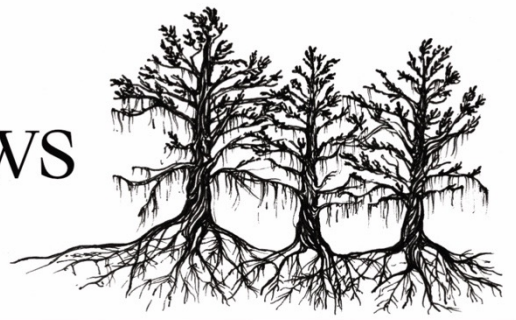


Xwe'etay News



Issue 30

July 2026

A Note from your Editors: Finances and other news

We at the Yew Collective believe that a community newsletter is a regularly-scheduled publication whose content fosters an enhanced sense of community and with writing that arises primarily from within the community. This definition resonates with us as we witness each month the diversity of images, words, and ads that people submit to share with others.

In addition to our locally-sourced content, the newsletter is supported financially through paid ads from our local businesses, funds associated with submissions, and ad hoc donations by community members who just like what we do.

Because of your generosity, we have had a steady stream of funds coming in. However, in recent months we've had a decline in both advertising and donations.

Depending on its length (16 – 22+ pages), it costs from \$400 - \$500+ per month to produce our printed newsletter in colour. This is even with the much-reduced rates Laurence offers us in his home-printing shop. We could offer the paper only on-line (<https://lasqueti.ca/xweetay-news>), but many folks on island prefer the print version. In fact, one XN devotee said it was the last paper version of anything that they read.

If you value the newsletter and would like to see it continue, we invite you to support it. Donations of any amount can be sent to xweetaynews@lasqueti.ca and will be gratefully received and put to good use.

In other news, we're very happy to report that Sue Ashcroft has joined the Yew Collective, especially to help with proofreading before printing. We're so glad to have her join the team. Thank you, Sue!

With gratitude, The Yew Collective (Anna, Dana, Deb, Karen Sue, Wendy)

Ps. The next photo theme is **"Dragonflies"**!



Terry Theiss

First pick of loganberries and raspberries!



Ken Lertzman

G & Ts with garden mint and raspberries

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



Summer Life

The flowers are blooming, the wind is whistling. The air is calm and gentle. The water is warm, the birds are chirping. The sun is shining as children laughed. I could hear the waves crashing on the beach. I could sense a good day.

The dogs were barking. Evan was eating, Lucca was surfing, Juniper was napping, Issa was playing ball. Sterling and Avi were swimming, Fina was painting the scene, Sha Sha was climbing, Anna was sailing. Zora and Zinnia were playing with kittens, Sofia, Bridie and Xander were paddling in the kayak. Barnabe was splashing his dad. Helen was running up and down the beach, looking for something to do.

Then Anna called them over. "Can you help me pull this log down?" Everyone said yes so they pulled and pulled and pulled and then, with a sudden splash, we all fell into the water laughing. We all played in the water until it got too cold. Juniper and I were last to get out.

Evan went back to eating, Issa started playing ball with Sterling and Avi as they swam. Fina went back to painting her picture. Sha Sha went back to climbing her tree and Helen stopped running to climb with her too. Anna joined Zora and Zinnia with the kittens. Barnabe joined Sofia, Bridie and Xander as they paddled their kayaks. After, we all ate mango and watermelon and starfruit. At the end of the day I said "see you soon, crocodile", and we all went home. It was a good day.

- Lucca MacDonald, grade 3.



With handmade signs and pom poms, the K–5 students at FBS gave our two Grade 12 graduates, Vida and Janaka, a rousing send-off as they left for their grad ceremony on Thursday. A special thanks to Zinnia for leading the cheers!

July 1945 – A Story Taken from Elda Mason’s Diary

July 4 - It was a hot month on Lasqueti Island in July of 1945. The Masons had a new baby girl born in May. That’s me, Stephanie Ann, and I had started smiling. It was hot enough that we ate all our dinners outside.

July 6 – Mom was cleaning the house and milking the cow. I went along for the excitement. Grandma and Aunt Lavonne stopped in to visit and help.

July 21 – Dad (Laurie) was preparing to take my brothers to Vancouver on the steamship for a visit to see the aunts. They were hurriedly packing in the afternoon because the boat to Vancouver left at 3 in the morning. A ride to False Bay was arranged and someone to help with the children. When my mom (Elda) got back she hoped to see the Cardena passing Powder Flask Bay but missed it because she was so busy. It was only visible for a moment.

July 22 – Oh dear, the cows got out again. They must be down at Rudolph’s. Mom was canning peas. Mrs. Bearcroft called in and said she had seen the cows down near her place. They must be found to milk them.

July 23 – Evadne and Diane Phillips came to visit. Canned more vegetables, cleaning the house. Evelyn Bearcroft stopped in. Evelyn helped find the cows.

July 25 – fine day.

July 27 – Grandpa Copley went to meet the boat arriving at 3 AM bringing Dad and my two very excited brothers home with lots of news about their trip on the boat and what they did in town. Presents for everyone.

July 29 – Dad was making hay and my brothers were helping, but they had to stop to go and fight fire at DeWolfe’s logging camp. Aunt Lavonne and Evelyn Bearcroft dropped in for a visit and to play with me, the baby.

July 30 – Cows out again. Byron and Marvin looking for the cows. Lois was picking flowers.

Aug 1 – Dad’s car broke down. He fixed it. Company for supper. Dave and Doris Livingstone and their new little boy, Davey. Also, Edith came. Lovely visit. Later in the evening we all went over to Grandpa and Grandma Copley’s.

And so you can see how busy the Mason family was in July of 1945 with a new baby, gardens, friends, cows and family.

- Stephanie Mason Williams



Gretje Lohmann



Dana Lepofsky



Meet the Neighbours



Nick Hohol, Conn Road

Nick's dad used to tell bedtime stories about building a cabin in the woods. "And now," Nick says, "30 years later, it's coming to fruition."

Nick grew up in a Ukrainian farming community in Alberta. In school, he played football in one of the top junior leagues in Canada. After trying trades like carpentry and welding, he became a Red Seal steamfitter working in the oilfield. But the lifestyle never really fit. "I didn't really like the work or the oil fields," he says. So he and his then-wife started looking toward the west coast. After watching videos about Lasqueti, they decided to see what island life was really like, arriving on December 23, 2017.

"On the quiet ferry I started talking to Craig McFeely," Nick recalls. "He said, 'Come with me. I have a few errands to run, and I'll bring you back to the ferry.'" At Craig's place, a trailer was under construction and Craig mentioned he was hoping to find someone to help around the property. "I told him right away we'd be very interested."

Over the next year, Nick worked steadily and gathered equipment before making the move in January 2019. Living on Lasqueti meant a major financial shift. "I went from Red Seal money to probably one-sixth of that," he says, "but I was six times happier." He hasn't watched television in four years.

These days Nick works some shifts at the pub, though less during the summer so he can focus on his water taxi business. After getting the necessary certifications, insurance, and Transport Canada paperwork in place, Pirates of Perdition quickly became busy.

Nick's dad, Allan, first came to visit for a week. Then a month. Then six months. Eventually he stayed the whole winter. Together they found land on Conn Road. "For people my age, getting a down payment together is hard. If it wasn't for my dad, I couldn't have done it. So we did it together."

"We're so lucky to live here," Nick says. "You gain so much, but you also give up your previous life. Lasqueti felt like home right away. And I love the ocean."
– Suzanne Heron



Spring's silver lining

I need to get outside,
Rejoin all my West Coast relations
To breathe deeply, open wide,
and receive earth, ocean and sky.

Cedar wax wings were gathering
Feral sheep snagged wool tufts
From the garden fence,
A few metres from the 'bunny trail '
And their hidden salmon berry thicket nest
And there's a depth to my sadness
That their determined acrobatics helps
dispel:

Life goes on...hip hooray!!...
...stubbornly continues in this spring from
hell.

The sheep were grazing maniacally;
Sooty Fox Sparrows ride their twitching
butts,
Plucking cotton candy tangles
With gusto from the gnarly rumps.
The sheep show no reaction -
Symbiosis or just plain dumb?
These unexpected moments...
Well yah know...

They help me feel a lot less numb.

Chittering swallows beaked mud from the
bank

To build their cob, bowl shaped nests;
The pond water shrinks a bit each day;
I wish the sheep would just drink less.
Truth be told, most goes through the soaker
hose;

There's irony in those water conserving links
That leave a greasy band of butter coloured
clay,
Steep slick slopes, deeply scarred
By ruminant hooves.

These portends of spring bring some
comfort...

A seasonal shoulder to cry on!
Mother Nature always helps me cope,
Helps me find a path through grief, to
wonder and joy,

To line my own fragile nest with hope,
And give me the resilient strength
To take cautious searching steps
Around my life's own slippery slopes.

And yah-ah-tay, this year's has been darker
than most! – Dolf Schoenmaker

Wildfire preparedness and response in the qRD:

The qRD has been preparing for potential wildfires, including:

- A Lasqueti Community Evacuation Guide, developed in 2024 and mailed to every residence on Lasqueti, is available at:
https://qathet.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/qRD_EVAC_brochure-Lasqueti1.pdf
- The FireSmart Program aims to help people reduce fire hazard near their homes, and notices are sent periodically.
- Our Community Wildfire Resilience Plan was updated in 2025 and includes an assessment of wildfire threat. Feel free to ask for a link.

The qRD Regional Preparedness Program is prominent on the main web site: www.qathet.ca.

LIVFD also, of course, responds to fires on Lasqueti. Communications during incidents are coordinated by LIVFD, qRD Emergency Services and BC Wildfire Service (if they become involved). Our capacity to respond depends on people being willing to volunteer in our fire department.

Changes to the Provincial Fire Safety Act brought in requirements for fire inspections and investigations in rural areas. In 2024, the qRD Board designated the Manager of Emergency Services as the qRD Fire Investigator and Fire Inspector:

- Following a fire, the qRD Fire Investigator may request the Provincial Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) to undertake a post-fire investigation (at their cost). If the OFC accepts, it would work cooperatively with the qRD. Relevant factors that may help reduce fire hazard would normally be made public (but not details protected by privacy legislation).
- If a property is identified as likely high hazard, the qRD Fire Inspector may request the OFC to undertake an inspection. If the OFC accepts, it may issue orders to address hazardous conditions.


Reducing wildfire hazard will take collective and cooperative efforts by individuals, communities, local governments and the Province. Kudos to community members who have organized forums and training. Actions you can take are as follows: become informed, address hazards near your home, join LIVFD, and organize and attend community events on the topic.

- **Grants-in-aid for LCA alcove renovations:** In June, the qRD granted \$5,000 to support renovations of the meeting room/alcove. The LCA will leverage this one-off grant with other funds and volunteer labour/donations to improve this well-used area of the community hall.
- **Grants-in-aid – second intake:** Deadline is the end of August. The application form can be found on the qRD web site (it’s not as daunting to fill as it might look).

Please feel free to contact me. I am honoured to be your regional representative.
Director Andrew Fall, qathet Regional District
Contact: afall@qathet.ca



Dana Lepotsky



Nurse's Notes

It is officially summertime and so summertime activities are well under way-- from camping and boating, paddle boarding, kayaking, and canoeing to motorsports to snorkeling, surfing, and swimming – to name a few of the much-anticipated summer activities. All involve being in and around the water!

With this article I would like to highlight water safety. Unfortunately, every summer we hear about someone in BC who has had a water accident or who has drowned. It’s often an accident that might have been avoided.

(cont'd next page)

(Nurse's note, cont'd from previous page)

Prevention isn't possible without some awareness of risks involved. What are some basic things to think about or to do that might help mitigate a tragic accident from occurring?

When boating, it is very important to be aware of local weather patterns and have the proper safety gear on hand.

The following is a link to boat safety gear:

www.tc.gc.ca/boatingsafety

Go to pages 16 and 17 for a list of the minimal equipment suggested for the various forms of watercraft.

If interested in a boating course go to www.cps-ecp.ca or CanBoat.ca.

What else might be included as a basic skill for being around the water? Knowing how to swim! Swimming lessons can teach a person not only the skill of swimming but also how to safely rescue someone without putting themselves at risk. Lessons can instill a confidence that provides a person with the ability to think and act quickly in an emergency situation. Knowledge of the local waters and knowledge of personal limitations in and around the water can provide a person with life saving skills that help to ensure a safe and enjoyable summer.

Locally, Carly P. has, in the past, provided swimming lessons to persons of all ages right on Lasqueti Island. She plans to offer lessons again this summer and will post this through the various communication avenues within the Lasqueti community. This valuable service is another of the community's offerings by talented and passionate members!

Stay well, Play safe ♥dianne

Clinics: July 2, 9, 16 and 23. No clinic July 30.

Clinic phone: 250-333-8891; Dianne's phone: 250-240-5712 lasquetihealthcentre@gmail.com



It is proving to be the start of a hot and dry summer. Already signs of stress can be seen in our forests. LINC thanks the Lasqueti firefighters/first responders for their fast and thorough response to the Windy Bay fire on the south end. Let's be on high alert for any signs of fire danger and be ready to report it.

On May 31st LINC held its Annual General Meeting to a full room at the JFC. Cynthia Milton has been welcomed onto the board of directors. One can now view a twelve-minute film by Sheila Harrington and Sue Ashcroft, "The John Osland Nature Reserve, A Story of Change" on the LINC YouTube channel accessed through the LINC website: <https://linc.lasqueti.ca/osland/>

On June 14th sixteen volunteers came out to the Trematon Nature Reserve to remove invasive plants from the enclosure and to more clearly define the trail up to the high views of Trematon peak. Thanks to Suzie L. for her sustaining lunches. While working at the enclosure site, a rare and endangered sharp-tailed snake was discovered. Sometimes found in very dry old wood stumps or deadfall and on rock bluff slopes, this small reddish snake will be active at this time. If you come across one, try to get a photo and send it to LINC along with its location so the information can be passed on to interested biologists studying this snake.

A survey sheet passed out at the AGM indicated strong interest in LINC's monitoring activities. Coming up on July 10th, our Stewardship Coordinator, Charlene Lloyd, will guide interested hikers on a nature reserve route to observe the ACO's (artificial cover objects) and ARU's (autonomous recording units) which she maintains per LINC's conservancy management plans. Watch for more information and join in this informative hike by contacting LINC to register your participation.



Gordon Scott

Sharp-tailed snake



Why are my Zucchini rotting?

Ever been excited to see a tiny zucchini or squash emerging only to find it yellowing and rotting a few days later? Oh, so sad, especially this time of year when we have waited so long for our first zucchinis of the season. If you have seen this, then poor pollination is the problem. One simple solution is hand pollinating.

Zucchini and squash plants produce separate male and female flowers. The **female flower** has a baby squash or zucchini fruit just behind the flower. In the center of the flower, you will see a cluster of small, beautiful lobes. The **male flower** grows on a long, thin stem with a single anther in the centre, which, hopefully, is covered in a yellow, sticky pollen. The male flower will not have any fruit on the stem behind the flower.

Hand pollination is easy. Look for a freshly opened male flower with a lot of pollen on the anther (central stem) and carefully gather some pollen on your fingertip. Find an open female flower and gently brush the pollen onto the stigma, the lobes at the center of the female flower. You can pollinate more than one female flower with this pollen. Just be sure to brush it over all the lobes so the whole flower is pollinated. If done successfully, the fruit will continue to grow to a mature size.

One thing to keep in mind is that zucchini and squash should be hand-pollinated within the same species. Zucchini, pumpkins, acorn squash, spaghetti squash, and delicata (*Cucurbita pepo*) can all pollinate one another. Butternut squash should be pollinated with another *Cucurbita moschata* variety, such as Tromboncino, while buttercup, Hubbard, and kabocha (*Cucurbita maxima*) can pollinate each other. I have a hard time remembering this too so usually end up looking it up—or asking Hilary!

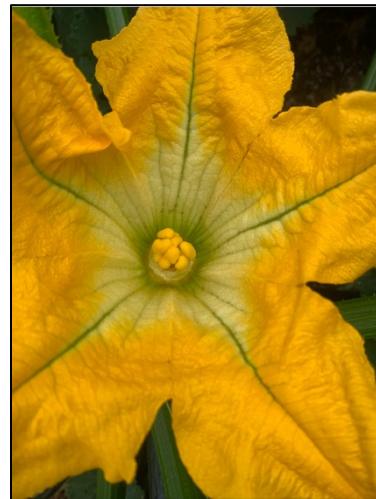
If you're only growing squash to eat, don't worry too much. Cross-pollination won't affect this year's fruit. It only matters if you're saving seed for next season.

Hand pollination only takes a minute or two but can make all the difference to your harvest. If you've noticed lots of flowers but few fruits, or fruits that rot before they reach mature size, then it's worth giving it a try – *Anna Dodds*.



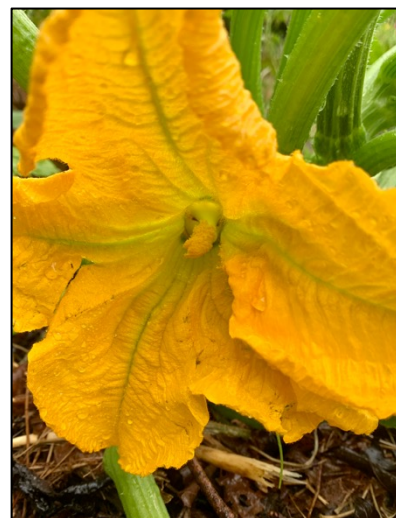
Anna Dodds

Female flower and fruit ready to be pollinated



Anna Dodds

Stigma on the female flower



Anna Dodds

Male flower with pollen on the anther

Birds on Lasqueti

Our summer skies are graced by Violet-green Swallows, Barn Swallows and Purple Martins. These three swallows come to breed because of our abundance of flying insects. They swerve and swoop over both fresh and salt water and any open area where insects gather. Like all aerial insectivores, they are being reduced by our chemical war on insects. Swallows are all tree cavity and rock crevice nesters, but have adapted to logging and settlement by using human structures for nesting.

Violet-green Swallows are the most abundant, arriving around Spring Equinox. These birds turn out to be pausing to refuel before continuing their migration. Serious home seekers come well into April, checking out nooks and crannies under eaves and purpose-built nest boxes. Barn Swallows are the cinnamon-breasted birds with deeply forked tails. Once common on Lasqueti, they are now the swallow in deepest decline. This may be because they migrate deep into South America and hence exposed to the most hazards on their long journey. They often nest in the freight shed, undeterred from feeding their babies by our daily comings and goings or Marimba on the Dock.

Purple Martins, the largest swallow, have always been uncommon on the Coast. They arrived on Lasqueti after nesting boxes were installed on the dock pilings. The all-dark birds are the adult males; the pale undersides belong to females and juveniles. The wire mesh over the doorways is designed to deter predators. They seem to arrive all at once and will leave quickly as soon as the kids can fly. Let us enjoy the twittering of the swallows while they are here. – *Marti Wendt*

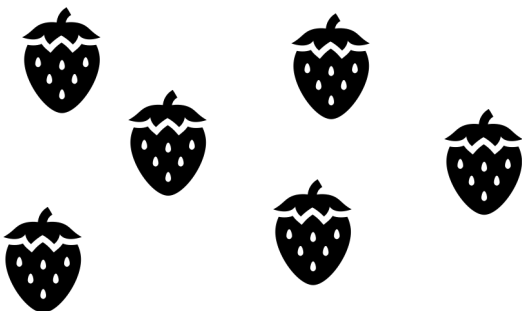


Ken Lertzman



Gretja Lohemann

The cherries were so abundant this year. I was able to cover clumps of it and laughed at the birds who only were able to eat the half ripe ones. - *Gretja*





From Mikaila Lironi: July 6th will be our last LTC meeting this term. If you haven't been or are curious, it will be at the Community Hall 11-3.

I'd like to give a shout out to our fire fighters and first responders for their work at keeping the island safe after the fire on the south end. Our island is so precious and the thought of fires in the summer are terrifying. Hope to see you all at the Arts Fest.

From Tim Peterson: Happy summer! The final regularly scheduled meeting of the term for the Lasqueti Local Trust Committee (LTC) is July 6, 11 AM, at the community hall. We will be considering the targeted update to the Land Use Bylaw to limit subdivision potential on large lots of 64.74 hectares or more, to align with what is generally referred to as the "10 acre minimum". Please consider attending, if you can. Should the LTC decide to proceed with the Bylaw amendment, a Public Hearing would generally precede Third Reading and adoption. Given that the end of term is approaching, it may not be logistically possible to conclude this business prior to the election, and it will likely be up to the new LTC to consider.

At the June Trust Council meeting, trustees reviewed updated Candidate Information and new Council Orientation Program briefings. For any interested or considering standing for election in October, these materials may be helpful. Also, I encourage reaching out to Trustee Lironi or I, if you would like to have a discussion on what the role of trustee entails.

Trust Council also announced the 2026 Islands Trust Community Stewardship Awards, and I am pleased to note that Lasqueti resident Shelia Harrington was one of the recipients. I will be sure to post a notification regarding the expected ceremony when I have the details.

Other items from the June Trust Council meeting included endorsement of the First Nations Referral Work Plan; approval of the Islands Trust Indigenous Relations Action Plan for 2026-2028; amendment and readings of the updated Trust Council Public Notification Bylaw to include print notifications in local publications; directing a letter requesting the province enshrine the British Columbia Coastal Marine Strategy in law; a review of Policy Statement materials; and approval of the updated Policy Statement Amendment Policy 1.2.1, among other business.

As always, I encourage you to reach out to you trustees with your questions, comments, or concerns.



Kitchen Creations It's Time for Pie!



This is the easiest and quickest pie crust I know! Colleen Pitt shared this recipe with me quite a few years ago and it's just the best with her fresh berry filling. The full recipe for the filling is in the *Cooking and Community* cook book, page 81. (It's available at the Last Resort table at the Saturday market). Basically, take 6 cups of fresh berries. Crush two cupes of the berries in 1/2 cup cold water. Add 2.5 T cornstarch, and 1/2 cup sugar. Bring to a boil and simmer until clear then add 1tsp butter. Put remaining berries into pie shell and pour glaze over. Cool before serving.

Pat-in-the-pan Pie Crust

Best for smaller size pie plates, not deep dish.

1.5 cups flour
1.5 tsp sugar
3/4 tsp salt
1/2 cup oil
3 T cold milk

Add dry ingredients to pie plate and mix. Combine oil and milk and beat. Then add to the dry ingredients and mix again. Pat mixture into your pie plate and prick all over with a fork. Bake at 425 F for 15 minutes. Let cool and fill with fresh berry filling. Serve with ice cream or whipped cream.

-Deb Perell



Deb Perell

Lasqueti Better at Home

Hello lovely community! The Lasqueti Better at Home program will be hosting two information sessions for potential workers and volunteers. The first session will be on Saturday July 11th at 2:00 and is intended for people who are interested in being paid workers with our program. The second session on Sunday July 12 at 11:00 is intended for people who wish to volunteer. These sessions are to provide information for both people who are brand new to the program and those who have already been interviewed.

Please contact Anna Smith or Lisa Peterson at LBAH@judithfishercentre.com if you are interested and able to come. We look forward to sharing information about the program and spreading excitement about helping our valuable seniors! We are also looking for community members who are willing to bake and donate some tasty snacks or baked goods to be shared that these sessions. If you are interested in providing some goodies, please reach out to Anna and Lisa.

This program is funded by the Government of BC, managed by United Way British Columbia, and brought to you by the Lasqueti Last Resort Society.
- Warm wishes from Anna and Lisa!



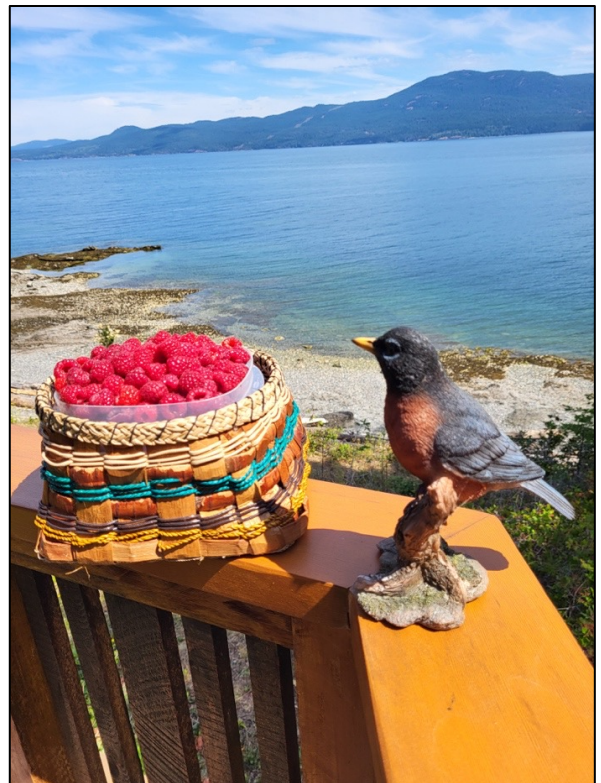
Kathy Rogers

Metamorphic. A summer art exhibition by Silke Seiler, July 24th to August 2nd,

Changing Form. Rocks as a muse, trees as stones, stones as art.

Silke Seiler's latest body of work, Metamorphic, an exhibition of sculpture and paintings will be showing at the Lasqueti Island Arts Centre Gallery

Please stop by to see the artist's latest work inspired by geological transformation.



Susan Ellard

2026 SILLY BOAT RACES & PARADE AUGUST 29, 2026

MEET US AT TEA POT AT NOON
WITH YOUR PARADE CREATIONS

MEET US AT BOAT
RAMP AT 1:30
WITH YOUR
FLOATABLE
CREATION



CONTACT TRACI 250-954-5225 ANY QUESTIONS

Rockshow! XIX

Rockshow! returns for its 19th iteration, Saturday, July 18 at the community hall outdoor stage. Expect an eclectic variety of live performances from musicians from here and far! Catering by Violet & Gabe will keep you deliciously fed, plus cold beverages and tasty tunes to keep you groovin'!

Doors at 4 PM- \$25 entry - seniors \$20 - 12 & under free - family deals available.

For more info call or text Tim 250-607-7094

Come out and enjoy live music!

Community Calendar

July 3, 4. Arts Festival.

July 17. Celebration of Life for Milan.

July 18. Rock Show.

July 24 – Aug 2. Metamorphic. Art Show by Silke Sieler. At the Arts Center Gallery.

Aug 1. Firefighters' Picnic

Aug 5. Jenny's dance party.

August 29. Silly Boat Race Parade. 1:30 at the ramp.



Our Week in Review

	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
A Life TimeZ Nursery	By appointment. 819 698 3829						
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	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	9:30, 2:30, 5:30
Free Store		10 - 5			10 - 5		
Life Drawing			7 - 9				
Nurse					11 – 3**		
Parsimony & Providence	11-2	2 - 6			2 - 6	2 - 6	11 - 2
Post Office		10 - 4		10 - 4		10 - 4	
Propane filled						1 - 3	
Provisions	11 - 4	9 - 5		10 - 5	9 - 5	9 - 5	9 - 5
Recycling		10 - 5			10 - 5		
Restaurant/Pub	1pm - close	1pm - close	3 – close	1pm– close	1 – close	1– close	1– close
CS Bread Stand			Bake day!			Bake day!	
Ultimate Frisbee	5:30			5:30			

**Nurses clinic: Thurs, July 2, 9, 16, 23. No clinic July 30.

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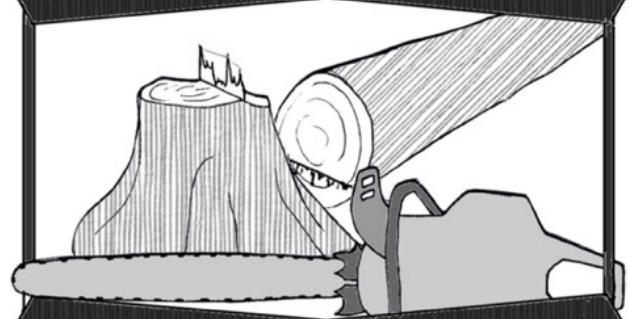
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TUESDAY	CLOSED
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THURSDAY	2 - 6
FRIDAY	2 - 6
SATURDAY	11 - 2
SUNDAY	11 - 2

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