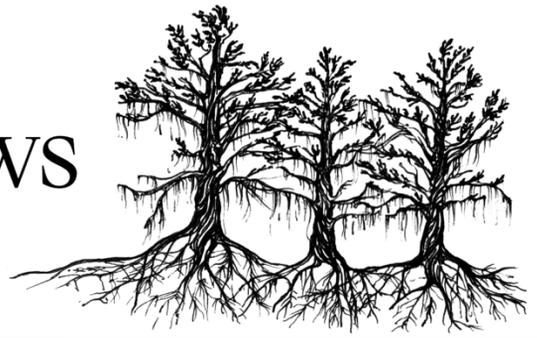


Xwe'etay News



Issue 16

May 2025

A Note from your Editors

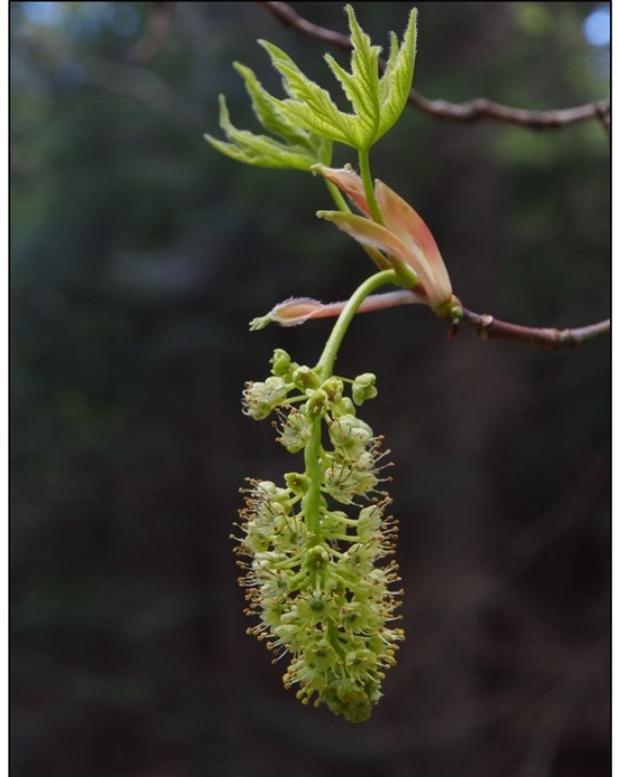
Lasquetians gathered together this past April to grieve, remember, and celebrate. When observing our community in action, it's clear how much time and energy we're willing to give to the events that matter to us. When we volunteer to support each other by serving food and drink, decorating, building fires, setting up tables, driving guests, singing songs, and cleaning up (and so many other invisible tasks), our devotion to each other shows and shines. If you're new to Lasqueti, consider finding an organization to tap into that reflects your values and sense of place on the island. It's a great way to connect to the past, be part of the present, and to create the future. It's how we get woven into the web that holds us when we are experiencing loss, joyfully celebrating, or buying plants (for example). May we continue to build fabulously strong community ties in these uncertain times!

Next month's photo theme is CAKES! How 'bout suggesting a theme for future months?

To contact us and for submissions or donations:

xweetaynews@lasqueti.ca; for on-line, colour versions: www.lasqueti.ca/xweetay-news

- The Yew Collective



Ken Lertzman

Spring Big leaf-maple with it's beautiful and edible flower.

Ronaldo's Reflections

The Yew Collective is so pleased to introduce a new series to Xwe'etay News: contributions by Xwe'etay artist Ronaldo Norden of images he has created over the years of the Lasqueti landscape. For those of you who don't know Ronaldo, his main area of focus has been small etchings of people and places on the coast. He has an exquisite eye for seeing the way beings of all kinds interact with their landscapes.

All images were originally made while sitting in a beautiful spot on the island, using coloured pencils. Ronaldo then transformed them into black graphic images using his Ipad. In Ronaldo's words, these monthly offerings are "a way to share some of the beauty of this island".

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



A miniature cove located on the shoreline north of Jenkins Cove, on the adjacent Crown Land about one mile down the coast. It's a gruelling hike from Jenkins Cove, but worth the effort! A place where you feel no one ever goes through! – *Ronaldo Norden*

Grief and Gratitude

There are two words that invoke immense emotion: grief and gratitude.

Grief. This grief for a child is like no other grief I have ever experienced. These are not easy steps to walk. Much gratitude for the sunny days that dry my tears away.

We would like to thank every person whether you travelled from afar or from on island and came out to the cemetery and the hall to honour and hold love for Bella. Your presence was greatly appreciated and felt. Those who could not make it, we know you were with us in spirit too. It is not lost on us the magnitude of love that surrounded us on that day and all the days following us.

Thank you, community, Laura and Jason



John Martin

 **Birds on Lasqueti** 

Why does it seem like there are so many Pine Siskins this year?

Pine Siskins are tiny finches that we often see in the winter on Lasqueti. We see flocks of them flying from tree top to tree top where they cling upside down to branch tips and feed on the hanging cones. Although often hard to spot, their whiny calls let us know that they are around. They feed off the cones of Pine trees, as their name suggests, but also from Cedars, Firs and deciduous trees like Alders. They readily come to backyard feeders. Their flocks are gregarious and can be large. They are nomadic birds and range widely across North America. They fly to where there is a good food source; and if the cone crop is not abundant, they will fly to where it is.

This year Pine Siskins are responding to a poor crop of cones in the northern boreal forest. Rather than remaining in the north where there is not sufficient food they migrate south and east where cones may be plentiful. These periodic flights from place to place are called “eruptions” and occur every few years. They also occur with larger finches such as Evening Grosbeaks and Crossbills.

Pine Siskins seem to be common and plentiful right now, but they are designated as a “common bird in steep decline”. Because they frequently have large and hard to predict movements, it is impossible to know how many there are and how large is their decline. They feed in dense flocks and often at feeders. This makes them susceptible to diseases such as Salmonella. The birds, their eggs and young are all preyed upon by domestic cats, squirrels, hawks and jays.

There are a lot of Siskins for us to enjoy this year, but they may not be back in such numbers next year. - *Sheila Ray*



Chephas: CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=9645424>

The past few years it has been my practice in the month of May to select a verse from *The Parents Tao Te Ching* for my health article.

One of the most challenging of modern tasks is parenting. And now that I am also a grandparent I find myself seeking the advice and being reminded of the simple but not always easy, practical guidance of this timeless classic. The following is from the Tao.

Model Contentment

To be a wise parent you must become like water. It is content to nourish all it touches without discrimination. While people struggle to move up, water flows joyfully down, filling the low places.

As you care for your children
Keep their environment uncluttered,
Free of useless gadgets and distractions.
Keep your conversation honest and straightforward,
free of control and manipulation.
Keep your decisions fair and generous,
free of punishment and shame.

As you conduct your life,
be serene and joyful,
content and at peace.

This will be your greatest legacy. - *Dianne*
***Nurse in clinic: every thursday in May ***



Terry Theiss

“I love the elegant symmetry and the palest pink blush.”



Practical Security Advice part 4: Privacy Starts at Phone



Every app you install is a gateway into your phone, and thus an open window into your personal life. Many apps make money harvesting and selling your data. These apps often request more access than they need—betting you'll say "Yes" without much thought, granting them permission to smuggle your personal data out through that open window. That news app doesn't need your contact list! That game doesn't need your location!

Quit making it so easy for the data pirates! It's important to see that you are not their customer—you're the product.

Even if you're unconcerned about your own privacy, when you share your contact list, you're sending your friends' and family's names, emails, phone numbers—possibly even birthdays and other personal data—to a company that may harvest and sell their data, without their knowledge or consent. The system is designed to make this act seem harmless, a trifle for your convenience. It's not. It's a business model.

Aside from chucking your phone in the drink, one of the easiest ways to resist is with the **Principle of Least Privilege**: every app should get only the access it truly needs—nothing more. Thankfully, Android and iPhone both allow you to review and revoke app permissions anytime.

Here's how to take back control:

- 1. Just Don't Do It.** Installing an app requires a lot of trust. If you're unsure, don't install it! Delete any apps you don't need.
- 2. Deny by Default.** When installing a new app, make "No" your default. Grant an access permission only when it is truly essential.
- 3. Review Existing App Permissions.** Pay special attention to apps with access to contacts, camera, microphone, and location.
- 4. Revoke What's Unnecessary.** If an app doesn't clearly need a permission, turn it off.
- 5. Use "Ask Every Time".** For sensitive permissions, like location, require the app to "Ask Each Time".
- 6. Look for Alternatives.** If an app demands too much data, find one that respects your privacy. Small steps like these help to protect you and your whole digital circle from the data pirates. Surveillance capitalism requires your complicity, so you are not powerless to resist it. It's your data. It is valuable. Keep it private. Start with your phone.

– Joseph Fall



Kitchen Creations



Spring Sesame Asparagus

There are a few icons of springtime every year. Outside the garden it's the flowering currants, morels, and the wild cherry, crabapple, and the salmonberry blooms. In the garden, it's the sudden abundance of overwintering salad greens, purple sprouting broccoli, and at last, and with much anticipation, the asparagus. A lot of us grew up with mushy, limp, overcooked asparagus and grew to loathe it. We like our asparagus just cooked enough that it feels "cooked", but still green and crunchy. This is our favourite way to do it.

Cut or break the spears into 1 to 3 inch lengths. If they are really thick at the base, cut those pieces in half or quarters lengthwise. Get a cast iron frying pan very hot and add enough toasted sesame oil to barely coat the whole bottom. Add some salt and, if you'd like, hot pepper flakes.

Add all the asparagus to the pan when oil is hot, but before it starts smoking – this isn't very long. Immediately stir the asparagus, making sure that all of it is exposed to the sesame oil. Let the asparagus sit long enough between stirring that the hot pan starts to char the outside. You need a big enough frying pan for the amount of asparagus you have so that few are not in contact with the hot surface at any given moment. This recipe is hard to scale to really large quantities unless you use multiple frying pans.

The goal is that the pan is hot enough that the outside starts to develop scorch marks while the inside remains bright green, crunchy, and barely cooked. Stir a few times as this takes place, then remove from the heat and serve right away – you don't want it sitting on the hot pan overcooking while other preparations are made. The whole process from going into the pan to serving shouldn't take more than about 2 minutes -- and less if you like it *al dente*. I usually don't start cooking the asparagus until everything else is done and, ideally, waiting on the table.

This recipe works equally well if you mix the asparagus with purple sprouting broccoli or garlic scapes towards the end of the asparagus season. And green beans are great done exactly the same way later in the summer. Parsley or chopped toasted hazelnuts are also nice additions. – Ken Lertzman



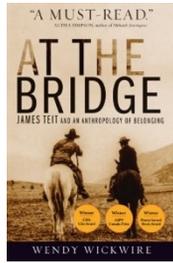
Wendy Wickwire (2019). *At the Bridge: James Teit and an Anthropology of Belonging*. UBC Press

Have you ever heard of James Teit?

- No, I don't think so.

How about Franz Boas?

- Oh, wasn't he the anthropologist who studied the Pacific Northwest?



As a graduate student in ethnomusicology, Wendy Wickwire spent the summer of 1977 in Vancouver, transcribing Aboriginal songs and stories. She discovered a kindred spirit in James Teit, an unknown ethnographer who had done similar research back at the turn of the century.

So begins a 30+ year quest to discover everything she can about the elusive Teit, whose legacy had been eradicated. The breadth and depth of Wickwire's research is staggering. She uncovers a veritable treasure trove of field notes, recordings, photographs, monographs, letters, artifacts and more. She even travelled to Teit's home village in the remote Shetland islands, a former Scandinavian holding, annexed by Scotland in the 15th century. (Apparently, the ferry ride to the Shetlands makes the Lasqueti ferry look like a cake walk).

Teit was very proud of his Shetland heritage and regarded the British as colonizers. When he arrived in Spences Bridge, B.C. in 1884, he recognized common grievances with the Aboriginal people, respecting their way of life and marrying a Nlaka'pamux woman.

Franz Boas (aka the "father of anthropology") met Teit in 1894 in Spences Bridge and hired him to conduct fieldwork on Aboriginal communities throughout British Columbia and the north-western United States. Teit had already begun similar research a full 10 years before their collaboration began. It was a tenuous partnership. Teit was interested in living cultures and treated his subjects as equals. Boas focused on pre-contact ethnography, now giving way to complete assimilation. Boas was fortunate to find someone who was fluent and well integrated in the community, yet he treated Teit as an assistant and took most of the credit. In the end, Boas expropriated Teit's research and destroyed many original materials.

On top of all his fieldwork, running a farm and acting as a hunting guide, Teit managed to find

time to assist various Aboriginal groups in their efforts to have their land claims resolved by the British, Federal, and Provincial governments. The egregious dispossession of their lands and culture began during the Cariboo Gold Rush of the mid 1800s. It may come as a surprise that Indigenous land claims that have been settled by the courts in recent decades date back over a century.

This is an outstanding scholarly work about a remarkable man, delivered in a readable narrative. Wendy Wickwire is professor emerita in the Department of History at the University of Victoria and a member of the Yew Collective.

- Sue Ashcroft

True Reconciliation: How to Be a Force for Change, by Jody Wilson-Raybould (Penguin, 2024)

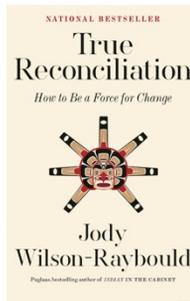
The argument of this book is presented in sections: an introduction followed by three parts: *Learn*, *Understand*, and *Act*.

Learn consists largely of records or recollections from the past that have been chosen so that readers can learn what, for most of us, is a different history of Canada, ranging from early contact to the present day.

Understand, much shorter, is the author's effort to help us understand. I particularly found the pages on differing worldviews interesting and important especially our emphasis on individual achievement and theirs on balance and communities. Wilson-Raybould's observations on consensus versus hierarchical decision-making are also important.

Act is the shortest section. It explains how individuals can act to encourage our governments (at all levels) to move quickly towards a new relationship that our courts (and growing numbers of Canadians) have been mandating and advising for years.

I recommend this book, and I'm going to read at least some of Wilson-Raybould's other writings. VIRL has 26 copies of the book -- a book club set, 14 copies of the downloadable audiobook and one e-book. All of these have holds, so you'll have to wait. – Peter Johnston



Barbara Greene

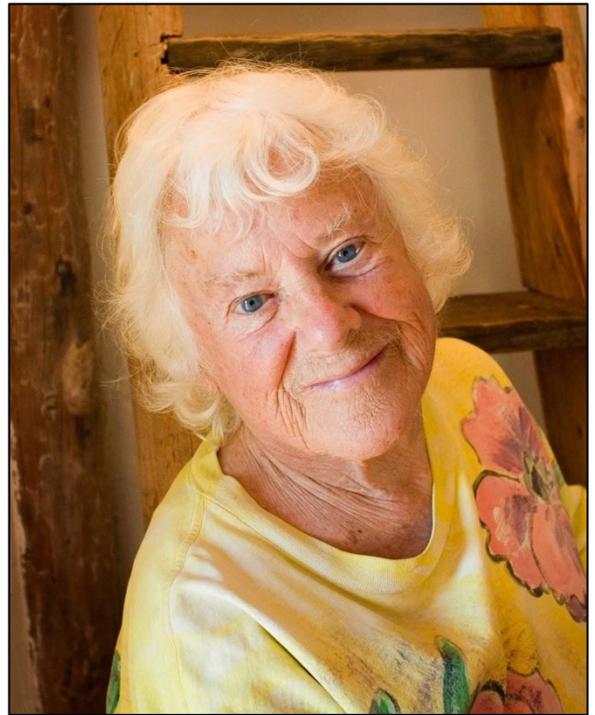
Once, a silver haired bird with twinkling blue eyes, colourful clothes and the call of OOOOooooo annually migrated to Lasqueti. Her name was Barbara Greene and she'd arrive in May and leave in October when the weather moved her to the other sweet little nests she kept in England and Spain.

In the mid 80's, in her mid sixties, Barb chose Lasqueti as her Canadian home. She settled into a rustic cabin by the sea and began connecting with the locals. An enchanting teller of tales that shot off in all directions only to come round again, she shared stories of her life growing up poor on Quadra Island with a missionary father who tended his flock in the Salish Sea by boat. Stories of being a bright and radical student at UBC, a social worker in downtown Toronto, a pinko barred from studying psychotherapy in America, a freelance radio broadcaster for the BBC and CBC and documentary filmmaker for the NFB. She told stories of her many (many!) lovers, including a smuggler in Mallorca, and her one husband, who gifted her their house at #3 Love Lane in Cornwall and remained a lifelong friend and correspondent after they separated.

Barb lived lightly on the land and travelled the long and winding road to and from her place on a Honda XL80 motorbike or rowed her dory to visit neighbours. A creatively charged being, she painted big and bold fruits, vegetables, flowers, and abstracts. Without fail, she donated a painting to the Spring Fling auction. A passionate builder of community, Barb kept and organized the long list of Arts Fest volunteers and rolled newcomers into participating. From the inception of the Friday night Readers Write she annually gave voice to her written work.

Both generous and frugal, she concocted a daily soup in a clay pot from Mallorca and poured glasses of wine (or gin and tonics) for welcomed visitors. Her September 1st birthday was celebrated with epic parties on the beach in front of her simple home where so many kazoos played "God Save The Queen".

On May 25, 2016, aged 92, she died in the cottage at the Judith Fisher she'd had built for her last grounded years. The new Clay Commons ceramic studio will also come together, in part, by her donation to the Arts Council. This is how gifts go on. Thank you, dear Barb! - *JennyV*



A Pod of Podcasts



Here are two podcasts about inventions and creations, and the quirky inventors and creators behind them. We are surrounded with stuff, from the humble spoon to the smartphone. Inventions and creations have shaped our world. The first podcast covers the best ones; and the second podcast covers the worst ones!

"The Best Idea Yet" shares the origin stories of iconic inventions and creations, everything from Birkenstocks to Goldfish Crackers, spotlighting the bold risk-takers behind them. The show explores how these inventions and creations became cultural phenomena, offering fascinating tales and practical takeaways. Each inventor faced all sorts of adversity and failures, but believed in themselves and persevered!

"The Big Flop" dives into history's most spectacular failures, unpacking what went wrong. The hosts dissect these epic flops, from bad products, to overhyped disasters, to outright frauds, all the while pondering: Who thought this was a good idea? - *Adam Enright*



AVICC (Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities)

The AVICC consists of all local governments from Victoria to Haida Gwaii (but not counting Greater Vancouver). A couple hundred local government representatives attended the 3-day annual convention held in Nanaimo this year.

Local governments send to AVICC “resolutions” that are put before the AVICC membership at the convention for debate and voting. Many are for the AVICC to collectively ask the Province to do (or not do) something. Many pass near-unanimously with little fanfare (e.g. to ask the Province for more funding for rural health care). But given the diversity of communities, there is heated debate for some (well, heated for politicians following civility rules). qathet RD put forward resolutions asking BC Hydro to develop a strategy for electric vehicle charging stations in rural areas, and for the Province to reform how it treats Improvement Districts (a form of very local government to manage a specific service, such as the Van Anda and Gillies Bay Water Improvement Districts – a bit more formal than Pete’s Lake Water Users Society, but similar in many ways). The Province wants these to disappear and become regional services and so prevents them from accessing Provincial funding, but many residents in Improvement Districts want to keep them local, and just want to have similar access to grants and other funds as other local governments. Both resolutions were supported at AVICC.

I was able to catch the new Minister of Health, Josie Osborne, who seemed receptive to my pitch for more support for rural health centres. I will follow up with one of her assistants. The AVICC convention also included a number of talks and workshops. I attended a workshop called “Taking Stock of the Trade War: Local Government Impacts” on a macro-economic analysis done by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) on potential and likely impacts of the US tariffs. Despite the uncertainty of the ever-changing trade war being conducted by the US, the analysis identified that the impacts on BC may be relatively lower than most other provinces because of our ports (and our exports to non-US countries) and relatively low manufacturing. The analysis assessed the degree to which stimulus spending (e.g. on housing) may offset impacts in different sectors. A report on this analysis

is available on the UBCM web site: <https://www.ubcm.ca/about-ubcm/latest-news/macroeconomic-impacts-us-canada-trade-war> Please feel free to contact me. I am honoured to be your regional representative.
-Director Andrew Fall, 250-333-8595



From Tim Peterson: Greetings all. The Lasqueti Island Local Trust Area, like other jurisdictions, has bylaws to help capture the vision of the community and to regulate land development accordingly. The two most relevant are the Lasqueti Island Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 77 (OCP), and the Lasqueti Island Land Use Bylaw No. 78 (LUB).

The enforcement of bylaws is primarily a complaint-driven process. If there has been a complaint, bylaw compliance and enforcement officers will investigate. If a contravention of a Local Trust Committee bylaw is found to exist, the property owner will be asked to take steps to comply with the bylaw.

It is important to note that Lasqueti does not have a Bylaw Enforcement Notification Bylaw. Many local trust areas do; some do not. Bylaw Enforcement Notification Bylaws allow for fines for violations and are sometimes used as an intermediate step between voluntary compliance and court action. In 2012 the Lasqueti Trust Committee considered such a bylaw but ultimately decided not to proceed. This means that there is no intermediate step between seeking compliance and court action.

We are currently reviewing our OCP and intend to review the Land Use Bylaw once the OCP has been updated. Both of the current bylaws are from 2005. Do they reflect the community we desire? Bylaws regulate things like short term vacation rentals, docks, and home-based businesses, among others. I encourage you to consider what changes are appropriate to serve the needs of the community.

The next regular meeting of the Lasqueti Local Trust committee is May 12. Please consider attending if you can, and, as always, please feel free to reach out to your trustees with your questions, comments, or concerns. tpeterson@islandstrust.bc.ca 250-607-7094.

(Cont'd next page)

From Mikaila Lironi: Knitting During Meetings

Our quarterly Trust Council meetings are three days long. They're packed with dense agendas, complex land use planning issues, and big decisions that affect the future of our communities. Staying focused and grounded over the course of those long days isn't always easy.

For me, knitting helps.

It keeps my hands busy so my mind can stay engaged. The repetitive motion is calming and helps me focus—especially during presentations or lengthy discussions. It's not uncommon to see people doodling, scrolling, or fidgeting in long meetings. Knitting just happens to be my version of that.

When I first brought my knitting to Trust Council, there were two of us with projects on the go. Now, it's not unusual to see five or six trustees knitting during our meetings. It's become a quiet, supportive presence—something we can do individually that also connects us in a small, low-key way.

There's research that backs up what many of us experience firsthand: activities like knitting can help with focus, reduce stress, and support memory. It's not about multitasking or checking out—it's a tool that helps us stay present and process what we're hearing.

Of course, the work we do is serious and important. But we're also people. Showing up with our own ways of staying grounded doesn't diminish our commitment—it supports it.

mlironi@islandtrust.bc.ca 250-812-2560

Wisdom from Xwe'etay Gardeners



Save Seeds, Save Money, Build Resilience

Hurray! Gardening season is underway and now is the perfect time to think about saving some of your own seeds, gradually selecting plants that thrive in our local conditions to produce stronger crops year after year.

When saving seeds there is a lot to think about – hybrid seeds, open pollinated, self-pollinated and cross pollination.

Hybrid seeds result from the deliberate cross-pollination of two parent plants to produce offspring with specific traits like disease resistance or uniform size. However, seeds saved from hybrids won't grow true to type — the next generation will often be mixed or unpredictable.

Open pollinated (OP) plants pollinate naturally within the same variety and usually produce consistent offspring. Still, cross-pollination can happen — bees or wind might carry pollen between different varieties, leading to unexpected results.

Self-pollinating plants are plants whose flowers fertilize themselves without needing insects or wind.

Think of self-pollinating and cross-pollinating plants as being on a spectrum. Any plant can potentially cross with other plants of the same species, but self-pollinators very rarely do, while cross pollinators might actually be self-infertile and need to cross with other plants to produce seed. **To start, focus on seeds that are self-pollinating.** These are the easiest to save seeds from because you don't need to worry about crossing with other varieties and you only need one strong, vigorous plant to produce seed. Think **peas, lettuce, beans, tomatoes and peppers.**

Peppers can cross-pollinate more easily than tomatoes, but the risk is fairly low compared to other plants. When it comes to squash there are 3 different species and plants will cross within species but not between species, so you could choose one variety of each species to save seed. Cucurbita pepo and C. Maxima include many different types so it might be hard to choose. C. Moschata includes butternut and trombocino, so that might be a good place to start. For best results, select seeds from healthy, vigorous plants showing traits you want to keep, such as early ripening, disease resistance and high yield.

Seed saving is part science, part quiet revolution — a step toward greater self-sufficiency. Start with the easy crops, swap seeds with friends and neighbors, and build your skills each season. By selecting seeds from your best plants year after year you will find that you are growing plants that are stronger and more resilient, perfectly adapted to your unique gardening conditions. Plus, there's something great about growing your own food from seeds you've saved, they also seem to keep longer — and they're free!

– Hilary Duinker and Anna Dodds



Meet the Neighbours



Thierry David and Isla Olson - Lamb homestead at the end of Bad Road

They are some of the young people we need (editorial comment!) to sustain Lasqueti into the future, practically and spiritually. Thierry says, “I was born in a land that’s



been so completely defaced and for the most part tamed. Living and working with the land here has been a deep & very personal exploration of stewardship.” Isla says, “equilibrium can be reached here. It’s possible to live close to nature, community, arts and action.”

Thierry comes from a long descent of French settlers, but his feminist mum continually reminded her kids of their Indigenous heritage, “so we wouldn’t forget our roots.” With a music degree and studies in eastern religions, he left the musician life in Montreal to wander abroad—from New Zealand to Mexico to the Rockies and back to Montreal. Soon after relocating to the West Coast, he found Lasqueti through a cob workshop. At the market he and his then partner “ran into the most wonderful human. He was glowing, with his white flowing hair.” It was Arne, who offered a cozy place to sleep—his woodshed. With the season changing, he moved to Seaborne's property and set out working jobs around the island. The lifestyle was growing on him.

One summer day Thierry picked up a hitchhiker headed out for a swim and said, “I could use a swim too!”

Isla grew up in England and Sweden, then moved to Montreal for university. She ended up on Lasqueti because she “had started learning about food sovereignty and foraging and wanted to put that into practice.” It took another year before they met again. Isla had imagined relocating to BC later. It happened earlier than expected!

Now it's her first proper year of gardening and it feels like there's no better place for it. “The world of nitrogen-fixers, hugel-kultur, manure, it’s just so exciting!” Isla also looks forward to working on photo-video and mixed media projects with Lasqueti folks. Less fun is navigating immigration.

Thierry is now operating Hot Stuff with Seaborne. “It’s quite the feeling when you start sharing your skills and contribute towards the community's needs; the circular economy and

reciprocity has sustained me here for 5 years.” Coming here is “unlike anything I’d experienced before. I’ve never lived in a place that tells its story so proudly. People know the stories and live up to the legends—it’s so powerful, to immerse oneself in a place with such a strong sense of identity.” For Isla, “this is the kind of place that if I had thought possible, I would have dreamed of calling home.”

– Suzanne Heron

RIP Snoop the Dog (not the rapper)

Mark brought Snoop to Lasqueti on April Fools Day 2020. Because he’d been at the SPCA for 4 months (and no one wanted his kind of crazy) he was half price! He joined us at the beginning of the pandemic and spent 5 years and 10 days as our farm dog. We gave him a life where he only wore a collar if it was time to go walking to make up for the six years he’d spent chained to a tree.



Snoop was a one of a kind character who came to us as a starved, drugged, pacing, mad creature who pissed on the floor, stood on the kitchen table, killed sheep, chased the cat, jumped on the counters and wrecked the garden but once he understood he had food, shelter and love, he settled and became a respectful guy who slept on his bed, walked well on the leash, and did his job of guarding the farm. He loved the trees, bluffs, moss, ponds, and investigating the smells of deer, otter and mink. He barked at the cat, the mewling sapsuckers and the sheep. He lazed in the sun, had noisy dreams, chewed on bones, and when he could, ate apples, plums, berries, filberts and dirt (a lot of dirt!).

That dog, my beloved Mr Snoop (or Snoop Chan), an inquisitive, loud and affectionate being, saved my life in 2022 when he pulled me over on a forest trail and I sprained my ankle. The injury took me to the doctor and the discovery that cancer was growing in my breasts and my bones. Without him I might have kept thinking the symptoms were perimenopause! My gratitude for his being is truly deep. I know it was reciprocated. We saved each other.

Over the past month he’d shown signs of decline. He was nearly 12 and feeling pain in his

Snoop cont'd from previous page)

hind body and legs. On his last day, he didn't eat and hardly moved. But he tracked me with his eyes and let me know how full of love he was. At 10:15 in the evening he panted his way out of his body, which was left behind, on his bed, in the pose of a deep relaxed sleep. It was a good, if sudden and somewhat unexpected, death. I was right there with him. He was buried in the garden the next morning by Faren, Nigel, Sheila, Peter and Sue (Mark was in Japan and feeling it all from across the Pacific Ocean).

May his flesh and bones make good earth. We'll miss him dearly. - xoJennyV and Mark B

Creatures are my Teachers

A Full Moon, A Menagerie, and a Tab of Acid

"One pill makes you taller, and one pill makes you small; on one you'll see a llama, and then a waterfowl."

A soft spring night and the scent of blossoms. It was a perfect time to drop acid and explore the backyard.

When I stepped outside, I forgot who I was. Everything was new. I continued into this stranger's yard and sat down to wonder. There were apparitions around me. A llama was lying beside the chair. Her teeth protruded bizarrely over her upper lip. She kept nodding off and each time her head drooped, she jerked herself awake.

It felt like there was a duckling on my shoulder nibbling my earring. It was so real that I could almost feel its down against my neck. "Wow man," I said. "This acid is some good shit."

A deer approached and touched her lips to the strings of a banjo that was in my lap. I strummed, and she jumped back. I plinked a tune and found that I could play.

Cherry blooms were glowing in moonlight. The tree was full of tiny chickens. A rooster crowed at the moon.

Looking down, I saw lambs lying on my bare feet like slippers. Behind me, an owl hooted wisely.

"Groovy," I said. "I wish I could live inside this vision."

A frog croaked, and somehow, I knew which one. I sensed it lived in a planter beside a door and had one eye.

I wanted to explore these apparitions, but there was this duckling on my shoulder. I reached to put her down, and my hand went right through. I tried

again, and she felt solid. Her eyes sparkled with moonlight. Her feet were like batwings and felt like leather in my hand.

I crouched before the llama and touched her huge nose. She leaned in for a scratch. My hand was on fire, but she didn't flinch.

At sunrise, I woke up in bed. When I stepped outside, a llama and lambs came running for handouts. A duckling popped out of her box and peeped. Small chickens were jumping out of the cherry tree. I looked in the planter. Yep, a one-eyed frog.

I lived inside the vision, after all. I was a member of a menagerie and held a position more exalted than a queen. All hail the quartermaster.

- Jay Rainey

22nd Annual Dance Performance & Costume Ball

Friday, June 27th, Saturday June 28th in Denise's studio. There is limited space, so seating reservations are recommended. Details to follow in the next Xwe'tay News.



Izzy Harrington

Doug Hamilton and Penny Sadler last month at the launch of Doug's new book: *Who shot Estavan Light?*

Community Calendar

May 17: FBS Spring Fling Fundraiser

May 17: Lip Sync, at the Hall.

May 31: LCA AGM. 1pm, at the Hall.

June 6: Covid booster, 11:30 – 3:45, JFC

June 6: 11:30 -3:45; June 7: 9 – 12:30; General Immunizations. JFC

June 27, 28: 22nd Annual Dance Performance and Costume Ball

July 4 – 5: Arts Fest

July 17: Old Time Chautauqua.

Nurse's clinic: **Thurs, 11am - 3pm

LINC's spring and summer events.

Want to learn more about that bird you just heard? Sunday, May 4th come for a bird walk with Pierre Geoffroy from 8:30 – 10:30. We will meet at the Judith Fisher Centre and walk from there to some special birding spots. Pierre has family on Lasqueti and has been the Reviewer for e-Bird from Powell River (Lasqueti's e-bird region) for many years.

LINC's AGM will take place at 11 am on May 31 at the JFC. Come on out to hear about all the work LINC has been doing over the last year. Afterwards join us for a guided walk around the recently protected Marine Island with a representative of the BC Parks Foundation. LINC has just completed a planning document for Marine Island and a forest age study. We will share some of the information we've recently collected on the history of the old forest on Marine Island. It's a complicated puzzle.

Join us on June 25th to view a thought-provoking film about what happens when well-meaning conservationists accidentally unearth a First Nation's ancient village site in the Kootenays and how the issue was happily resolved. This award-winning film is called "Snk'mip Dig Deeper". Viewing will be at 7pm on June 25th at the Art Center.

Mary Palmer, former owner of Jedidiah Island, recently passed away. This is also the 30th anniversary of the establishment of Jedidiah Island Provincial Marine Park and in late August LINC will be sponsoring a celebration of Mary's astounding gift to the people of BC. Plans are taking shape now and will include boat rides to and from Jedidiah Island, speakers and guided hikes around the island. Stay tuned as more details are solidified.

The big conservation news on Lasqueti is the announcement by the BC Parks Foundation of the purchase of two large parcels of land next to Salish View Nature Reserve and the Pt. Young Conservation Site. These two parcels of land, including Squitty Bay Park, increased the total area of conserved land surrounding Squitty Bay to a whopping 568 acres. We are thankful to the BC Parks Foundation and very grateful for the foresight and generosity of Philippe and Alysha for the conservation of Mystic Ridge and to Wayne Bright for his years of dedicated stewardship of his forest and lands. For more info:

<https://bcparksfoundation.ca/press-room/bc-parks-foundation-spearheads-largest-terrestrial-conservation-area-on-gulf-islands-with-local-landowners-and-partners/>

Harbingers of Spring

Yes yes, you may have heard,
another opalescent pewter shaded day,
of torrential rain, blustery gales
and endless rows of white topped waves.

Atmospheric rivers, are at fault they say.
Let's not dwell on blame...

Instead, just ignore this turmoil as do the flashing
herring gulls and leaping orca males,
whose six-foot dorsal tips droop like black slack
mourning winter sails...

Yes spring is almost here,
the trees pink and white blossomed,
that's cherry, pear and plum
And one can't wait to kiss

the cool stiff pucker of silken tulip lips,
to bury your sun burnt nose
into the scent drenched speckled centre
of an early season rose...

After the gale the evening lagoon is suddenly
still,
and glows like avocado coloured polished sea
glass.

The soft muted air is filled with drifting gold
specks, tree pollen that makes me sneeze
This startles the buzzing bumble flight of an early
pollen starved fat torso yellow striped bee.

... Yes yes, an old man's fancy does turn to
growing things,
the explosion of every shade of green.
This we simply and loosely label as spring.
He finds a spot in the sun,
deeply feels the sap shiver, and runs
and sings. - *Dolf Schoenmakers*



Sue Ashcroft



More than a mural . . .

Everyone coming to the island will see that this community is taking steps to “sharing the land in a good way.”

THANKS

from Dolf and Suzanne

We want to hear from you!

Islands Trust 2026-27 Budget

Share your thoughts on how the upcoming Islands Trust budget for 2026-27 can best support the Islands Trust’s work to preserve and protect the unique amenities and environment of the Trust Area.

Your input matters!

Learn more about the budget process and complete the online survey by scanning the QR code, or visit www.islandstrust.bc.ca/budget

You can also share your comments by phone or pick up a paper copy of the survey at any Islands Trust office.



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The Esoterics are Back at it Again

After approximately two long decades without competing, the Lasqueti Esoterics assembled a fresh new team (with some original Esoterics players) to hit the fields of Nanaimo to compete in the Udder Bowl Tournament. For two days the Esoterics battled strong winds and tough competition, playing seven games in total. Although they came away with only one win, the Lasqueti Esoterics received the Spirit of the Game Award for the tournament. This award is given to the team that demonstrates exceptional sportsmanship and fair play; it emphasizes respect, adherence to the rules, and enjoyment of the game over a win-at-all-costs mentality.

During the course of the tournament, as well as over the past two months of preparations, there has been incredible individual improvement as well as improved team cohesion. Hungry for more, the team has set its sights on future competitive play. If it's not apparent by now, let's just say: "Lasqueti's got the power, baby!"



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 - 5			10 - 5		
Life Drawing			7 - 9				
Nurse					11 – 3**		
Parsimony & Providence		2 - 6			2 - 6	2 - 6	
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		
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			

*Nurses clinic: May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

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 MONDAY, THURSDAY,
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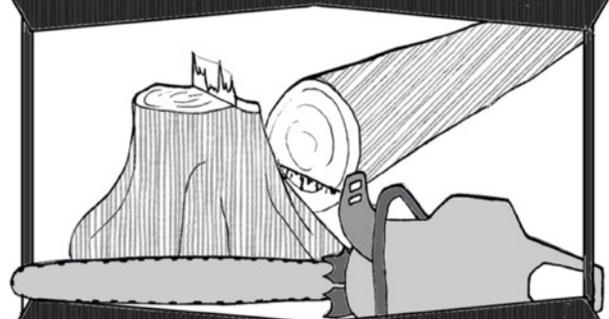
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