



## Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy

In 2016-17 LINC continued working in our four main areas: education, stewardship, outreach and land protection. Our editor, Izzy, assembled and published three newsletters with informative articles on bats, forage fish, microplastics, beavers, butterflies and more. Thank you to these wonderful writers! All our issues are available on our website at [lasqueti.ca/linc](http://lasqueti.ca/linc).

Squitty Bay Day was another great success with over 100 folks attending the nature walks, going for a tranquil boat ride around the south end and dancing to those awesome marimba musicians. Thank you to the tour & boat leaders!

Wendy Schneible and Sheila Ray received training as covenant monitors at Mt. Trematon and the Johnny Osland Nature Reserves, which LINC must monitor annually.

Young trees were sheltered from heavy sheep grazing with wire cages at Mt. Trematon again by our eager volunteers. On a sunny October day volunteers removed a heritage garden from the Kwel Nature Reserve.

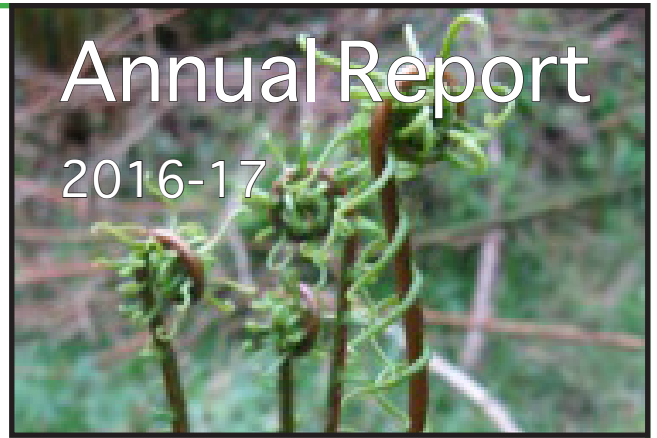
Twice in the year Lasqueti was visited by three biologists who recently received a grant under the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA) to study endangered and rare plant and animal species that may exist on the island. Part of their project includes assisting local conservation groups and providing public education on their findings. These biologists will be returning to Lasqueti again over the next year to continue their research.

Land protection efforts progressed with negotiations for an acquisition with one landowner and discussions of a donated conservation covenant with another.

**We increased both our membership and our bank account during the year with many small donations from islanders and a few larger grants. The community's volunteer involvement and donations are really appreciated! Please support nature protection and land conservation by getting involved with the Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy.**

# Annual Report

## 2016-17





Lasqueti's Ecological Reserve: The site of our 2016 AGM hike!

Most people have heard about cascading effects on ecosystems when a top predator is eliminated from the landscape. When wolves were extirpated from Yellowstone Park in the 1920s elk populations skyrocketed, willows, aspens and small shrubs along streams were over grazed and though it wasn't understood at the time, the famed trout populations of Yellowstone Park started to decline. After sea otters were hunted to near extinction along the west coast of North America, populations of urchins (a main food source for the otter) exploded and started overgrazing kelp to the extent that urchins denuded formerly extensive kelp forests adversely impacting salmon, herring and the whole ocean food web.

Recently we learned of another cascading effect of overgrazing right here on Lasqueti Island caused by two of our most popular introduced species - sheep and bullfrogs. Sheep will graze grass and shrubs right down to the edge of our local ponds and wetlands leaving behind a very nice and neat open meadow edge along the water. Interestingly, this is just the type of habitat that bullfrogs prefer, allowing them to sun themselves, watch for prey and watch for predators (mainly humans). Bullfrogs prey on other amphibians, birds and insects. Sheep graze nearly everything within range of their mouths including new tree seedlings. Both cause loss of animal and plant diversity. The loss of diversity in itself is a great concern, but it is the multiplying effect of sheep and bullfrogs together that really got my attention: we should be planting native trees and shrubs in riparian areas and protect the plants with fencing until they are big enough to survive on their own. Stay tuned for more. - Gordon Scott

Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy  
Financial Statements  
Fiscal Year April 1, 2016 to March 30, 2017  
Prepared without Audit

<u>Balance Sheet</u>			
	2017	2016	2015
<b>Assets</b>			
Credit union account: chequing	\$ 5,507.22	1851.61	1,002.40
Credit union account shares	5.00	5.00	5.00
Cash	599.91	296.02	50.00
Cheques to deposit	0.00	0.00	200.00
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>9,883.32</b>	<b>2292.63</b>	<b>1,257.40</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Accounts payable			466.97
Equity	9,883.32	2292.63	790.43
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>9,883.32</b>	<b>2292.63</b>	<b>1,257.40</b>
<u>Income Statement</u>			
	2017	2016	2015
<b>Revenue</b>			
Memberships	475.00	490.00	145.00
Donations	1876.21	1744.33	1,110.00
Interest	.43	.12	0.19
Fee for Service	3532.18		
Grants	4000.00	1000.00	0.00
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>9568.82</b>	<b>3234.45</b>	<b>1,255.19</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Accounting, legal and insurance	525.00	525.00	25.00
Office expenses	71.38	115.92	104.82
Land Management: Equipment & Supplies	796.05	255.88	155.67
Communication and education	1119.39	835.45	422.48
Land Protection: costs	3412.50		
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>5924.32</b>	<b>1732.25</b>	<b>707.97</b>
<b>Net income for the year</b>	<b>\$ 3644.50</b>	<b>\$1502.20</b>	<b>547.22</b>

**Photos:**

- Above: Ecoreserve, Gordon Scott
- Reverse: Top - deer fern (*Blechnum spicant*), Sheila Ray
- Right: hikers at Squitty Bay Day, Gordon Scott
- Sheila R and Wendy S. covenant monitoring, Gordon Scott
- volunteers planting & maintaining tree protection, Gordon Scott
- volunteers removing heritage garden, Gordon Scott
- Red-legged Frog, Sheila Ray