

Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy

LINC

linking people to nature on Lasqueti and surrounding Islands

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The Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy (LINC) conserves and protects land for the benefit of wildlife, plants and the public. To achieve our mission, LINC acquires legal interests in land and provides public education on the natural and cultural features on Lasqueti and surrounding islands.

For many years, individuals both on and off Lasqueti have shown their appreciation for the natural environment on and around Lasqueti Island. Squitty Bay Marine Park and Jedediah Island Marine Park became realities because of many people's generous donations of money and effort. These efforts, in turn, gave impetus to the Provincial government to establish the Sabine Channel Marine Park, which includes Jervis and the Finnerty Islands and the Fegen Islets.

LINC was established in 2007 in order to have an island organization that was ready and willing to advocate for any natural area protection opportunities that came up. Those opportunities may require fundraising efforts. Our purposes include holding conservation covenants and helping individuals understand what tools are available for protecting the natural features of their property beyond their lifetimes or ownership. In addition, as a charitable society, LINC is able to issue tax receipts for donations so people can include it as part of their tax planning. *Melinda Auerbach*

Achievements to Date:

- 1. Fundraising partner for the purchase of the Squitty Bay Park Extension.**
- 2. Registering a covenant on the Mount Trematon property together with the Nanaimo and Area Land Trust (NALT).**
- 3. Becoming a Charity, and an Ecogifit Recipient (special tax status for donating ecologically significant land)**



Why I am working for land conservation on Lasqueti Island, by Gordon Scott

The survival of our species is dependent on functioning ecosystems. Without clean air, fresh water and productive soils human life would not be possible. A fundamental purpose of land conservation is the protection of functioning ecosystems, not just for humans, but for all living creatures.

From an aesthetic or spiritual perspective land conservation is important to maintain the Earth's unparalleled natural beauty. Only nature has mountains like Mt. Arrowsmith or big inland seas like the Salish Sea. Conservation of our island landscapes helps keep that beauty intact. I'm reminded of this connection every time I cast my gaze across the rugged headlands of Squitty Bay Park.

LINC is a community of like-minded folks who work together cooperatively with others to achieve a greater good for everyone. I feel a profound humbleness when I witness the generosity of my friends and neighbors who donate their time, money and in some cases land for the benefit of all. Every time I lift my eyes up to Mt. Trematon I thank Alisdair Gordon and his family.



Current Projects:

- We are currently reviewing options for purchasing a couple of key properties that are for sale.
- We are creating a Conservation Plan that outlines what features should be a priority in purchasing or covenanting a piece of land.
- We are talking with potential partners, such as the Islands Trust Fund, the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Province of BC to assist with funding and management.
- As directors, we are providing some of our own funds to help with the costs of operating a charity, such as insurance, registration, legal and appraisal fees, etc. *Sheila Harrington*

LINC invites you to get involved in preserving and conserving Lasqueti by considering:

- * **donating your land in your Will;**
- * **donating money for acquisition programs;**
- * **placing a conservation covenant on your property;**
- * **getting involved in local stewardship activities;**
- * **joining LINC.**

Membership is \$5 annually. Please send your membership or donation to LINC, #11 Main Road, Lasqueti Island, BC. V0R 2J0. (Donations are tax receiptable.)

While there is crown land and some protected areas on Lasqueti, the majority of land is privately held. There are a variety of ways that private landowners can ensure long-term protection of ecological values on their land. Kwel Nature Sanctuary, Mt. Trematon and the Osland property were protected via full donations. The Squitty Bay extension was done as a partial donation, with funding from donations as well as government and other sources. Landowners can retain ownership and still conserve identified features, such as wetlands or old trees, by placing conservation covenants that specify what may or may not occur in those special features. *Andrew Fall*

In 1993 I first understood what a small group of dreamers can achieve. That was when we learned of Jedidiah Island being for sale. A small group of Lasquetians had a few serious gatherings, and with thanks to many, within a year Jedidiah was a park. When Wayne and I were told that our neighbors were selling their 94 acre piece next to Squitty Bay park we realized what a developer's dream (and islanders nightmare) it was: four pristine bays on gorgeous windswept acreage with boat access at Squitty Bay. That was when LINC was formed, and again within a year's time and a lot of footwork and support it was also a park, forever enjoyed by all of us. Every time I walk that magnificent park I walk in profound gratitude to our island, and know that happy endings are possible. Join LINC, support LINC, exchange ideas with us and help us grow. We are working towards other amazing acquisitions along with some exciting winter projects. Stay tuned, join us. *Bonnie Olesko*

The world has so little left that is untouched. I would like some of this left for the planet, not for our use. There are parks for recreation. However, I would like to see some wild areas reserved for Mother Nature. *Wayne Bright*

Current Directors:

Chair: Gordon Scott,
Vice-Chair: Bonnie Olesko,
Secretary/editor: Sheila Harrington,
Treasurer: Andrew Fall,
at large: Melinda Auerbach,
Wayne Bright