



### Current Directors:

Chair: Gordon Scott,  
Vice-Chair: Bonnie Olesko,  
Secretary/editor: Sheila Harrington,  
Treasurer: Andrew Fall,  
at large: Melinda Auerbach,  
Wayne Bright

Membership \$5.00 annually  
AGM - April 19, 2014 - 10:00 am at the hall

linking people to nature on Lasqueti and surrounding Islands

Issue #2, Spring, 2014

### Rigid Apple Moss: one of more than 280 at-risk plant species in BC, by Sheila Harrington

In early January, Gordon and I accompanied Al and Brian Gainsborough, and Terry McIntosh and Steve Joya, moss specialists (bryologists), from the Beaty Biodiversity Bldg, UBC on a site visit to one of the habitats for BC's rare Rigid Apple Moss (*Bartramia stricta*). Lasqueti is one home of what is called "critical habitat" for this federally endangered moss (facing imminent extirpation or extinction). Terry was here to describe, in detail, its population and its critical habitat.

I asked Terry what is special about this habitat. He explained that the "residence" of the moss is around seepage-related rocky outcrops, ledges or flats, south facing on open slopes – usually from near sea level to 150m elevation. He also told me that what was really special about this place is the warden for the Ecological Reserve where this moss is found – Al himself.

Terry has been visiting Lasqueti for about 5 years to learn about Rigid Apple Moss on the Ecological Reserve as well as other mosses found here. A personal friend, I find him to be a devotee of mosses. Among many of this very funny man's opinions about things was this, "although species at risk are relevant, more importantly we need to protect habitat."

*Species at risk recovery is the process by which the decline of an endangered, threatened, or extirpated species is arrested or reversed, and threats are removed or reduced to improve the likelihood of a species' persistence in the wild<sup>1</sup>*



Terry MacIntosh, on the slope



Rigid apple moss is a small, brownish-green moss, sometimes with a distinctive grayish caste that grows in small tufts or patches.

*In British Columbia, it has been found on Notch Hill near Nanaimo, on Lasqueti Island, on two sites southwest of Victoria, and on two southern Gulf Islands. It may have been extirpated at one site near Pedder Bay (Victoria).*

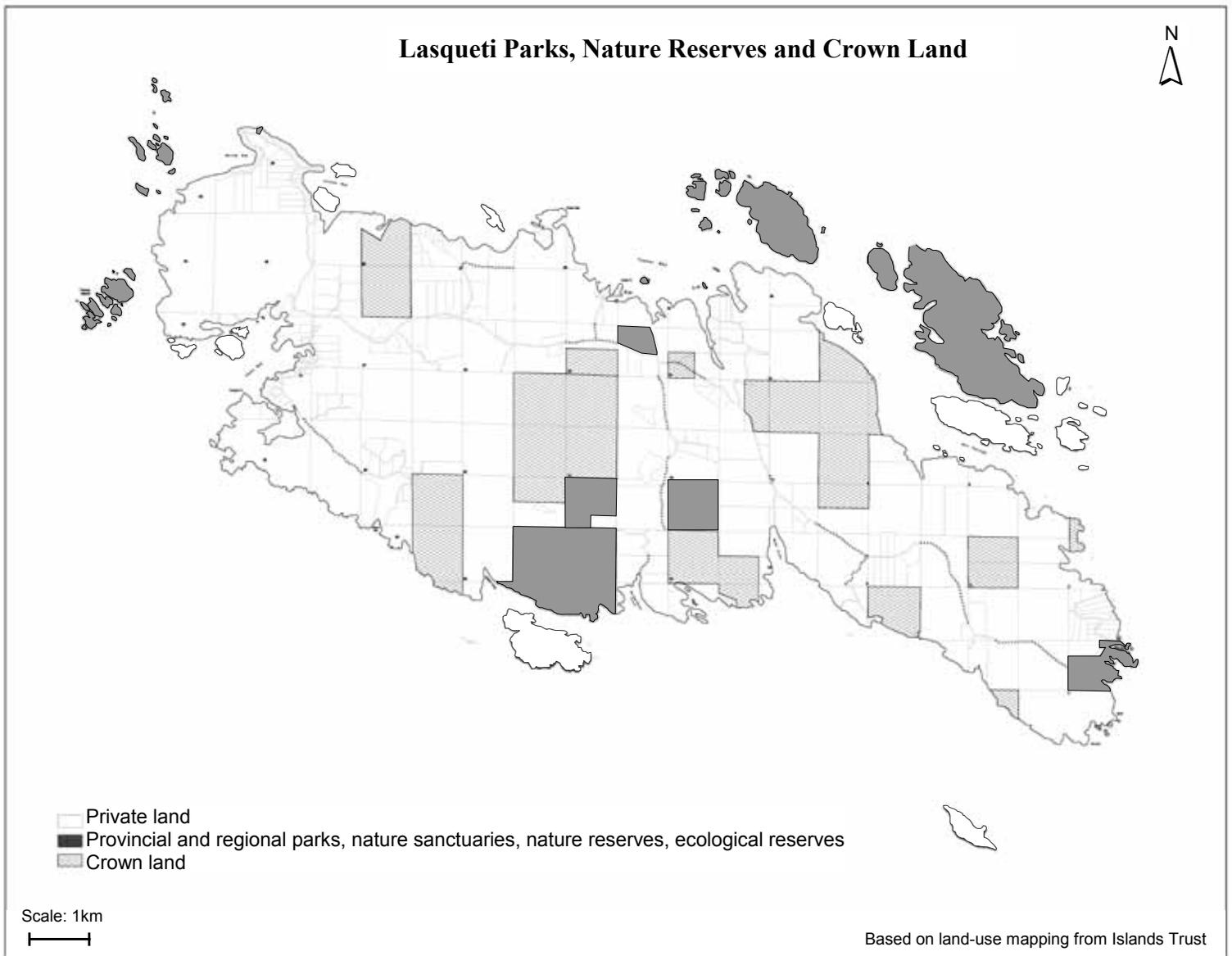
1. British Columbia Bryophyte Recovery Team and Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team. 2007. Recovery strategy for the rigid apple moss (*Bartramia stricta* Bridel) in British Columbia. Prepared for the B.C. Ministry of Environment, Victoria, BC. 20pp.

### Crown Land on Lasqueti By Gordon Scott

Since the 1980's Lasquetians have been concerned about the fate of the 2,900 acres of Crown Land scattered throughout our neighbourhoods. The risk that the Province might grant logging, mining or development licenses continues to be a real possibility. In 1991 a task force of local citizens recommended that the Island Trust Fund acquire tenure to all the Crown Land on Lasqueti and jointly manage the land with a committee of island residents. The Lasqueti community has consistently stated its goal is to retain community control over the use and fate of Crown Land on the island, with the purpose of allowing the land and vegetation, "...to return to the climax forest seral state."

Ecologists locate Lasqueti in the Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone, a relatively small area of the province that is one of the most logged, developed and urbanized regions of BC, yet it is home to more

The Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy (LINC) conserves and protects land for the benefit of wildlife, plants and the public. To achieve our mission, LINC acquires legal interests in land and provides public education on the natural and cultural features on Lasqueti and surrounding islands.



Crown lands - continued from page 1

threatened and endangered plants and animals than just about anywhere else in the province. Stretching from the agriculturally-rich Saanich peninsula to the lowland forest plantations of Campbell River, the Coastal Douglas-fir zone occupies a narrow band along the east coast of Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands, southern portions of Texada and parts of the Sunshine Coast and Lower Mainland. Given the rapidity of urbanization within this popular coastal region, it is likely that Lasqueti and its Crown land contain the largest, least developed contiguous tract of intact Coast Douglas-fir forest in the entire province.

Logging old growth forest in the Coast Douglas-fir zone came to a head with the province approving the go-ahead in 2011 for the logging of DL 33, a patch of coastal Douglas fir near Nanoose Bay. With this recent event in mind and the long-standing position of Lasqueti residents regarding Crown Lands, LINC and the Islands Trust Fund have begun jointly pursuing the transfer of Crown Land to the Islands Trust Fund. We are reviewing the priorities from the 1991 task force, recommendations from an ecological report prepared by Doug Hopwood and Chris Ferris, and the preferences expressed in a series of meetings held in 2007. Stay tuned as the story develops.

## Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy Annual General Meeting

April 19th, at the Community Hall

10:00 am - 11:00

Annual Report,  
Election of Directors,  
Members Forum

New members and directors welcome!

11:30 - 2:30

Hike some Crown Lands!  
with Ken Lertzman,  
Forest Ecology Professor, SFU

*bring a bag lunch and join us!*

LINC, 11 Main Road, Lasqueti Island, BC  
V0R 2J0 250-333-8754 [linc@lasqueti.ca](mailto:linc@lasqueti.ca)  
Charity BN 84848 5595