

The ferry will be crowded in the summer, but not so much in the winter

- Cats and dogs will lie in the middle of the road in the summer as will snakes, so watch for them
- Dogs should be leashed when walking them
- Kids will run amuck... and that is a good thing... exploring parks and beaches
- Frogs will chirp – loudly - in the spring from every water hole
- Bikes are de rigueur as an island transportation method, then golf carts, which need to be licensed
- The deliberately unpaved roads will develop potholes in the winter, but are groomed a few times per year by the city
- The bikes, wheelbarrows, and the golf carts in the turnaround area are owned by islanders and not for public use
- The Pub is open in the summer and the winter
- There are no stores on the island, but if you occasionally run out of milk or eggs, that is what neighbours are for
- There is no taxi service on the island, but most people who own vehicles will offer rides
- We are part of the City of Nanaimo and pay city taxes to them and get building permits from them too
- There is no garbage collection on the island – you haul it over, you haul it back
- There is however a recycling service – picked up from your front yard – every two weeks
- The Protection Island Lions Club collects bottles at various drop-off points around the island
- There are private barge services to and from the island
- We can burn garden waste on Friday and Saturdays in April and October and a free verbal permit is required from the Nanaimo Fire Department
- There is a museum at the south end of the island and an archive run by the Protection Island Cultural and Historical Society
- There is the Protection Island Neighbourhood Association (formerly known as the Protection Island Ratepayers Association), which you can join
- The island has a bathtub racing team – Spirit and Intent
- The Community Garden is a place to cultivate plants and friendships
- There are multiple bulletin boards around the island, where the usual stuff gets posted: stuff for sale, events, services offered, etc.
- The fire protection service is run by volunteers, but they are well trained and well equipped. They meet every Tuesday night at the Fire Station and you can join them too
- Mud Bay has a community dock, always in need of volunteers to help with maintenance, even if you don't use it
- We are a Neighbourhood Watch community, do your bit
- The water on the island comes from Nanaimo, not from a well and is delicious

Commentary on Protection Island sent in by Ralph Kirby

- We have access to high-speed internet, phone service, cable and satellite TV and hydro
- Septic systems need to be pumped about every 3 to 5 years (and filters cleaned at least annually) and can be considered a “step-system” of primary treatment on-site before being pumped out to a line and then over to Nanaimo for secondary treatment (yes it is complicated)
- All beaches are public and there are designated paths to and from the beach, some are marked
- There is drop in volleyball on Sunday afternoons in Pirates Park
- There is yoga on Wednesday afternoon and evening at Beacon House
- There is an annual ProIsle 360 race around this island – in July – in manual or wind operated small water vehicles (and you can swim too)
- There is an annual garden tour – usually in June
- There is a lantern festival – usually in April
- There is a annual Polar Bear swim – on New Year’s Day – from the beach at the south end – near the ramp
- There are lots of events at Beacon House – Bathtub race day, New Year’s day, games night, yoga, photo shows, craft fairs, etc.
- There is the occasional house concert, art show, etc.
- We have talent galore on the island from musicians, authors, woodworkers, artists, potters, builders, rock climbers, gardeners, etc.
- Mail is delivered daily, except weekends and holidays and you can get a box in one of the banks of mailboxes near your house. Large parcel pick up is in Nanaimo (new location at 140 Terminal Ave)