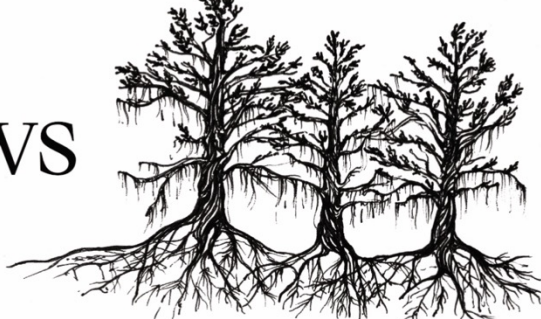




Xwe'etay News



Issue 31

August 2026

A Note from your Editors

"In the summertime, when the weather is high/You can stretch right up and touch the sky"*
August – maybe it's your favourite time of year. It's the peak of the summer, the month to take a vacation from all the turmoil and strife. Time to tune out all the negativity and one-sided nastiness. Indulge! Treat yourself to the luscious bounty of the season – gardens are exploding with fresh produce; blackberries are getting ripe for picking. And let us not forget the noble zucchini.

Swim in the ocean, bathe in the forest, crank up some tunes, read a trashy novel, stretch out on a blanket on August 12 and 13 and watch the Perseid light show. Embrace your inner sybarite!

Many thanks to those who responded to our call for donations in support of the printed edition. Also, thanks to the photographers and other artists for the diversity of beautiful dragonfly images, and to Charlene Lloyd (LINC Stewardship Coordinator) for help with the identifications.

September's photo theme: "**Prize winning zucchini**".

- With gratitude, The Yew Collective (Anna, Dana, Deb, Karen, Sue, and Wendy)

P.S. A reminder that the deadline for the next issue is in the corner of the back page of the current issue.

*Mungo Jerry



Ben Seaman

Pete Gaudry working on the launch of Ben Seaman's boat, 2020.



Stella Daniels

Mosaic Darner dragonfly (genus *Aeshna*)



Ken Lertzman

Lake Darner dragonfly (*Aeshna eremita*)

We acknowledge and honour the Indigenous Peoples who, for generations, have made Xwe'etay/Lasqueti their home.

In memory of Pete Gaudry August 22, 1960 - July 2026

While nursing a beer during a social visit, Pete let on about one moment that influenced his decision to move to Lasqueti. He was on a baseball team in Richmond, where he grew up, and was positioned in the outfield. It was a boring position, interrupted by moments of panic when the ball was hit into his zone. A few games in, he realized it was more enjoyable to lie on the grass and watch the clouds go by. His baseball career ended shortly after.

Pete moved to Lasqueti in the early eighties, choosing to live life on his terms. Pete was not comfortable attending community events, joining committees, or going to meetings. Rather, he was one of the quiet Lasquetians, in the background, below the radar. Small gatherings with just a few friends were his comfort zone, where he might open up and reveal another facet of his complex nature.

He valued his privacy, and never had a landline, smartphone, computer or other modern means of communication. If you wanted to reach him, you would have to send a letter. Still, he would go to a neighbour's house to make calls wishing me a happy Fathers' day, or Lindsay a happy Mothers' day. He kept a list of other people he called in the same way. Always sincere, thoughtful, friendly.

Pete would visit, usually unannounced, and open his pack on the table. He would lay out several items in the order he would present them. A rock that he got from somewhere unlike any rock you've ever seen. Then a book on carving, his passion, which he would leaf through page by page and share the specifics he found most impressive. He would pull out his tiny digital camera, the only modern technology he carried, and point out his garden wonders on the 2" screen. Here was his dahlia bed in full bloom, which he would pick and place, anonymously of course, in various spots like the ferry ramp, a cookie stand, the free store. One photo showed a tobacco plant he was growing, and he was impressed by the beauty of its leaves. The plant was huge, and when asked why he gave so much garden space to a plant he couldn't use (Pete was a non-smoker), he said actually he was growing 10 of the plants! Why? Because he would harvest them, dry the leaves and shred them, then put the cured tobacco into baggies to bring with him to town when visiting his father during Christmas. He would then take the baggies to the lower east side in Vancouver to give to the down 'n outers who smoked but couldn't afford it.

Pete was tight with money. He was a regular at the Sally Ann and always came home with some great deal on an item he may or may not have actually needed. But, when necessary, he took on all sorts of labourer jobs. He had a broad knowledge of the trades, and could tackle carpentry, building, mechanics, truck work, clearing, fencing and other work. He was a hard worker with high standards.

Pete helped me with a boat launch project that took three weeks. But when we misjudged the clearance needed to swing the stern into position, Pete worked two days straight on his stomach squeezed into a tight space to clear the bank a few feet back. He used a 4' pry bar and a mattock, both heavy tools, and worked like a man possessed. He got the job done, and without a scratch to the boat.

Pete was fastidious about his appearance, especially on ferry days. In preparation for the 8am ferry, he would rise at 5am to give himself time to take a bath, shave, put on a pressed shirt and black creased slacks, and then shine his shoes. His hair was in a neat ponytail that stretched halfway down his back. His ball cap was usually facing backward.

Death of the Raven: Pete had one goal he was most excited about but didn't live long enough to reach. It was a carving he had envisioned to be his great accomplishment: a life size carving in the round, a sculpture in First Nations style, of a kneeling man with tears streaming down his face. With arms outstretched, he held a dead raven.

I think of Pete now, when seeing a Raven. The observer, the loner, one who lived life on his own terms. - Greg Seaman



Lambert and Marianne Vrijmoed

Student Corner

A Queen Misswritten



One day they would call her evil, but the word did not belong to her yet.

Before the mirror, before the apple, before the story became twisted and misunderstood, Queen Eleanor was simply just a woman who learned how dangerous a kingdom could become when truth was ignored. Eleanor wasn't born into royalty, she grew up in a small village, her mother was a healer. While other children learned lullabies, she learned which roots cured fevers and which ones merely dulled pain. She learned early that beauty fades. Power doesn't. And kindness, if left unguarded can be taken apart piece by piece.

When the king's wife got sick, Eleanor was summoned. The other doctors had failed. She stayed at the queen's bedside for weeks refusing any type of payment or rest. She could not hold death back forever, but before it claimed her, the queen gathered what little strength she had left and whispered to Eleanor "You must protect my daughter, this world devours the innocent". Eleanor kept that promise.

Not long after the king, grieving and weary, married Eleanor, not for her beauty but for her strategic mind. Under her watch the kingdom grew, roads were mended, trades strengthened, bandits vanished from the hills. People started to call her the fair queen. All the while, snow white grew.

The child was as bright as dawn, gentle as falling snow, sweet and easily trusting. The kingdom adored her because she reflected what they wanted to see, obedience, a future they could shape. As the years passed her beauty became the subject of songs whispered through corridors and sung at the markets. One winter evening as frost traced the silver frame of the mirror, the queen stood before it and asked "old glass, tell me what do you see? Who is the fairest of them all?"

The mirror answered, "I see what is valued".

The queen was delighted. For in the beginning, the mirror spoke plainly. It praised justice, it named courage and when asked who the most fair was, it spoke of balance and wisdom.

It named Eleanor. It had done so a thousand times.

But one morning as light filled the empty corridor where the mirror hung, it was asked its question once more. "Who is the fairest in the land?"

The mirror did what it had been taught to do, and so it replied "Snow White"

Eleanor did not weep nor rage. She understood that the mirror had not named the cleverest, nor the most fit to rule. It had named the most desired. And desire, Eleanor knew, could unmake a kingdom.

Eleanor tried to warn the king about what was coming, and what danger would follow for Snow White but the king refused to believe that the kingdom would ever turn against her. And so Eleanor continued ruling the kingdom, watching, doing what she could for Snow White in silence.

The king died suddenly not long after by poison, slipped into his wine by a commoner. Chaos followed. Snow White became a symbol for those who wished to guide the throne themselves. Songs of her beauty spread beyond the castle walls, kings spoke of marriage alliances. To protect the girl, Eleanor sent her away from the kingdom, deep into the forest where eyes could not reach. This order was for Snow White's safety, though later tales would twist this into cruelty. You see, the dwarfs were not harmless little men who knew nothing of Snow White. They protected her, yes, but they also protected what she represented. So when Eleanor got told that Snow White was living with the dwarfs, she knew she had to do something. Her final act, the apple, was not meant to kill. It was a sleeping potion that her mother taught her when she was a child. A pause. A chance to undo the chaos and stabilize the kingdom until it was ready for Snow White.

But fairy tales do not like pauses. They like villains.

The sleeping apple worked but when Snow White awoke to a prince's kiss, a story was already written, Eleanor had been banished and the mirror shattered. Her true name was erased and replaced with the Evil Queen.

Somewhere beyond the happily ever after, the real queen, older, wiser and very much alive watched a kingdom repeat its mistakes because she knew that history has always favoured a beautiful lie over an ugly truth. – *Vida Violini*



Update from XLAP: Portable Rock Art

Recently, while exploring the intertidal around Marine Island, Kate Hackett and Stephanie Mason Williams found something special: a cobble painted with red ochre (hematite). I believe this is the first example of painted rock art on the island, and the first material evidence of some of the many rituals that took place during the island's Indigenous past.

Few portable painted stones are known in the Salish world. Interpreting Indigenous rock art, including painted stones, can be difficult because the "meaning" of the imagery was often known only to the creator. In Sechelt territory, painted rocks were found in crevices associated with two pictograph sites. In the 1960's, hiwuss (the late Chief Reg Paul) relayed that at one of these sites, "many years ago, five young girls, travelling with a group towards Sechelt, simultaneously commenced their puberty menstruation." Among the Interior Salish, painted stones were also used in girls' puberty training rituals. Other Coast Salish accounts associate painted stones with Guardian Spirit rituals and ceremonies to initiate new dancers into the longhouse. Beth Hill (1992) notes that painted stones are likely rare in the archaeological record because they were hidden as part of the ritual, including being returned to the ocean.

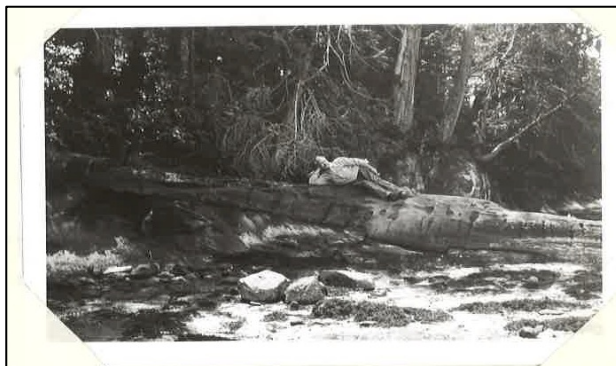
The Marine Island find provides glimpses into the non-mundane parts of Indigenous life on Lasqueti. Large settlements, like the one in Maple Bay (first occupied ~6500 years ago), would have been the location of large gatherings, such as winter dances or burnings for the ancestors. Even though these activities would have been woven into Coast Salish life, they are largely invisible in the archaeological record. From a photo caption in a field report from 1944, we know that rituals associated with adolescent boys also took place in Maple Bay (see photo).

Red ochre was and is used by Indigenous Peoples throughout the world during rituals. When working in the Fraser Valley, our archaeology teams were instructed by spiritual leaders to wear ochre on our hands and temples, as a sign of respect for the ancestors. To my knowledge, there is no source of ochre on Lasqueti; it would have had to be traded from elsewhere.

This precious painted rock is in my possession until we determine how we want such belongings to be cared for. – Dana Lepofsky



Portable painted stone found near Marine Island. Note the deer(?) figure and thumb prints



"W.M.L. Draycott reclines on legendary Petrified Tree Bridge. On this Bridge, the Indian Youth had to cross to prove his Manhood" (from Menzies and Draycott Field Collecting Trip on Lasqueti Island, 1944)



Anna Dodds

Eight Spotted Skimmer dragonfly

A man is many things

I love every mountain rock, every forest's tree,
Every pebble-edged lake and bouldered-
strewn stream,
Every driftwood covered muddy and pink sand
beach
And every smooth, rough, green, turquoise,
blue or steel grey sea.

I have lived with three thousand books,
And abandoned my music muse;
Shared herd and pack with horses and dogs
And heard the singing in stone walls.

And lost myself to the glorious wind
In our boats, whose wings were sails;
And these last years, I've learned to write
again-
The words help me embrace the pain.

And I recall the lakes, the snow, our times in
wilderness,
The homes we built, each one more hidden
then the last,
In each other we found matching spirit and
desire;
Our shared dreams were each other's fuel
and fire.

My daughters, my grandchildren, and all my
relations:

I have healed you, you have healed me,
And we have laughed more than we cried;
For five decades and change,
Just one lover, partner and wife.
Yes, story short, a man is many things,
And this more than less, has been my life.
- Dolf Schoenmakers

"There must be those among whom we can sit
down and weep and still be counted as
warriors." Adrienne Rich (1929-2012).



"In the Japanese culture, having a blue dragonfly
visit you means that joy and happiness are
coming to you!" – Ronaldo Norden

Update from the Reconciliation Committee

1. Cowichan Case Q & A: (June 17) ~45 people met in person or on-line for a presentation by qRD Director Andrew Fall about the Cowichan case and its implications for Lasqueti landowners. Andrew was joined by Attorney Julian Riddell, who was part of the team that represented the Cowichan.

Some take-home messages from the event:

- The Cowichan won this case because they could demonstrate with extensive, detailed documentary evidence: 1) sufficient and exclusive use in 1846 of what is now a parcel of land in Richmond (i.e., they had Aboriginal title to that land), 2) that Aboriginal title still exists, and 3) that the Province unjustifiably infringed upon their title when it granted that land to third parties.
- On Lasqueti, we do not have anywhere near the evidence required to demonstrate sufficient and exclusive use by a particular Nation. Our archaeological record does not support evidence of use by any particular group.
- In our legal system, Indigenous land rights are *not* absolute or "senior" to private property in the sense of prioritization of title and use. They are only "senior" in that they are older, but that does not mean those rights are automatic or absolute or somehow superior in a court of law.
- Fee simple (private property) CAN exist along with Indigenous title as evidenced by the fact that they *both* are operating after the Cowichan case.
- The judge ruled that it is up to the government (not landowners) to come up with a negotiated solution related to any incompatibilities between fee simple and Aboriginal title. The government has already guaranteed mortgage loans to the landowners.
- The case has been appealed by the parties involved. The appeals could take a decade or more.

For more information, contact: rc.lca@lasqueti.ca

2. Cedar root harvesting: (June 27-28) Friends from Tla'amin and Qualicum came to harvest redcedar roots for baskets. They were hosted by several Lasqueti families. We learned how to harvest roots and, over two potluck dinners, how to split them and make roses or ropes.

3. Sept 10 ~ noon: Potluck and showing of the Namesake film <https://namesake.film/> co-produced by Tla'amin and Powell River community members. The film arose from discussions in Powell River about renaming the city; it focuses on the importance of names and naming.

Members of the film crew and other Tla'amin community members hope to attend. This film is being screened around the country, including the Toronto and Vancouver film festivals. Stay tuned for more details.

-The Reconciliation Committee (Aigul, Ian G., Dana L., Nalia, Peter J., Willy)



Birds on Lasqueti



Sea Egg Rocks

Sea Egg Rocks are located west of Jenkins Island, close to the Lasqueti Island Ecological Reserve. The rocks have become an important breeding site for five species of seabirds.

I was lucky to join a team counting eggs and nests for an official survey in 2021. Doane Grinnell, Sheila Ray, Connie Haist, and I went out to Sea Egg Rocks to update information for Michael Rodway's fascinating book, *Seabird Colonies of British Columbia: Salish Sea*, (2024). Anna Smith and her father also surveyed the rocks in 2021, and have been surveying nesting birds on the rocks and islets around Lasqueti for several years. During our survey, we saw the guano-cemented nests of Pelagic Cormorants, the large stick nests of Double-crested Cormorants, many gull nests, a few Black Oystercatcher nests, and a Pigeon Guillemot flying from a nesting site. We counted 102 gull nests, 90 of which held eggs, and estimated an additional 10 pairs nesting, for a total of 112 nesting pairs for the colony. Gull nests are made of grasses, forbs, lichens, mosses, and twigs. Glaucous-winged gulls normally produce three eggs per nest.

Seabirds nest at several other sites around Lasqueti Island, including Rabbit, Sisters, the Finnerty Islands, Sheer, and Fegan Islets. Pigeon Guillemots have been nesting for many years in crevices in the cliffs off the east side of Jenkins Cove in the Ecological Reserve. Alfred Gaensbauer, former volunteer warden, surveyed the site in 2016, and we counted 67 guillemots present in 2021. These are usually seen as isolated black seabirds with a white patch on their wings. They also nest on cliffs near Boho Island.

Seabird colonies are protected under the BC Wildlife Act and the federal Migratory Birds Convention Act. These Acts prohibit people from harassing or harming nesting birds. Unfortunately, protected status has not prevented all disturbance to colonies. Many previous sites are now abandoned or severely reduced in numbers. In contrast, Sea Egg Rocks now holds one of the larger gull colonies in the Salish Sea. It is essential that not only the rocks, but the surrounding sea and land areas are free from human disturbance. These seabirds forage in the waters and lands around the rocky shores of Lasqueti and Jenkins Islands. It is a rare privilege that we live so close to these nesting seabirds. May we all learn to watch from a distance, and ensure that we don't disturb them. -Sheila Harrington



Kitchen Creations

Watermelon Gazpacho



Years ago, my friend Sue A served this soup at a dinner party and I've thought about it every year since! I'm just waiting for the mini watermelons in my greenhouse to get big enough so that I can make a batch of this myself. A perfect meal for the hot weather ahead.

4 servings (Source: Epicurious)

- 1 3-pounds seedless watermelon, diced (about 5 cups), divided
- 1 small cucumber, peeled, seeded, diced (about 1 cup)
- 1 medium sized red bell pepper, seeded, diced (about 1 cup)
- 1 medium sized yellow bell pepper, seeded, diced (about 1 cup)
- 1 small jalapeno chili, seeded, minced
- 3 pale green inner celery stalks, about ½ cup
- ½ small red onion, diced (about 1 cup)
- ¼ cup finely chopped fresh mint
- 3 tablespoons fresh lime juice
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup crème fraiche or sour cream
- Chopped cilantro

Puree 4 cups of the watermelon until smooth. Transfer puree to a large bowl. Add remaining 1 cup diced watermelon and all the other ingredients (except sour cream and cilantro). Stir and cover. Refrigerate until cold (at least 1 and up to 4 hours)

Divide gazpacho into bowls, top with sour cream and cilantro - *Deb Perell*



Birthday card that I painted for Annie one year. The flowers are called "Cupid's Dart" – *Ronaldo Norden*

The Power of Small: A Case for Two Wheels

Months before moving our lives to Lasqueti, we brought over a little second-hand Honda scooter to shuttle between the ferry and our new place in the deep south. Pulling onto the ferry, we got curious looks and no shortage of free advice. Mainly assurances that the roads were too rough, too muddy, and altogether too much for a little machine like that.

But what did we know? Little “Scoot-boot” was headed to Lasqueti and we were about to find out.

Twenty years later, that little scooter is still faithfully puttering around the island. It has carried groceries, mail, tools, pets, and passengers, and shuttled the two of us to ferries, potlucks, band practice, and markets. It is inexpensive to insure, easy to maintain, remarkably fuel efficient, and fun to ride.

Now that electric 2-wheelers have become practical alternatives, Scoot-boot’s little 50cc internal combustion engine feels like a relic from an era we are leaving behind. We haven’t yet found the perfect electric replacement for Scoot-boot, but over the past few seasons we’ve been putting a couple small electric motorcycles through their paces, charging them with excess solar power, and trialing how they hold up to Lasqueti conditions.

In upcoming articles in this series, I’ll be sharing what we’ve learned what works, what sucks, and practical advice for living with them on Lasqueti. These lightweight machines now handle roughly 90% of our transportation for six to eight months of the year. They cost almost nothing to operate, require very little maintenance, and they’re really fun to ride.

But this series isn’t really about finding the perfect motorcycle. It’s about what we learned while travelling light—less weight, less energy, less expense—and discovering just how little you give up when you choose just enough vehicle for the job. Often day-to-day trips simply require a reliable way to get ourselves, and maybe a bag of groceries or a potluck meal, from here to there. And travelling on two wheels also means less dust, less noise, and less pollution. It’s now common to see a dozen or more e-bikes, scooters, and motorcycles congregated at community events. Electric-assist bicycles can be even more economical than the motorcycles I’ll be reviewing, and I hope this short series will inspire stories from others about the efficient, lightweight machines that are becoming a sizeable and relatively sustainable part of Lasqueti’s transportation mix.

- Joseph Fall



The theme for the August issue of the *Xwe’etay News* is dragonflies and their close cousin damselflies. I have always appreciated these insects for their whimsical beauty. Now I honor them in their role in disease prevention for humans. As a youngster, I knew that they had a diet that included mosquitos. What I didn’t know was the role that mosquitos played in spreading such diseases as malaria and dengue fever. Although mosquitos are not a dragonfly’s favorite meal (too small), they do eat them. The dragonfly nymph (larvae) has been found to be particularly important in the control of mosquito populations. Dragonfly nymphs feed on mosquito larvae, thereby controlling the number of mosquitos that eventually hatch in any wetland area.

The diseases that mosquitos carry are not typically “on the radar” for most Canadians. Travelers to tropical and subtropical countries may be better acquainted, since preventative treatments (including vaccines or medications) are often recommended prior to travelling to endemic countries. These diseases may include malaria, dengue fever, West Nile virus, Zika virus, chikungunya, yellow fever, Japanese encephalitis, the list is extensive. Fortunately for Canadians, the only mosquito transmitted viruses currently found to cause diseases in humans are the West Nile Virus and eastern equine encephalitis (which has a more severe presentation in horses). Although it would be nice if dragonflies and their youngsters (nymphs) could do all the work in controlling mosquito populations, they just can’t! Prevention is a difficult “sell”, but avoiding being bitten is most often our best bet. I, of course, would also advocate for maintaining a healthy environment in which all the dragonflies of the World would be able to survive and thrive. Not only are they magnificent to watch and marvel at, keeping us “in the moment”, if only for a moment, they also help to keep our world healthier and thereby safer. Best in health, ♥dianne

August nursing clinic: 20th and 27th.

Clinic: 250-333-8891; Dianne: 250-240-5712
lasquetihealthcentre@gmail.com

~~~~ Ebbs and Flows ~~~~

A Layered History:

Henry Higgins and Patricia Forbes

We often ask each other how we came to Lasqueti.

Harry Higgins, along with other veterans of the Royal Navy such as Captain Pearse, Corporal Prowse, and John Heath, moved to Lasqueti after the settlement of the San Juan Islands border dispute (1853-1871). Harry was to preempt land at the top of the island. However, when Captain Pearse and his partner, McKenzie of Victoria, sought him out for a sheep ranching venture, he was happy to leave his lonely acreage and join them.

From McKenzie's diaries of 1876, we learn that many days were spent walking the land from Pearse's home in Richardsons Bay to Jenkins Bay between Mt. Tremerton, around Mount Cook, and down to Boat Cove.

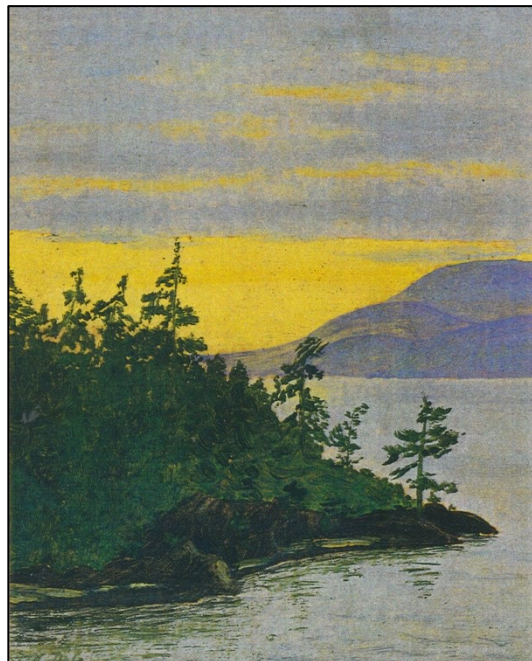
I imagine them out in all kinds of weather, looking for the flock, moving them from one place to another, making pickets and shakes, hunting deer and ducks, and the Chinese cook planting potatoes in the swamp, as it was customary to drain swamps for gardens.

Jump forward several decades to Boat Cove, 1898. The Rat Portage Timber Company arrived to log the area until 1911, and when the dust settled, the land was open for preemption.

Although Harry had moved back to the top of the island, he once again felt the urge to preempt land and so he returned to Boat Cove and built a home at the point.

Albert Cook was another man who found his way to Section 11, and it is here that Pat's destiny crosses with Harry Higgins' actions. For it was Harry who brought George and Emma Douglas from Salt Spring with the offer of his home at the opening of Boat Cove. In one of Pat's stories, she wrote that if Emma Douglas were her adopted grandmother, then her son-in-law, Albert Cook, would be her adopted father. Albert was to marry Louise Douglas, and over the years, eight children were born, all delivered by Emma.

Depression years were hard for the young island women, and moving to Vancouver for work was one of the few options. In 1938, Gwen Cook, daughter of Albert and Louise, had come from Lasqueti and found work helping Pat's mother between the births of her 7th and 8th children. Gwen became part of Pat's family, and in 1940, she brought eleven-year-old Pat home to meet hers. Summers on Lasqueti became an annual event, and this is how Pat Forbes came to be on Lasqueti. – *Kathy Schultz*



Elda Mason painting of Higgins Point. "Looking out Boat Cove from the Mason home towards Nanaimo."



Charlene Lloyd

Common Whitetail

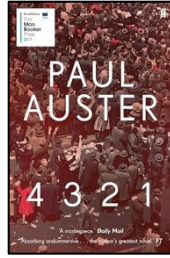


"Damsel" created by
Sophia Rosenberg, 1999



4 3 2 1, by Paul Auster. 2017. (Picador)

When your well-read friend offers to lend you an epic sized novel (866 pages), how can you refuse? *4-3-2-1* is an “uber book”, not just in length but also in scope and vision. Mostly, the novel by Paul Auster is sheer great fun, not just for the story it tells but the innovative structure it uses to tell it.



In seven chapters, the book tells the highly detailed story of a central character, Archie Ferguson, from birth to young adulthood, outlining stages of growth and passages in life that involve attachment, alienation, sexual exploration, literary ambitions and the quest for fulfillment. Taking place largely in the sixties, a decade of Vietnam, protest, change and political upheaval, the larger social setting is one of the delights of this novel. But there is a brilliant twist to the telling that is at the centre of this book.

Auster has multiplied the Life of Archie by four, creating differing pathways that divide and subdivide in varying ways depending on the altered circumstances of his world. Each chapter is parsed into four versions that cover the same time period but with different external realities. Archie’s natural affinities for literature, film, music and sport are hard wired, yet events and circumstances beyond his control lead to different outcomes, not just for him but for family and friends. The chapters are numbered 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 then 2.1 and so on.

You can choose to read this book two different ways: chronologically, as the book is laid out, simultaneously experiencing Archie’s varying “lives”, or reading each “life” sequentially (all the 1’s then the 2’s etc.) thereby creating four separate novels. In the “one Archie at a time” approach, history repeats itself and there may be risk of disengagement from each iteration. Following the multi-verse route, it is a challenge keeping the separate Archies distinct from one another, while maintaining a linear timeline.

As the last “life of Archie” reaches its final moments, looking clearly at a future that fulfills his ambitions as a writer, we are brought to the reality that exists outside of the book. The connection between the character Archie and the author Paul Auster becomes inextricably joined by the Yiddish joke that puts the whole story in motion. The scale of Auster’s achievement in this book, his last (he died last year) is enormous. - Sue Ashcroft, in collaboration with a Well-Read Friend

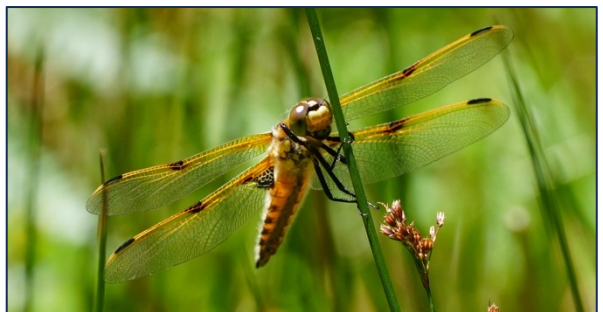
Unceded: Understanding British Columbia's Colonial Past and Why it Matters Now by George M. Abbott 2025. (Purich/UBC Press)

George Abbott was a Member of the Legislative Assembly and a cabinet minister under Gordon Campbell's BC Liberal government. He served as Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services 2001-2004, and Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation from 2009-2010. He was also Minister of Sustainable Resource Management 2004-2005 and Minister of Health 2005-2009.

The book came to be through his discovery of the displacement of the Tsay Keh Dene (then called the Ingenika) who were made homeless and forced off their lands without notice in 1968 when the Williston Reservoir filled and flooded them away, with just weeks’ notice from the Government.

After leaving elected office in 2013, he attended UVic in a doctoral program in political science, studying the Provincial Government’s historical treatment of First Nations in BC, the only province with minimal treaties.

You might be shocked by the detail he gives regarding the huge number of ways that our Provincial Governments and its officials have treated First Nations people, the pettiness and arbitrariness of the actions and inactions and the continued denial of their rights. It's just under 200 pages and has extensive notes, references and a detailed index. The paperback edition is \$30 or you can borrow it from VIRL. (There is a long waiting list for this book; it might be worth getting ten people together and borrowing one of the two book club sets.) - Peter Johnston



Four-spotted Skimmer

Charlene Lloyd

Baskets at Fall Fair Honour Colleen Pitt

These baskets were created due to the wonderful generosity of Colleen Pitt! Colleen, a longtime resident of Lasqueti Island and passionate weaver, is known for her amazingly fine and detailed work, her creative designs, and of course, her ever present smile!

Her heartfelt joy in sharing her knowledge and teaching many of us these skills is truly a gift.

Since moving to "the other side," she has donated her supplies to a group of women to be distributed to other keen weavers and to introduce new enthusiasts to this delightful art.

The natural materials include bull kelp, cedar root and bark, wild cherry, and birch bark, along with seagrass, and reed.

Thank you, Colleen ... we love you!

- Betty Buckland-Dobbyn



The splendour of summer is here! Let us give thanks to the beautiful bounty of nature we're blessed to enjoy here on Xwe'etay/Lasqueti Island.

In July, the Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy offered a special stewardship walk in Pt. Young Park to our present and past members – membership has its privileges! Our Stewardship Coordinator, Charlene Lloyd, led the group on a long stroll and introduced them to the varied projects LINC is engaged with in the park. Along the survey route of the sharp-tailed snake artificial cover objects, a highlight was the sighting of a northern alligator lizard. We plan to offer LINC members another stewardship walk in the future, so if you're interested, please join. You can join through the membership page on our website.

BC Parks Foundation and Youth Climate Corps sent over a work crew on July 31. They joined a crew of local volunteers to remove the invasive and toxic Italian Arum from the old homestead in Pt Young Park. Italian Arum spreads both via seed and rhizomatous roots, so black tarps and plastic were laid to smother the plants. We ask that these tarps remain undisturbed so they can do the work of killing Italian Arum: it is poisonous to both humans and animals.

The Lasqueti Bumble Bee Project on iNaturalist is going strong! As of this writing, we have 525 observations of 25 species of bees and wasps on the island. The Vancouver Island Bumble Bee continues to be the most frequently seen species, with the Sitka Bumble Bee, then the Yellow-Fronted and Yellow-Faced Bumble Bees next in abundance. There are still no observations of the endangered Western Bumble Bee, but we remain hopeful. Check out the project at <https://www.inaturalist.ca/projects/xwe-etay-lasqueti-bumble-bee-project>.

We continue to seek speakers of interest to share their knowledge with our community. We'll be partnering again with the LCA Reconciliation Committee this fall to host speakers with a focus on Indigenous food forests and Indigenous foods more generally. Keep an eye out in the next newsletter for dates!



Meet the Neighbours



Jim, Josiah & David Robinson, Shelley Szauter, and Link Leisure - Elderberry Lane

In the mid-1980s, Jim, who grew up all over BC, joined the Friends of Clayoquot Sound, sat in the middle of a logging road, and was arrested. Refusing to give his name, he spent time in Wilkinson Road Jail as John Doe. The FBI were puzzled by the lack of his fingerprints on file ("I'd never been in trouble before"). Among the inmates were some who had known Jim as a street worker in Nanaimo. "Hi John Doe!" they said. "They never gave me away." Finally released, he went back to "guerrilla horticulture" in Clayoquot. He built a cabin with driftwood on Crown Land. Josiah remembers visiting one summer. "The only real communication was radio, and when it died, we had no connection with the world. Then the battery in the clock died, so we had no sense of direct time. We'd say, it feels like Wednesday, it could be Friday . . ."

Josiah and David lived with their mom in Cranbrook. For David, it was "not a great place for a gay teen in the 90s." After a move to Powell River, where he experienced yet more homophobia, he "was just done with it." He moved to Vancouver and immediately got a boyfriend.

David's partner Link had that same slingshot reaction. He left Burnaby at 17 for England where he worked for an avant garde performance art group. David had a production studio in ceramics in Vancouver. When they met and Link said, "I'm an artist," David rolled his eyes ("Okay, he's probably taken a course at community college . . .") until Link explained. "I go to a foreign city and scour the second-hand stores for objects that I think are indicative of that culture, and I put them all into a giant mosaic and then I usually cover them in candy or liquorice or salt." David thought, "You are the real deal!" They've been together 15 years. Link's spiky silicone balls on big gold chains created such an impact that the Royal Victoria and Albert Museum purchased one for their permanent collection. David made erotic salt and pepper shakers cast from GI Joes. One went to the Gardiner Museum in Toronto. They currently do movie sets. Link does set decoration; David is a prop builder. Their team includes leatherworkers, sculptors, and a blacksmith. David does the ceramics.

Stay tuned for Part 2 next month!

Suzanne Heron



Ken Lertzman

Blue Dasher (*Pachydiplax longipennis*)



Acrylic on board, by Sue Wheeler.



From Tim Peterson: At the final Local Trust Committee meeting of the term on July 6, we passed resolutions intended to provide the new LTC with information and funding to support their work. This included requesting staff to conduct an analysis of subdivision potential across all Subdivision Districts, and report back with lot size data and build out potential; sending the project charter and Draft Bylaw No. 108 to their next meeting; and requesting staff to prepare a business case for the Lasqueti Island Official Community Plan Review Project, for consideration in the 2027/2028 budget.

The final Trust Council meeting of the term is scheduled for September 9-11, and will be held electronically. The agenda will include a first look at budget proposals for fiscal 2027/2028; a briefing on the Provincial Infrastructure Projects Act; updating the Local Trust Committees' Meeting Procedure Bylaw 197; and recommendations to the new Trust Council on the Council Committee structure, among other business.

The nomination period for elections will be September 1-11, with general voting day October 17. qathet Regional District will be administering the elections, as in past years, and more information and nomination packages will be available from them.

Islands Trust has a Candidate Information package available on their website to provide prospective candidates with rules, expectations, time commitment, remuneration and more: <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/document/candidate-information-package-elections-for-islands-trust-trustees-2026/> I am also happy to email it as a PDF on request.

Islands Trust will also hold an online Candidate Information Session via Zoom on August 20, 6 PM. Register to attend on the website at: https://islandstrust.zoom.us/webinar/register/W/N_7NFAJz0UTmyFCGG5UJJbMw#/registration

As always, feel free to contact your trustees with your questions, comments, or concerns.

From Mikaila Lironi: Please consider running for Islands Trust, and always remember to get out and VOTE. :)



**qathet
REGIONAL DISTRICT**

Winds of change

I do not plan to run for a third term in the Oct election. It's important for our Regional Director to have full focus. My work on forest landscape planning and wildfire hazard modelling has increased to at least full-time; and it will demand more of my focus over the coming years as I shift to training and mentoring. After 8 years of regional board and committees, plus regional hospital district, library board, etc., it is time to pass the baton and provide opportunity to enhance governance capacity in our community.

When I set out on the path as your Regional Director, I had two goals that I believe have largely been met:

To resolve the LIVFD dispatch conflict. It took more than 4 years to work through that tangled political and legal quagmire.

To restore community trust in the qRD. Based on feedback, I believe that most people feel that the qRD generally provides regional services that our community desires at levels of service that we can afford. I also believe that there has been a shift in how the qRD engages with community; and any major future changes to qRD services will involve community consultation.

A lot has occurred over the years with which I have had some involvement as your Regional Director, including:

- Waste management: service sharing agreement with the Last Resort Society for the fire hall and renovated recycling depot; transfer of garbage directly off-island at the ramp (both saved thousands of dollars).
- Parking lot near arts centre: Clearing derelicts and improving drainage.
- LIVFD: honoraria and improved medical/dental and mental health supports for our volunteer firefighters and first responders; significant funds for a replacement fire truck from Community Works Funds (which is an annual grant to the qRD).
- Reform of the qRD policies on grants-in-aid and Community Works Funds to improve fairness and transparency.
- New Spring Bay Regional Park, plus some regional parks service funding coming to Lasqueti for cleanup/maintenance of Spring Bay and Boot Point Regional Parks.

(qRD, cont'd from prev. pg)

- Advocating for our ferry service, wharf, roads, emergency services and environment.

I encourage candidates to continue supporting the interests of Lasqueti and qRD residents, to advocate for positive change, and to provide the regional representation that our community desires.

Please feel free to contact me. I am honoured to be your regional representative. - Director Andrew Fall, qathet Regional District afall@qathet.ca

Editors Note: Andrew, we thank you for your many years of service to our community!

Marimba Makeke on the Dock, Aug 12

Marimba on the Dock is scheduled for Wednesday August 12th as soon as the last ferry traffic clears (around 7) until dark. We'll play a lively set of danceable tunes to celebrate summer on the rock. (You may have noticed some brand-new folks playing with us at Arts Fest and we'll have some far flung Makeke family members returning to play with us on the dock too!)

This is a free concert, but we'd love it if you'd bring a few bucks to throw in the hat and help pay the hall fees for our practices and to give a little back to Zimbabwean endeavours in gratitude for giving us this music.



Community Forum on Community Values

Saturday August 15 4-6 pm, Community Hall

What are values that we share as a community? Our discussion will focus on finding the shared underlying values that would help in making decisions that affect Lasqueti. To prepare for the meeting please think about some values that you associate with Lasqueti, and if you can, please email me your list ahead of time Shoshanahray@gmail.com

LCA Community Forum Committee
Shoshanah, Peter J, Aigul, Marti W

Night Market, August 13 At the Arts Ctr, 6-9 pm

"New Moon Market", an interactive art installation/mini carnival, will be up in and around the gallery for one night only Thursday August 13th, 6 - 9 pm!

We are currently gathering donations of all things useful and/or beautiful that are ready to be released. Art and handcrafted items are welcome of course, but also household goods, antiques, clothing, tools, furniture, plants, and magical potions –really just about anything that isn't junk.

A few of us artsy folk will then transform these objects into a fantastic art installation and invite everyone to come out for a fun and magical evening of shopping and revelry. Most items will be reasonably priced.

There will be music, games, performance art, food for sale (by Violet!), refreshing potions and elixirs, and surprises of all kinds.

Please contact Valeria (text or call 250 240 0866 or email valeriapainting@gmail.com) if you have items that you are willing to donate (no random drop offs please!) or if you wish to contribute in other ways.

If you don't have money to spend, just come and join in the fun! Dress - up is encouraged. All proceeds go towards keeping the gallery and studio spaces running, accessible, and affordable to rent, as well as to support arts programs of all kinds: visual, musical, literary, performance, etc. To be clear: the Clay Commons is a separate project with its own budget. This event is a fundraiser for the gallery, studio, and arts programs.

Please mark your calendars and dig through your hordes of beautiful things, your closets, spare bedrooms, toolsheds, greenhouses, wine cellars, dungeons, apothecaries...

Looking forward to co-creating this event!
- Valeria (for the Arts Council: Jennifer Brant, Julia W, Faren W, David Robinson, Pachiell, Alison Cromie, Junie Desil, Andrea Dillingham-Lacoursiere)



Grete Lohmann

Once Upon a Name

The Vesters

Jenny Vester's ancestors, the first Vesters, lived on a small island in northern Denmark called Fur. The island of Fur looks like a bird flying, its wings down and beak pointing west.

In the early 1900s, Danish surnames were limited to 25 of the most common. Too many people had the same surname! In 1904, a new law was introduced that allowed name changes. A family could legally change their name as long as they could prove the name had been used in their family for generations. Once proof was given, the name received royal authorization. The fee was 4 kroner. In 1904, 4 kroner could buy 13 loaves of coarse rye bread or 70 jars of pickled beets. It was a significant amount but within reach of most citizens.

The Vester name was given royal assent on August 25, 1905. The application outlining the name change had the stamp of King Christian IX. Henry, Jenny's father, was proud of this document. So, who were the Vesters before they were officially Vesters?

The Vester name was connected to Jens Christensen, Jenny's great grandfather. A story explaining the origin of Vester was told by Christen Jensen Vester, the firstborn of Jens. Christen recounted how his grandfather, Christen Christensen (Jenny's great, great, great grandfather) came to be known as "Old Vester." Christen Christensen was born in Nederby, a neighbourhood close to the coast, in 1771. Christen's main occupation and passion was fishing.

Christen liked to go fishing in the shallow waters of the Limfjord, northwest of Fur. Generally, Christen and the other fishermen would fish at night and sail home the next day. If the weather was calm or the wind was from the south or east, he would say, "if only we had an old west wind, then we could sail home." The other fishermen took to calling him "Old Vester" because he mentioned the west wind so much. Christen also studied the skies and looked to the west to determine if the day would be good for fishing. The Vester name came about from fishing and weather. In hopes of good fishing, look west; and, in hopes of returning home, wish for a strong west wind.

Jenny's father, Henry Vester, sought his fortune in the west too. He moved to Canada in 1954. His fifth child, bright eyed and deep dimpled, was Jenny Vester. Jenny was drawn to the west too and moved to the coast as a young adult. Eventually Jenny found her forever home on Lasqueti Island and left a deep impression on the island of towering trees, twisty roads, rocky coastlines, and creative people. RIP my sweet sister.

- Rose Koebel, nee Vester (July 29, 2026)



The Vesters gathered for Syrandin (Jenny's niece) and Jason's wedding in Oct 2025 in Canmore. This was the last time we were all together.



Danish stamp featuring Fur

Editors note: We invite other Lasquetians to submit stories about the origins of their first or last names. Tell us in a few lines or in <400-word essay.



Sharon Chesham

Pin made by Dave Cox.



Pin from Rick Waines' play on living with HIV. Rick is a playwright and former resident of Lasqueti. The pin design was created by Ronaldo Norden and produced by Laurence Fisher at Wildwood. In the early 1990s, when the play was showing in town, many Lasquetians wore this pin all the time.

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Ken Lertzman

Common Green Darner dragonfly (*Anax junius*) eating a Pale Swallowtail butterfly

Help make the Fall Fair Happen – Volunteers needed

Dear Community,

The Fall Fair organizing committee is hard at work preparing another wonderful Fall Fair, a day to celebrate the harvest season, the bounty of our gardens, and, most importantly, the spirit of our community.

For over 13 years, Andrew Fall and Jenny Vester lovingly carried this tradition forward, building on the work of those who came before them. This will be the first Fall Fair without our dear Jenny here in person, and we know many of us will feel her presence throughout the day. Her generosity, creativity, and love for this community helped shape the Fair into what it is today.

The Fall Fair has always been a true community project. The proceeds help support the Community Hall, but the Fair itself is built almost entirely by volunteers. Every game, exhibit, meal, and decoration exists because someone chose to lend a hand. It takes many people working together during one of the busiest seasons of the year, and we'd love to welcome new volunteers to help carry this tradition into the future.

Whether you've lived in Lasqueti for decades or have only recently arrived, we hope you'll join us. Bring your favorite chicken, enter something from your garden or kitchen, volunteer for an hour, participate in a game, or simply come and enjoy the day. Every contribution, big or small, helps make the Fair what it is.

Please save the date: **Saturday, September 19.** We'll share more details about the day's events, displays, dinner, music, and how to get involved in next month's newsletter.

We can't wait to celebrate with you.

The Lasqueti Fall Fair Organizing Committee

Lasqueti Island Local Trust Area

2026 Local Trustee Election



As part of the 2026 general local elections on October 17, 2026, Islands Trust Area residents will elect two trustees for each local trust area.



Learn about Islands Trust and the role of a local trustee at the Islands Trust Candidate Information Session webinar: **August 20, 2026 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**



www.islandstrust.bc.ca



Get more information about the election process and nomination packages from the qathet Regional District: www.qathet.ca



Preserving and protecting over 450 islands and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea

Elections for Islands Trustees and Regional Director

Elections for Islands Trustees and Regional Director take place on October 17 this year. Local elections for these positions will be administered by qathet Regional District.

Planning Ahead: Key Events Leading up to the Election

- **September 1, 2026:** Nomination period begins at 9:00 a.m. List of electors becomes available for review and objection
- **September 11, 2026:** Close of nominations
- **September 15, 2026:** Deadline for challenge of nominations ends at 4:00 p.m.
- **September 16, 2026:** Elector ownership deadline for non-resident property electors
- **September 18, 2026:** Deadline for withdrawal of candidates
- **September 19, 2022:** Campaign period begins
- **September 21, 2026:** Declaration of election by voting or of candidates elected by acclamation ends at 4:00 p.m.
- **October 7, 2026:** Required advance voting opportunity (additional advance voting day may be scheduled in some locations — see local advertisements for details)
- **October 9, 2026:** End of period for notice of election and assent voting
- **October 17, 2026: GENERAL VOTING DAY**

Here's a link to the qRD election info page:

<https://qathet.ca/services/corporate-administration/elections-aaps-petitions/election-2026/>

- Tim Peterson



The Sleeping Goddess Speaks

a co-creative dream circle

Monday August 17th, 6:00-9:00

Suggested donation \$30

Using song, movement, writing, and active imagination to court the dreamworld with playfulness and reverence. We will engage with dreams, not to interpret them, but to converse with them in their own mother tongue, the language of metaphor.

Space is limited. Pre-registration required.
Payment when registering.



Grete Lohmann



Ken Lertzman

Blue-eyed Darner

Modern Dance Intensive with Denise

Dive into dance this August and have fun getting fit! This four-day workshop is designed to increase muscle tone, strength, flexibility, core strength, balance, somatic technique and artistic expression. Blending Jose Limone, Bill Evans technique with (Bartenieff Fundamentals) and floor barre, this workshop will focus on physical prowess, dance technique, joy of movement, musicality, self expression and choreography. Be prepared to feel grounded, connected, integrated, rejuvenated, and to sweat in this dynamic and fun workshop.

When: Mon, August 10th - Thursday, August 13th

Time: 9:00 am to noon

Where: Denise's Dance Studio

Cost: \$180

This Dance workshop will be taught by Artistic Director Denise Lieutaghi, BA (Human and Social Development), certified teacher of the Bill Evans Method of Teaching Modern Dance, and certified Radiant Health Yoga teacher.

For more information and registration, please contact Denise: 250 240-0457, dance@lasqueti.ca

Community Calendar

Aug 1. Firefighters' Picnic

Aug 5. Jenny's dance party.

Aug 12. Marimba on the dock. ~7pm.

Aug 13. New Moon Night Market. 6-9pm

Aug 14. Celebration of life for Alex Bain. 4pm

Aug 15. Community Forum. Community values. 4-6 pm, at the Hall.

Aug. 17. Sleeping Goddess Speaks, 6-9pm.

Aug 20. Islands Trust Trustee info session webinar. 6-8pm.

August 29. Silly Boat Race Parade. 1:30 at the ramp.

10 Sept: Showing of Namesake film. ~noon.

19 Sept: Fall Fair



Charlene Lloyd

Four-spotted Skimmer

Our Week in Review

	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
A Life TimeZ Nursery	By appointment. 819 698 3829						
Black Sheep Gas		2 - 6			2 - 6	2 - 6	
Feed Store		11 - 3			11 - 3		
Ferry – from FB	1, 4	8, 11, 4		8, 11, 4	8, 11, 4	8, 11, 4	8, 11, 4
Ferry– from FC	2:30, 5:30	9:30, 2:30, 5:30		9:30, 2:30, 5:30	9:30, 2:30, 5:30	9:30, 2:30, 5:30	9:30, 2:30, 5:30
Free Store		10 - 5			10 - 5		
Life Drawing			7 - 9				
Nurse					11 – 3**		
Parsimony & Providence	11- 2	2 - 6			2 - 6	2-6	11 - 2
Post Office		10 - 4		10 - 4		10 - 4	
Propane filled						1 - 3	
Provisions	10 - 5	9 - 6	10 - 5	10 - 5	9 - 6	9 - 6	9 - 6
Recycling		10 - 5			10 - 5		
Restaurant/Pub	1pm - close	1pm - close	3 – close	1pm– close	1 – close	1– close	1– close
CS Bread Stand			Bake day!			Bake day!	
Ultimate Frisbee	5:30			5:30			

**Nurses clinic: Thurs, Aug 20, 27.

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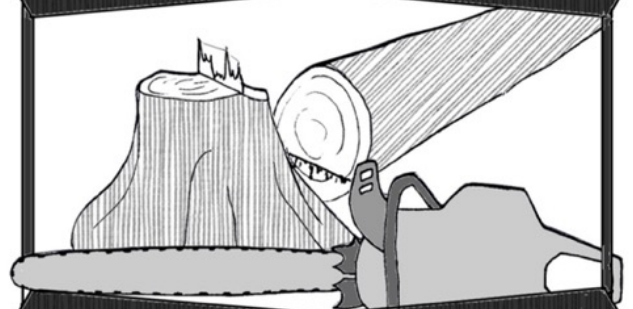
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FRIDAY	2 - 6
SATURDAY	11 - 2
SUNDAY	11 - 2

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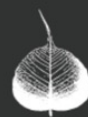
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Xwe'etay News is the monthly newsletter of the Lasqueti Island/Xwe'etay community. All submissions come from the island's community; donations cover production costs. An editorial collective is responsible for final production. To submit material for consideration (<400 words) or to make a donation: xweetaynews@lasqueti.ca
Online versions: www.lasqueti.ca/xweetay-news

Deadline submission for Sept. issue: Aug 27