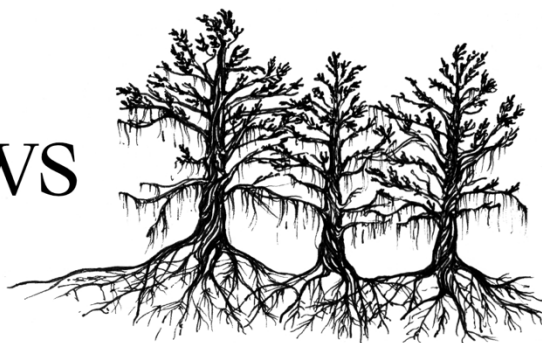


Xwe'etay News



Issue 12

January 2025

A Note from your Editors

Happy new year to all. Every year we hope for a world that is more equitable, safe, and respectful to all beings and places. We also hope that we can model this behaviour here, in our own beautiful corner of the planet.

To celebrate the opening of the new year, the February photo theme is **gates**. Send photos our way.

Unbelievably, with this issue, Xwe'etay News has been in production for one year. Thank you so much to all who have supported the newsletter with written words, photos, donations, suggestions, and encouragement. Every month we recognize what a privilege it is to be able to bundle up and distribute our community newsletter. - *The Yew Collective*

To contact us and for submissions or donations: xweetaynews@lasqueti.ca; for on-line, colour versions: www.lasqueti.ca/xweetay-news



John Martin

Graham Maclean Allan

June 21, 1959 - December 3, 2024



Graham arrived on Lasqueti Island in 2005. He was gungho to build a new life here after spending years in the city managing bars and restaurants in the service industry. He bought a property on the south-central part of the Island and proceeded to build a small shed to move into while he built his house. With the help of some of his dedicated off-island friends and some island locals he began the journey of building his dream home.

In the beginning it was all fun and games as his friends from afar carried materials up the steep mountainside to Graham's homestead. There was a lot of laughter, a few tears, and plenty of alcohol and hot sauce to help get the job done. Stories of Graham's escapades spread far and wide in his global community. What has Gumby done now? Where has he landed?

Graham called Lasqueti his home for the last 19 years. While he was here, he made a great impression on this community. He leased the restaurant in False Bay with Wisteria Wildwood and began his journey of serving the community interesting taste concoctions at reasonable prices.

(Cont'd next pg)

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

(Graham cont'd from previous pg)

After several years managing and cooking in the restaurant in False Bay, Graham had had enough of being his own boss, so he joined the staff of the Blue Roof as a bartender/handyman. This enabled him to work in the kitchen if needed.

He was a dedicated First Responder for the majority of his life here and contributed his time, hot sauce, and bar skills to fund raisers for the LFD, as well as bringing fire fighters from afar to volunteer their time slinging drinks at the Fire Fighters Picnic.

Graham loved his dogs, all of them -- Kalik, Conch, Pix, Taco Bella, and Nora -- plus the black hound he had from Tikki for a brief moment. That one, however, was too jumpy uppy to stay.

Graham shopped for our community. He had a Costco membership; he had a Cysco membership; and he also had an Enterprise Paper membership. He knew where all the good deals were, and he could buy it all and get back to the island on the 2:30 boat!



Graham was our Tire Guy. "We get rid of the rocks so you can roll!"

Graham saw the need and erected a beautiful Quonset Hut to start his tire business. He saved us all from ever having to go over with a busted tire. He made friends with numerous tire supply, surplus, and used tire connections. We only had to say the make and year of our vehicle and Graham found what we needed. He planned ahead for us by making sure he had a full set of tires along with a spare available for when we might need it.

After working downtown for years and facing an uncertain future as people were being laid off, Graham sold the business and opened the Tire Shop After-hours Club. He sold locally made beer and a smattering array of commercial alcohol and potato chips. There was a dedicated crew of regulars along with the occasional boat person from Squitty Bay. The place was affectionately known as the Booze Can.

Graham loved sharing food, and especially conversation. The kimchi and hot sauces he made were amazing, and he was always cooking up a new batch to supply the consistent demand. His curious nature led him to experiment with different ingredients, resulting in truly unique flavours.

Graham will be remembered for his community service, his gregarious nature, and his wicked sense of humour. He was always willing to help, and he loved to socialize. His quick wit produced seemingly endless puns.

His Lasqueti family loved and supported him through the years, and he supported and loved us back. He valued the sense of community here and decided early on that this was the place he wanted to spend the rest of his life.

He will be deeply missed.

- Friends of Graham Allan



Richard Potterton June 10, 1960 – December, 2024

Our dear friend Richard died before Christmas, most likely between the night of December 20 and December 23. He didn't show up for Christmas dinner, so a friend checked in on him and found he had died in his bed. We're speculating he had a heart attack, as he'd mentioned chest pain to two friends recently. Though, in general, he seemed his usual cheerful strong self and had enjoyed the Solstice dinner at Provisions.

Richard was such a salt of the earth, kind, loyal friend. If you needed him, he was there. Richard worked with Phred (Jon) for close to 30 years on many beautiful building projects all over the island. He's been close buddies with Terry Parsons. Richard was a kind-hearted easy-going person. He had a loving bond with animals, his cats and his friends' dogs.

Richard was born June 10, 1960 (he was 64). He grew up in Montreal. He loved his family very much, his parents, his younger brother, Oliver, and his teenage nephew and niece, Dan and Charlie. His family loves him a lot too. He was married for a for a while when he was young.

Richard comes from a creative family. His parents, Judith and Gerald, both worked making documentaries at the Canadian National Film Board and were colleagues and friends with our beloved Barb Greene. Richard was very proud of his family. His dad, who died in 2022, worked as a filmmaker and animator, including on the films *The Yellow Submarine* and *Heavy Metal*. His mom, who moved back to England in 2000, is a documentary film editor. His brother, Ollie, who moved to England in 1990, is a film editor/producer. Ollie and Judith (at 87) have just completed a documentary on a British Afghan war vet recovering from PTSD. (Ollie will be coming here soon). Richard himself had a passion for photography.



Richard and Barb Greene

Richard ended up on Lasqueti in 1994 after visiting Barb Greene here. They had a good friendship. Barb had taken Richard under her wing in Montreal when he was a teen. They'd have meetups for adventures. Richard loved Lasqueti, eventually getting some land and making a cabin, then eventually doing an addition, and just this fall finishing the bathroom and getting a better kitchen setup. He was loving finally getting to have baths there.

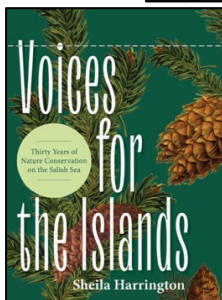
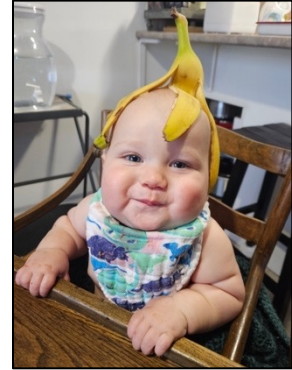
Richard loved being creative outside on his property. He had a zany fence decorated with eccentric items from ice skates to old kerosene lamps to little bicycles, etc. He's also created ponds around his house, including an island in one of them, and a bridge crossing part of a pond. When you look out his kitchen window, it's as if you're on a boat.

We will miss you being present in this realm, good friend. We're trusting you're doing well in the spirit world.

We love you, Richard.

- Shawna, Phred (Jon), and Laura

Remembering 2024





Meet the Neighbours



Ian Rusconi; Main Road, by the old Post Office

It starts with a high school romance: Amita (they/them), from North Van, attended Ian's high school in Santa Cruz.

Their mom worked with Joseph Fall at Capilano College. Ian & Amita came to Vancouver for post-secondary schooling, then back to California for more



school (Amita) and work (Ian co-ran four arts facilities at a college). Ian also joined two choral groups that led to performances at Carnegie Hall, Disney Hall, and the Vatican. "Singing was my jam: classical chorister by night, metal musician by other nights." (He's revisiting metal, "since Pachiell lured me into Bad Genny!")

A move to Vancouver meant Amita could pursue politics. While exploring the "not-downtown Gulf Islands," Amita reconnected with Joseph. Ian's first impressions of Lasqueti? "I liked the idea of a chosen community, not a forced community." Ian's first visit to Joseph and Brigitte? It was cut short when one of the dogs tangled with a beaver, which entailed first aid and rushing to the Nanaimo emergency vet. Brigitte's response?, "This is a good lesson on how much of a pain this place can be. If you're not scared off, you'll be fine."

Ian's first full day as a new resident was Arts Fest 2018: "I ran sound for the event at Joseph's request, meaning I was briefly spotlighted and ~300 people were 'introduced' to me. In fact, I had the time to actually meet maybe like . . . five."

Ian supported himself by doing online audio engineering and podcast editing. However, a delay in his Permanent Residency due to Covid and a split with Amita plunged him into limbo. He had no legal status in Canada; he could not work or move; and god forbid that he should get hurt. After his two huskies -- sources of solace -- died suddenly, Lasqueti started to feel "prison-y." Writing music, lyric poetry, and prose kept him sane as did running sound for all the shows on the island. Then, two weeks after he received his PR card, the job of Administrator at the JFC came up.

As a First Responder, Ian would love everyone on Lasqueti to be contact-able. "Some people I know and care about have no means of communication. It can be the difference between life

and death. That gives me pause." What would he never change? "No car ferry, ever."

First Responder, JFC Administrator, sound tech -- and not once, in seven years, having left the island for the winter -- all of this has fast-tracked Ian into officially becoming a Lasqueti local.

- *Suzanne Heron*



Arts Almanac no.8: Art Opening Etiquette



I was recently part of a group show and had an uncomfortable encounter on the opening night. An acquaintance stood in front of my work, talking with another person, and upon seeing me approach, promptly offered unsolicited advice on how my work could be "better". I politely tried to talk about the materials I was working with, and the subject. The conversation became increasingly difficult, however, so I eventually walked away.

I have given many critiques in my life. Some were solicited by other artists, some were for my students, and some were part of my arts education. It can be a delicate situation talking to an artist about their work; and, given that we have so many different artists and wonderful exhibitions on our island, I thought I would put together a little "how to" list. Not all artists will agree with me as we have different responses to criticism. I hope, however, that this will give art lovers, exhibition goers, and even other artists a starting point.

1. Ask yourself why you are there? Is it a subject or artist that you are interested in? Do you want to support artists in your local art community? Are you sizing up the competition? Are you there for the free food? Being clear on your reasons for attending can help you decide how to engage.

2. Be curious, ask questions. Most artists are willing to talk about their work. A question as simple as 'how did you become interested in painting (sculpting/drawing/photographing) this subject?' can be a great conversation starter. You could also lead with 'tell me something about your work?' Or 'what is your process?' Or "what artists inspire you?" Even if the work is not to your liking, you can usually find something to be curious about -- use of a particular colour, a material choice, or the format.

3. Lead with respect. Do not offer unsolicited critiques or advice to an artist. We all have opinions, and most of us like to be heard. Respectfully asking why an artist made a particular choice is far more appropriate than telling them what you think they should have done differently, or what you would have done in their stead.

4. Be kind. It can feel vulnerable to put art out into the world; and a warm smile and eye contact can go a long way, particularly if you came for the food. - Jen Brant

Wisdom from Xwe'etay Gardeners



Grevilleas, grevilleas, grevilleas. I am looking out the window now, admiring their bright orange blossoms amidst the grey-green hues of winter. I am partial to them, of course, as they are an Australian native plant. But many gardeners here in the Pacific Northwest love them too, for their adaptability and unique beauty.

Grevilleas are part of the Proteaceae family and boast over 200 species. Despite their origins in Australia, many grevillea species thrive in the Vancouver Island area. These plants are fast-growing, tough, and incredibly low-maintenance. They require sandy, well-draining soil, full sun, minimal water and not much else. In fact, they become more resilient when not pampered with extra nutrients or water, as their specialized root systems are adept at drawing what they need from poor soils.

They are visually interesting plants as their tough, drought resistant, evergreen leaves contrast

with their wildly exotic looking flowers. What I love most, though, is their extended blooming season. Some varieties bloom from summer into late winter, while others flower from early winter through the spring. During this time, their nectar-rich blooms provide an essential food source for hummingbirds when little else is available. The hardy grevilleas fall into two main groups: those with spirally arranged flowers resembling brightly colored spiders and those with flowers shaped like toothbrushes. The "spider-flowered" varieties typically have simple leaves, while the fabulously ornamental "toothbrush-flowered" varieties often boast compound leaves in various forms. Though the flowers are small, they are vibrant and resilient enough to survive Vancouver Island's cold winters and even snow. Last winter, my grevillea was already in bloom before a heavy snowfall. When the snow finally melted, the flowers were still intact. Impressive!



So, if you want an interesting, drought resistant, winter flowering plant in your garden think about adding a grevillea. Make sure to choose a species known for their hardiness in cooler climates. *Grevillea victoriae* and *Grevillea x gaudichaudii* are excellent examples that have been successfully cultivated in the Pacific Northwest.

While there are hundreds of varieties to choose from, local nurseries can provide valuable advice on which ones are best suited to your garden and most likely to thrive in this region. - Anna Dodds



Shawna Karras



Sue Wheeler

Greenwashing

As a consumer and someone who cares about the environment, I want to support “sustainable” businesses but what does *sustainable* even mean anymore?

Today *green* is no longer just a colour; it’s a buzzword that indicates concern about the environment. The word *greenwashing* was coined in 1986 by Jay Westerveld in an essay about how hotels were promoting the re-use of towels to “save the environment” in order to save money by doing less laundry.

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines *greenwashing* as “the act or practice of making a product, policy or activity appear to be far more environmentally friendly or less environmentally damaging than it really is.” *Greenwashing* removes accountability and is deliberately misleading. It allows earth trashing action to continue.

In an ideal world, companies would consider the three pillars of sustainability- social, environmental and economic factors - when creating and promoting a product. Instead, we are given *greenlabelling* with deceptive imagery of trees, forests, grass, flowers and farms with cute red barns -- images that don’t reflect the harmful activities happening behind the scenes. Now, terms like *greenlighting* (using marketing to highlight green features to divert attention from other poor environmental practices), *greenhushing* (hiding or underreporting data on sustainability), *greenrinsing* (modifying sustainability goals before achieving them), *greenshifting* (shifting the narrative to blame the consumer) and *greencrowding* (companies hiding in groups to avoid being exposed) are entering our modern lexicon.

How, as consumers willing to pay more for products that are truly “green”, do we not get cynical and mistrustful of what’s sold to us?

Watch out for broad, unspecified terms like *eco-friendly*, *natural*, *sustainable*, and *clean* which have no standard definition and aren’t regulated. *Biodegradable* means it breaks down in the natural environment but there is no legal time limit - it could take a day to 400 years! *Compostable* is misunderstood because it might break down in an industrial complex or your home compost bin. *Eco* and *environmentally friendly* are both vague terms with no legal definition. *Recyclable* is no guarantee of goodness because the product might not be recyclable in the facilities that serve the area where you live.

Look past the marketing content. Read the ingredients’ list. Search the packaging for statistics, data, certification agencies or seals of approval verifying evidence of claims made. It comes down to paying attention. We have to be as wily as the corporations who are willing, and able, to deceive us. – JennyV



As we enter into a New Year, I would like to begin my health article with a quote from a famous poet, Seamus Heaney:

“Even if the hopes you started out with are dashed, hope has to be maintained.”

Next, I would like to briefly review “walking pneumonia”. There has been a recent increased incidence of this type of pneumonia. The bacterium that causes it is mycoplasma. *Mycoplasma pneumonia* predominately causes respiratory tract infection but does have a wide variety of clinical manifestations.

M. pneumonia most frequently occurs during early fall but may develop year-round. Transmission is from person to person by infected respiratory droplets during close contact. After exposure, the incubation period is about 3 weeks. Although *M. pneumonia* infections are usually mild and self-limiting and may resolve without treatment, some people can develop severe community acquired pneumonia (CAP).

Clinical features can vary with the stage of the illness. The onset can be gradual with headache, fatigue and low-grade fever. Cough usually develops and there may be abnormal chest sounds. Sore throat, ear pain and sinus tenderness may also develop.

The treatment is an antibiotic. However, not all antibiotics are effective for this type of pneumonia. Seek attention from your health care provider if symptoms are not resolving.

Blessings and Good Will to All - ♥dianne

Nurse in clinic: 16, 23, 30 Jan, 6 Feb

150 Years of Sheep on Lasqueti

One hundred and fifty years ago (1875), J.O.W. Carey, a land surveyor, completed the first township survey of Lasqueti Island. That survey delineated the corners and quarter-corners of each 360-acre township section. The east-west, north-south rectangular 1875 survey set the pattern of development and serves as the basis for nearly all legal parcels of land on Lasqueti today.

At each section corner and quarter-corner the surveyors marked a couple of witness trees with a blaze and carved into the blaze the distance and azimuth from the tree to the section corner. In their notes the surveyors copied the distance and azimuth as well as the species and diameter of each witness tree. The surveyors also noted features of the terrain and vegetation on the line between each section corner.

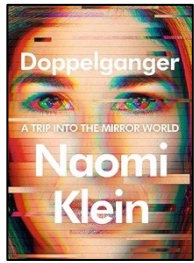
The 1875 surveyor notes for Lasqueti reveal that some of the biggest Douglas-fir trees (6-8' in diameter) were on the north end of the island. The most common trees identified were Douglas-fir, Red cedar, Hemlock, Alder, Maple, and Pine. The most common understory plant was what the surveyors called "pea vine", which is probably our native blackberry or Nootka rose. The survey located areas of burned forest, mostly in the south end and areas of rocky moss bluffs throughout the island.

In summary, the surveyors wrote:

"In describing Lasqueti Island I may state that the greater portion of the Island is more suited for sheep pasturage than for actual agricultural purposes. Nevertheless, there are many fertile hills of land extremely rich in soil and fit for cultivation. Although the island is very hilly and rocky it is also very open and grassy and well adapted for sheep raising... The only settlers on the island are Capt. Pearse and Albion Tranfield both engaged in sheep raising. Capt. Pearse's improvements are a dwelling house and out offices, 4 acres under cultivation and fencing, 250 sheep and six head of horned cattle. Tranfield's improvements are a small cabin, sheep shed and corral and he has about 200 head of sheep. In conclusion I may state that Lasqueti Island is capable of grazing about 10,000 sheep."

The 1875 township survey of Lasqueti contains a wealth of historical ecological and cultural information that we use today to help understand the changes in Lasqueti's environment over time as well as the impact of human development on the island's unique biodiversity. - Gordon Scott

Naomi Klein. *Doppelganger: a trip into the mirror world*. Knopf Canada, 2023



Naomi Klein and Naomi Wolf share some similarities. As well as the obvious given name, both are feminist role models, celebrity authors and activists who also happen to be Jewish and attractive. It was not implausible that Klein might be mistaken for Wolf. Klein found herself simultaneously derided, congratulated, and pitied: *What's happened to you, Naomi?* Klein came to see that it was The Other Naomi they were referring to.

So begins Klein's personal and exhaustive examination of the doppelganger or "evil twin" in folklore, literature, psychology, and history. She embarks on a journey to learn everything about Wolf and why she came to be allied with the likes of Steve Bannon.

Klein identifies Covid as a singular shock event, resulting in a discombobulated and polarized "mirror world." Two alternate realities use similar terminology and share the same anxiety, fear, and anger but attribute binary opposite causes and solutions. Collective cohesion has given way to hyper-individualism. In the shadow world, the facts are wrong, but the feelings seem right.

Disaster capitalists co-opted legitimate concerns about injustice and inequality and pivoted toward imaginary cabals. Attention has been shifted from the serious to the sensational. Covid was a "capitalizable conspiracy" – a booming money maker. Those who have status and power want to keep it that way and fear that the downtrodden will want to take revenge.

Following her doppelganger down the rabbit hole leads Klein to introspection regarding the duality of human nature and the potential in all of us for good and evil. Clearly, the Left underestimated the strategic path taken by the alt-right to use nonmainstream digital avenues to inflame the rage and frustration at large. Looking closely at her 'twin' made Klein less self centered and more focussed on her connectedness to all people as well as the whole planet.

If you have ever wondered *what happened* to that person you had formerly regarded as an environmentalist and advocate for human rights when they took a diagonal turn to denialism, this book may help unravel the paradox.

- Sue Ashcroft



Kitchen Creations Nasturtium Leaf Pesto



We love growing, making, and eating traditional basil pesto. But as we get to late fall and the last of the fresh basil is a distant memory, the nasturtium in the garden is still going strong. A few years back we discovered that you can make a fresh, spicy, fun pesto from nasturtium leaves that gives you the taste of summer into late fall. We made a batch in mid-December, even though many of the leaves are getting past their prime. It has that spicy, distinct nasturtium flavour, but isn't overwhelmed by it. We find that it's best used fresh and doesn't keep quite as well in the freezer as basil pesto.

I use a simple recipe slightly modified from that for basil pesto. First, by substituting walnuts and toasted hazelnuts for the pine nuts you can increase the proportion of local ingredients. Second, I like adding as much parsley to the mix as I can spare from the garden – up to 1/3 by volume. Third, it's great with lemon juice added. This makes it a little like gremolata, an Italian condiment traditionally made with parsley, garlic, and lemon. This recipe can be scaled for the volume of nasturtium leaves you want to use.

In a blender or food processor (I use the food processor attachment for a hand blender), grind a medium clove of garlic with a little salt and olive oil. Add a handful of nasturtium leaves and process a few seconds until finely chopped. Add another handful of leaves and a little more olive oil to make the mix liquid enough to keep blending. Repeat until you've processed 2-3 cups of lightly packed leaves. When they are all coarsely blended, add up to ½ c of raw walnuts and toasted hazelnuts in whatever mix you prefer. Add the juice of a whole lemon. If you are a citrus fan, add the zest from the lemon as well. Blend the mix together until there are no identifiable pieces of leaf remaining. Add salt to taste and more olive oil if it's not as liquid as you like. I usually do 6-10 cups of leaves at a time in 3-4 batches and combine them all to average out any inconsistencies in salt and garlic. Yield: ½ - 1 pint of pesto. – *Ken Lertzman*



Town Halls on LIVFD fire trucks and firehalls

The in-person and online Town Halls were reasonably well attended given the time of year. A range of views were expressed regarding the proposals from the qRD, which many felt were not feasible (including me).

The ideas I presented at the Town Halls were designed to try to balance the tax burden with LIVFD needs and they seemed to attract some support. The essence of these ideas is:

- Apparatus (fire trucks)

Basis: we need good functional apparatus, but cannot at present afford new trucks, so:

Budget to replace one of the LIVFD fire engines with a good used vehicle in 2026, with 75% of the funding from the Community Works Funds (CWF) and 25% from LIVFD reserves (no borrowing), up to a maximum of \$400,000 total, and apply any unused allocated funds toward future replacement of the water tender (or other vehicle, as appropriate).

There is a lot of demand for CWF (water systems, active transportation, fire departments, etc.), and the qRD will receive about \$400,000/year over the next 10 years. The qRD Board would need to agree on a ratio with local reserves/taxes in order to spread the funds out over all rural areas in the qRD, and other regional directors may wish to adjust the 75%:25% ratio.

- Main firehall

Basis: we need good functional firehalls but cannot afford to raise reserves via taxation very quickly, so:

For 2025: direct any surplus from 2024 into reserves and top up (with taxation) if needed to at least \$60,000 (the current reserves are about \$300,000). Surpluses in the past five years have generally been in the range \$60,000 to \$80,000 (some of which has gone into reserves, some into offsetting taxes). In my view, the tax requisition limit (tax ceiling) should not be increased at this time just to increase saving to reserves - that may have to go to the electors in the future if needed.

Also, consider the creation of a "firehall revitalization advisory committee" (perhaps in a year or two) that includes members of LIVFD and the public to research and discuss remaining lifespan of the existing firehall, requirements,

(qathet cont'd from previous pg)

options and estimated potential costs regarding design, renovation, location, etc., and to hold public consultation.

Feedback on these ideas is welcome.

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

- Director Andrew Fall, qathet Regional District;
250-333-8595



From Mikaila Lironi:

A Call for Respect and Collaboration

Over the last two years, our Local Trust Committee (LTC) meetings have faced some challenges that have made them less enjoyable for everyone involved. Meetings should be a place where we work together, share ideas, and make decisions for the good of the community. Unfortunately, however, this hasn't always been the case.

As someone who was born and raised on Lasqueti and elected to serve this community, I believe we can do better. It's so important that we treat one another with kindness, patience, and respect—whether we're staff, trustees, or members of the public. Everyone's voice matters, and when we create an environment of mutual respect, our conversations and decision-making processes become much more productive and inclusive.

Our staff and trustees work hard to serve the community and provide a space for meaningful discussion. To help improve our meetings, we read our meeting conduct policy at the beginning of every meeting, and we share suggestions for creating a more positive atmosphere. These steps are a way to ensure everyone feels heard and valued.

As a community, we all have a role to play in making our meetings successful. This means allowing space for others to speak, listening actively, and contributing thoughtfully. If we can commit to these basic principles, we'll not only improve our meetings but also strengthen the sense of connection that makes Lasqueti such a special place.

I understand that change takes time and effort, but I truly believe we can rise to the occasion. Our meetings are a vital part of our local governance, and it's up to all of us to ensure they reflect the care and respect we have for our island and each other.

Thank you for helping us create a space where everyone can participate in a meaningful and respectful way.

May your pipes remain unfrozen into the New Year! mlironi@islandstrust.bc.ca 250-812-2560

From Tim Peterson: At our December 16th meeting, the Lasqueti Local Trust Committee updated our Strategy for Antenna Systems to require additional First Nation consultation, in particular to protect archaeological and cultural sites for any proposed cell tower installation. We also directed staff to ensure that any Crown Land Lease referrals come to the LTC for consideration; requested the Chair to write a letter to the federal Minister advocating for our dock to be considered for the next round of funding for repair and/or reconstruction; and voted to adopt our meeting schedule for the coming year.

The LTC also approved an accelerated timeline for the Connected Coast fibre optic application, with a shortened referral period, in light of several factors. First, the funding for the project expires in March, so we wanted to avoid delaying such that the project could not be accomplished. Second, given that the proponents have indicated that engagement with First Nations has been a component of the Connected Coast project and conducted through the Crown Lease process, we felt it was reasonable to shorten the referral period. Prior to any final approval, the LTC has determined that a Public Hearing should be conducted, so that the community has ample opportunity to express their views on this application. Staff have suggested that the Public Hearing may take place in conjunction with our February 10th meeting.

Finally, the LTC passed a resolution to ensure a safe working and meeting space by enforcing proper public meeting decorum and applying the Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee Meeting Procedures Bylaw in a stricter manner than we have to date. This is in response from concerns from staff members and trustees about the conduct of some members of the public in our

meetings. It is important that all participants in our meetings feel safe and respected, whether they be staff, trustees, or members of the public. We want meetings where everyone can express their views in a respectful, orderly, and courteous manner.

Please consider attending our next meeting in February, and, as always, please feel free to contact your trustees with your questions, comments, or concerns. 250.607.7094



Practical Security Advice part 1: Backups

Over the coming months this column will count down some practical ways to protect yourself from the shysters, charlatans, and thieves who use the Internet to rip people off and ruin lives.

Priority #1: Make Regular Backups

A reliable, recent backup is your first line of defence against all manner of calamity. If you keep anything of value on your computer or phone, like books, music, or photos, banking or taxes, your contact list, or any other types of documents, then connecting to the Internet without a backup is like walking a high wire without a safety net.

If the worst happens, say your computer gets a virus, or some hacker installs some “ransomware” that locks you out, your backup provides a cheap, effective resolution – just restore your computer to a time prior to the breach, et voila, problem solved.

An ideal backup system is *incremental* and *automated*. “Incremental” means that only changed files are added each backup – thus each increment runs very quickly. Apple’s “**Time Machine**” and Windows 11 “**Backup App**” are both incremental backup systems. They are built-in, at no extra cost, and come with lots of support to get you started – just search (with duckduckgo.com, of course!)

Backup frequently – the longer between backups, the more data you risk losing. If you use a desktop computer, permanently connect a backup disk and configure your system to run regular incremental backups, say every day. Set it and forget it.

If you use a laptop, the easiest solution will be a portable disk you can plug in via USB, so long as

you remember to periodically plug it in and start a backup. Simple and low-tech. Automated backups over wi-fi are the deluxe option, like having a private “cloud”, but you need the right device and some tech. savvy to set it up.

For a monthly fee, you could opt for a cloud backup service. Super convenient but uses network data and comes with privacy concerns.

Backup your phone or tablet to your computer, and its data will be on your backup too! Most importantly, whichever option you choose, whether a portable USB drive or a cloud backup service, rely on a high-quality review service, like Wirecutter or PCMag, to help you choose a device or service provider you can trust.

Next month: password managers! Till then, stay safe out there. – *Joseph Fall*



In the spring and summer, biologists from off-island come to Lasqueti to support conservation efforts, monitor the conservancy sites, and look for rare species. Would you be interested in connecting with these visiting scientists, and joining them for portions of their fieldwork?

While in the field, the biologists need to be able to conduct their work unimpeded, but there is often room for a volunteer or two to help them in their tasks and/or glean insights into such wonders as the mind-boggling diversity of lichens, and the marvelous breeding habits of amphibians. One of their primary needs is accessing the study sites, so it would be especially helpful if volunteers had a vehicle to help with transportation.

These excursions are a wonderful opportunity for us islanders to look at our ecosystems from new and detailed angles; and the input of local knowledge can produce mutually enriching experiences. You are also invited to join LINC's board members on their regular year-round monitoring visits to conservancy sites. If you've never been to these special parts of the island, they are well worth visiting! Please get in touch with us if you'd like to learn more!

A big thank you to all who have generously donated to help us reach our year-end fundraising goal! Wishing you and your mycelial network a peaceful, fruitful new year. – *Kaia Bryce for LINC*

Kinglets: Forest Jewels

“After long, birdless hunting, one may often be surrounded by a large flock of these feathered mites flitting in and out of the dense foliage and darting hither and thither so restlessly as to make it difficult to see distinctive points....Suddenly the confusion grows less, the foliage is empty— the happy crowd has worked away”.

This is a description of a flock of Golden-crowned Kinglets from a Museum Bulletin entitled, “Birds of Western Canada No.41,” by P. A.Taverner, published in 1926.

There are two species of kinglets: the Golden-crowned and the Ruby-crowned. The Golden-crowned Kinglet is the one we hear high in the trees, and also the one we see often hanging upside down as they glean insects from the branches. Occasionally we see flocks of them covering the road, perhaps feeding on wind tossed insects. The males have two obvious black head stripes with yellow and a touch of red between the stripes. The females have only the yellow between the black. These little birds sound like the ringing of tiny bells. If you have some hearing loss, however, you won’t hear them at all. Winter is the time to see the Golden-crowned Kinglets. Their numbers swell as many who nest further north head south to join gregarious flocks with chickadees, nuthatches and Brown Creepers. At night groups of Kinglets will roost together, tightly packed to withstand the cold.

The Ruby-crowned has no head stripes at all. They are drab little birds with white eye rings. They are curious and easily seen feeding on shrubs at lower elevation. When they are agitated, they flash a tiny ruby-coloured crown. You may hear them singing their melodious complicated song from February to May.

These two kinglets are easy to tell apart. If they are in flocks, up in the tree tops, or if they are close enough to spot their the black and gold head stripes, then they are Golden-crowned Kinglets. If it is a drab little bird gleaning insects amongst the salmonberries and scolding you for coming too close, look for the tiny ruby feathers on its head that it boldly flashes. This is the Ruby-crowned Kinglet. – *Sheila Ray*



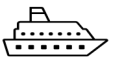
Ruby-crowned kinglet



Golden-crowned kinglet



Ferry Committee News



As of late December 2024, Lasqueti Island residents eagerly anticipate a formal implementation of the Travel Assistance Program (TAP). While the BC Ministry of Health announced the expansion of TAP to include several new ferry routes, including Lasqueti Island to French Creek, the program has not yet been officially rolled out for the island. The Ferry Committee is waiting for further information from BC Ferries and WPM.

What TAP Means for Lasqueti:

Once implemented, TAP will help to reduce the financial burden for islanders needing to travel for medical specialist services. This program is expected to cover round-trip ferry travel from Lasqueti to French Creek, making it easier for residents to access healthcare on Vancouver Island or the mainland.

(Ferry cont'd from previous page)

To be eligible, Lasqueti residents will need to:

- Be enrolled in the Medical Services Plan (MSP)
- Have a referral from a local healthcare provider for MSP-insured specialist services
- Not have travel expenses covered by other insurance or government programs

How It Will Work: When the program is active, the process is expected to be as follows:

1. Obtain a TAP form from your referring physician or nurse practitioner
2. Complete the form with your details and appointment information
3. Call the TAP service to verify eligibility and get a confirmation number
4. Present the completed form when booking ferry travel

Community Impact: For our small island community, this program will be a game-changer. Many of us have long struggled with the costs associated with off-island medical travel. Including our ferry route in TAP is an important step towards addressing our island's healthcare needs.

Looking Ahead: The expansion of TAP to include Lasqueti Island is part of a broader initiative to improve healthcare access for rural and remote communities across BC. As we await further details, the promise of reduced travel costs for medical appointments is a welcome development.

While we're still waiting for the official start date, the announcement has brought some relief and anticipation. As we look forward to the program's implementation, stay informed through official channels. The Ferry Committee is currently working to obtain additional information regarding the TAP service program and will post some of our findings at a later date.

Of note, other means of travel and expenses may also be eligible. Please consult the link below for additional information.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/accessing-health-care/tap-bc/travel-assistance-program-tap-bc>

-- Shelley Garside for the Ferry Committee.

Since its inception, the larger Lasqueti community has relied on our email list to stay digitally connected. I offer this brief history of the list to acknowledge the people who had the vision to create this forum and for those who maintain the list today.

In 2008 or 2009, Peter Johnston initiated the email list, building off a list of emails of ~20 Lasquetians that Arne Baartz had assembled. He did this mostly as a means to communicate in between monthly newsletters. Not surprisingly, the list quickly expanded in number of notices and people. Peter notes that he, *"typed in text that I received by ordinary mail from people and short messages I received FLIAbly telephone."* He sent out the assembled notes *"every two or three days or so... or when something [was] important and time sensitive. It was a community service, and it was and is a good way to communicate."*

In 2011, Peter left the island for a bit and asked Joseph Fall, our current webmaster, if he could create an email address that could be monitored in Peter's absence. The list already had ~300 subscribers. As a computer scientist, Joseph offered to automate the system that we have today.

Today, our beloved email list reaches >700 people daily either in bundled digest form or as single notifications (plus urgent messages through the Notify List). LIAS pays for the server while the daily operations is the responsibility of team of volunteer moderators. The moderators developed a set of guidelines—crafted with the intent of fostering respectful and inclusive on-line discussions— that is updated regularly with feedback from subscribers (<https://lasqueti.ca/files/elist-moderation-guidelines.pdf>). These moderators sort through approximately 10-20 emails daily (3-4 of which are SPAM) to decide if they meet the list's posting rules. If a post is rejected, reasons for the rejection are provided to the poster and suggestions made for resubmission. If the poster chooses to resubmit the same post, it goes to a different moderator to maintain impartiality. Joseph, as webmaster, keeps the system operational, provides technical support, and contributes to discussions about the list's policy/guidelines and difficult moderation cases.

From the beginning, the goal of the email list has been to facilitate communication within our community. As our community continues to grow, so too does both the importance of our email list and our gratitude for the many volunteers who make the email list possible. – Dana Lepofsky



Student Corner



Acrostic poems

Let's go build with them
Except don't
Go and step
On them

Running
On electricity
Because
Of
The humans

Why would
I
Not
Decide
On
Walls that are see through
-Arlen King, grade 8

My life in thirty words

from two siblings to four
Playing with lego
Going to school
Eat
Drink
Sleep
Year after year
Playing in mud
Digging in sand
Walking the dogs
And all, that's it.
- Arlen King, grade 8

Poetry Hides

in the
rustling
of the
tattered leaves
on a
windy day.

Poetry hides as
I walk down the road
my face stinging
from the
cold wind and rain
my boots layered with thick mud
I can't hear myself
over the
roar of the wind
and the
pattering of the icy rain
pat pat pat.

That's where poetry hides.
- Zack Cejka, grade 5.



Kaia Bryce



Rosalind Hildred

Community Calendar

Jan 15: Crafternoon Tea; at the Hall.
 Jan 25: Xwe'etay News deadline.
 Feb 10: Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee.
 Regular meeting. 11am, JFC
 Nurse's clinic: Thurs, 11-3, NOT Thurs. 9 Jan

"I hate friggin' snow!
 Oh, hold on,
 I love snow! It's awesome."
 - Bipolar Bear (Jamie Smith)



Finnerty Cunliffe



Sue Ashcroft

Disappearing

The clouds hung thicker than mucous in the lungs,
 coating the view, almost down to the water.
 No hacking cough of an east wind was going to
 clear this.

It was a walk-through-a-wall-of-mist day,
 glasses quickly useless, beard dripping...
 each inhale much wetter than your next exhale.

You could feel the fog symbiont making himself
 moistly at home in your very core.
 You shiver with his chill, maybe becoming part
 cloud yourself...

becoming greyer and greyer, finding it hard to tell
 where you end and the fog begins.

I wonder if dying is like that?
 with the impossible immensity of the final light
 warmly creeping into your very core.

You'd snuggle and lean into that heat,
 until you are unexpectedly full-on immersed and
 dissolving, becoming less and less,
 until you are ended here and part of something
 else there. – *Dolf Schoenmakers*



Gordon Scott



Wishing you a warm 2025



Wendy Schneible



John Martin

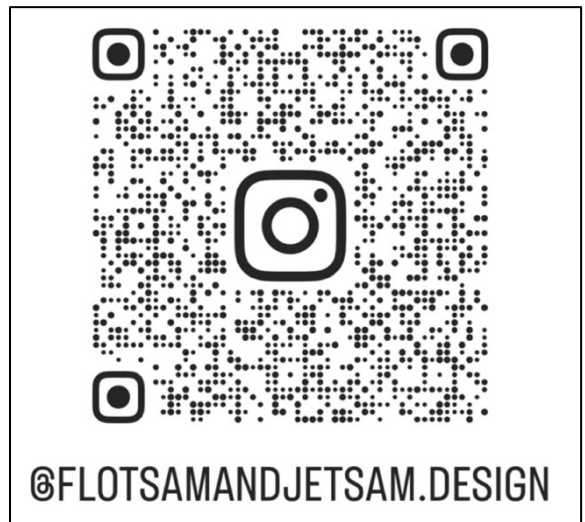


Ken Lertzman

Our Week in Review

	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Black Sheep Gas		2 - 6			2 - 6	2 - 6	
Feed Store		11 - 3			11 - 3		
Ferry – from FB	1, 4	8, 11, 4			8, 11, 4	8, 11, 4	8, 11, 4
Ferry– from 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
Free Store		10 - 2			1 - 5		
Life Drawing			7 - 9				
Nurse					11 – 3**		
Parsimony & Providence		3 - 7			3 - 7		
Post Office		10 - 4		10 - 4		10 - 4	
Propane filled						1 - 3	
Provisions	11 - 4	9 - 5	10 - 5	10 - 5	9 - 5	9 - 5	9 - 5
Recycling		10 - 2			1 - 5		
Pub – Coffees	9 - 1:30pm				7 - 10:30	7 - 10:30	7 - 10:30
Restaurant/Pub	3—close	5 – 9pm	3 – close	3 – close	3 – close	3 – close	3 – close
Ultimate Frisbee	4:00			4:00			

** No Nurse's clinic Thurs. 9 Jan**



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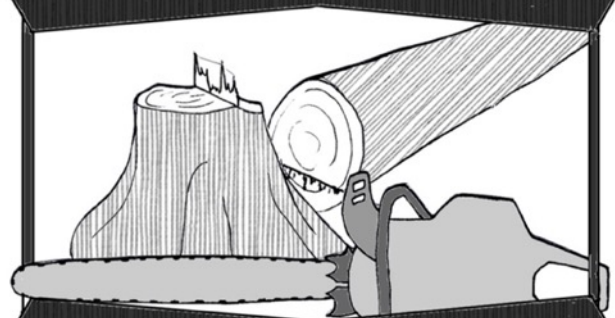
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