



The  
**LASQUETI  
ISLAND  
LOCAL**



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"Lasqueti Island Local"  
is a community  
supported newsletter,  
the articles/ads are  
written by community  
members and  
representatives of  
our local government.

The contents do not  
necessarily represent  
the views of the  
editor/publisher

**View online at:**  
[www.lasquetilocal.ca](http://www.lasquetilocal.ca)

"Kindness is the  
language which the  
deaf can hear and  
the blind can see." –  
Mark Twain

**FALL FAIR: SAT. SEPT 17TH**

**Community Hall - 1pm until  
we run out of steam.**



Come to play, eat, showcase, compete  
and dance! All day action, capped off  
with the Roctane band from Nanaimo.

Let's eat a meal together - dinner will  
feature local pig and lamb and vegetarian  
chili. During the day, soup, homemade  
bread, corn and desserts will be available.  
Plan to have fun in the kid's races, relay  
race (create a four-person team – details  
on the trials and tribulations to be  
announced later), and of course the  
legendary North vs. South tug-o-war.

The Fall Fair is a community effort –  
together we can create a diverse, fun-  
packed day. If you would like to  
contribute, we welcome volunteers to  
help with set up, during the event and the  
next-day cleanup. If you want to  
showcase your produce (food or  
otherwise), or have ideas for an activity,  
contact us. Musicians are welcome to  
bring instruments to jam during the day.

The Fall Fair is a fundraiser for the  
Community Hall and organized and run  
by volunteers - all proceeds and donations  
are for hall improvements.

More details to follow. Jenny V (8601,  
[jennyv@lasqueti.ca](mailto:jennyv@lasqueti.ca)), Lisa J, and Andrew  
F (8595 or [andrew@gowlland.ca](mailto:andrew@gowlland.ca))

**IT'S LASQUETI CRITICAL MASS!**

Sun, Sep 4, 11am, Meet at Teapot Corner

Critical mass is a social bike ride that  
originally started as way for cyclists to feel  
safe in numbers, thus raising awareness of  
the need for safer riding conditions. It has  
since grown into various expressions in  
many different countries.

We will journey together on wheels of two  
(or three), for a fun loop ride, with a swim  
and beach picnic at Conn Bay.

Feel free to decorate yourself and/or your  
bike for the fun of it! All bicycles and  
riding abilities welcome. Bring ample  
drinking water.

Questions? [crawford\\_heather@yahoo.com](mailto:crawford_heather@yahoo.com)  
/ (250) 228-6892

I support the free and open expression  
Of multiple points of view,  
Even those I disagree with.  
This is one of the pillars of a free society.

Tom W.

**ELEMENTAL  
ELECTRIC**

**SALES,  
DESIGN AND INSTALLATION:**  
**Solar Systems  
Residential & Marine Wiring**

MORE INFORMATION GIVE US A CALL:  
**RONAN: 250-240-1198 | JUDY: 250-650-9649**  
**Email: [ronan1@shaw.ca](mailto:ronan1@shaw.ca)**



## ISLANDS TRUST ALL-CANDIDATES MEETING

**On Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 7 - 9pm**, an all-candidates meeting will be hosted at the hall. With the local government election approaching on October 15, the LCA is pleased to host its customary All Candidates Meeting to allow the public hear from the candidates for Lasqueti Island's Trustee (Islands Trust) and Regional Director (qathet Regional District).

Each candidate will be allowed a short opening statement. This will be followed by questions from the public to one or more candidates. At the end, candidates will also be allowed a short closing statement. The event will be moderated by the LCA executive.

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Islands Trust

**NOTES FROM TIM:** At the final meeting of the Local Trust committee, August 29th, we opted to put the OCP Project on hold until after the election, October 15. We have several referrals requested of the Area Planning Commission about the OCP but were unable to appoint a new APC due to a lack of people expressing interest. The APC serves an important advisory role to our local government, so please consider putting in an expression of interest when the next request comes out, likely in October's paper.

If you'd like to know more about the APC, please ask Peter, me, or any former Trustee or APC member. We also requested staff to prepare amendments to the Meeting Procedures Bylaw for review at the next meeting and heard an update from our Senior Freshwater Specialist.

The next meeting is November 28, following the election in October. I'll be skipping Trustee notes for October while the election period is open, but if re-elected I'll resume reporting then. In the meanwhile, get out and talk to your local candidates, and be sure to vote in October. And please consider joining the APC!

Thank you for all of your support during this term as your Trustee.

Tim Peterson



Islands Trust

**NOTES FROM PETER:** The last scheduled meeting of the current Lasqueti Trust Committee will have been held on August 29. The draft minutes from it will be available when the agenda package for the first LTC meeting of the next term is published, about a week before its current scheduled date, November 28. The agenda package for the August meeting will still be available on the Trust web site, and a recording of the meeting will probably be posted there by the time you read this, or very shortly afterwards.

The Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee (to give it its full legal name) is a separate, legally constituted body of the Islands Trust, with responsibility for land use planning for Lasqueti and its surrounding islands. It is obligated to comply with the Trust object or mandate ("to preserve and protect ...") and with the Directive policies of the Trust's Policy Statement, but other than that it is independent and free to follow community wishes, or whatever the wisdom of the two locally elected trustees and the chair (appointed by the chair of the Trust Council from the trustees elected to the Executive Committee) happens to be. LTC meeting agenda package and meeting recording will be at <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/event/lasqueti-island-local-trust-committee-16/>

Trust Council's last meeting of the term is September 20 to 22. Delegations and Public Comment session is Tuesday evening 7 to 9pm, Sept 20. The entire meeting is held electronically. The agenda package will be posted about September 13, and information about how to listen (by telephone, toll-free) or listen and watch (via the internet) will be posted at <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/event/trust-council-sept-2022/>

Trust Council is made up of the 26 trustees elected from the 13 islands (including Bowen Island Municipality) that make up the Islands Trust. They set broad policy and review the activities at meetings held four times each year (with one additional meeting after local elections to orient trustees). The Executive Committee, four trustees elected by Trust council (chair and three vice-chairs) look after Trust Council business between Council meetings, aided by the Chief Administrative Officer and senior staff members.

If anyone has questions or comments, please let one of your trustees know, or all of us and our planner at [LasquetiIslandLocalTrustCommittee@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:LasquetiIslandLocalTrustCommittee@islandstrust.bc.ca)

It has been, mostly, a pleasure to serve as one of your trustees for seven of the past ten years. I will continue to be involved in community and island issues. My term ends on the day that the newly elected trustees are sworn in, probably at the beginning of the November 1 to 3 Trust council meeting to be held in Victoria. Peter

### ISLANDS TRUST CONTACT INFORMATION:

- Islands Trust Northern Office  
700 North Road, Gabriola Island, BC V0R 1X0

Email: [northinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:northinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca)

Phone: 1-250-247-2063

WEBSITE: [www.islandstrust.bc.ca](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca)

- Peter Johnston  
Email: [pjohnston@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:pjohnston@islandstrust.bc.ca)  
Phone: 250-333-8785
- Tim Peterson  
EMAIL: [tpeterson@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:tpeterson@islandstrust.bc.ca)  
PHONE: 250-607-7094

### To reach the LTC trustees and planner:

[LasquetiIslandLocalTrustCommittee@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:LasquetiIslandLocalTrustCommittee@islandstrust.bc.ca)



qathet  
REGIONAL DISTRICT

### REGIONAL DISTRICT NEWS

The scattering golden hues of the first falling leaves portend changes soon to come.

**LIVFD Dispatch System Survey:** Thanks to everyone who filled the survey. I don't yet know when the results will be released. There are no Board meetings in Oct (due to the election), so results might not be released until Nov.

**LIVFD Honourariums:** I continue to advocate for fair and full allocation of honourariums for all LIVFD members. The next step is for staff to recommend a draft policy to the Board (with input from regional fire chiefs). A timeframe for this hasn't yet been provided to the Board. When this draft honourarium policy comes before the Board, there will be an opportunity for public input, and potential for the Board to make revisions as needed.

**Election Candidacy (Election Day: Oct 15):** I have submitted my candidacy papers, and so have officially stepped up to run again as your Regional Director. Last month, I outlined the main topics on which I would like

to focus if I am re-elected, including completing the dispatch issue, working on equitable allocation of LIVFD honourariums, working with LIVFD on emergency incident location/mapping, clarifying the community preferences for use of the parking lot near the Arts Centre, and improving waste management. In addition, I would continue to work with the qRD to liaise with the Connected Coast and LIAS regarding the fibre optic project underway to improve internet connection in rural coastal communities, including public consultation as early in the process as possible (I will write on this once I have any new information).

If there are other regional issues of interest to you, please let me know.

### Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) convention: Sept 12-16

I will be attending the UBCM convention to work with local governments from across BC to advocate to the Province on issues of interest to communities (or to argue against advocacy proposals from other local governments that are not supportable). The qRD Board will also meet with Minister Heyman, Ministry of Environment, to advocate for the Province to take more action to prevent Styrofoam from entering the sea where it harms the marine ecosystem and food supply (as well as for the Province to help marine-based businesses to transition to more benign alternatives).

I will only be able to return from UBCM on the afternoon of the 16th – the day before the Fall Fair (on Sat the 17th). This means that the Fall Fair team needs additional help with set up and organization – please consider stepping up to help.

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

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

**Let's Talk Trash**

**September 2022 - History of the Free Store:** Sometime in the early 1970's, Noel Taylor came up with the concept of a "Shop Swap" as a way for the locals to share the stuff they had hidden in their sheds, shops and attics. The first one was at the Legion (now the Arts Center grounds) and people brought boxes full of treasures (and some junk) to buy, sell and trade. While it was highly successful in

moving stuff from one household to another, it also left Noel with a mountain of leftovers she didn't want to be responsible for. Having visited the Free Store on Hornby, she figured Lasqueti could create its own and so she set about finding a place.

She collaborated with Nancy Varney who had a small cabin near the yellow house in False Bay (on the hill above Provisions where Anneliese lives now). After some minor repairs to the two-room shack, it was filled with stuff and dubbed the Lasqueti Free Store. Run entirely by volunteers, twice a year it would get a thorough going through - the garbage was taken to the dump and the remaining donations were reorganized. I've heard tales from my peers of how it was also a place they would party and how the donations were often wet and the space disgusting.

When Noel became Regional Director in the early 1980's, she arranged land to be leased from the Magic Mountain Land Co-op for the Fire Hall. Later, permission was given for a Free Store to set up next to the Fire Hall. Noel designed the building and Jim Drake built it. The Regional District paid for the construction. In 1993, Noel furnished it with her dad's leftover dressers, mirrors and shelves. It wasn't until 1996 that the first solid waste sub-plan was prepared for Lasqueti by the Powell River Regional District (now the qRD), but locals were already set up to reduce their waste by having a space to help recirculate some goods.

The Free Store continued to be run on a volunteer basis until Vic and Chris Lacey were hired by the qRD as the first Waste Managers. Noel tried to organize volunteers to keep the space clean and tidy but volunteer energy dropped away now that a paid employee was involved.

Originally, the Recycling/Refundable section out back of the Free Store was opened as a way for the Waste Manager to make some extra money.

In the fifty years since that first "Shop Swap", the Free Store has become a part of the local scene and a key way for locals to avoid throwing out useable. We've all found amazing treasures there. However, since its inception, it's also been abused and used as a place to dump items with minimal or no reuse value (aka garbage). Last month, for instance, Waste Manager Mark took two truckloads of unusable donations to the trash barge.

To keep the amazing resource of our Free Store available to locals, we all need to do our part. Do not donate items that are ripped, stained, perishable, have missing parts, or

are broken. When you 'shop' at the Free Store, keep it tidy, and even make that extra effort to clean up after others that haven't been as mindful. Please donate only during hours of operation so staff can help you.

Reminder: There is a monthly garbage barge service for waste on the 2nd Wednesday of every month (details below).

**Trash Removal System:** The 2nd Wednesday of every month is trash removal day at False Bay barge ramp. 10:00 am until the barge is full. September 14th is the next trash removal date. Any changes due to weather will be posted on the email list, FB Lasqueti Hotwire, and the Lasqueti website.

No construction materials, renovation or demolition waste, prohibited waste, organics, recyclable material or stewardship materials are permitted. \$5 per bag, \$25 per average truckload. Mattresses and boxsprings \$15 each. Please call Mark if you have any questions. 8601 or 250 240 9886

**Recycling Depot:** Spring/Summer Hours April 1- Oct 31st

- Mon 10 am - 2 pm, Thursdays 1 - 5 pm,  
Fri 10 am - 4 pm

Closed on Statutory Holidays. All recycling is monitored. Please bring it CLEAN and DRY and SORTED.

**Free Store:** Spring/Summer Hours April 1- October 31st

- Monday 10 am - 2 pm and Thursday 1 - 5 pm

Please respect the signs. Drop donations during open hours so they can be quarantined. Outstanding items only, i.e. clean, usable clothing and household items. Please, NO food, garbage, recycling, TV's, soft foam, batteries, electrical devices, mattresses or hazardous materials, ie: chemicals, fluorescent light tubes, prescription/non-prescription drugs, or pills in general. There are recycling programs on Vancouver island for many of these materials.

**Recycle BC Website:** [www.recyclebc.ca/what-can-i-recycle](http://www.recyclebc.ca/what-can-i-recycle)

**Return-It Beverage Depot open 24/7 Front left of Free Store.** It's not part of Mark's contract to deal with refundable beverages. He no longer accepts glass (beer, wine, hard liquor) containers. Please take these over yourself. He'll continue to accept aluminum beer, cider, pop cans, coconut water cans, boxed wine cartons (leave them intact) and tetra juice packs, including (rinsed) milk and milk substitute containers, Please leave the caps on and push the straws in.

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions for me and the qRD Let's Talk Trash team, please get in touch. Jennyv@lasqueti.ca or 8601



Nursing Clinic located at the Judith Fisher Centre  
 Email address: [LasquetiHealthCentre@gmail.com](mailto:LasquetiHealthCentre@gmail.com)  
 Nurse: Dianne McClure RN/MN  
 Cell: 250-240-5712 Home: 250-752-7419  
 Clinic phone (during clinic hours): 250-333-8891  
 Hours: Drop in Thursday from 11:00am-3:00pm

**CLINIC DATES:**

	M	T	W	THU	FRI	S	S
SEP				1 - AWAY			
				8 - AWAY			
				15 - IN			
				22 - IN			
				29 - IN			

I will be away from the clinic the first 2 Thursdays of September but will be available for consultation by phone or email.

This month's health article will review a common health concern...Too much ear wax!

Ear wax impaction is when ear wax builds up enough to cause symptoms. Normally, ear wax helps to protect the insides of the ears and prevents injury or infection. But having too much ear wax can cause symptoms like trouble hearing and sometimes pain. The medical term for ear wax is "cerumen."

Young children and older adults are more likely than others to have ear wax impaction.

**Several different things can cause ear wax impaction:**

- Diseases that affect the ear – Some health problems can affect the shape of the inside of the ear, and make it hard for wax to move out. For example, skin problems that cause skin cells to shed a lot can lead to wax build-up in the ears.
- A narrow ear canal – In some people, the ear canals are narrower than in others. These people might be more likely to have ear wax impaction. A person's ear canal can

become narrower after an ear injury or after severe or multiple ear infections.

- Changes in ear wax and lining due to aging – As people get older, their ear wax gets harder and thicker. This makes it more difficult for the wax to move out of the ear as it normally should.
- Ear-cleaning habits – Some people try to clean their ears using cotton swabs (Q-Tips) or other tools. This can actually push the wax deeper into the ear instead of getting it out. Over time, this can cause ear wax impaction.
- Making too much ear wax – Some people make more ear wax than others. This can happen when water gets trapped in the ear, or when the ear is injured. But some people just have a lot of ear wax for no obvious reason.

**Symptoms of ear wax impaction include:**

- Trouble hearing
- Pain in the ear
- Feeling like the ear is blocked or plugged
- Hearing a ringing noise in the ear

These symptoms can happen in 1 or both ears.

*Should I see a Doctor or Nurse?* Yes. If you or your child have any of these symptoms, see a doctor or nurse. They can check the insides of the ears to figure out if the symptoms are caused by ear wax impaction or another problem, such as an ear infection.

*Should I clean my (or my child's ears) at home?* No. The insides of the ears do not usually need to be cleaned. Sticking anything into the ears can push the wax in deeper and cause impaction.

"Ear candling" involves lighting 1 end of a hollow candle and putting the other end in the ear. Ear candling is not recommended for ear wax removal. It does not remove ear wax and can even cause ear injuries and burns.

*How can ear wax impaction be treated?* There are several treatments to remove impacted ear wax. Doctors and nurses offer these treatments only to people who have bothersome symptoms. They do not recommend treatments for removing ear wax in people who have no symptoms, even if they have ear wax impaction.

In some cases, doctors and nurses will remove ear wax in people whose ears are impacted and who aren't able to let others know if they have symptoms or not. This can

include young children, and people who are confused or have trouble communicating, including some older adults.

### **There are several different ways to remove ear wax:**

- Ear drops – Special ear drops can soften ear wax and help it to drain out. Ear drops are NOT usually safe for people with an ear infection or damage to the eardrum.
- Rinsing – In some cases, a doctor or nurse can remove impacted ear wax by squirting water (or another liquid) into the ear to rinse it out.
- Special tools – A doctor or nurse might use a special tool to remove ear wax. There are different types of tools that can do this safely.

Best, Dianne

### **CACAO CEREMONY, SAT, SEPT 24TH, 10AM, COMMUNITY HALL, BY DONATION**

Come enjoy the open-heart space, gathering spirit and vital energy that cacao helps to generate, as we set our intentions and welcome in the fall equinox together. Expect authentic connecting, song, dance and general merriment, as we imbibe the ancient drink of meso-american gods.

Optional potluck to follow. Bring a good amount of drinking water. Please RSVP to [crawford\\_heather@yahoo.com](mailto:crawford_heather@yahoo.com) / (250) 228-6892

### **WHAT'S NEW AT THE ART GALLERY**

Many thanks to all of you who have participated in and enjoyed this summer's art offerings.

#### ***Here's what's on for September:***

**Sept 1<sup>st</sup> - 18th:** a body of work made over the past year on Lasqueti island and at the Icelandic textile center by Julia Woldmo, visual artist and folkloric maker

**Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> - 17th:** *Salt on a Daydream* A body of work by Julia Woldmo crafted and constellated within a magic nook on Lasqueti Island - weavings woven under the Icelandic midnight sun.

Bask and linger in a web of drawings, paintings, clay and cloth united by salt.

'Salt on a Daydream' runs from September 3 (Sat.) until September 17 (Sat.). Opening gathering September 9 (Fri.) from 6:30-9:00 - artist present at Saturday markets for the duration of the show.

**Sept 22 - October 19th:** *Into The Painted Forest*, a group show of story exploration, magic and meaning. Paintings by Jenny V, Jenna Jade, Karla Lironi, Nalia, Cathe Gilchrist, Carly P, Mary McRae, Sophia

This work comes out of an exploration of personal story and its connection to collective myth. Last fall and winter we engaged in a weekly practice of working with art as spiritual practice. Each artist chose a story and let that story guide them. The paintings are like maps of a territory that the artist has explored.

Fairytales and myths are collective dreams, and when we engage with them, they engage with us on an unconscious level. We learn from the hidden wisdom they embody, and they offer us a pathway through what can feel like an impenetrable forest in ourselves.

We all allow ourselves to express some emotions, energy states and thoughts but not others - in the same ways some parts of our bodies move easily and others might be stiff or blocked. A story will lead us toward whatever wants to be expressed even if it is outside of our habits of expression, comfort zone, and/or consciousness. Sometimes we have cognitive understanding of the relevance in our lives and sometimes it remains a mystery, but regardless, something has come through us and is now moving with us in the world.

These paintings may be aesthetically pleasing or not, they may stand alone as objects or not. They were each done in a single 2-3 hour session. Their main objective is to tell a story from and to the painter themselves. We have all been trained to evaluate art as to whether we like it or not, or to judge it according to a set of aesthetic criteria. It is our hopes that you will let those habits of judgement be along for the ride but that you will also breathe a bit deeper and allow something else in you to relate these works, something that doesn't need to form an opinion but simply lets another person's creative journey speak to you and perhaps inspire your own.

As of September 21st, the gallery will be available to rent for yoga classes, workshops, meetings, concerts, films, literary events etc. Studio space is available for working visual artists.

Gallery 4\$/hr, studio 3\$/hr plus 1\$/hr for generator use (both spaces). To book either space contact Valeria 250 240 0866 or email.

## LCA HOUSEKEEPING

We have several important housekeeping items to communicate to the membership. Anyone who has anything to do with our community hall or the LCA, please read and take note of the updates to our policies and methods of correspondence.

Our beautiful and upgraded community hall is being used again! With the return to regular rentals, we are imminently revising the Hall Use Policy as well as drafting a HUG (Hall Users Guide) to simplify the experience of renting the hall for all involved. Please continue to ensure that the Hall is in even better shape than it was when you arrived to prepare for your event. There are several guidelines posted on the wall to provide direction – please read these and follow them.

For all hall booking inquiries, please contact Sue Wheeler at [sue@lasqueti.ca](mailto:sue@lasqueti.ca) or 250-333-8785. She will also receive your rental payments.

**A note to our amazing volunteers and committees:** please make sure your expenses are approved before planning to invoice the LCA. An important part of our existing policy is, in fairness, to offer paying jobs to the public membership before privately hiring someone. We are blessed with a dedicated membership, and there have been many successful volunteer initiatives in this last year or two, including important hall upgrades and grants for community enrichment. Please communicate with our board of directors through our group email at [lca@lasqueti.ca](mailto:lca@lasqueti.ca) so we can work together to complete necessary paperwork and funding. We manage transactions and applications, communicate with the qRD, Parks Canada, the chain of bureaucracy in French Creek Harbor, our local MP, and work with our local First Responders; there is a lot of time spent behind the scenes to stay on top of housekeeping. We appreciate everyone who has followed through with their commitments and projects, and always welcome new members and volunteers.

To become a member, send \$10 to [lasquetilcatreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:lasquetilcatreasurer@gmail.com). Any donations can also be sent to this address, and yes - we provide tax receipts! You may also send treasury-specific inquiries and messages to this email address. *\*Please refrain from sending LCA-related letters to our personal email addresses\**

**Projects currently in the works include:**

- fencing off the hall grounds
- building a permanent roof structure over the outdoor stage
- improving the roof of the generator shed
- upgrading the sound system now that the hall acoustics have improved
- installing an Emergency Storage Container near the old generator shed. This will be a shipping container delivered to the Hall containing emergency supplies such as first aid gear, portable work lights, emergency sanitation, and non-perishable food. Additionally, there will be room for storing more items should the community wish to do so. This initiative is in cooperation with the qRD.

We are also seeking applicants for the position of custodian; see our posting of the job description and send us an expression of interest if this opportunity appeals to you. Thank you to our interim custodian Nick Hohol for the energy he contributed to the hall this summer.

See you at our Fall Fair on September 17th!

-The LCA Board of Directors

### **THE LCA IS SEEKING A NEW HALL MAINTENANCE STEWARD**

Desired skills and attributes include:

- Responsible and detail-oriented
- Clear and open communication with Hall users and collaborators
- General handy-person abilities, including comfort with power tools and willingness to bring your own when needed
- Able to lift up to 30 kilos and climb ladders
- Full-time Lasqueti resident
- Access to reliable vehicle to transport propane, diesel, etc.
- Willing to respond quickly for time-sensitive issues (essential equipment malfunctions, freezing weather precautions, etc.). Back-up for vacation, etc., will be arranged.

Duties include monitoring all systems, cleaning, groundskeeping, and light repairs. Some direct coordination with Hall users and volunteers is involved, but much of the work is self-directed and solitary. Although consultation and support is available and encouraged, the right individual will manage the majority

of Hall maintenance with little supervision, following a training period.

Remuneration is negotiable and includes the satisfaction of performing an essential role in the community. Hours are few but flexible (an average of 2-3 hours per week), so this is ideal for a person with other employment, or semi-retired. Training will be provided.

Please send a note of interest, with details of relevant work experience and 2 local references to: lca@lasqueti.ca, or via the local Post Office to the LCA. Closing date for this position is September 14th.

## UPDATE FROM THE XWE'ETAY/LASQUETI ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT

### Bringing communities together through archaeology



“The fish traps are cool, but what is really neat is getting to gather with our First Nations neighbours” – Island resident, August, 2022.

It's full out harvest time in my garden and I am both daily grateful for the bounty and a bit tired by the on-going processing of the abundance. So too with our summer of archaeological fieldwork and community engagement: so rich, so full, and so much to be grateful for, but also a bit tiring when I think of all we accomplished!

I've written updates on the “dirt archaeology” parts of our project throughout the summer for the email list, social media, and the Local, and I will write more this winter as we get back the results of the radiocarbon analyses that will tell us how old the sites are. What I'd like to share now are some reflections on the power of community-centered archaeology to heal, to break down barriers, and to create mutual respect and new relationships.

Even though I recognize the “cool factor” in archaeology, what has always drawn me to archaeology is its potential to bring communities together. For Indigenous people, archaeology is a chance to connect with their ancestral practices and places. For settlers, it's a way to imagine the diversity and richness of past lives lived in the places that they now call home. For all people, archaeology

provides a tangible way to imagine the intangible past. With that often comes a greater appreciation of how past knowledge and practices can enrich our lives today.

There are several ways in which the Xwe'etay/Lasqueti Archaeology Project (XLAP) team engages actively with the vast potential of archaeology. First, and foundational to our project, is the many on-going discussions with island landowners, land group board members, and other residents about Indigenous heritage. These discussions involve sharing information on our archaeological findings and talking about the ethical and legal responsibilities of landowners with archaeological sites on their property. Underlying most discussions is an eagerness to learn about the past as reflected in the archaeological record, and an interest in meaningful acts of reconciliation. However, these conversations can also address ungrounded fears and/or structural racism about First Nations and what will happen if we recognize their millennia-old connections to Xwe'etay/Lasqueti.

More engaging than having these discussions in the abstract is, of course, doing so over a pile of dirt at an archaeological site. Since a fundamental goal of the XLAP project is to find out as much as possible about Xwe'etay's past while minimizing disturbance to archaeological sites, we don't do large-scale excavations that would produce those piles. Instead, we extract small diameter cores and dig small (40cm x 40 cm) excavation units. We have also taken advantage of places where landowners have inadvertently disturbed archaeological sites. This has provided chances for Lasquetians and our First Nations partners to get their hands dirty screening and excavating. Touching the past in this way is an moving and powerful way for people to see and think about the land differently and to rethink their responsibility towards it. As one local said to me after our work in Long Bay three years ago:

“Lasquetians often regard themselves as uniquely connected to the place. It is easy to miss the concept that there were other people who were deeply connected there for a longer time that we can conceive of. It seems that we have a choice of viewpoints: we can either connect to, and embrace, and guard that rich pre-Contact heritage, and make that understanding important to our own connection...Or we can ignore it or dismiss it (or perhaps feel worried by it) and call in the excavator when it is in our way.”



Tla'amin Guardian Watchmen, Bryce Mackenzie, teaching us how to say "Xwe'etay". Bryce's grandma on his Dad's side was a school teacher here in the 1940's.

We have seen over and over in our project that even just gathering around an archaeological site is enough to open these discussions that cross communities. In the summer of 2021, we gathered on Marshall's Beach with several of our Tla'amin neighbours. There, we learned about the fish traps and how the intertidal landscape was managed. But, even more powerful, I think, was that we gathered together – all 80 of us, to say together the ancestral name of Xwe'etay. Most of us said it wrong, I'm sure, but what mattered was the saying of it – and it doing so, acknowledging another people's history and place on our island.

This past summer's fieldwork offered many chances for cross-cultural engagement – large and small. In addition to the work on private properties where we were invited to explore, we organized two powerful inter-community events.

In mid-July, timed for the low-low tide window, we gathered in Squitty Bay to unveil a beautiful plaque that proclaims that, "We honour the ancestral Indigenous Peoples of Xwe'etay". Despite unbelievably stormy weather, community members from five Nations braved the seas to join about 70 Lasquetians to honor the Indigenous past of the island. The plaque was first suggested by Tanis, who rightfully wanted to counter the other plaque at Squitty, which recognizes the "discovery" of the island by the Spanish. This small act – of placing a plaque that honors the Indigenous People of Xwe'etay, was profoundly meaningful to the local Nations who have deep ancestral connections to the island. For many in the settler community, placing the plaque was a small way of recognizing and correcting past "truths" about Lasqueti's history, and in doing so, extending and deepening their own connections to this island.

We gathered in the hall after the unveiling to share food and words and moments of warmth and empowerment. For many in all communities, the day was deeply healing and many spoke of the bridges that were created. As said

by Kim Recalma-Clutesi, whose brother is the hereditary chief of the Qualicum Nation territory that includes Xwe'etay, "our stomachs and our hearts are full". Kim also spoke to all of us to move on together to heal past wrongs.

"You know, we've been fighting for a long time. And we've been advocates for a long time...It's time for us to hear your kind words and your gestures. To hear it and embrace it. But it's also time for you to put the guilt down. Because they're both debilitating... And our path forward is working together. We don't give you permission to [feel guilt]. We give you permission to move forward and do more of what you've done."

All people present recognized that the plaque event was a significant start of that movement forward.



First Nations neighbours from Tla'amin, K'omoks, Qualicum, and Tsimshian Nations gathering around the newly erected plaque at Squitty Bay (photo Kathy Schultz)

Because the plaque event was so successful and because the rains and winds prevented us from visiting clam gardens on that day, we organized another inter-community event in August – this time to visit the clam gardens and fish traps between Higgins and Wolf Islands in False Bay. About 20 community members from Tla'amin and Qualicum and about 60 Lasquetians attended. Some of these First Nations community members had attended the plaque event in July, but many were here for the first time. In fact, there was a long wait list of Tla'amin folks who wanted to make the trip, but there wasn't room in the water taxi. The doors between our community and our neighbours' communities are opening.

We chose False Bay as the location for this outing two reasons: it is relatively easy access (and not so weather-dependent) and it gave us a chance to appreciate the huge Indigenous community that lived in False Bay in the past. The bay is lined with significant shell middens formed

into terraces on which houses sat. We are grateful to the landowners who graciously and enthusiastically invited us on to their property this summer to record the extent of those settlements and to determine how old they are (stay tuned!). The clam gardens on the False Bay side of the Higgs and Wolf shoreline, and the huge fish trap between the two islands, are part of the elaborate food infrastructure system that supported the Indigenous town located in the bay. From our vantage point on the intertidal, looking back at the dock, we imagined the thriving community that lived there for millennia. While imagining these connections undoubtedly feels different for the descendant First Nations, recognizing those past lives enriches all of our connections to this place -- and helps open our hearts and minds to each other.

Repeatedly on Xwe'etay, as other places where I have been privileged to work, I have witnessed the social transformations that are brought about through people's interest and curiosity about the past. The archaeology of Xwe'etay is extensive and remarkable -- and recording and recognizing it as we are doing in XLAP gives us a chance to honor the deep Indigenous history it represents. Recognizing the richness of that history opens us up to a variety of emotions, including fear for some, but also humility, awe, and deep respect. When new understandings of the past are embraced, rather than seen as a threat, healing happens. Here on Lasqueti, the healing happens through shared appreciations, through many small conversations, and through mutual respect for the past inhabitants of Xwe'etay and thus for all the people who are connected to the island today.

There is indeed much to be grateful for. Dana Lepofsky



Feast at the hall after the unveiling (photo Emily Cairns)

**\*\*Editors Note:** to view all photos from Xwe'etay/Lasqueti Archaeology Project article please visit: [www.lasquetilocal.ca](http://www.lasquetilocal.ca)

## THE LAST MARKET OF 2022

September 10th, from 10 am - 1 pm at the top of False Bay Hill. If you've been eyeing up a special something from a certain vendor all summer, it's almost your last chance to buy it! Also, if you want to be super helpful at the end, you can help take down the tents (dry weather permitting).

It's been a great season thanks to all the vendors, customers, musicians and artists that make the grounds come alive every Saturday morning. Jenny V

### BAFFLED THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who came out and let themselves be Baffled! Our hearts are full and very grateful for the collective experience we created together in a sea of blues. It's always a little scary to write a list of thank-yous because we are bound to miss someone. Please know that if we missed naming you we didn't miss appreciating you!

Sophia, Julia W, & Aigul for months of cyanotyping sound baffles - & everyone from the community who shared in the creation of the baffles/ hall improvements that inspired this festival. Julia, Morgan M, Faren, Jenny V, for writing the grant, Jenny V, Sophia, Julia, Ginja, Aigul, Shoshanah, Ginja and Rain for dreaming and organizing, Julia for painting our poster, Valeria for painting signs, Dianna Maycock for printing & Ginja for making the flyers, Ken and Dana, Aigul and Natty for hosting our off-island guests

Sue Wheeler for the poetry workshop, Faren for cleaning and sanitizing the kitchen in preparation, Eva for art installations

Set up: Thierry, Benjamin, Danat, Julia, Sophia, Denise, Maud, Eva, Aigul, Anna D, Morgan M, Jenny V

Maud and Anna Dodds- Friday night greeters, Darcy Dobell for Friday night food vending, Rain, Stephen, Aigul and Thierry - kid's parade wranglers, Katrina and Rosetta for stiling All the known and anonymous folks who donated zucchini and blue flowers, thank you! Lesley and Wil 1 - for lots of help and support

Nalia for the rain immersion, Jen Brant for the collective vocal toning, John for your poetic words and flute sounds

Audrey and Dave- kitchen clean up Friday night

Ian Rusconi for sound...and delicious brownies! Sirrett for the Tesseract Sound System

Aigul and Benjamin for grocery shopping

John Martin for portrait photos, cyanotypes, donating a print for the silent auction and so much more! Joy for the silent auction cyanotype jean jacket.

Musicians: Shine, Jennie Taylor, Adrian, Kaia Bryce, Mark Bottomly, Sean Terrell, Ken Lertzman, John Lindsey, Nalia, Barkman, Stephen Western, Pachiell

Dancers: Denise Lieutaghi, Bella Wood, Chaya, Kahllo, Ihla, Shyla, Salum'mia, Akili, Vida, Jenny V, Jenna Jade for dance facilitation

Djs- Beatfarmer and Sirett

Storytellers: JB Williams and Jenny V, Workshop presenters: Ian Giles, Mark Young, Martha Mae, Anneliese,

Donna Lytle for the sound installation, Kristos for the light show, Jen Brant for the indigo vat, Jen O'Connor and Sophia for body art

Shoshanah the superstar coordinating Saturday's food, the many volunteers who helped out with corn and salad: Wendy S, Carson, Mike Purdey, Carly, Eva, Laura, Caroline, Adrian, Jenny V for the salad greens!

Food Vendors: Ty and Ryan, Annica, Sirrett, Izora, Laura Lily, Vida...yummm! Water suppliers: Aigul, Mark B and Cathe G, Cindy & Crysta for the blue bar

Jessica Hepper and Anna Dodds for organizing the gate, Gate folks: Shari, Alex, Heather, Faren, Amanda, Adam, Martha

Ginja for the paint circle, Rain for the Baffled slideshow & video, Faren for keeping track of the pentacles, Jenny V for MCing, Thierry for helping all over and loaning his trucks

Clean up: Sophia, Faren, Jodi, Cathe G, Donna, Joanne, Hillary, Simmah, Heather C, Julia, Thierry, Benjamin, Mark B, Jenny, Aigul, Shoshanah, Jordan, Sirett This was an incredibly vibrant weekend ~ thank you ❤️



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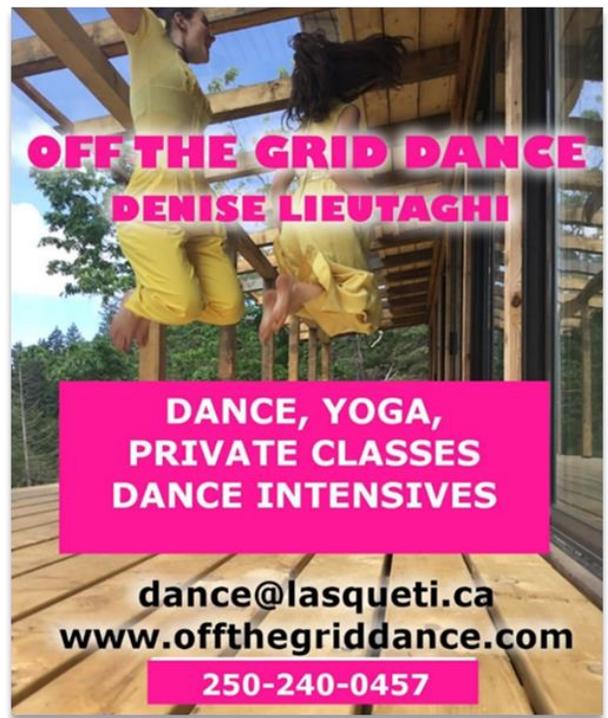


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