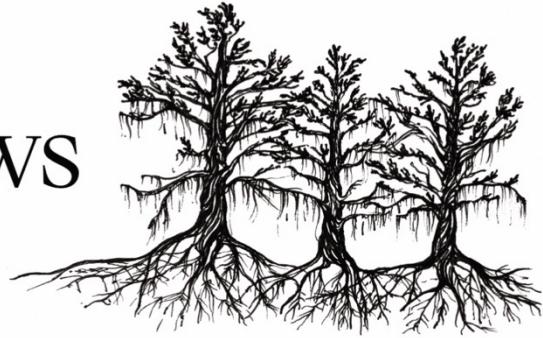


Xwe'etay News



Issue 24

January 2026

A Note from your Editors

With this issue of Xwe'etay News, we start another year on our beautiful island. 2025 was filled with its usual mix of mundane and profound, silly and sad, arduous and easy. We acknowledge the passing of several loved ones in our community, as well as the birth of many new island citizens.

The Collective is grateful for the on-going community support of Xwe'etay News – in the form of submissions of words and photos, comments in passing, email notes, donations, and ads.

This past Fall has been so warm that for some of us, our garden flowers were still in bloom until this past week. Everything is green and lush, even as the rest of the country is buried in snow. Next month's photo theme has to be **MOSSES and LICHENS** – with all their textures and beauty.

Wishing you all the best for 2026. - *The Yew Collective* xweetaynews@lasqueti.ca



"Here are some knitted items from several years past. On the left is a blanket knitted in squares while studying to become an elementary teacher. The green sweater is for the summer. Wish I still knew the stitch..." – Gretje Lohmann

~~~~ Ebbs and Flows ~~~~

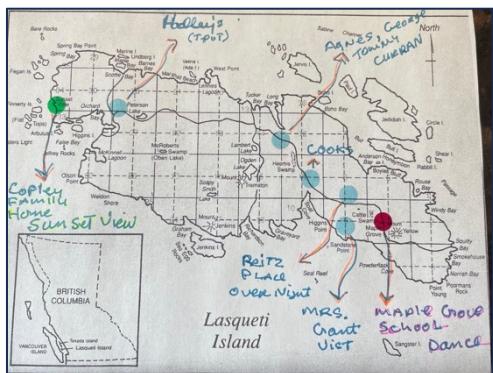
In 1926 the island population was as low as 111 settlers. The mines had closed, the steamships had stopped coming, and the cannery had burnt down. The residents who hung on struggled to make it by farming. The population was spread between the north, centre, and south; contact between these areas was difficult because the road was not much more than a trail. People living in the different parts of the island tried to find a way to get produce off the island and receive goods and mail that benefited everyone. Then Charlie Williams took it upon himself to negotiate with Union Steamships, rustle away the mail from Tucker Bay, and make False Bay the centre of island commerce.

This left hard feelings among the rest of the islanders, and the feuding brought social activities to an end. It was the young people of the island, starting with Georgie Douglas and Maurice Reitz, who came to visit the Copley family at Sunset View with a plan to turn things around. The Good Fellowship Club was formed by the island's youth, and socializing was restored.

An excerpt from Elda's diary shows the lengths people would go to gather for fun and community: *"We, Beatrice and I received an invitation to a dance at the Maple Grove school from the Reitz family. So, we did not go to school that day using the heavy rain as an excuse. However, we did walk down to the Reitz place calling in at Ellen Cook's on the way. We went to the dance and then back to Reitz's for the night. The following day, we went to see Mrs. Grant our dear, former teacher. Agnes, George and Tommy Curran came in the evening. The next day Alfred Copley and Ruth Boldthen came, and we played "anti-I-over. So, a great*

(Cont'd next page)

weekend of fun. We started home by 3 p.m. Maurice and Doris accompanied us as far as Cooks. At Curran's trail we met Agnes and went home with her, (this being an alternative route). She and George accompanied us as far as Barlow's mailbox. (near Lenfesty's). By the time we got to Hadley's it was dark, so we called there with the excuse of borrowing a lantern. Erma was not at home but some of her admirers were visiting George Hadley: Laurie M., Georgie D., Owens C. Mr. Hadley invited us to have supper. After which we went home, arriving about 10 p.m. It is remarkable that it was too rainy next day to get to school on time. But Beatrice and Elsie returned the lantern. So, our days were filled with school, necessary activities and as much social life as we could find. From our home to Maple Grove school would be about ten or more miles. Thus the "stop-overs" and "call-ins" were a necessary part of the long treks."



On New Year's Eve, our high school students organized a fundraising dinner at the community hall. How wonderful that this energetic age group no longer has to leave the island. Imagine how different island life might have been if Elda's gang had not been here to lead the community back into good fellowship. – Kathy Schultz



Bella Crean
May 21, 2000 - January 29, 2025



Maria George Tzimas (aka Mary McFeely)
June 14, 1942 – November 19, 2025



Milan Cejka in 1979, doing what he loved.



Dorothy with Mary McRae

New Lasquetians



Miro Wilder.
Born 16 March,
to Medjula and Moey.



Leonard Lavender Jude.
Born 12 September to
Carly and Sean



Arna. Born 24 October,
24 to Pria and Carson.



Elizabeth. Born 11 April,
to Caitlin and Gary.



Budget 2026: It's budget time again – always a fun task! The Board reviewed the first draft in December and will review it again in January. The first draft lays out the big picture but isn't complete (because it can't be completed until after the end of 2005). The second and third (and hopefully final) drafts will complete the picture before adoption, which must be done before March 31. Nothing very dramatic at this point. The tax requisition over the entire qRD looks to increase by about 3.7% (close to inflation). The increase for Lasqueti was estimated higher in draft 1 (about 7.4% or ~\$47,000), but that is mostly due to the LIVFD budget which will likely change (esp. as 2025 expenditures are completed). The Board already reduced the budget for Lasqueti by over \$9,000 at the December Finance Committee meeting.

Town hall: Let me know if you are interested in me hosting a town hall on the budget plus other issues, and if you prefer virtual or in-person. Virtual is easier for me, and accessible to anyone unable to attend in-person but is not feasible for people without internet.

False bay dock: Trustee Peterson, Kate-Louise Stamford (Sunshine Coast Regional Director for West Howe Sound), and myself are working to submit a resolution to AVICC (Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities) to consider at their annual convention in April that, if passed, AVICC would ask Transport Canada to stop efforts to divest the False Bay Dock. We will publish the resolution once the wording is finalized (and hopefully with approval from our local boards/councils).

Potential fibre optic (last-mile internet) project: As Trustee Peterson has written, a public meeting on this potential project will be held in January by CityWest (date/location to be finalized). The scope of this potential project will be laid out, and there will be opportunity to ask questions, including on technical and administrative aspects (e.g., potential involvement of the qRD at the wishes of the community).

Potential funding depends on community support (nothing will be forced on our community!), and so it is important for as many people to participate as possible so that we can seek community direction. More info will be communicated as soon as we know.

Feel free to contact me. I am honoured to be your regional representative. Director Andrew Fall, qathet Regional District Tel: 250-333-8595



Birds on Lasqueti

Project Feeder Watch

Across North America and Canada more than 30,000 "citizen scientists" monitor and count the winter birds that visit their feeders from 1st November until April 30th. Known as *Project FeederWatch*, it is a collaboration between *Birds Canada* and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in the U.S.

Birds visiting feeders are counted over two consecutive days at least a week apart, and the information is sent to *Project FeederWatch* either online or on paper. Data collected is used to record fluctuations in bird species, declines in population, general health, sickness or deaths, and behavioural interactions.

Over the past 12 seasons I have noticed a decline in the number of Purple Finches arriving each year. They are susceptible to a disease causing them to develop crusty eyes which impedes their ability to fly to find food. Keeping feeders clean lessens the chance of spreading disease.

Another change that has occurred is that, with the relatively recent arrival on Lasqueti of Anna's Hummingbirds, our hummingbird feeders stay out all year, rather than being taken down after the departure of the Rufous Hummingbirds at the end of July.

Providing feed for the Anna's during the winter months can be challenging especially in freezing weather. They rely on us totally to keep feeders unfrozen.

Interesting birds I have noted over the years include a male American Goldfinch attempting to perch and feed from a Hummingbird feeder; a leucistic Dark-Eyed Junco that stayed for three seasons and was observed feeding a baby in the Spring. It was easy to spot among the large flock of Juncos because of the splotchy white feathers on its head and back. Another unusual visitor to our feeders was a completely bald-headed Spotted Towhee that was seen throughout the fall and winter, until a heavy snowfall and very cold weather resulted in its disappearance.

Summer visitors to our yard are the attractive Redwing Blackbirds announcing their arrival with loud voices from the treetops and swooping down to eat voraciously, sometimes displacing the smaller birds at the feeders.

From time to time a Sharp-shinned Hawk comes flying in at great speed, causing a flurry of small birds to seek safety in the trees. The hawk will sometimes perch on a nearby fence rail, waiting for the return of its prey, but I have yet to see it successfully carry something off.

It's not too late to participate in this rewarding and enjoyable activity... for information go to: feederwatch.org – Celia King



Trail blazing and the end of November? Not usually a good match, but with our mild fall and luck with the weather, not to mention 11 gung-ho volunteers led by Duane, the new loop trail at Osland is now more than half complete. The route winds through forest with old growth Doug firs, up mossy bluffs, and ends at a south facing lookout facing Vancouver Island and Sangster. There is a different return route through the forest. With one more work-party the trail should be complete—stay tuned for a date in early spring. Many thanks to Chris and Sue, James, Charlene and Jim, Jorden, Gordon and Izzy, Duane, Wendy and Bruce. Not to mention Suzi for the awesome lunch!

Linc is excited about creating this new trail, which is only the second official reserve trail on the island, the other one being Salish View. So of course we chose it for our New Year's Day hike. Fourteen of us, ages under 2 to over 80, hiked to the grey and misty summit.

If you're in the mood for a more mellow hike or are hoping for a glimpse of our island's largest rodent, there is a lower path along the wetland which leads to the beaver dam. From the old house site you can see across the water to the original beaver lodge. A little further along the pond, on the path-side right up against the bank where you can admire it up close, the beavers are busy building a second lodge. Each time I visit they have made renovations.

There are changes at Mt. Trematon too. Thanks to Alec Francis and Jordan Barton, there is a new exclosure. Unlike the original one, which was built five years ago on the hillside, this smaller one straddles the stream. It's also different than the first exclosure because no plants will be added. Instead, we'll wait to see what grows naturally in this riparian zone when free from herbivory.

Your generosity has contributed over \$8,000 to our Year End Appeal! Thank you, thank you! We will try to use it well.

XLAP Update: Stone Tools

Our team is working on the analyses of the stone artifacts (belongings) found on island. Most are from private collections – either found on the beach eroding out of archaeological sites, or in gardens in the spring. Some of the artifacts were given to me to use for educational purposes and to hold in trust until we have a place for a permanent public display. Others were photographed and then returned to those who found them. When found in the field, we take photos and leave the artifacts in place.

Our team did some fancy geochemistry to figure out the origins of the raw materials of some tools. The best local source appears to be Boot Point, but most belongings are from non-local sources.

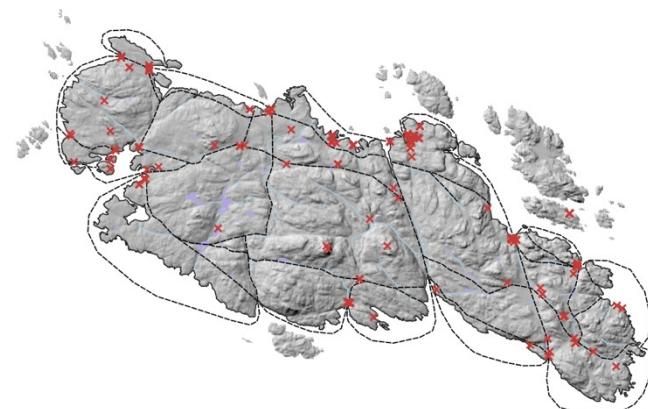
We're now at the fun stage of analyzing spatial and temporal patterns of the artifacts. Our preliminary analysis (see map) shows that artifacts are found along the coastline, along trails, and on high points. (Note: Main Road was a wagon trail and then before that it was obviously a main Indigenous trail). The early forms (7000 – 5000 years ago) are only found along the coastline, whereas later forms are also found in inland areas. This reflects people becoming increasingly familiar with the island as they established their permanent settlements.

Next, we will conduct a spatial analysis of the different source materials. My prediction: early on, when people were visiting the island for short periods, the tools found will be mostly of non-local materials that people brought with them. Later, as people spent more time here, they increasingly used local sources of stone for their tools. Stay tuned!

- Dana Lepofsky



Artifacts found on a small ledge above an intermittent stream near Squitty Bay, photographed and left in place. The collection tells us that this was a short-term camp, where people made or refurbished artifacts, and conducted a variety of tasks. The style of the (broken) projectile point suggests the site is no older than ~2500 years.



Xwe'etay, with trails and water routes, and location of belongings (artifacts) in red.



A view from the former homestead of Johnny Osland on Lake Road, now a public park, showing Mt. Tremerton being bathed in full moonlight, reflected on the small lake inside the park." - Ronaldo Norden



Akili Violini

Akili Violini grade 9

Forest Sit Spot Writing

As I sit here on this log, I hear the sound of nature sitting there waiting for the next rain, the end of all the heat and craziness.

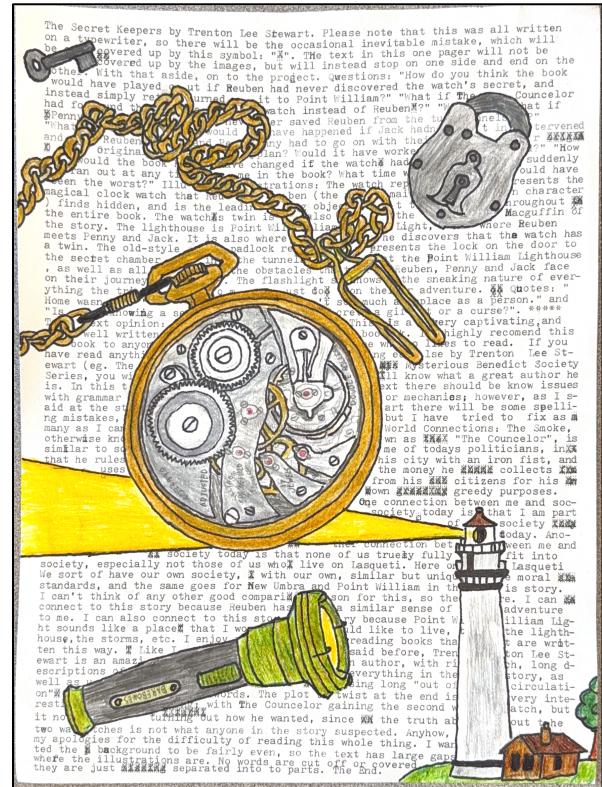
I sit here, watching and observing, with all five senses. The smell of the end of summer, the temperature where the air isn't as dry anymore and it has a sense of dampness in the air.

The air is cold now but beams of sunlight still shine down and heat you up like standing in front of the wood stove when you first get it going, and the room is still freezing cold.

I see the leaves of a maple tree gently bob up and down in the gentle wind. The taste of the not so ripe pear that I just ate that had been growing all summer long.

The overpowering, pungent scent of the tree sap that has been gushing out of wounds of most of the trees around me like a slow-motion waterfall. It's probably been dripping for months and most likely years for the sap to be like blood for the tree. It must mean the tree is hurt.

– Niall King Grade 11 Corner



Kahlio Dryburgh grade 11



Meet the Neighbours

Meet the Neighbours will be back next month. Many thanks to Suzanne Heron for her work on this great column.

“I just knitted this for Joy. It started out with not enough Moss green Baby Llama wool and morphed into a luxurious variety of colours in Baby Alpaca, Merino wool, and silk.” - Celia King

Wisdom from Xwe'etay Gardeners

Winter Gardening



For many, winter gardening involves in equal measure gazing wistfully at your garden as you walk by, and relief that there are few pressing tasks to do. We compile here what a few Lasqueti gardeners aim to do during the winter months.

- collect lots of maple leaves and mulch everything
- move plants that I have been imagining in different places all spring and summer
- empty my compost and put it on asparagus and apple trees before mulching them heavily with leaves
- make more compost layering fall garden clippings and maple leaves. I collect all my materials and then make the whole pile in one go and then cover it for the winter. Chop everything up into small pieces and then layer, adding twice as much carbon (brown) as green
- make cloches over fall brassicas (who often produce a crop again in the spring if they are protected in the winter) and overwinter fava beans to keep them from rotting.
- think about ordering seeds - *Anna Dodds*
- finish digging up potatoes (they're fine in the ground all winter!)
- garden planning
- seed cleaning/sorting/packaging/ordering
- harvest leeks, parsnip, rutabaga, kale as needed
- finish raspberry/cane fruit pruning/restaking/transplanting
- start on fruit tree pruning if weather is fine
- repair hand tools / new handles for broken shovels etc.
(haha, I always mean to do this but never seem to get to it...)
- more mulching and garden bed shaping if needed
- clean up greenhouse
- set up indoor seed starting area
- plan and purchase irrigation equipment for coming season
- check stored fruit and veg for spoilage, eat squash, apples, carrots before they go bad!
- enjoy time away from the garden walking in the woods :) – *Hilary Duinker*
- tidy up spent leaves, especially brassica leaves, to add to the compost heap.
- In the greenhouse prepare soil as I dream of seedlings.
- Late in the month, pull mulch back from Snowdrops and Crocus. - *The Optimist (Marti Wendt)*



“My first attempt at darning my own socks!” - *Don Dempster*



Crocheted baby blanket. - *Terry Theiss*



From Mikaila Lironi: Happy Holidays!

I'll keep this short. It's a quiet, dark time of year, and we're all busy getting ready to hunker down for the holidays. I'm writing this on the 21st of December, which is the shortest day of the year. I am so very much looking forward to less dark.

Now down to business: Trust Council was in early December. After much discussion, wrangling and contemplation, we approved a draft budget. It's only a draft, and that means that there are aspects of it that may change before it becomes the official 2026/27 budget. We also had a virtual visit with members of the San Juan Islands' local government. Many of the islands in the trust area have the San Juan Islands as neighbours. We discussed how we're handling similar ferry issues, pollution, marine life, political climate and budgeting.

(Cont'd next page)

The last LTC was held by Zoom, which definitely helped the lack of space issue. Hopefully we will be able to hold them in person again come spring.

Signing off, wishing everyone a Happy Holidays and New Year, Mikaila Lironi
mlironi@islandstrust.bc.ca 250-812-2560

From Tim Peterson: At December's Trust Council meeting, the recommendations of the CAO's Operational Report were adopted. The report is an interesting analysis of some the challenges that Islands Trust grapples with, and I commend the CAO for his work and sharing a fresh perspective with us.

At the conclusion of the budget debate, we had reduced the proposed tax increase down by around 2%, but the current proposed increase is still an uncomfortable 11.8%. It should be noted that next fall's elections costs have been estimated at \$227,000, which represents nearly 2.3% of the proposed tax increase.

Financial Planning Committee will be meeting in January, and again in February, to look for additional cuts to propose to Trust Council. This year, we will be holding a Committee Of The Whole meeting in February as well, to discuss and debate the budget predatory to final deliberations at the March Trust Council meeting.

In December, Director Fall and I met with Alex Hunter, MP Gord Johns' Constituency Assistant, to discuss important points for advocacy to the Transport Minister with regards to False Bay dock. We stressed that the dock is our vital lifeline to the rest of Canada, that it needs to be properly surveyed and maintained, and that we would like Transport Canada to remove it from consideration for divestiture. Director Fall and I are also working on a resolution to direct further advocacy on this issue through the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities this spring.

And finally, Lasqueti Trustees have been contacted by representatives from CityWest regarding next steps regarding the delivery of fibre-to-the-home services to residents on the island and assuring that this infrastructure is broadly supported by the community. CityWest intends to hold a public meeting on island in January, with further details to follow.



Years in Review: Practical tips for your digital life



For the past 2 years (!!) in this column I've tried to shine some light on the darker, hidden aspects of the systems that rule our digital lives. In the tradition of year-end reviews, here's a count-down of my "top 10" practical steps you can take to protect yourself from the Internet's most prolific scammers and the excesses of surveillance capitalism.

10. Click-bait (aka "chum") is low-quality, emotionally charged, or sensational content designed to attract clicks. AI-generated "slop" is super-charging this common manipulation tactic. You already know it's bad for you. That urge we feel to click is evidence of how successfully it manipulates our emotional response system. You already know you shouldn't click it. Enough said. Articles: June / July 2024

9. Dark design patterns define an architecture that keeps you on a specific path to benefit corporate interests over yours. They work by making it easy to do some things, even unintentionally, (like sign up for a monthly digital subscription) and frustratingly hard to do the opposite (like cancelling that subscription). Learn to recognize when an app or website is trying to herd you down a chute, and either jump the fence or ditch it. Article: Oct. 2025

8. Mobile (phone and tablet) email programs suck in ways that create opportunities of scammers. If possible, use a computer for managing email, using mobile email only, say, to check for specific messages when you are out and about. And configure your email privacy and security settings for maximum protection. Article: Dec. 2025

7. Use privacy-enhancing apps, especially your browser. I recommend Firefox and other apps from Mozilla, Proton, and DuckDuckGo for their superior privacy and security features. But whichever browser or email client you choose, install a reputable ad blocker and configure strict privacy and security settings. Article: Sept. 2025

6. Phishing scams and other forms of social engineering are the most common way for a "hacker" to gain access to your computer and private data. Don't click that link. Don't open that attachment. Don't install that program. You know the drill. Article: Apr. 2024

Next month we'll get to the top 5. In the meantime, just pick one thing from this list and make a small, incremental change. You'll find past articles referenced here in the XN archives (<https://lasqueti.ca/xweetay-news>) for more background and practical advice on each topic. Stay safe out there. – Joseph Fall

Book Review



Echoes from Eden, Dax Dasilva, Victory Belt Publishing, 2025

It's not often you get to ride along with a multi-millionaire. In this new biography, Dax Dasilva takes us to places he has helped protect around the world. From Borneo to the Congo, to the forests of BC, Dasilva reveals the threats to the natural world, and why conservation is essential. We learn about forested protected areas, surrounded by encroaching industrial deserts. We also learn about the passionate people actively guarding endangered wildlife: leatherback turtles from poachers, gorillas and gibbons as surrounding land is cleared and mined. Bears and salmon return to a once destroyed estuary.

Dasilva not only donates millions to acquire land, he also provides key funding for projects, such as BC's Pitt River. Once a thriving corridor of glacial water and salmon, logging roads choked off the water, leaving the land barren. Dasilva donated to the BC Parks Foundation to purchase the Pitt River Watershed and funded the Katzie First Nation to restore and re-channel the river.

Dasilva's tales take us into dangerous territory. Deep in the Congo, he and his group dodge armed militia. These quasi-authoritarian guards often represent illegal industries stripping lands through logging, mining, or war. No longer sustaining people, former landowners become cheap labour—on palm oil plantations, or mining barges poisoning the Amazon River. Funding local tree planting, schools and small business start ups, he explains “Conservation is also about justice”. Deep into a similarly armed country, Haiti, he learns, “Over 40 percent of rainfall on land comes from forests. The trees breathe water into the sky. Cut them down and the rain stops coming.”

In Borneo, he visits a sanctuary where Gibbons, rescued from the pet trade, live in large fenced enclosures. With not enough habitat for them to be released into the surrounding forests, Dasilva's non-profit, State of Union, bought 700 hectares. Dax says, “in places like Borneo—or the Amazon or the Congo, conservation isn't just about rescuing animals. It's about survival. Yours mine, theirs. If you don't own the land, you can't protect it.”

I tired of the repeated photos of Dasilva in these remote locations. However, there is no doubt that he has conserved essential places on the planet, with its dwindling wildlife, including Point Young here on Lasqueti. Weep for our ignorance and destructive lifestyles, but also for the devotion and success of so many people featured in *Echoes from Eden*. - Izzy Harrington



Nurse's Notes

Happy New Year to everyone!

Into a whole new year we go, a time for new beginnings. We all have safely passed through “the most vulnerable time of the year when the calendar resets”. That apparently was the need to have some form of explosives at New Years...to scare away the evil forces that may be lurking at this most vulnerable time. I may be a “party pooper” but I have never really liked fireworks or seen the need for them. At a certain time of my life, I didn't openly express this and did in fact attend celebrations where they occurred.

Now...No! I am with the birds that fly in the sky or my pet dog that quivers or yelps with each sound, or the sleeping baby who wakes with a sudden explosion. Not to mention the unsuspecting blade of grass or tree that unwittingly becomes fuel for a fire ignited by the fireworks.

I understand that there is a deep tradition with fireworks; I am not against traditions, but traditions can change or be modified; they are humanly made! If this sounds like a “rant”, well maybe it is. The positive thing, however, with fireworks on New Year's eve, is that it reminds me to reflect on traditions that may stay even though the meaning and benefit fades away. As the world changes, perhaps some traditions should change too.

Cheers... not a “party pooper”, ♥Dianne

Nurse in clinic: January 8, 15, 22 January



“Gifted to my god-daughter who lives in North Delta” – Sue Ashcroft

Another Ferry Tale: Christmas Eve 2010

It was December 2010 and we were still working full time in Vancouver. With our new Lasqueti born kitten in tow, we set off in the pouring rain and howling gusts to Horseshoe Bay on Thursday Dec 23rd. We had a reservation for the 5:00, which didn't leave till 6:00 and took an extra 30 minutes to cross due to the stormy weather. We had booked a hotel room in Parksville, ready to catch the first ferry on Friday.

The next morning, the weather had worsened and we could tell from the high waves and wind that the Lasqueti ferry was not likely to be leaving at 9:45. As it turned out, it had not sailed the previous day either due to 50 knot winds. After checking out at 11:00, we went down to French Creek and hung out in the pub for a while. We met some locals there and got more news about the ferry. The 11:00 from False Bay had started out but then had to turn back because it was too rough. This meant no 2:30 run either.

Word got out that the 4:00 had left False Bay! A bronco on the open waves. An expectant mob assembled on the dock. Everyone had been waiting for 2 days, and this was the last chance to make it for Christmas, so there were lots of people, lots of gear and a ton of groceries ready to be delivered.

An excruciating wait ensued. By then it was venomously dark, pouring rain and very windy, quite surreal. Suddenly, out of the mists of time ... the mighty Centurian came into view. It was right out of the ending to *Children of Men*. Captain Dave came out of the wheelhouse and raised his arms in victory. The jubilant crowd burst into a standing ovation.

Amazingly, we arrived in False Bay around 6:45. There were so many people unloading and others waiting to get their groceries that it took us ages to get our gear unloaded and into the car. We finally made it back to the homestead some time after 7:30. It only took an hour to get the electricity working, water flowing, fire burning and a glass poured. We made an early night of it and had a good lie in the next morning. - Sue Ashcroft

"Stranded for two days at the dock"
photo by Hollis Linschoten,
December 24, 2010



Clowning Workshop

The Lasqueti Island Arts Council is pleased to offer a clowning workshop by Kristin Crowley (an AquaChatauquan). "Clowning is a state of playfulness that brings us to experience a child-like, naïve and vulnerable state of being. Paradoxically we grow, learn and are strengthened through reconnecting playfully with what makes us most vulnerable. This approach to clowning is not a technique (tricks, gags and routines) but a personal journey towards finding one's own unique way of being a clown, by listening and being receptive, essential skills for any creative and imaginative expression. It is only when we let go our control over things that we begin to be surprised by the depth of what reveals itself to us."

The workshop will run **January 23 (5/6pm-8/9pm), Saturday, January 24 (9:30-5:30) and Sunday (9:30-1:30)**. The times are approximate and will be confirmed closer to the date. The cost of the workshop is a sliding scale fee of \$200-\$250. The Arts Council will offer financial support to ensure that money is not barrier to those whose hearts are called to this work. The class is capped at 12 participants and folks need to be 18+ years of age. Please contact Faren at 604-414-4217 or email arts@lasqueti.ca to register or for more information.

Bumblebee Books

Years ago, I sliced through the base of a sword-fern with my scythe and noticed that there was something inside the hump whose top I had just cut off. Having no idea what it was, and because it seemed to include a large bee along with other smaller structures, I sought out Bugsy and described it to her. She thought it sounded like it might be a bumblebee nest. A library and internet search provided me with the basics of a bumblebee's life story, which is pretty short, complex and interesting; and luckily, I found a British entomologist who studies insects and especially bumblebees.

Dave Goulson is one of the most interesting writers I've read. Most of his books read like he's talking with you. His enthusiasm and knowledge and humour come through strongly. He's a joy to read, and extremely entertaining and interesting. Reading these books (listed below) is also a great insight into how science, especially natural sciences, work and develop knowledge, understanding, and agreement. It takes a lot of time and effort to figure out how particular things work, and even more time to discover how various parts depend on each other in their environment.

A Sting in the Tale: My Adventures with Bumblebees (2014). Goulson chronicles his childhood in nature, and his encounters with bumblebees and other insects.

A Buzz in the Meadow: The Natural History of a French Farm (2014). Goulson's purchase of a farm in France and his work to turn it into sanctuary for bumblebees.

Bee Quest: In Search of Rare Bees (2017). Goulson travels to see and study bumblebees around the world.

Silent Earth: Averting the Insect Apocalypse (2021). Insects have declined worldwide, by at least 50% in the last 75 years. Goulson describes the numbers and offers evidence for the disappearance and its causes. How science works through time is an interesting part of his text.

Gardening for Bumblebees: A Practical Guide to Creating a Paradise for Pollinators (2021).

The Garden Jungle: or Gardening to Save the Planet (2021). Both books describe English gardens and bumblebees and insects. There

are North American, Canadian, and British Columbian sources of good information about gardening for coastal and BC bumblebees, insects, and pollinators.

Two more bumblebee books I would recommend are more academic and not as easy and fun to read, but nevertheless full of interesting information and detail: 1) Goulson's *Bumblebees: Behaviour, Ecology, and Conservation* (Oxford University Press, 2010); and 2) Bernd Heinrich's *Bumblebee Economics* (Harvard University Press, 2004).

– Peter Johnston



Close up of the bumblebee in the Welcome Mural at the dock.

The Islands Trust Policy Statement Survey

Its not too late....

The month of February is when the Islands Trust Policy Statement Draft Survey is due. This will likely be your last opportunity to give feedback on this document which holds so much weight for the future of Lasqueti and almost all of the other Islands in the South Salish Sea. I cannot stress enough the importance of this document! If it is approved, it will be next to impossible to reverse. At this moment there is so much uncertainty in the Province of British Columbia there needs to be a PAUSE before anything is set in stone.

Look at the document and what others are saying about the Islands Trust Policy Statement Draft; it is quite complex. Then complete the SURVEY or just give your feedback. There will likely be another information session on Lasqueti before February so stay tuned.

<http://friendsofthegulfislands.ca>

<http://southerngulfislandscoalition.ca>

<http://lasquetifirst.ca>

<http://islandstrust.bc.ca>

Your neighbour on Lasqueti for 21 years

-Lynn Spragues

The Bees of your Backyard – Webinar by Dr. Elizabeth Elle Feb 4, 7-9 pm

Have you ever paused to consider how much we owe to pollinators? About one out of every three bites we eat, not to mention the reproduction of native and ornamental plants! The pollination workhorses are the almost 500 species of native bees in BC, with supporting roles filled by other flower visitors like flies, wasps, butterflies, and birds.

On the evening of Feb 4, LINC is sponsoring a zoom presentation on our pollinators by Dr. Elizabeth Elle of SFU. This will be a fun introduction to the diversity and natural history of bees and other pollinators, full of photos of what you might see visiting flowers in your own garden and tips for identifying them. You'll also learn the essentials of supporting the bees of your backyard, from their nesting needs to planting for pollinators.

Zoom link to be announced closer to the event

Elizabeth Elle is a Professor of Biological Sciences at Simon Fraser University. Elizabeth and her students have been studying pollinators and pollination in farms, natural areas, habitat restorations, and gardens of BC for 25 years. An avid gardener, Elizabeth enjoys translating the science of ecology to support pollinator-friendly garden practices. For more information about ecological gardening, visit

<https://elizabethelleecology.ca>



One of many of Mikaila's beautiful creations

Festival of the Fine Hearts, Feb 13

If you need some inspiration for your winter creativity, this is a little advance notice that The Festival of Fine Hearts will be Friday February 13th at the gallery. This is an intimate evening of sharing your original work with your community. It's about love in the broadest sense of the word. So writers and visual artists consider this a prompt. What is in your heart these days?



Kitchen Creations



January. The month that is hopefully quiet and calm and easy. I like this Jamie Oliver recipe because once it's made, you have enough for about 4 meals. You can freeze it or serve it to a crowd. You can add curry, ras el hanout or Mediterranean herbs, chicken or lamb - whatever suits you, really.

Jamie Oliver's Veggie Casserole

1 butternut squash
400 g mushrooms
4 onions
4 mixed color peppers
2 cloves garlic
Olive oil
Red wine vinegar
2 tablespoons black olive tapenade
4 x 400 g tins chickpeas
2 x 400 g tins of plum tomatoes

Preheat oven to 350*.

Wash and trim squash, halve it and remove the seeds. Place it skin side down directly on the oven rack.

Put a large, deep casserole pan on a high heat. Break up the mushrooms and toast in a dry pan for 10 minutes to bring out their nuttiness, tossing regularly. Peel onions, de-seed peppers and very roughly chop both. Add to pan and cook another 10 minutes stirring often.

Peel and finely slice the garlic and add to the pan with 2 tablespoons each olive oil, red wine vinegar, and the tapenade. Allow liquid to evaporate then add chickpeas' juice and all, the tomatoes squishing them with your hands and two tins of water.

Bring to boil; add squash halves on top skin side down and cook til thick and the squash is soft. Use a serving spoon to roughly break up the squash and mix it through the stew. Season and enjoy.— Deb Perell

Pete's Party

What: Peter's 80th Birthday

When: 4pm Friday, 30th January, 2026

Where: Lasqueti Community Hall

We will be kicking off the rager at 4pm until we're all tuckered out.

Theme: Upstage the Bride (imagine you're going to a wedding, and you really dislike the bride and want to make sure all eyes are on you and not her).

Dressing up is MANDATORY: don't make the old geezer sad by showing up in your usual garb.

Freestore and SOS would be a good place to look.

Highlights: Bad Genny playing all their hits

Food: Potluck sides with main, soup and buns provided

Drink: twoonie bar with wine, beer, boozy and non boozy punch

Games: there will be party games

Your job: whip up a potluck item, put on your wedding dress, fancy party outfit, 3-piece suite and show up ready to have a good time!

If you have a story, photos or anything else you'd like to share, please bring it along.



Community Calendar

Jan 23 – 25. Clowning workshop.

Feb 4: Bees in Your Backyard. Via Zoom.
7-9 pm.

Feb 13. Festival of the Fine Hearts, Art Gallery.

Our Week in Review

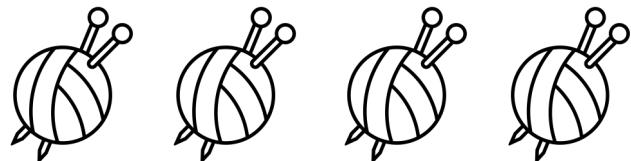
	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
A Life TimeZ Nursery	by appointment @ 819-698-3829						
Black Sheep Gas		2 - 6			2 - 6	2 - 6	
Feed Store		11 - 3			11 - 3		
Ferry – from FB	1, 4	8, 11, 4			8, 11, 4	8, 11, 4	8, 11, 4
Ferry – from FC	2:30, 5:30	9:30, 2:30, 5:30			9:30, 2:30, 5:30	9:30, 2:30, 5:30	9:30, 2:30,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

*Nurses clinic: Thurs, January 8, 15, 22.

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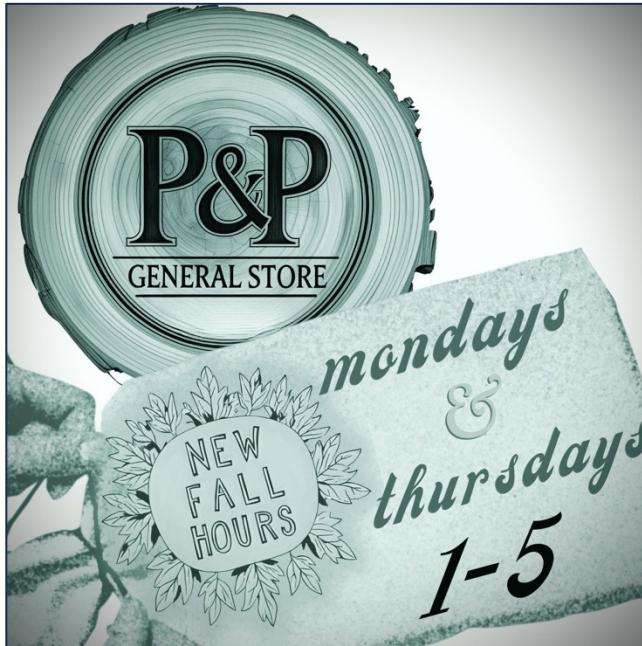
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Online versions: www.lasqueti.ca/xweetay-news

Deadline submission for Feb. issue: 30 Jan