

## A Note from your Editors

As a collective, we all do our part to bring you Xwe'etay News. That includes final edits for typos. But, even with this last step, we miss things as we scramble to get the many wonderful submissions to press on time.



Anna doing yoga while whiting out a mistake in 250 copies of the last issue.

- The Yew Collective; xweetaynews@lasqueti.ca



Purple Martins at the Dock

Ten years ago, I heard about a project on Vancouver Island called *The BC Purple Martin Stewardship and Recovery Program*. They were putting specially built nesting boxes on pilings and docks along the east side of Vancouver Island in the hope of saving Purple Martins from the brink of extinction. My partner Chris and I had seen some of these boxes up at Deep Bay and noticed the Purple Martins flying into them. We thought it would be possible to have them nesting at False Bay.

I got in touch with Bruce Cousens, the coordinator of the program for this area. He was very encouraging. He explained that these coastal Martins are different from the interior ones that many people are familiar with. The coastal birds only nest over salt water and they use individual nest boxes not the condo stye boxes with lots of holes. They historically used holes in snags or rotting pilings, but these are getting hard to find and the number of Martins on the coast was plummeting.

That winter Chris built three boxes following the specific design. In the spring we stood on the roof of the freight shed and attached our first two boxes to an old radio mast. To our delight and surprise Martins appeared almost immediately and took up residence.

These Martins are the largest of the swallows. The males are a deep purple; the females are subdued.

I reported our success to Bruce Cousens. He wasn't surprised. He knew the colony in French Creek was growing and at capacity. The older, successful breeding pairs arrive to the nesting boxes first. Younger, first-time breeders arrive later. If there are no vacancies, they go further afield. Our little group was probably from French Creek.

(Cont'd next pg)

We acknowledge and honour the Indigenous Peoples who, for generations, have made Xwe'etay/Lasqueti their home.

#### (Birds cont'd from previous page)

Over the years more boxes have been put up at the False Bay Dock as well as at Scottie Bay and at a few private homes by the water. We are lucky to have these cheerful birds return every summer. They are very vocal. Listen for them as they fly overhead seeming to welcome the ferry's arrival.



#### **Kitchen Renovation Gratitude**

In the story of the Community Hall kitchen upgrade, many people need to be named. The longterm vision began almost a decade ago with dreams and ideas. In the last couple of years, the Hall Building Committee (Bruce G, Melinda, Aigul, Jodi A, Daniel J, Mark B., JennyV) got serious and made a plan, drafted a budget and set tasks.

All the dishes etc. were packed out by Hilary, Rosalind, Dave W, Shirley R, Priya, Jodi, Anna D, Amanda L, Jaya, Simmah and Anneliese. Bruce, Gary, Mark B, Louie, Ian G, Isaac H and Sebastian demolished the old kitchen. Jen B, Jodi, and Mark painted the walls. Dave and Kathy Rogers donated a sheet of drywall to replace the rotting one behind the skink. Bruce, Gary, and Diver Don built and installed the new cupboards. Tian helped Bruce lay the new floors. Dinika, Provisions and Kristen and Clive donated food for the workers. The new triple stainless steel sink came from Vancouver via Richard Smith and Brennan F and his barge. Mark cleaned it up and welded some cracks with help. Joe Schley plumbed the sink in. Jordan B sourced the new stove and Richard S. transported it from Vancouver. Bill Forbes transported it to Lasqueti on his fish boat. Karl D donated metal for the hanging rack. Mark then built the rack. Bev Finch donated a drying rack which Mark hung. Anneliese and Patrick helped Mark move the new stove into the kitchen. Wayne donated parts for the stove

gas fittings and Mark installed it. Daniel spent hours rewiring the kitchen plugs and installing new ones; he also donated parts and wire. Jaya, Aigul, Dinika, Donna Mc, Marti W, Hilary, Jodi and JennyV sorted and returned the dishes back into the kitchen with the help of Camino's bussing cart. Camino also donated a rack that's handy for storage and baking.

Phew! That's a lot of people who helped physically make it happen. Many thanks also to those who donated money asking it be directed toward the kitchen fund. Thanks to those who gave generously when we asked for help to cover the cost of the new stove. The gratitude for time, energy and money given is great. The new kitchen is beautiful, fresh and functional and we did that together! It's a testament to community in action. - JennyV



#### One Pot Spaghetti or Pasta

This is a very basic but tasty recipe that can be varied with whatever you have in the garden or in the fridge.

- 1) Cook your Spaghetti or Pasta in a large pot until done. Drain into colander. Save a bit of pasta water.
- 2) In the same pot add: 1 Tbsp olive oil; chopped garlic to your liking; 1/4 cup chopped onion. Sweat for a few minutes on low heat. Add chopped tomatoes (4-6 medium tomatoes, to taste), sea salt, pepper, chili peppers (optional)
- 3) Cook together for 5 minutes. Add a splash of white wine or a bit of lemon juice
- 4) Add pasta to pot and mix gently. Add reserved pasta water if needed.
- 5) Serve with fresh ground pepper and



parmesan cheese. Enjoy 🤎 - Luise Zinsli



## Student Corner

## Where I'm From

I am from the basketball hoops from my yard From the quiet and free place I am from the big farm on top of a hill Sheep, trees, birds I am from the beach Mud Bay, the mushy sand and sunsets I'm from family reunions and going to Hornby

I am from Natty, Katy families I am from the eat and talk From do not be rude and you talk too much I am from "Mula Pamashino Tata" I'm from Courtenay

I am from Nikki noodles, pecan pie From Amelia Earhart being part of our family The Richie's old stories My uncle's porch we would take photos on The pickle on the tree. — Akili Violini (Grade 7)

## Where I'm From

I am from bicycles. From iPods and Pumas.

I am from the shack on the hill (perched on the rocks, it was never quite built)

I am from the croaking pond of frogs, at night, their songs ring free through the black.

I am from Christmas walks, and farming.

I am from overly loud obnoxiousness, and burrito night.

From not crossing your eyes, and looking both ways.

I am from the sarcastic fear of 'Other-Siders' and 'Summer People'.

From "The Rock", and being related to half the Island.

From apple crisp, and granola, homemade.

I am from books, smells and images that bring back my early childhood.

That is where I'm from. — Kahlio Dryburgh (Grade 9)



## Where I'm From

I am from the Island From land to water I am from the ever moving ocean Fast, beautiful tide I am from ocean spray Folded and curled I'm from garbage can cooking From Adam Enright and Katrina Herriot I'm from Qualicum and the ferry From the waves of baby orca whales

— Orion Herriot Enright (Grade 6)



## Poems for Cross-Quarter Days August

When the blackberries hang swollen in the woods, in the brambles nobody owns, I spend

all day among the high branches, reaching my ripped arms, thinking

of nothing, cramming the black honey of summer into my mouth; all day my bod

accepts what it is. In the dark creeks that run by there is this thick paw of my life darting among

the black bells, the leaves; there is this happy tongue.

- Mary Oliver



#### $\sim \sim \sim$ Ebbs and Flows $\sim \sim \sim \sim$

#### How Did We Come to be Here?

The question is an interesting one since it suggests an often obscure and winding path that leads one on, not always fully consciously, until there is inevitably a fork in the road.

It's New Year's Eve, 1969 and I'm sitting on the floor playing Monopoly by candlelight, happy to have been invited to an impromptu gathering at Laurence and Annabel's little flat in Maida Vale in London. I had come to London almost a year previously in the vague hope of getting on with a publishing house and had been given Laurence's name as someone to contact while there. I did and Laurence very generously brought me into his interesting circle of friends. It is the turn of the decade; an auspicious occasion, time for something new. At some point after the game is finished and the temporal threshold has been crossed, Laurence unrolls a large aerial photo map and lays it on the floor in front of us. The photo shows the craggy coastline of what looks like part of an uninhabited island. He tells us this is where he and Annie will soon be going to live. This is an astounding revelation. Where is this? What is this about? Laurence tells us we are looking at his inheritance that has been waiting for him since he was a young boy. This land is on an island in the middle of Georgia Strait north of Vancouver, called Lasqueti. I grew up in Victoria, a mere 145km away, and had never heard of it. We indulge in some hashish flavoured visions of a utopian community on Laurence's estate. We say goodnight and go home to lives of greater or lesser interest, I to my aimless existence in an Earl's Court bedsit and think not too much more about it.

The publishing thing had fallen through and I returned to live in Vancouver. I fell in love with Colleen and one day she told me about an article she had read which recounted in glowing terms one family's experience with living on an island somewhere. She told me this was her ideal. "Well, I have a friend who has a bit of an island..." By 1972 we had moved to Lasqueti and along with a small group, who became dear friends, we built on and occupied this land. By the late 80's the time had come to legally formalize this arrangement and codify the values and relationship to the land of our congenial ad hoc group of neo settlers and Magic Mountain Land Co-op was born. For me, the seed of this happy development was planted long ago and far away. - Brian Pitt

# Murse's Notes

This month's article will briefly cover some ways we can help protect our lungs in the case of smoke inhalation due to wildfires. So far this year, we have been more fortunate than those in many parts of BC where wildfires continue to burn and affect the quality of air that is breathed.

Smoke from wildfires can affect the health of people living hundreds of kilometers away. Wildfire smoke increases the particulate matter (pollution) in the air, which can cause healthy adults to cough, wheeze, and have difficulty breathing. The health consequences can be serious especially for seniors and those with existing respiratory illnesses such as asthma or emphysema.

There are some simple measures a person can do to help prevent some of the harmful effects of wildfire smoke:

- Check your local air quality. Even if you live far from active fires, there could be a high level of particulate matter in the air. The <u>Air Quality</u> <u>Health Index (AQHI)</u> uses a scale from 1 to 10+ to indicate the level of pollutants in the air. The higher the number the worse the quality.
- Stay inside. If you don't have to go outside, stay inside to avoid the effects of poor air quality.
- 3) Keep your windows, doors and fireplace dampers shut. Prevent smoke from entering your house. Limit the use of bathroom and kitchen fans that draw outside air in.
- 4) Wear an appropriate mask if you must go outside. Wear an N95 respirator mask if you are worried about your lungs and have to go outside during poor air quality. Cloth or disposable surgical masks do not protect against the particles in the air due to wildfire smoke. N95 masks must fit properly to work, and they often do not fit properly on children or people with beards.

The harmful effects of wildfires and wildfire smoke are many. Preventing forest fires in the first place is, of course, the most important thing we can do to prevent negative consequences. Remaining vigilant and conscious of fire prevention measures we can take in our home and community at all times of the year is of outmost importance! Best, ♥ Dianne LasquetiHealthCentre@gmail.com

cell: 250-240-5712; Clinic # 250-333-8891 \*\*Clinic: Thursday, 11- 3, 1 August, 29 August

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#### Wisdom from Xwe'etay Gardeners



My Gardening Gurus

I rely on many smart, experienced gardeners as my guides and teachers for getting more and better food and beauty from my garden. Over the years, I have benefited from the experience and ideas of other island gardeners. In addition, I consult several established gardening teachers, especially those who live in similar climates. They are:

- Charles Dowding. Strong promoter of the No Dig method (add compost etc. to the top of the soil, no rototilling or turning or deep digging. (I've been doing this for years and strongly recommend it.) Lives in southern England, has a small/medium-sized market garden, teaches workshops, writes guides and books. Find him at <u>www.charlesdowding.co.uk</u> He has a blog and a YouTube channel with dozens of how-to videos for various methods and specific vegetables.
- Linda Gilkeson. Lives on Saltspring, sends out a monthly email newsletter you can subscribe to, with info on what to do that month in your garden. Her advice is very right-here and from years of local experience. Big proponent of planting in the summer for fall and winter eating, which our climate is perfect for. Her book *Backyard Bounty* is good to have and is available from Vancouver Island Regional Library. Find her at www.lindagilkeson.ca
- Eliot Coleman. Lives in Maine, colder than here but similarly maritime, lots of advice and reference to studies supporting his ideas and practices. A proponent of year-round harvest, he uses hoop houses for season extension. Recommends multi-sowing, starting several seeds in one small pot and setting them out in the garden in those small clumps. I've been doing this for years and love the technique. Lots less work, same production. Find him at <u>www.fourseasonfarm.com</u> VIRL has several of his books.
- And, for my recent interest in cut flowers, I love the advice and passion from Floret Farm in Skagit County, Washington. Their book *Floret Farm's Cut Flower Garden* is inspiring and packed with information. Available at VIRL, along with many other useful titles on cut flowers. Website <u>www.floretflowers.com</u> – *Sue Wheeler*

## Waste Case Scenario It's time for the next Lasqueti Tire Drive!

In conjunction with Tire Stewardship BC and the qathet Regional District (led on the ground by Mark Bottomley, Waste Manager), a day to get your old tires off the island and recycled is being organized. There's no charge for this service. Tires can be on-rim or off-rim but they need to be clean (no water, dirt, rocks, or plants in them) and they need to be able to roll (no major cuts/damage). There is no limit per household. Tires of all sizes will be accepted. Please let Mark know how many you have by contacting him at 250 240 9886 or <u>mb@lasqueti.ca</u>. Mark will inform the community when the barge date is confirmed sometime in the next month.

The B.C. scrap tire recycling program was established in 1991. Over the past 30 years, more than 100 million tires have been recycled in the province. Along the line, Extended Producer Responsibility became a government strategy to shift responsibility for end-of-life product management from the general taxpayer or local government onto the producer and consumers. In March 2006, the B.C. Ministry of Environment added tires to the Recycling Regulation. Tire Stewardship BC was created to collect, process, and manage scrap tires.

In B.C., all scrap tires collected are also locally re-purposed in the province. There are two companies located in Delta— Western Rubber Products and Lehigh Northwest Cement – that have facilitated this since 1991. They have helped by turning tires into athletic tracks, playground surfaces, recreational flooring, mats and flooring for farms and factories, additives for rubberized asphalt, and even landscaping mulch. B.C. has one of the highest diversion rates in the country with virtually no stockpiles!

When you buy new tires you are charged an Advance Disposal Fee (ADF). All revenue collected from ADFs is used exclusively for recycling and program activities. Ninety percent of the ADF goes to processors and haulers to collect, transport, and recycle scrap tires. The remaining 10 per cent is for program management, consumer education, awareness initiatives, and a community grant program.

Did you know that you can also drop off can bicycle tires and inner tubes for recycling at

#### (WCS cont'd from previous page)

participating bike shops? To find locations go to https://tsbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Bike-Retailers-List.pdf. There are locations in Nanaimo and the Comox Valley. Please recycle the rubber associated with bike tires! - *JennyV* 

### **Creatures are my Teachers**

#### A Cawcawphony of Ravens

The fledgling ravens are screeching incessantly through my open window. They have not yet cultivated the calmer, deeper voice of an adult. It's no wonder the parents chase them away by autumn. The collective noun should be "a cawcawphony of ravens."

The reigning pair of corvids ignored the chickens for 10 years, but last year, two new ravens replaced them. They killed my last hen, who was 13 years-old. I could not have more because they are pets, and it's heartbreaking to lose them to violence. So I made pets of the ravens. They ate Flabbergastia because their nestlings were ravenous. Who can blame them. Quoth the ravens, "More." So I leave offerings.

Whenever I leave chow, I call - CAW, CAW. One red-winged blackbird learned this cry meant softened cat crunchies. He would zoom across the swamp, through the trees, stuff his beak, and whizz back home to feed the kids. The bird knew he had only a moment before the corvids descended. He arrived like a jet after each summons.

Red-winged blackbirds are feisty and protect their nests. I saw one that kept bodychecking a raven. He even clung to his back in flight and rode him like a jockey. Every time, it's the ravens who back down.

I was filling buckets with swamp water when one raven landed on a branch above my head. I said, "Don't you crap on me." As I spoke, she shot out a stream of poo. A narrow miss.

The next day, whilst filling buckets, she again perched overhead. I said, "Don't you try to poop on me again." Out shot another stream of excrement. It's my superpower - I can make ravens shit on command. I promise to use my power only for good.

Ravens are known to leave gifts, often shiny, for their benefactors. I said to them, "I bring you pig heads. I feed you cat food. I buy you liver. You are supposed to bring me presents. But what do I get, you kill my last chicken and shit at me twice."

Then I saw an article that said it's good luck if a raven craps on you. So they were being nice to me. I prefer shiny things.

Next time I command a raven to shit, I hope for a direct hit. Then I'll shoot craps. I'm sure to win. – *Jay Rainey* 



Jay Rainey

Rainey

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"Quothe the raven, MORE."



*"I hope this is my husband I'm kissing.* All ravens look the same to me"

#### Arts Fest 2024 Acknowledgements

The 34th Annual Lasqueti Arts Festival was a truly beautiful celebration of art! So many people were involved in making it unfold and though we'd love to mention every single one of them, we'd be way over our allowable word count!

First off, to the writers who read their words, the visual artists who displayed their work, the musicians who practiced and played, thank you for the creativity that moves through you and your willingness to share it.

To the volunteers who worked the gate, washed the dishes, poured the drinks, brought bouquets of flowers, loaned lights, showed up to set the scene and then cleaned it all up, the festival would not have happened without you.

Special mentions to: Nalia for designing the poster; Ian Giles for taking on the huge task of tarping the grounds; the crew that accompanied Ian; David and Link for the ambience, lights and Portal installation. Also thanks to David and Link for the puppet theatre that we'll get to use again and again; Anna Dodds for organizing the Friday evening kitchen and then making the collaborative painting and craft station happen behind the Hall on Saturday; Daniela for coordinating the gate volunteers; Ian Rusconi for setting up the sound and bringing sweet music to our ears; Robin Jacobs for organizing the musicians' line-up, inside the hall and outside; Morgan Maher for partnering with Robin to emcee the main stage; Jade for the Still Life competition; Tian and Bella for the Trashion station and show; Hilary for organizing the art sales; Ivy for getting the liquor license; Cindy for running the bar; Bill Forbes for helping her get the ice and kegs to the bar; Lori Garson for rustling up the volunteer bartenders; Sophia for face painting; Violet for bringing

Puppets and a story; Shoshanah for putting together the magnetic poetry installation; Mark B and his mutton militia for feeding us all day; and to Laura, Vida, Katy, Reza, Junie, and Farrell for providing delicious food as well. Big ups to Simmah for keeping her eye on and hands in the recycling/trash to make sure it didn't turn into a Sunday morning nightmare; also to Faren for handling all the money as Arts Council Treasurer.

The dream is to capture the festival in the 2024 Anthology. If you have photos, please send them to carolynmasson@gmail.com

Big love and gratitude from your current arts fest coordinators Jen Brant and JennyV All proceeds go towards supporting the arts on Lasqueti and maintaining the Arts Center.





Arts Almanac

Arts Almanac is taking a pause but will be back with #6 in Sept!





## Ferry Committee News



MLA, Adam Walker's office, has recently forwarded the FOI copy of the new ferry contract for Route 55.

The Company (BC Ferries) and the Operator (Western Pacific Marine Ltd.; WPM) have signed an agreement (as an amendment of the previous contract) that extends the operation of Route 55 until March 31, 2028.

We would like to highlight some key changes in the new agreement:

- 1. Fares: There will be some adjustments to passenger fares for both peak and non-peak seasons. The operator will be permitted to increase the maximum fares by 3.2% annually. The Ferry Committee will advocate for the fares to not increase more than is absolutely necessary.
- 2. Community Meetings: WPM will now be required to hold public meetings with the Lasqueti Island community semi-annually. This will provide an opportunity for all of us to share our thoughts and concerns directly with the operator.
- 3. Better Communication: The operator will develop a written communication plan by October 1, 2024. They will also be required to make public all policies and protocols for sailing changes, cancellations, ticket issuance, and conditions of carriage.
- 4. Safety Requirements: The ferry is again required by the contract to carry an AED (automated external defibrillator) and a NARCAN kit.
- 5. Technology Upgrades: BC Ferries is providing funds to improve customer-facing technology.
- 6. Crew Training Funds: BC Ferries will be providing training support for crew training and skill enhancement.
- 7. Performance Reviews: BC Ferries will be closely monitoring the operator's performance on an annual basis.
- 8. Missed Sailings: BC Ferries maintains the option to enforce penalties for missed sailings for reasons other than "force majeure."
- 9. Transport Canada: WPM will be required to forward all correspondence from Transport Canada regarding service to Route 55 within 3 business days of receipt or issuance of the correspondence.

The operator will also be required to continue its review of the potential use of pre-paid passes and

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return day fares, in consultation with our community.

We encourage everyone to attend the public meetings when they are announced.

The Ferry Committee will continue to work closely with BC Ferries and WPM. If you have any questions regarding the new contract, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. A copy of the contract will be posted on the Lasqueti.ca website. Happy and Safe Sailing to all, Shelley Garside and Ezra Auerbach, for the Ferry Committee.







#### From Tim Peterson: Greetings all.

At our July 15th meeting, the Lasqueti Local Trust Committee passed a resolution to advance a business case for the 2025/26 budget. If approved by Trust Council in March, it will assure sufficient funding to continue the OCP/LUB review without need to re-scope from a "Minor" to a "Major" project, as per Trust Council policy. After having to scale down the project last year, we want to ensure that will not be the case this time.

Other discussion concerned the Connected Coast fibre optic proposal. Staff advised that a rezoning application was required, and received, and that a regular timeline for such applications generally runs from 6-12 months. In conversation with the folks from City West and the Province, who joined us online, we were advised that a 6month timeline was workable, but that longer could present problems from their end. "Last Mile" funding was also discussed, and an application for funding can be made, but it was stressed that, to be successful, it would need strong public support. My own feeling is that any such project should ensure equitable service provision to all community members who want it.

As a normal part of the Local Trust Committee process, the application itself would provide potential for a Community Information meeting and a Public Hearing. My impression is that some type of community process would be useful for determining support for the "Last Mile" funding application, whether meetings, survey, or online poll. I reached out to LIAS board members after our meeting to see if there is interest in considering how LIAS and the LTC might coordinate in assessing public opinion to support an application for funding.

Our next meeting is October 21, at the JFC. Please consider attending if you are able to. And, as always, feel free to contact your trustees with your questions, comments, or concerns. <u>tpeterson@islandstrust.bc.ca</u> 250-607-

7094. To contact the whole committee and staff, email <u>laltc@islandstrust.bc.ca</u>

**From Mikaila Lironi:** The Advisory Planning Commission (APC) has been diligently working on defining the environmental and social effects of private docks as part of our Official Community Plan (OCP). This is a particularly divisive topic, and I commend the APC for their thoughtful and thorough approach to addressing this task.

To provide some context, the APC is tasked with offering input on land use, community planning, and proposed bylaws or permits based on referrals from the LTC. According to our standing resolution, at least one staff member and one trustee must be present at every APC meeting to ensure comprehensive oversight and participation. While the Lasqueti Island Trust Committee (LTC) receives the APC's recommendations, it is not bound by them and has full decision-making authority.

We are also actively collaborating with the Snaw-naw-as First Nations and look forward to receiving their comments on our OCP soon. Recognizing the busy nature of summer, we have scheduled our next meeting with them for the fall, and we plan to continue these meetings on a biannual basis to ensure ongoing dialogue and cooperation.

I would like to remind everyone that the next LTC meeting will be held on October 21st, 2024, at the JFC at 11 AM. Your input and participation are invaluable, so please feel free to reach out to Tim or me with any concerns or questions. Thank you for your continued engagement and support. Mikaila Lironi, (250) 812-2560 mlironi@islandstrust.bc.ca

> qathet REGIONAL DISTRICT

## What does qathet Regional District do on Lasqueti?

The main role of regional districts is to provide local government services, with funding mostly coming from property taxes, grants, and user fees. Services the qRD provides on Lasqueti include:

- Local (property taxes from Lasqueti)
  - Lasqueti Island Volunteer Fire Department
  - Barge ramp
  - Funding to the community hall and health centre (under agreements and without any administration)
  - Parking lot near the arts centre
  - Library (participation in Vancouver Island Regional Library)
  - Local grants-in-aid

#### (qRD cont'd from previous pg)

- Shared (property taxes from rural areas)
   Social planning (social issue supports)
- Regional (property taxes from entire qRD)
  - Waste management (including the recycling depot and free store)
  - Emergency preparedness
  - Regional parks
  - General grants-in-aid
  - Plus: administration

#### What does the qRD Board do?

The qRD Board consists of 7 representatives: 5 elected from the rural areas (3 north and south of Powell River, Texada, and Lasqueti) and 2 appointed by the City of Powell River.

The authority of Regional Districts is set out in the Local Government Act and Community Charter (what is required, allowed, prohibited, etc., and how it must act). The Board sets policy direction (budgets, service levels, goals, policies, bylaws), providing direction to staff to implement and manage services. The qRD Board focuses on what to do, not how exactly to do it.

#### What is the role of the Lasqueti Regional Director?

A regional director has the authority at Board meetings to raise issues, make motions, argue for or against motions, and vote. The Board acts by majority vote. Individual directors cannot unilaterally tell staff what to do. If a director feels there is a problem, they can raise it with the Board, the Chair, or the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

The main role involves preparing for and attending meetings (about 50/year, plus library, ferry committee, waste management committee, and Coastal Invasive Species Committee), bringing community-supported initiatives to the table, considering requests put forward by the public, and advocating to the Province on behalf of residents.

I also work on issues raised on Lasqueti that are not directly part of the regional director role, provide information to residents on how they can bring their ideas/concerns to the Board, and help direct people to appropriate agencies regarding non-qRD services.

Please feel free to contact me. I am honoured to be your regional representative.

Director Andrew Fall, qathet Regional District Contact: Tel: 250-333-8595

### Seal Pup Saga

July and August is the time for seal babies. Our waters are full of these cute critters hanging out with their moms on rocks or in the ocean.

In mid-July, a tiny seal pup showed up in our bay. Since we only see the occasional solo adult seal hunting at dusk, and our rocks are too steep and craggy for haul outs, this was a surprise. Of course, I jumped in the water and was thrilled to have it swim to me.

But it didn't seem right. The pup was less than a week old (it still had its umbilical cord) and was clearly too young to be on its own. Over the next 40 hours, we had multiple calls with different wildlife rescue teams – each time being wellaware of the countless warnings on the internet about seal pups whose moms left them while hunting, only to have well-intentioned people "help" a pup that wasn't in distress.

We all understood that orphaned seal pups are not uncommon and that seal populations are quite healthy. However, we had bonded to this wee one and so, after being with the pup into the evenings and early the following mornings, Wildlife Rescue folks told us the steps to try and save this little being. Once collected in a prepared tote and cooled in our bathtub, Kaia boated it over to Vancouver Island where volunteers met the pup and drove it to the rehab center on Saltspring.

Sadly, our seal pup did not make it. Apparently, a boat hit its head and that was more than they could deal with. It didn't have that injury when we first saw it, so if we had been more confident and acted more quickly, the critter would have survived.

During our conversations with the Rescue Center, they educated us about some internet mistruths that we said we'd share in case you ever embark on a similar journey:

- 1. Young seal pups nurse often. Their mothers don't leave them for hours, and certainly not for days.
- 2. If you see a seal pup in a place that seems odd to you, it's probably orphaned.
- 3. If a seal pup comes up to you, it is looking for food and is already hungry.
- 4. Healthy seal pups are not sleepy. They are alert and active (alongside Mom).
- 5. If you're concerned, it's better to call right away than to wait.

The Island Wildlife Rescue Center is looking for on-island volunteers to help transport animals.

https://www.sealrescue.org/ - Dana Lepofsky

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5G has made headlines both for its speed and for potential concerns ranging from health and security to mass surveillance and radio interference. According to the coverage maps from local cell providers, 5G is now available on

much of Lasqueti, and it has also come up in discussions of the Connected Coast project. So what exactly is 5G, and how does it relate to fibre optic?

In a nutshell, 5G is a standard that includes a protocol for how to encode information to transmit it wirelessly, plus a minimum network speed. The key reason 5G is faster than its predecessors is that 5G is smarter about encoding data. However, carrier frequencies also play a role. While lower frequency radio waves are better able to travel through obstacles, higher frequencies can carry more information. In cities, where a large number of users need to be supported concurrently, 5G needs to be run over relatively high frequencies that require line of sight and hence lots of transmitters, whereas in rural areas, 5G is commonly run utilizing existing towers and lower frequency bands previously used for 4G and 3G.

It is helpful to divide potential impacts of 5G into those related to the radio frequencies used to carry the signal (e.g., EMF exposure), the 5G protocol and associated equipment (e.g., security concerns), and the increased bandwidth and data transmission rates (e.g., potential for mass surveillance).

On Lasqueti, 5G has likely simply replaced 4G as the communication protocol on a part of the frequency spectrum already in use for cell communication, so the switch to 5G has likely had little effect on blanket EMF exposure. Those who adopt 5G as their primary way to get internet probably do experience increased EMF exposure from their 5G device, which could be mitigated by switching to fibre optic.

Concerns about the security of 5G could also be alleviated by moving to fibre optic and using VoIP instead of cell service, though equipment and protocols used for fibre optic transmission are not exempt from security vulnerabilities.

Last, but not least, there is loss of privacy from use of 'smart' Internet of Things (IoT) devices. Most IoT devices use Wifi and simply require an internet connection to become problematic. Thus, fibre optic, satellite internet, 5G, and the current LIAS network all enable IoT. Yet, the main enabler is not any specific technology, but our seemingly insatiable desire for convenience. -Brigitte Dorner

#### Order

The raptors are busy this morning, circling over the marsh. A barred owl is roosted on the branch of a cedar snag, a turkey vulture perched in a towering douglas fir beyond. Its upper limbs are sparse and there are many with this appearance here. Swiss Dave will tell you that in a couple of years such trees will be dead.

The owl commands this little swamp. Its colouring is a match for the dead cedars, their trunks tawny brown or bleached to a burnished gray, the limbs now dry sticks, only a few maintaining their swoop. I have seen the same bird before, on the same limb, a sentry holding the centre.

Overhead, a bald eagle is chased by a stubborn crow. Songbirds adorn the woods around this tiny wetland, honking geese echo from out of sight. There must be a hatch this morning, two hawks soar aloft, their names I'm uncertain. Who's the bird person on this island? I must invite them for a cup.

The red-wing blackbird now, a sharp dart between the cattails, ragged heads propped on rigid stems, each one like a nameless face in the busy square. Sorcerers, wizards, old bearded Lasquetians. They look pummelled, fluffing apart with each puff of breeze. It is late May and their year is almost up.

A dart? An arrow more like it, its brilliant fletch steals the show. Bright, bold, so orange it is red. Which god's pigment is this? An outlier in the subdued swampscape, where all else is a blend. What pagan's idea, burned alive for this offering.

Soon the owl flies off, her court adjourned, a graceful bank toward the ocean's cove. A bald eagle lands in the marshy bottom, its raked head a humourless snowball.

That whistling chirp, who knew? Years ago a biologist friend was argued by a star spangled tourist - there's no way! Certain, rather, that they roar like a lion. This one, now flapping in the mucky shallow, scrapping after something. A toad, a snake? Maybe a bulging bullfrog. One hop, or two, and hell breaks loose.

- Gord Ohm, 2023





Meet the Neighbours



Benoit Mayaux, Sandra Duval, and Barnabé Spring Bay

Video game development can be a nomadic profession. Sandra worked in Paris, Marseilles, and Lyon - where she met Benoit, working for the

same company in A.I. They fell in love, got married, moved to Montreal for the next project, created Barnabé, watched the squirrels dashing about in the trees and started



dreaming of the West Coast.

Benoit grew up with Spielberg movies and Star Wars, filmed in the big trees, and always wanted to be in the forest. Sandra always wanted the sea. A job with a Vancouver/Victoria company suggested a move to the west coast; and the pandemic enabled remote work. They quickly decided Vancouver was not affordable and widened their search until a listing on Lasqueti popped up. They thought, "A place like this exists?? That's exactly what we need!" And then the doubts. No preschool or daycare for Barnabé, no car ferry, and what about a medical emergency? So they just toyed with the idea - until someone else was interested in the property. In 3 days they organized a trip across Canada with a toddler, and completely fell in love. "Here is a place with people trying to live by different social values, helping each other out. This community is amazing; it's completely aligned with our values. We have to do this. We have to find solutions."

Everything fell into place. The Campbell's/ Ty & Ginja's place up one of the craziest island driveways had a cabin for someone to live and help take care of Barnabé. Internet worked. They had the usual first-winter problems - burst pipes, running out of wood - but, "Now we're better at planning!" They learned the ferry dance: "Be there at the right time; do your stuff; disappear; wait for someone to go and take their place. It's like a ballet."

I asked what one thing they would change. "This sounds crazy - we really miss the squirrels!" But no fear. No imports are planned. A bit more birdsong would be lovely."

And what would you never change? "Whenever something's happening, people bring their

instruments and start to play. In cities you hear music on the radio, in the car, but people playing music for real? That doesn't happen in the streets anymore. Barnabé is SO interested any time he hears music. That is one thing we love here - the community - and it comes out in the music." – Suzanne Heron

## My Favourite Tool

When we came up with the idea for this column, we imagined people would submit favourite tools for gardening, construction, and that kind of thing.

But the truth is, one of my favourite tools is our immersion blender. I love that I can make soups, hummus, sauces, or whatever in the bowl that I'm going to serve or store it in. I'm all about minimizing dishes.

In a market conversation last week I found out that the immersion blender is also the favourite tool of several other people.

– Dana Lepofsky



#### Book Review



# John Vaillant. Fire Weather: The Making of a Beast. Penguin Pub, 2023.

*Fire Weather* takes the devastating Fort McMurray wildfire as the focus of a much wider examination of our current climate change dilemma. The seemingly innocuous fire started on May 1, 2016 and later destroyed most of the town, caused the evacuation of

88,000 people, cost multi-billions of dollars, and took over a year to get fully under control.

Exhaustively researched, covering a vast spectrum of historical and scientific details, the book is a readable narrative, compassionate, unflinching, and accessible. Shocking revelations unfold, not the least of which is the human capacity to deny or ignore impending disaster. We are living in a world that is so vastly different from that of 1980 or 1990, yet we barely comprehend the urgency of the threat.

The Fort McMurray fire can only be described in near apocalyptic terms, unprecedented, a Godzilla like "beast" akin to an atomic bomb or volcanic eruption. Since the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, there have been many similar catastrophic fires around the world. These are not the wildfires of the past millennia; they represent a new phenomenon, pyrocumulus firestorms that create their own weather.

The ultimate irony is that the fire that wiped out Fort McMurray was essentially a direct result of the city's reason for existence. Bitumen extraction is one of the most labour intensive and environmentally destructive enterprises and pumps out  $CO_2$  emissions on a colossal scale. Vaillant pulls no punches. He begins with a historical overview of avaricious resource exploitation and destruction, starting with the fur trade, then the discovery of petroleum resources and the hitherto inconceivable plan to extract bitumen from the Alberta oil sands.

Astoundingly, scientists have warned again the Greenhouse Effect for over a century, yet denial and obfuscation have successfully suppressed the evidence that we are on the way to catastrophe. Starting in the 1980s, rich and powerful petroleum industries have used every tactic to discredit or call into question the scientific evidence, much like the tobacco industry successfully minimized the harmful effects of smoking. Of course, we all



share culpability for the Petrocene. Vaillant sees some hope in that people are starting to realize how vulnerable we are and make changes. He also believes in the restorative powers of nature.

Also recommended are his previous works: *The Tiger* and *The Golden Spruce. - Sue Ashcroft* 

#### Has Anybody Heard of the Stages of Grief?

Dr. Elizabeth Kübler-Ross wrote a book in the 70's where she identified five emotional stages that a dying person may go through after being diagnosed with a terminal illness: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance.

One result of her work is that many people now tend to apply her concept of stages to other aspects of human emotion. Grief, which follows death, divorce, and other losses should not be regarded in terms of these stages.

Dr. Kubler Ross's contributions brought a great awareness about the process of dying. However, it has also been accompanied by some collateral damage. Many people – professionals, and the general public – have attempted to apply her stages to the emotions that arise after a loss. I have heard some people say "*I wonder where I am in the stages of grief?*"

Remember, this was written from the perspective of a dying person with a terminal diagnosis, not a grieving person left behind.

The danger of this is that when we attempt to fit into a mold that wasn't meant for us it can make grief more confusing and complicated than it already is. For example, many people confuse a sense of numbness for denial. A sense of numbness is one of the very first common responses a person might feel after experiencing a loss. In the over 40 years that the Grief Recovery Institute has been helping people, they have yet to be approached by somebody (and myself as well) who is in denial that a loss has occurred. The very first thing they say is, "my mother died", or "my dog died", or "my wife divorced me". There is no denial here!

Rather than the "stages of grief", the "maze of grief" might be a more accurate description of the journey we travel after a loss.

- Lisa Mackay Grief Recovery Method Specialist (Some Information from the *Grief Recovery* Handbook)

Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy



On Sunday afternoon, July 21, LINC held a book launch, reading, and celebration for the release of Izzy Harrington's new book "Voices for the Islands: Thirty Years of Nature Conservation on the Salish Sea" – published by Heritage House Press earlier this year. The Judith Fisher Centre was standing room only and everyone had a great time. Izzy gave us a sample of her stories about the inspiring efforts of conservationists across the islands.



## **Community Bulletin Board**

### Summertime at False Bay Provisions

Hello to everyone experiencing this beautiful weather on the island!

We've been busy cooking, baking and entertaining you during these oh so sunny days and are excited to be diving into the crystal blue waters of August...

Please note, we are in a total fire ban, so please exercise caution if you are smoking in our yard or downtown in general. In the yard there is a specific large picnic table designated for smoking That is the ONLY place we have on our property available to smoke. Thank you for taking care and respecting this safeguard to help keep the downtown area fire free.

Attention artists: A call out to our ever-growing group of artists on the island. We are starting a new art project this month (more details on that later) and would love you to get in touch if you want to show your art, music or multimedia here. Please drop by anytime to discuss or just to find out more about it.

Thank you SO much to all the folks out there who have donated books to our Provisions Book Store. It is designed to add new books to the False Bay School Library!

\*\*\*See the Xwe'etay News community calendar for our new, expanded summer hours!\*\*\* Looking forward to serving you soon. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

- All of our best, False Bay Provisions



#### Local Food Security Project Needs Help for Fall and Winter

Hi readers. We've been offering prepared food, extra baked goods, groceries and financial help on the island seasonally since 2020 through our food security project, *Lasqueti Lifeline*. Since starting, we have put a tremendous amount of energy into cooking for the community and we would like to continue doing this through the winter. It's been getting harder and harder for seniors specifically to make ends meet and these efforts really make a difference. We receive direct feedback regularly from islanders who tell us how much they appreciate our meals. We are always open to more feedback and we welcome suggestions for new services to improve on what we have created so far.

To continue this work, we require help. For the last couple of years, we have had multiple members of the community help us achieve this goal and it's time to do it again! We've set a goal for 2024 to raise \$10,000 or more to go specifically towards ingredients and other costs of free meal planning and cooking for the next season. If you want to donate funds, purchased food, or perhaps veggies from your garden,please contact us in person at Provisions; or write to us at: Provide c/o Provisions at Lasqueti Island, General Delivery, VOR 2JO.

Thank you so much to everyone who has helped us over the years to provide this service. Every time we put time into these projects it gives a new meaning to the phrase, "there is more than enough to go around." It is overwhelming how much food and abundance comes seasonally from our gardens, the land and the oceanhere; and being able to share it is amazing.

Offering this service to the people of the island is a tremendous honour and we thank you for supporting us in our endeavours to feed it forward. We wish you enough.

With much respect and love  $\heartsuit$ ,

Happy August from Provide and Lasqueti Lifeline





One of our most popular Lasqueti Yacht Club's events last month was the fabulous Spring Bay Day where kayakers and paddle boarders were the focus of the race day.

But this month is all about sailing!

Did you know that the LYC, thanks in large part to Peter Steenbergen's efforts, was able to purchase 8 laser sailboats from the Gibson's Sailing Program? And 6 of these boats (two Laser 1's and four Laser 2's) are ready and waiting to be used by those with some sailing experience?

On August 6th and again on the 27th that's exactly what we hope will happen when the Lasqueti Yacht Club offers the use of the lasers to all would-be sailors. This is your chance to take the lasers out for a spin in False Bay. We especially encourage any kids who attended John O'Connor's dry land orientation at the school to come down and give the boats a try.

Each boat can be sailed by one or two people with the Laser 1's being the easier boat to start with experienced sailors on hand to assist you.

So, mark your calendars for these dates and join us in False Bay to see these beautiful boats in action. Provisions will be open for business with their BBQ fired up for a gathering afterwards.

Please bring your own PFD if you have one – we only have a limited number. All participants must sign a waiver and for anyone under 18, your parent or guardian must be in attendance.

For more details or if you have any questions, please contact Laser Coordinator John O'Connor at (778) 584-8781 or jdoconnordesign@gmail.com. You can also contact Fleet Captain Peter Steenbergen at 250 333-8740 or kapduva@yahoo.com.

August 6, August 27<sup>th</sup>; 1:00 pm False Bay dock See you on the water! – *Deb Perell* 

#### Lasqueti Day Parade and Silly Boat Race!

Saturday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. Muster at T-pot corner for the parade by noon. Silly Boats gather at the boat ramp at 1:30, race starts at 2 PM sharp! Everyone welcome! Come and let your freak flag fly! For more information and Silly Boat rules, phone or text Tim 250-607-7094

### The 2nd Annual Lasqueti Talent Show!

This is a call out to all the usual and unusually talented humans on this island as it's time for Lasqueti's 2nd Annual Talent Show on Saturday, August 31st. Join us for this LCA fundraiser for a new plumbing system for the hall.

End the summer holidays with the Lasqueti Day parade and silly boat races in False Bay and then come to the Hall for an evening of local entertainment. Doors open at 5:30. Come get a good seat and enjoy food made by Community Sourdough and Catering (Violet and Gabe). Showtime at 7 pm sharp.

Any and all talents are welcome on this family friendly stage. Can you sing, dance, strut, unicycle, juggle, jump really high, arrange flowers, paint a picture, tell a story, do stand up comedy, jump rope, box, beat box, hula hoop, act, do a monologue, play an instrument, or eat a banana using your feet? Or is your jam magic, puppetry, impersonation, poetry, or cooking? Can you do it in a 3-minute act? Do you want to make the audience laugh, cheer and cry? Can you make the judges love you best?

Acts will be judged by a celebrity panel of judges looking at creativity, artistry, expertise and overall presentation. There will be prizes (but I haven't sourced them yet).

If you don't want to be on the stage and want to support this LCA fundraiser, you can donate a prize for the top four acts.

To sign up or offer a prize contact jennyv@lasqueti.ca 250 240 7288 – JennyV



#### Seeking Plumber and Project Manager for Hall Plumbing Overhaul

Now that the kitchen renovations at the Hall are complete, the next major project is a complete plumbing overhaul. The pipes are leaking, the pump is unpredictable, and fire suppression is on the table. We are looking for a certified plumber for consultation and project management. If you have a recommendation for someone in Oceanside (or on Lasqueti) please let us know at <u>lca\_board@lists.lasqueti.ca</u> so we can get the ball rolling. -*JennyV*.



#### **Breakfast Club**

It's almost time for Sunday Brunch! Some of my favorite times on Lasqueti were breakfast shifts at Mary Janes Cafe. It was an era where some of the most intriguing groups would congregate with their morning coffees before starting their day and enjoying a quick meal while perhaps the rest of the fam still slept at home or perhaps waiting for that morning boat. During these nostalgic moments, some of the best Lasqetian stories were shared and heard. For me memorialized for life.

I invite you to help me to restore some of that morning banter with Sunday Morning Breakfast Club at The Hall. Featuring fresh local eggs from The Chick Inn... Thank you Nick & Mick. As well as locally sourced produce wherever and whenever possible.

You can expect the menu to vary from one weekend to the next.

Serving Machiatos, Lattes, and all your favorite specialty coffees, we are happy to feature On Island Coffee beans specially roasted and ground for amazing espressos.....Thank you Andrew.

Looking forward to seeing you all there! Love and light for eternity! Tell all your friends and neighbors, the more the merrier! - Dinika Caravetta

**Our Week in Review** 

	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Black Sheep Gas		2 - 6			2 - <u>6</u>	2 - 6	
Feed Store		11 - 3			11 - 3		
Ferry – leaves FB	1, 4	8, 11, 4		8, 11, 4	8, 11, 4	8, 11, 4	8, 11, 4
Ferry – leaves FC	2:30, 5:30	9:30, 2:30, 5:30		9:30, 2:30, 5:30	9:30, 2:30, 5:30	9:30, 2:30, 5:30	9:30, 2:30, 5:30
Free Store		10 - 5			10 - 5		
Life Drawing			7 - 9				
Lifetimez Nursery		10 – 4				10 – 4	
Market							10 - 1
Nurse					11 - 3 **		
Post Office		10 - 4		10 - 4		10 - 4	
Propane filled						1 - 3	
Provisions	10 - 4	9 - 6	10 - 6	9 - 6	9 - 6	9 - 6	9 - 6
Recycling		10 - 5			10 - 5		
Pub	1pm–1am	3 – 11	3 – 11	3 - 11	1pm–1am	1pm–1am	1pm-1am
Restaurant						3 - 8	
Taco Tuesday			3 - 6				
Ultimate Frisbee	5:30			5:30			

## Swap n' Shop @ The Hall

Welcome to Lasqueti Islands Swap and Shop Night Market!

We are officially seeking vendors & musicians. I will be doing grab and go dinner and snacks.

Tables will be \$10/each and you are welcome to buy, sell, or trade whatever your heart desires (as long as it's legal). New, used, repurposed or up-cycled.

If there are enough vendors, we may be able to accommodate tailgate vendors in the back parking lot for those of you that have heavy items you don't want to be moving around too much.

Mark your calendars for Thursday August 15th 3pm - 7pm And start going through the house, the shed, the garage and all those too full closets.

This is an excellent opportunity to come together as a community, get rid of the things that don't have a use for us anymore and pick up some things we've been needing.

Vendors do not need to be Lasqueti local, please tell your friends.

Contact Dinika Caravetta at <u>westcoastgypsea@gmail.com</u> to reserve your table, or call or text 778.725.7225

## Welcome Mural Update

The archaeological record reveals that like today, False Bay was also the island's "downtown core" in the deeper past. Beginning some 8000 years ago, and especially after 6000 or so, the bay was full of houses built on constructed terraces, fish traps, clam gardens, and likely gardens with plants like camas and crabapple. And people. Lots of people. You couldn't go anywhere without seeing or hearing your neighbours. These findings are the artistic inspiration for the painting and carving that is currently underway.

– Willy Clark, Lasqueti Reconciliation Group reconciliation-group@lists.sfu.ca

#### **Community Calendar**

Aug 9: Community Love-in: a fundraiser for Carmen and the boys, at the Hall
Aug 18: Community Forum, 2-4 pm, at the Hall
Aug 27: False Bay dock Laser event, 1pm
Aug 31: Lasqueti Day and Boat Race
Aug 31: Talent Show
Sept 7: Commodore's Ball/AGM Lasqueti Yacht Club.
Sept. 21: Fall Fair
\*\*Nurse's clinic Thurs. 11 – 3:30, Aug 1, Aug 29

Early Papagiannis

Healing Jessions: Qi Yong and Acupressure

Body & Mind & Spirit — 250.203.7055 —





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or to make a donation: <u>xweetaynews@lasqueti.ca</u>



For the online version: <u>www.xweetaynews.com</u> Deadline submission for Sept issue: Aug 25.