

The  
**LASQUETI  
 ISLAND  
 LOCAL**



-----  
 "LIL" is a community supported newsletter, i.e., the articles and ads are written by community members and representatives of our local government.

The contents do not necessarily represent the views of the editor/publisher, nor is accuracy guaranteed.

Online version at:

**lasquetilocal.ca**

Please visit the website for a subscription to receive the newsletter direct to your Inbox and get notified for new content.

-----  
**OCT 2021 DEADLINE:**  
 SEPT. 26th, 2021

*Editor's Note* 

Hello Community. The month of August was an interesting one. We rolled into the month feeling upbeat and positive about getting "back to normal". There were fun events that made us feel like a tight-knit community again and offered much needed laughter. There were protests which showed the diverse opinions and ideas of our community. There were changes to our ferry protocol which had some of us feeling a little rattled. There was the usual debate of "summer people... some are not". And finally the news that Covid numbers are on the rise again and the unsettling wondering of "what do we do now???"

As a community we have gone through all of this while dealing with an extremely hot, extremely dry summer. I am sure many of us have felt a wide range of emotions.

I received an email from a long time community member with a suggestion of a monthly column that asks questions like:

- What was your worst mistake with firewood?
- If you could build your "dream house" what size would it be and features would it have?
- What is your best strategy for dealing with an extremely busy ferry?
- What is most important to you as you set up, build your homestead?
- What is your best pressure canning secret?

I LOVE this idea! What a great way to get to know those that are new to Lasqueti and for those that have "been there, done that" to offer their sage advice and amusing anecdotes. Each month I will pose one question and, hopefully, receive some wise answers and funny stories to be published in the next issue.

**September's Question is:**

*"What was your Lasqueti First... you know... that first Lesson that if you had only 'known then what you know now?'"*

Please send your answers to: [lasqueti.local@gmail.com](mailto:lasqueti.local@gmail.com)

I look forward to hearing from you!

Dianna Maycock, Editor/publisher



**NOTES FROM PETER:** Trust Council will be held electronically again, September 21 through 23: 1 till 9pm on Tuesday, 9am till 5pm Wednesday, and 9am till 5pm Thursday. Tuesday evening is the Delegations and Town Hall session. Agenda package will be posted on Friday, September 10.

**Sheep in the Official Community Plan:**

I am receiving objections to the reinstatement of the existing text on feral/heritage sheep into the new proposed OCP, mostly because it was done on the spur of the moment at our August 13 Lasqueti Trust Committee (LTC) meeting without public knowledge and ability to respond and participate. People I'm hearing from feel that the LTC responded to a small but vocal group that does not represent the view of the community as a whole, or what was expressed at the two

community forums that discussed the sheep issue.(I believe that committee recommended that this issue be recorded as unresolved.) I'm not sure how we can determine the will of the community, except by more discussion and effort to understand the issues and come to whatever level of agreement we can about what to include in our OCP. The proposed OCP is not yet finalized, and can be changed again, especially if written feedback is received by the LTC from community members, and people attend and speak up at our meetings. The next scheduled LTC meeting is Monday, October 4. It's not yet known if it'll be an in-person or an electronic meeting.

It has been the desire of the LTC to finish the OCP revisions and adopt it before the current term is over, I think next October. This is not essential, and my view is that we'd be better off taking a bit more time, if it is necessary, and assuming that the new trustee(s) and LTC members will adopt the OCP, especially if it has strong support from the community.

I have a few printed copies of the OCP as it was included in the agenda package for our August meeting, without the amendments on the sheep issue in it. Let me know if you'd like to have a copy, and I'll get it to you. It would be good to have everybody's input on the OCP, so that it does truly represent the views of the community.

The Islands Trust Policy Statement is being revised. This is required by the Islands Trust Act, and sets out how the Trust will work to preserve and protect the Islands Trust area. Our public engagement strategy will be discussed and hopefully adopted at our September Trust Council meeting. There will be at least one public meeting on the Policy Statement on Lasqueti, and lots of opportunity for input by the various written methods. To see all the information on the Policy Statement, including the current draft text, staff reports, correspondence received and lots of other stuff, please check out [islandstrust.bc.ca/programs/islands-2050/](http://islandstrust.bc.ca/programs/islands-2050/) I expect that printed copies will be available. Let me or the Trust's Gabriola office know if you'd like one.

It seems to be a good time to begin a Scottie Bay discussion and exchange of ideas, possibly leading towards a plan to make it more easily useful and reduce some of the conflicts and problems in that area. This is not a LTC project, and there is no staff time or resource allocated towards it. I'd like everyone with an interest in the area to be involved – people who live in the area, who have boats that they keep there, or would like to keep there, or who would like to be able to use the bay in any

way. Everyone with an interest or point of view on the subject is welcome to participate. I think it's important, and could be helpful.

I think it will be good to start by asking people to write to me with their ideas or problems or suggested solutions, or interests or anything at all to do with the public's use of Scottie Bay, and the effects on the neighbours. I'd like to make submissions public, so everyone interested can see the range of issues and concerns. If someone wants to write to me in confidence, I'll respect that, and make every effort to express your ideas without revealing your identity. I'm hoping that we can meet together to explore the issues and concerns, but if it's not safe, we can work in other ways to figure out what the problems are and maybe even some possible solutions to some of them. At least we'll understand more about the situation. Please write to me, on paper or by email, with your ideas, concerns, issues, etc. that are relevant to Scottie Bay and the surrounding lands.

I'd also like to hear if people have ideas about how to conduct this preliminary exchange, so we get an idea of the scope and breadth of the issues. If people think that it's a good idea to have their input public, we could start a forum or blog on the Lasqueti.ca website where people could post, or have their paper submission posted. Please send me your suggestions and ideas.

Finally, at a recent gathering, the "ten acre freeze" came up as something that was preserving and protecting Lasqueti from overdevelopment. In the past, we have thought that this was part of the protection we have, along with the lack of centrally generated and distributed electricity (BC Hydro) and the 10 miles of open water and limited ferry service. I think that easy and inexpensive solar systems, often augmented by individual wind or hydro generation and gasoline or diesel generators have made BC Hydro irrelevant here. The ferry service limits access to Lasqueti, and probably will continue to do so. The 4 hectare minimum lot size in our Land Use Bylaw, according to the October 29, 2008 "build-out" study reports that, not including crown or Islands Trust Conservancy land, or the islands surrounding Lasqueti, over 1200 dwellings are currently permitted on Lasqueti. Recent census reports have just over 400 dwellings currently in existence. It'll be interesting to see how many are recorded in the now-nearing-completion census.

I'm not suggesting that anything be done at this point, but it's a good idea for us to think about what it would mean

to have something like three times the number of people building homes and gardens and guest houses and living here. Lots more holes in the forest, at least. There are other related problems that we should think and talk about, too, like should and how could we provide some affordable housing for young people who grow up here, and possibly for people of modest means to be able to live here along with us who were lucky enough to have acquired property before it became unaffordable to most people. These are problems for the community and future Islands Trustees to deal with some time in the future.

If you have questions or concerns, please ask me or Tim, or contact the Trust's Gabriola office. Thanks for your interest and involvement with our community. Peter

**NOTES FROM TIM:** Greetings all, At our August 13 regular business meeting, I brought forward two motions regarding sheep in the OCP. I have heard from a few people that they were not happy that notice about the motions had not been given beforehand. While I sent an email to our planner June 26 regarding my intention to bring a motion on this issue to the meeting, it did not make it onto the agenda. At the meeting, the Chair did deliberate on whether to allow the motions to proceed, citing the concerns about prior notice, and ultimately decided to allow them. As to the question of how the LTC should address sheep in the OCP, my view is that we do not have a clear community consensus on how to proceed, and my inclination therefore is to leave it as it is, until a change acceptable to a clear majority is attainable. The LCA OCP Steering Committee, which I would like to thank again for their hard work on behalf of the community, recognized this in the following, from their final report: "The Steering Committee process did not resolve how to deal with this important issue, and the recommendation to remove the above objective should be viewed as recognition that there is no recommendation of if, or how, feral sheep should be addressed in the OCP." To me this sentence, contradictory as it may seem, indicates the lack of a clear consensus, despite the recommendation. However, the issue is not closed, and I expect it will come up for discussion again at our next meeting.

The Regional Planning Committee met August 25th and decided to forward both the "Residential Floor Area Ratio Model Bylaw Report" and the "Shoreline Protection Model Bylaw Report" to Local Trust Committees, who will individually decide whether to pursue adoption of them. The Freshwater Sustainability Strategy, Groundwater Mapping Projects, Salt Water Intrusion,

Heritage Conservation Mapping, and Fees Bylaw were also discussed.

Trust Programs Committee met on August 27th to discuss the Policy Statement Amendment Project, the Stewardship Education Program, and budget requests for next fiscal year.

Trust Council meets September 21-23, electronically. Check out the Islands Trust website for information on how to attend or watch later.

Our next Local Trust Committee meeting is October 4th, at 9:30 AM. It remains unclear if this will be an in person or an electronic meeting, but please do attend if you are able to. The Townhall section is generally near the beginning of the meeting. As always, please feel free to contact your Trustees with your questions, comments, or concerns.

#### **ISLANDS TRUST CONTACT INFORMATION:**

- Islands Trust Northern Office  
700 North Road, Gabriola Island, BC V0R 1X0  
Email: [northinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:northinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca)  
Phone: 1-250-247-2063  
WEBSITE: [www.islandstrust.bc.ca](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca)  
(call 1-800-663-7867 and ask to be connected)
- Peter Johnston  
Email: [pjohnston@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:pjohnston@islandstrust.bc.ca)  
Phone: 250-333-8785
- Tim Peterson  
EMAIL: [tpeterson@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:tpeterson@islandstrust.bc.ca)  
PHONE: 250-607-7094

**To reach the LTC trustees and planner:**

[LasquetiIslandLocalTrustCommittee@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:LasquetiIslandLocalTrustCommittee@islandstrust.bc.ca)



**qathet**  
**REGIONAL DISTRICT**

**Island Health Vaccination Clinic:** Island Health rolled out a third "whole community vaccine clinic" for Lasqueti on Aug 12. These clinics have been welcomed by a large majority of residents, and the clinic had such high participation, including drop-ins, that there was only a single dose remaining at the end of the day. Although some residents felt a bit intimidated by a handful of people past whom they had to walk to enter the health centre and who were trying to dissuade them, this had no effect on the high participation rate. As the overall vaccination rate for Lasqueti seems to be at least as high