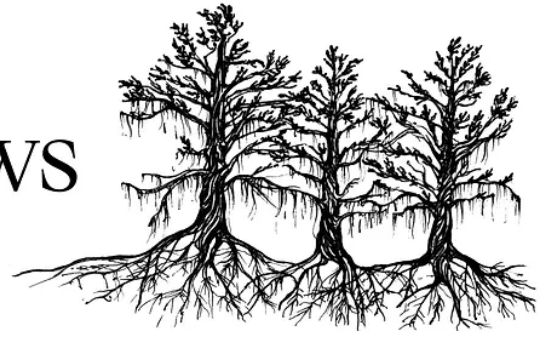


Xwe'etay News



[Home](#)

[Features from Yew](#)

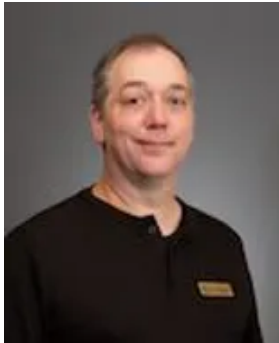
[Regular Columns](#)

[Government & Services](#)

[Community Calendar](#)

[Lasqueti Businesses](#)

[Contact](#)



Islands Trust

Tim Peterson

Islands Trustee

Greetings all,

I want to thank the members of the Yew Collective for coming together with this new publication. I'd also like to thank Dianna Maycock for her years of service. A community news venue is such an important service!

By printing time, the Ferry Town Hall meeting will have taken place. I'm going to predict that this was a well-attended event where the community came out and shared their thoughts on the ferry service past, present, and future, and that our local elected officials and other agencies heard their messages loud and clear.

In January my fellow trustee and I attended the Salish Sea Symposium hosted by Transport Canada. Session topics covered a range of issues, including shipping, anchorages, aquaculture, oil spill response, and the challenges of balancing these economic activities with the importance of wild salmon, orcas, and other aquatic creatures and plants and the environment on which they rely for survival. The session on clam garden restoration was the one I personally found most interesting. I also met up with my old friend James from Ocean Legacy. They have done a lot to remove plastics and other debris from our beaches here on Lasqueti and up and down the coast. I had a look at their facility in Steveston, where they are working to reclaim much of this waste for reuse, rather than sending it on to landfills.

At our December 11th meeting, we heard a delegation from the Ratepayers Association advocating for changes to our regulations on private docks. Although the report from the LCA OPC committee did not suggest any changes, I am open to more community discussion on this issue if there is interest. As we continue work on revising our Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaw, hearing from the public is essential to having these foundational documents reflect the aspirations of our community.

Also in December, we adopted our revised Meeting Procedures Bylaw, set our meeting schedule for 2024, and have asked staff to prepare revisions to the Model Strategy for Antenna Systems. My experiences on Salt Spring and Hornby with cell tower proposals suggest that the more robust our local protocol is, the better. Our next regular business meeting is not until May 6. We hope to have had meetings with Snaw-naw-as First Nation by that time, as Chief and Council elections will have been completed.

Financial Planning Committee continues to meet in preparation for Trust Council budget deliberations at the March meeting.

Finally, the big news at Trust Council is the upcoming retirement of CAO Russ Hotsenpiller. A hiring committee has been formed to begin the search for a successor, and we hope to have a new CAO before the summer is out.

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

Tim Peterson

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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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