

(qathet cont'd from previous pg)

options and estimated potential costs regarding design, renovation, location, etc., and to hold public consultation.

Feedback on these ideas is welcome.

Please feel free to contact me. I am honoured to be your regional representative.

- Director Andrew Fall, qathet Regional District;
250-333-8595



From Mikaila Lironi:

A Call for Respect and Collaboration

Over the last two years, our Local Trust Committee (LTC) meetings have faced some challenges that have made them less enjoyable for everyone involved. Meetings should be a place where we work together, share ideas, and make decisions for the good of the community. Unfortunately, however, this hasn't always been the case.

As someone who was born and raised on Lasqueti and elected to serve this community, I believe we can do better. It's so important that we treat one another with kindness, patience, and respect—whether we're staff, trustees, or members of the public. Everyone's voice matters, and when we create an environment of mutual respect, our conversations and decision-making processes become much more productive and inclusive.

Our staff and trustees work hard to serve the community and provide a space for meaningful discussion. To help improve our meetings, we read our meeting conduct policy at the beginning of every meeting, and we share suggestions for creating a more positive atmosphere. These steps are a way to ensure everyone feels heard and valued.

As a community, we all have a role to play in making our meetings successful. This means allowing space for others to speak, listening actively, and contributing thoughtfully. If we can commit to these basic principles, we'll not only improve our meetings but also strengthen the sense of connection that makes Lasqueti such a special place.

I understand that change takes time and effort, but I truly believe we can rise to the occasion. Our meetings are a vital part of our local governance, and it's up to all of us to ensure they reflect the care and respect we have for our island and each other.

Thank you for helping us create a space where everyone can participate in a meaningful and respectful way.

May your pipes remain unfrozen into the New Year! mlironi@islandstrust.bc.ca 250-812-2560

From Tim Peterson: At our December 16th meeting, the Lasqueti Local Trust Committee updated our Strategy for Antenna Systems to require additional First Nation consultation, in particular to protect archaeological and cultural sites for any proposed cell tower installation. We also directed staff to ensure that any Crown Land Lease referrals come to the LTC for consideration; requested the Chair to write a letter to the federal Minister advocating for our dock to be considered for the next round of funding for repair and/or reconstruction; and voted to adopt our meeting schedule for the coming year.

The LTC also approved an accelerated timeline for the Connected Coast fibre optic application, with a shortened referral period, in light of several factors. First, the funding for the project expires in March, so we wanted to avoid delaying such that the project could not be accomplished. Second, given that the proponents have indicated that engagement with First Nations has been a component of the Connected Coast project and conducted through the Crown Lease process, we felt it was reasonable to shorten the referral period. Prior to any final approval, the LTC has determined that a Public Hearing should be conducted, so that the community has ample opportunity to express their views on this application. Staff have suggested that the Public Hearing may take place in conjunction with our February 10th meeting.

Finally, the LTC passed a resolution to ensure a safe working and meeting space by enforcing proper public meeting decorum and applying the Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee Meeting Procedures Bylaw in a stricter manner than we have to date. This is in response from concerns from staff members and trustees about the conduct of some members of the public in our

meetings. It is important that all participants in our meetings feel safe and respected, whether they be staff, trustees, or members of the public. We want meetings where everyone can express their views in a respectful, orderly, and courteous manner.

Please consider attending our next meeting in February, and, as always, please feel free to contact your trustees with your questions, comments, or concerns. 250.607.7094



Practical Security Advice part 1: Backups

Over the coming months this column will count down some practical ways to protect yourself from the shysters, charlatans, and thieves who use the Internet to rip people off and ruin lives.

Priority #1: Make Regular Backups

A reliable, recent backup is your first line of defence against all manner of calamity. If you keep anything of value on your computer or phone, like books, music, or photos, banking or taxes, your contact list, or any other types of documents, then connecting to the Internet without a backup is like walking a high wire without a safety net.

If the worst happens, say your computer gets a virus, or some hacker installs some “ransomware” that locks you out, your backup provides a cheap, effective resolution – just restore your computer to a time prior to the breach, et voila, problem solved.

An ideal backup system is *incremental* and *automated*. “Incremental” means that only changed files are added each backup – thus each increment runs very quickly. Apple’s “**Time Machine**” and Windows 11 “**Backup App**” are both incremental backup systems. They are built-in, at no extra cost, and come with lots of support to get you started – just search (with duckduckgo.com, of course!)

Backup frequently – the longer between backups, the more data you risk losing. If you use a desktop computer, permanently connect a backup disk and configure your system to run regular incremental backups, say every day. Set it and forget it.

If you use a laptop, the easiest solution will be a portable disk you can plug in via USB, so long as

you remember to periodically plug it in and start a backup. Simple and low-tech. Automated backups over wi-fi are the deluxe option, like having a private “cloud”, but you need the right device and some tech. savvy to set it up.

For a monthly fee, you could opt for a cloud backup service. Super convenient but uses network data and comes with privacy concerns.

Backup your phone or tablet to your computer, and its data will be on your backup too! Most importantly, whichever option you choose, whether a portable USB drive or a cloud backup service, rely on a high-quality review service, like Wirecutter or PCMag, to help you choose a device or service provider you can trust.

Next month: password managers! Till then, stay safe out there. – *Joseph Fall*



In the spring and summer, biologists from off-island come to Lasqueti to support conservation efforts, monitor the conservancy sites, and look for rare species. Would you be interested in connecting with these visiting scientists, and joining them for portions of their fieldwork?

While in the field, the biologists need to be able to conduct their work unimpeded, but there is often room for a volunteer or two to help them in their tasks and/or glean insights into such wonders as the mind-boggling diversity of lichens, and the marvelous breeding habits of amphibians. One of their primary needs is accessing the study sites, so it would be especially helpful if volunteers had a vehicle to help with transportation.

These excursions are a wonderful opportunity for us islanders to look at our ecosystems from new and detailed angles; and the input of local knowledge can produce mutually enriching experiences. You are also invited to join LINC's board members on their regular year-round monitoring visits to conservancy sites. If you've never been to these special parts of the island, they are well worth visiting! Please get in touch with us if you'd like to learn more!

A big thank you to all who have generously donated to help us reach our year-end fundraising goal! Wishing you and your mycelial network a peaceful, fruitful new year. – *Kaia Bryce for LINC*