

# LASQUETI ISLAND RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

August ~ 2016

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## *Garbage Group Piles up Options*

A public meeting of 45 Lasquetians held July 12 at the community hall aired their views to the Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee on Lasqueti's looming garbage disposal dilemma.

The committee, which was appointed by the Powell River Regional District has been meeting since February to consider options to manage the eventual close of the Forbes road landfill site and ponder where a future transfer station and recycling centre might be built. Included in the puzzle is the fate of the Free Store and the disposition of a growing population of dead and abandoned cars and trucks.

The committee reached out to all residents and off-island property owners via a new 14-page survey. A 2011 survey on the subject indicated that residents favoured a zero-waste community.

The present landfill does not come up to provincial standards since it is not lined and property owners below the site are concerned about leaching contaminants. Since its inception in 1975 only glass, metal and plastic are permitted to be dumped there.

Conventional solutions on other gulf islands have resulted in recycling facilities and transfer stations.

Waste contractor Robyn Dryburgh estimated that 80 percent of the garbage which has been dumped there could have been recycled. In 2010 when he took on the position, 94,000 beverage containers were shipped off.

The Regional District has allocated \$155,000 to facilitate closing the landfill but it's not clear when the closure will take place. The current longevity of the dump depends on the establishment of test wells to monitor water leaching from the site as well as approval from the provincial Ministry of the Environment. Current estimates on how much longer the landfill can be used range from five to 20 years.

In keeping with the Lasqueti waste management plan's objectives of re-using, reducing and recycling, the committee also examined the option of on-island manufacture of oil from plastic and recycling paper into building products such as insulation and papercrete.

Many of the participants at the meeting favoured the implementation of a tipping fee for garbage while others suggested that taking it to the "other side" was preferable.

Committee members are Gordon Scott, chair; Brigitte Dorner, Julie Newton, Robyn Dryburgh, Dave Olsen, Gail Fleming, Natty Violini and Merrick Anderson.

Interested? Go to the LISWMAC website:  
[www.lasqueti.ca/swmc](http://www.lasqueti.ca/swmc)

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## *Forging Ahead on 911 Alternative*

A July 14 public forum will move Lasqueti's Emergency Dispatch Advisory Committee (E-DAC) closer to recommending to the Powell River Regional District (PRRD) a final solution to fire and medical emergency communications.

The PRRD had originally proposed contracting out emergency dispatch with North Island 911 corporation but was met with opposition over the cost and unreliability of the 911 system.

The question of a new dispatch system arose when Telus ended in 2014 the use of Telus pagers which the Lasqueti fire department used.

The purpose of the forum was to encourage the attendees to evaluate a list of 39 options serving the interests of the community. Safety, reliability, privacy, simplicity, local control, independence, ease of use and accessibility to all islanders were among the points itemized.

On the technical side, the new system would make use of a combination of land lines, cell phones, radios, pagers and associated infrastructure with each dwelling given a GPS location which would be coordinated with a map accessible to every firefighter.

A mapping system dividing the island into five sectors and subdivided into an additional 32 neighbourhoods with each dwelling pinpointed was shown.

On the committee are Richard Carlson, Sue Kristinsson, Don Dempster, Kristos Seiler, Craig Houston, Andrew Fall, David Slik, Karl Darwin and Merrick Anderson

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*Lasqueti Island Ratepayers Association*  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Tuesday, August 23**  
***At the Community Hall***

**4:00 p.m.**

Whether you are a member or not you are welcome  
to attend

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*Growing Old on The Rock*

Getting used to your little nap in the afternoon? Get tired just thinking about your woodpile? You might be getting old. Lasqueti's population is aging.

With this in mind the local trust committee sponsored a July 9 workshop on aging at home—"a community consultation about the needs of seniors living at home on Lasqueti."

In the event that the elderly could live at home but required some assistance to do so, the current land use bylaw prohibits the permanent occupation of a guest cabin in which a caregiver could stay. Conversely, the aging homeowner might want to rent the principal residence for income and live in the guest cabin. Both scenarios contravene the bylaw housing density objective—one dwelling per four hectares (10 acres).

So in the pursuit of preserving and protecting the island, some of the elderly may be tossed to the wolves in a care facility on Vancouver Island.

In a recent LIRA survey mailed out to 450 Lasqueti property owners one of the questions asked was whether you were in favour of being able to rent out your guest cabin. Fifty-six said yes, 26 said no, and 11 didn't care. Slightly over 100 owners responded to the survey.

The local Trust committee produced a ten page survey funded by the Union of B.C. Municipalities to assess the potential problems of aging on Lasqueti. You may participate in the survey on line at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/LasquetiIsland](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LasquetiIsland). Other topics covered at the workshop were transportation, accessibility, community support and the role of the Judith Fisher health centre.

*Rambling on...*

If there wasn't something to gripe about there might not be any need for a ratepayers association. Lasqueti has been for years just some isolated rock in the middle of the Strait of Georgia conveniently isolated by 10 miles of nasty water. Given the amount of crown land, agricultural reserve, nature reserves, and a ten-acre minimum lot size it hard to imagine that the island will ever "grow" very much.

Urbanization could be defined as the culmination of a legion of conveniences that make life easier. First came the subsidized ferry. Then road signs. The public boat ramp has been the most significant catalyst for colonizing the Rock. Add to the list the garbage dump, the fire department, the health centre, solar panels, cell phones, free parking and the internet. You can have about every convenience you have in a city—without the city.

While some of us will sooner or later arrive at a stage in life when age becomes a critical issue, there are a lot of younger people who want to live here and need to work.

There has never been any particular effort to promote an "economy" as such, or much thought given to how the "community" will logically sustain itself into the future. The old activities of logging and fishing are finished. Rumour has it that there isn't much money in growing pot. Building retirement/summer houses seems to be the end of the line. We have been so successful at prostituting ourselves on the World Wide Web people keep coming but there's no place to live.

The Islands Trust, in it's enthusiasm to preserve and protect us from the ravages of development can also be the instrument of economic stagnation. Conversely the Trust has a vested interest in growth in order to keep printing paychecks for a gaggle of urban planners in an environment of rising costs. The Trust doesn't seem to be able to come up with solutions to repair actual problems--such as 120 cars parked around False Bay on any given day. It's not their problem. On the other hand, there is no solution.

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LIRA website: [lasqueti.ca/lira](http://lasqueti.ca/lira)

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