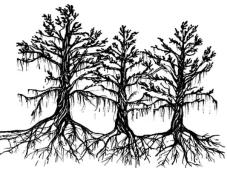


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Tim and I attended the Salish Sea Symposium (SSS) in Vancouver. This was a huge, collaborative event featuring absolutely everyone with an interest in the Salish Sea. Among the attendees: Transport Canada, Coast Guard, policy makers, federal, local, US, state, and provincial governments, NGOs, biologists, environmentalists, DFO, first nations, consultants, port authorities etc.

There were a wide variety of presentations and panels to attend. I met a representative from the Dead Boat Disposal Society (<u>https://deadboatsdisposalsociety.ca/</u>) who informed me that Lasqueti is next on their list for boat removals. I also attended a workshop where members of Transport Canada asked the participants to answer questions relating to how their vessel remediation (removing derelict boats) program should work. As Grand Chief Doug Kelly remarked in his speech at the SSS: 'decisions should be made by those affected by the decisions, not the folks in Ottawa'. It was great to see that attitude being put to action.

All in all it was a fascinating Symposium, and a great opportunity to liaise and help shape the future with others who also share a passion for the Salish Sea.

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Deadline for submission for March issue: Feb 26, 2024

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

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