

Lasqueti Island Ratepayer's Association

Lasqueti Island, B. C. ~ VOR 2J0

December, 2020

A newly-built dock in the northwest corner of Scotty Bay may become the catalyst to re-examine the role of the Island's Trust as a preserver of the environment on one hand, or an urban bureaucracy alienated from the realities of living on a gulf island.

The dock, which extends about 77 feet from the shore was completed in the spring of 2020 by itself to Lasqueti in the 1970's, it was a local government sent from heaven inadvertently fav John Carey. Under provincial law, private docks are permitted in the waters surrounding Lasqueti for private residential moorage of the upland owner. While the dock complies with all the provincial guidelines, Mr. Carey was informed by Trust planning staff that a re-zoning application would be required to amend Lasqueti's land use bylaw to accommodate the dock. Scotty Bay is zoned M2 in the island's official community plan wherein the only moorage permitted is by anchoring.

The Island's Trust planning staff have recommended that the local trust committee reconsider the application in a year's time.

The anchoring-only restriction has, over the years, led to a proliferation of mooring buoys in every protected bay on Lasqueti. A casual count reveals 11 in False Bay; 23 in Cocktail Cove; six in Spring Bay and 28 plus an anchored float in Scotty Bay—not to mention the ones in which propellers have become entangled, the lines cut and the anchors left on the bottom. How many more mooring buoys can be tucked in among the existing ones before they all become an obstruction to navigation?

In short, Lasqueti is approaching a crisis in the lack of places to moor a boat. Prohibiting private docks doesn't help. Anyone who has lugged their gas cans and groceries across the decks of two or more sailboats might concur.

When the Trust invited itself to Lasqueti in the 1970's it was a government sent from heaven inadvertently favouring the specialized interests of illegal pot growers. Times have changed. Lasqueti is becoming more of a "typical" gulf island with the economic emphasis on tourism and building summer homes. Today the Trust seems more pre-occupied with the cumbersome details of governing itself and lacks the imagination to balance the future realities of a growing community with the pleasures of environmental protection. The time may have come to seriously address the marine requirements of the island. Establishing a Lasqueti harbour authority

might be a good beginning as it would provide a vehicle to apply for federal government funding to study the problem.

L. I. R. A.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
will be held on
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30 @ 1:00
LASQUETI HOTEL CAFÉ

Due to Covid 19 which has closed the usual locations for public meetings, we have been offered the use of the restaurant at the Blue Roof for our AGM. Since the inception of LIRA in 1997 we have mailed out an annual newsletter, often accompanied by a survey, to all Lasqueti property owners. Due to privacy laws we are unable to refresh our mailing list at this time.

Tucker Bay Road

The wheels of the legal establishment grind slowly onward. The effect of the coronavirus on the court system has made it even slower. The considerable documentation which has been gathered indicates that the road was surveyed and built with public funds, and how it began as a trail from the original steamship dock to connect with what is now Main Road. In 1922 a new float was constructed and the land taken by the government of the day establishing a ramp into the bay. Today, Tucker Bay Holdings is occupying what we contend is the entire public area and has discouraged the public from using it. We have every expectation that the case will be settled in 2021. Let's hope so.

Support LIRA

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

Membership fees are \$20 per year for each qualifying person. Mail to:

L. I. R. A.
General Delivery
Lasqueti Island, B. C.
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Directors: Karl Darwin, pres.; Gail Fleming, v.p.; Craig McFeely, sec.; Tom Weinerth, Richard Ayers, Eugenie Pelletier, Barry Parks, Jan Darwin, Kathy Rogers.

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