



Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy

Message from the President

LINC's 2017-18 year began with a well-attended Annual Meeting and hike to Mt. Trematon, including an inspection of the sharp-tailed snake covers. This elusive reptile was not sighted, but we did surprise a couple of dozing garter snakes and alligator lizards.

Squitty Bay Day 2017 was another great success as over 100 folks came out on a gorgeous autumn day to explore and celebrate the wondrous land and seascape of Squitty Bay Park. We are very grateful to all those who provided food, led tours, lectures, boat excursions, provided the music and all those who came out and supported LINC.

While the LINC board likes to have fun, we also make time for the formal monitoring visits to the two properties on which we hold conservation covenants: the Osland Nature Reserve and the Mt. Trematon Nature Reserve. Each year a couple of LINC board members walk the properties with note books and clipboards, recording any significant changes to the natural values of the sites, observing the condition of the flora, noting any fauna or birds, while making a photographic record of the visit.

LINC's newsletters this year covered a wide range of topics of interest to Lasquetians. Visiting biologists wrote an informative article about Species At Risk they are looking for on Lasqueti, including the red-legged frog, Western Toad, Sharp-tailed snake, Screech Owl, Little Brown bat and the Rigid Apple-moss. In the fall issue Dr. Ken Lertzman asked, "How Healthy are Lasqueti's Forests?" He described how humans have impacted the typical cycle of forest change and response by excluding fire, selectively logging the most commercially valuable trees, and allowing overgrazing by feral sheep, resulting in a shift of dominant tree and plant species on Lasqueti. In that same issue Professor Peter Dietsch contributed an encouraging but worrisome story about Lasqueti's LSD (Lasqueti Styrofoam Day) beach clean-up. Bonnie Olesko reminded us that "The shoreline acts as a placenta of nourishment and protection in the critical early stages of almost all marine life." Our Spring issue featured a heart-warming story on rehabilitating Great Blue Herons by Connie Haist. Three newsletters over the year are sent to every rural post box on Lasqueti. If you pick up your mail at the Post Office see the newsletters in the LINC box outside, or you can ask us to send you our newsletter in the mail.

In 2017 BC Provincial Parks provided funds to LINC to repair and up-grade the sheep enclosure fence protecting the Squitty Bay Juniper Reserve. LINC hired a local contractor to assist in the project. The upgraded fence was significantly improved,



2017-2018



though there is still work to be done to exclude these determined herbivores. The visiting SARA biologists also contributed financially to this project.

Recently a crew of LINC volunteers fenced off two small areas next to the lake at the Johnny Osland Reserve and planted willows, maple, alder, Douglas-fir, Lodge-pole pine and Cedar. The project was funded by the Islands Trust Fund and the SARA biologists.

Interest in LINC continues to grow. LINC's membership, annual income, expenses and activity all increased in the 2017-2018 year while receiving support from the Islands Trust Fund, the HSP program, BC Parks Park Enhancement Fund, the Powell River Regional District and over 100 Islanders.

The most exciting news of 2017 is LINC's agreement to purchase the 28-acre Salish View property and create a new public nature reserve next to Squitty Bay Park. The landowners have agreed to donate 20% of the appraised value of the property, reducing the final purchase price by \$70,000! This very generous act facilitated agreements with Environment and Climate Change Canada and the Islands Trust Fund to jump in and support the project. We have until December 2018 to raise \$250,000 to complete the purchase. We invite you to donate to this great conservation opportunity, through a direct cash donation or pledge. LINC will be sponsoring a number of events over the coming months, including hikes to Salish View, a dinner and silent auction with live music, an inspirational movie release and three garden tours.

The ecological values of Salish View include protecting: the headwaters of Warner Creek, one of the three salmon streams on Lasqueti; a significant tract of undeveloped, relative intact old-growth Coastal Douglas-fir forest, of which less than 1% remains in BC; a wide variety of wildlife and plant habitats (cliffs, wet areas, open areas and closed canopy forest); habitat suitable for Species at Risk; and adjacency to Squitty Bay Park, effectively expanding the total protected area around Squitty Bay.

Community values of protecting the Salish View property include contributing to keeping Lasqueti a rural, low density community while conserving a rare and special place in the Salish Sea, while providing a place where people can connect with nature.

I hope you will join LINC in our many activities this year and help acquire this stunning nature reserve!

President: Gordon Scott Vice President: Andrew Fall
Secretary/Treasurer: Sheila Harrington
Sheila Ray, Bonnie Olesko,
Wendy Schneible, Barb Brooks



Salish View, linking the mountain to the sea

**Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy
Financial Statements
Fiscal Year April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018
Prepared without Audit**

Assets	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
Credit union account chequing	\$2,444.90	5512.52	1856.61
petty cash	456.57	599.91	296.02
Credit union account GIC	\$10,000.00		
Accounts receivable	\$1,699.82		200.00
Total Assets	\$14,601.29	9883.32	2292.63
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Revenue			
Memberships	325	475.00	490.00
Donations (general)	2,003.13	1876.21	1744.33
Donations (Salish View)	12,104.90		
Fee for Service (Salish View)	1,913.67		
Fee for Service (Mgt)	5,784.39	3532.18	
Grants	1,516.92	4000.00	1000.00
Interest	0.81	.04	.12
GST rebate	229.19		
Sales (shirts)	25.00		
TOTAL Revenue	23,903.01	9568.82	3234.45
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Expenses			
Accounting, legal and insurance	560	25	25
Office supplies	375.40	71.38	115.92
Land Mgt:	6200.56	796.55	255.88
Communication & Education	3169.97	1019.99	835.45
Land Protection: costs (Salish)	6827.65	3412.50	
Total Expenses	\$ 17,133.58	5924.32	1732.25
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Net Income	\$ 6769.43	3644.50	1502.20
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Acquisition Fund	Donations	12,104.90	
	Pledges	3350.00	
	ITF contribution	9000.00	
	EC survey	10,500.00	
Total to date		34,954.90	

Photos

Above: Salish View
Reverse top: lichens growing on cedar rail
Next: hikers at Mt. Trematon, AGM 2017
Next: Sheila R and Wendy S. covenant monitoring;
Left James Swartz at Lasqueti Sytrofoam day clean up
Next: sheep enclosure revamp at Squitty Bay Park
Bottom: installing fencing at Osland Reserve, Marie-Ange Fall photo