

LASQUETI ISLE & TIMES

February 2020 Edition



NOTES FROM TIM: It been a quiet couple of months for the Lasqueti Local Trust Committee (LTC), but the LCA (Lasqueti Community Association) will be receiving the results of the LCA's OCP (Official Community Plan) committee's community consultation process on February 2, and forwarding it to the LTC in time for our next meeting on February 24th. This will mark the transition in the OCP review process to becoming the main focus for the LTC, likely for most of not all of the remainder of this term.

On another note, I am very pleased to have been selected for the Cathy Watson Memorial Award, which means that I will be attending the Local Government Leadership Academy sponsored 2020 Leadership Forum February 5-7, in Richmond. The theme of this year's forum is Inclusive Leadership, with speakers, workshops, and plenary sessions that focus on working collaboratively with staff, colleagues, and members of the public and First Nations.

Our next meeting is February 24th. Please consider attending if you are able, and, as always, feel free to contact your Trustees with your questions, comments, and concerns. Thank you, Tim, Islands Trustee.

NOTES FROM PETER: First Nations - I have prepared a letter introducing myself to the Hegus (chief) and legislators of the Tla'amin First Nation (formerly called Sliammon) who live on the Sunshine Coast, just north of Powell River. They have historical ties to Lasqueti and the waters surrounding us, and my letter is mainly to begin to introduce our community to theirs, so that we can meet and get to know each other over the next years. I'm hoping that the Lasqueti Trust Committee can work on this, too, in the fairly near future. I plan to expand this to other First Nations that have expressed

an interest or have Treaty or traditional rights in and around our area.

Budget: The Islands Trust is required to adopt a budget for next fiscal year (1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021) before the end of March. We'll probably do this at our Trust Council meeting on Salt Spring Island March 10-12. There is a public consultation process just underway, mostly over the internet, starting at

The proposed budget calls for a 3% increase in total spending, and a 1.5% increase in property taxes overall (except for Bowen Island's 2.7% projected increase). There will be a \$383,650 draw from surplus funds, which are unspent money from past years, to cover the difference in increases in spending and tax revenue. The total proposed budget is \$8,180,478.

If you want more information, please talk to me or to Tim, or contact the Northern Trust Office 250-247-2063 northinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca

OCP/LUB: Some months ago I was informed of a Lasqueti waterfront property subdivision application with an unusable public access to the water. When I contacted the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI, who handle subdivision applications in rural areas) about this, I was told that they consider subdivision applications to be private matters between the applicant/owner and MOTI, and that there was no provision for public notification about applications, and no process for public input into them. Our only influence comes from our Official Community Plan and especially our Land Use Bylaw. I will be proposing, as part of our OCP and LUB process, and maybe sooner, that we add requirements about accesses to foreshore to the subdivision section of our Land Use Bylaw.

Comments, questions and suggestions gratefully received. Thanks for reading this. Peter 8785 pjohnston@islandstrust.bc.ca