

LASQUETI ISLAND RATEPAYER'S ASSOCIATION

General Delivery ~ Lasqueti Island, B. C. ~ VoR 2]o

Lasqueti, most often isolated from the idiosyncrasies of mainstream society, may have become the innocent victim of globalization.

The pandemic and changing climate stand out as the obvious culprits in the spectre of real or imaginary crumbling of life as we once knew it. Rising fuel prices, soaring real estate, looming food shortages, supply chain interruptions, rising sea levels, inflation, homelessness, destruction of old growth forests, Islamic and homo phobia are icing on the cake of unease.

As a community organization, LIRA merely involves itself to finding solutions to comparatively minor problems. Since its incorporation in 1997 LIRA was directly responsible for causing the construction of the boat ramp and obliquely conspired to get the necessary community consensus to pave False Bay hill.

Today, we are engaged in a legal exercise to prevent the privatization of Tucker Bay road. The road was originally built by the province to connect Lasqueti's first steamship wharf, built in 1912, to the rest of the island. The task of assembling the evidence to support our case is 99% complete. We expect the final legal costs will exceed \$40,000. Needless to say, your continued membership and support is appreciated. Tucker Bay provides the only all-tide access on the north side of the island. Not only would it be a shame to lose it, it would be irresponsible to future Lasquetians to let it go.

When the case is concluded we should be free to joust with other windmills. Should a harbour authority be established to be eligible for federal funding to improve False Bay ferry dock?

There are a few things that could make Lasqueti a better place for people but which conflict with the Islands Trust mandate of environmental preservation. Lasqueti has unique features not common with other gulf islands—the most notable being it's comparative isolation and that 95% of it's shoreline is without shelter. Consequently Lasqueti lacks dock space to accommodate the increasing population of boats tied to mooring buoys. The Trust policy with regard to private docks is that their construction theoretically damages the ocean floor. Thus it is an excuse to make war on common sense on

an an island where it is badly needed. A single-family dwelling, on the other hand, uses up more resources than a dock; emits some form of greenhouse gas over its lifetime; and in effect creates a desert equivalent to the square footage of the building. No problem there.

In it's strategic plan the Trust acknowledges the necessity for affordable housing yet legally prohibits renting out a guest cottage which could help ease the problem. Affordable housing is an oxymoron, skyrocketing real estate possibly being the result of billions of dollars slopping around the globe looking for a place to land; and where it does, creates an economic distortion resulting in un-affordable housing and accompanying homelessness.

Judging from the numbers of parked cars and trucks clogging False Bay hill it must be an indication that the population is up. If you are an off-island property owner and leave your car parked in False Bay ten months of the year, please go to the inconvenience of leaving it back on your island property. Inconvenient? Yep. Figure it out because no one is making more parking.

Annual Survey

1. Should property owners be allowed to rent out a guest cottage?
Yes No Don't care
2. Do you think the present five day per week ferry is satisfactory?
Yes No Don't care
3. Would you accept higher ferry fares for a six or seven day service?
Yes No Don't care
- 4: Are you in favour of paving or chip-sealing "kilometre one"?
Yes No Don't care

Please use the enclosed self-addressed envelope for your response.

L . I . R . A.
2021 Annual General Meeting
Will be held on
Saturday, December 4, 2:00 pm
JUDITH FISHER CENTRE
Masks Required

Would you like to join us?

To qualify for membership you must own property on Lasqueti. Where more than one person is the registered owner, or the land is held by a corporation, only one person may vote.

Membership fees are \$20 per year for each qualifying person. Please use the enclosed self-addressed envelope. Thank you.

A note from the President

First I would like to welcome our new members and thank those who have supported LIRA over the years.

The past six years has been quite a slog through the gumbo of provincial bureaucracy. What would seem to be a straight-forward collection of records showing public funds spent and work done on Tucker Bay road and wharf, which the laws of the day state makes it a public road, are no longer enforced by genteel bureaucracy of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. .

Hundreds of hours and innumerable Freedom of Information requests has produced a file four feet thick. The process of sifting through the volume of evidence along with Covid 19 lock-downs and associated delays does nothing to expedite the proceedings. The current board of directors has agreed to stay on to the conclusion of the Tucker Bay road case to ensure continuity. We think a new board of directors would be welcome once we are done with Tucker Bay.

Lasqueti is the most isolated and windy gulf island with few good harbours. As we are completely dependent on marine transportation it is well past time to consider this in light of the heavy greenwashing via the Islands Trust regarding docks and floats. While there are numerous people who believe that Lasqueti is as it is solely because of the Trust, I beg to differ. My father once stated, "When I bought on Lasqueti it was

nothing but an impediment to navigation. Now, some fools have decided it is desirable real estate."

It took 25 years of persistent "engagement" with the Trust just to get zoning for the public multi-use ramp. I was one of the two taking the shots, and one of the three who built it.

On another note the Connected Coast ship, the MV "Canpac Valour" has started laying fiberoptic cables from Prince Rupert to all coastal communities. I have been in touch with them regarding what is called the Last Mile or the hook up to our houses. More on this as it gets closer. Cheers. Karl

News from the Web

A new study by Credit Suisse AG has measured the carbon footprint of household activities and the number of trees needed to be planted annually to offset the resulting CO2 emissions. The study listed 29 activities from using a dish washer to eating chicken. The annual emission footprint from a dishwasher, for example, is 248 kilograms of CO2, while showers in a household over a year produce 308 kg of CO2. To make these numbers more understandable, the Swiss bank introduced the "Treeprint" concept which stands for the number of mature trees needed to offset the emissions associated with a certain activity. Using a dish washer requires the planting of three birch trees per year while for daily showers it is eight trees. And who knew that drinking beer is better for the environment than drinking milk: A daily pint of milk creates 466 kg of CO2 or 11 trees planted; a pint of beer once a day is 285 kg of CO2 or three trees planted each year to offset emissions.

Since the United Nations "Congress of the Parties" (COP26) has concluded that trees are a vital weapon in fighting climate change, cutting live, green Douglas Fir for firewood seems regressive. Burn the junk. Cut the windfalls and dead trees—balsam and alder being the on-island species doomed for early extinction as a result of declining rainfall and hotter summers.

Directors

Karl Darwin, Gail Fleming, Craig McFeely, Barry Parks, Eugenie Pelltier, Jan Darwin, Richard Ayers, Kathy Rogers.