are currently aimed at those with one of 3 chronic conditions; Diabetes, Heart Failure, or COPD/Asthma, as well as those who may be at a risk of falls. Home visits are referred through a doctor or nurse, with the goal being to educate the patient or work on making long-term changes to help them stay independent in their homes for as long as possible.

This program is fast-growing and changing, and it will soon be able to include palliative patients, home health monitoring, and clients with mental health and addictions issues. Community Paramedics are able to help bridge the health care gaps, and work in tandem with established health care services.

We are fortunate to have two members of the Paramedic Team on Pender working in this field, Elise Dri and Allysa Woolcombe. They are pleased and excited to be sharing their skills within our community.

Community Reminder

The PIHCS has prepared free Emergency Medical Envelopes with magnetic backs so they can be stuck on a refrigerator for easy retrieval by Paramedics should they be called to your home in an emergency. Inside each envelope is a form that should be filled out with medical details for each person living at the home so that no time need be wasted looking for medical information. We have had excellent feedback from the local paramedics about how helpful these forms are in an emergency situation. The sheet of medical information is designed to answer questions such as: i) in a medical emergency what information would paramedics need to know about you, ii) the form also provides information for you on what preparations are required if you are being sent off-island to hospital or returning home from hospital. The paramedics will look for the envelopes on your refrigerator – saving valuable time in case the patient or relatives cannot communicate medical information to the paramedics.

If you haven't already filled out a form, please do so. The envelopes and forms are available in the waiting room of the Medical Centre and at the Pharmacy in the Driftwood Centre. Please take and complete one envelope and one form for each resident in the home.