

August 10, 2021

Pete Johnston
Lasqueti Is. Trust Committee
Islands Trust Planner

Re: Lasqueti Island Heritage Sheep & Our OCP

One of the most attractive things about Lasqueti Is 40 years ago ~~was~~ there was no reason to go hungry. With few resources & a little ingenuity one could eat very well from the abundance of salmon, rockfish clams, oysters, wild berries, mushrooms, abandon orchards, venison, sheep and the occasional Free Range cow that ended upon the wrong side of the garden fence or fell in someones well.

Forty years on the salmon are on the endangered list, the Salish Sea has become almost too toxic & acidic to support shellfish, old orchards have suffered from neglect.

But, the Islands Trust is in full tilt to rid our Island of our Heritage Sheep.

With the effects of climate change becoming a daily reality & the availability / cost of food going up every week, is it not time to shift the focus from wild flowers and forest understory to Local Food Sustainability?

A good start would be a plan to eradicate Rats from the Trust area. Rats, which cause millions more in damage both, private & public than sheep. Rats that eat songbird eggs, berries, tree fruit/ nuts, salamanders. Rats, No redeeming qualities.

Also, be advised that sheep ranchers from the Kootenays & Peace River are very interested in the genetic qualities of our Heritage Sheep. One recently wrote that Lasqueti Island sheep are a genetic gold mine of Heritage sheep DNA.

Sincerely,