

Thetis Island Community Association
292 North Cove Road, Thetis Island, BC

FORBES HALL COMMUNITY CENTRE

September 2023



Fall is in the air and the Forbes Hall Calendar is chalk full of activities to participate in, meetings to attend, events to enjoy, and last, but not least, the restart of Soup's On! A sincere thank you to all the Community Activity leaders who bring so much life into the Hall.



Gaura



Over the past four months, Forbes Hall has been busy and supported by the initiatives of several individuals and teams. TICA thanks them for taking on events and projects, thinking of new ways to support, and stepping up to make their ideas a reality. They are indicative of the fibres that hold our community together. Their creativity and passion make Thetis Island's social fabric distinct from all others!

Because we care...

Last winter when a windstorm took down a tree by the playground and obliterated the slide, TICA knew that funds would be needed to replace it. The Thetis Island Community Fund and the Thetis Island Parents Association came in as equal partners with the Thetis Island Community Association to replace it – what a wonderful community in which we live! The slide arrived and was installed in May 2023. A great photo was in the June issue of the Quarterly.

Work Party

Thanks to the work of over 30 islanders turning out on a lovely day in May, Forbes Hall had its forest tidied, chipping done to mulch the gardens, patios pressure-washed, windows cleaned, and screens hung. Workers were fed a choice of hot sandwiches, platters of cookies, and their choice of “ales” and “beers”. After a very social lunch, they got back at it until all was done – a big thank you to all who turned out!

Health Care Services: Nurse Practitioner Contact Update

To make an appointment with the Nurse Practitioner, Erin VanWieren, call her Clinic Office Assistant, Kari, at 250-739-5700 extension 54814 Mondays through Thursdays.

Note that there are no walk-in appointments.

However, there are same day appointments on Tuesdays if you have an emerging or urgent medical concern. Call Kari and let her know your issue. If you are unable to contact Kari this way: please call the number of the main clinic which is: 250-739-5784 and someone will be able to help you book an appointment.

For emergencies, continue to call 911.

What are Community Activities at Forbes Hall?

They're all sorts of different programs put on by islanders for like-minded friends, neighbours and all islanders, at no charge to participants.

Where there's a will, there's a way!

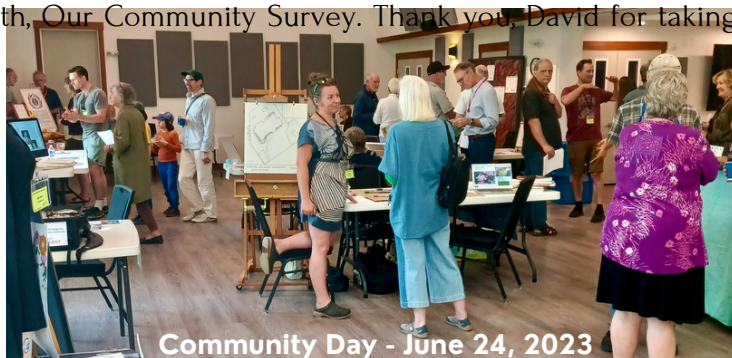
This year there will be a series of informative events provided through grants written and received on behalf of TICA by David Reay. The first event "Dealing with Extreme Heat and Smoke" was in late August with the Cowichan Region's Medical Health Officer, Dr. Shannon Waters, giving an illuminating talk about smoke and heat and how they affect our health. It was an energetic talk with an informative q&a session, and was followed by a hosted lunch. This was through Island Health's community wellness grant and other events will occur through the coming months. One will be about the use of firewood – and how to get efficient, clean heat from your firewood. This series is offered in partnership with ThINC and SPU, more to be announced as the year progresses.

Secondly, through an "Our Cowichan" Small Grant, there will be a series of talks just prior to some Soup's On lunches, while others will be more suited as separate events. These will be from a whole range of topics, all having to do with aspects of health and wellness in our community and will be announced as scheduled. Both of these grants allow for some very specific acquisitions for Forbes Hall: a Bluetooth amplifier to enhance the listening quality for those with hearing aids, including an instructional talk for users; a Purple Air unit to provide air quality information to Thetis Island; and a HEPA filter to create a safe breathing zone within Forbes Hall.

David also successfully worked on two other smaller grants for TICA, Coastal Community Credit Union's sponsorship of Community Day, and a grant from Our Cowichan Communities Health Network for Forbes Hall Health Services Group's work on the Our Health, Our Community Survey. Thank you, David for taking the initiative to make a difference to islanders' lives!

The Purple Air Unit is now installed.

Go online to Purple Air, view Thetis Island on the map, and you'll get the air quality reading from Forbes Hall. Critical on many days due to smoke and other environmental issues.



Community Day - June 24, 2023

Forbes Hall Cooling Centre

Forbes Hall Health Services Group co-ordinated with CVRD's Emergency Support Services to provide Forbes Hall as Thetis' Cooling Centre during the mid-August days of high heat. The Health Group has determined with the CVRD what constitutes opening a Cooling Centre for Thetis Island: when daytime temperatures are forecast to go over 30°C and night temperature does not drop below 20°C for 2 consecutive days. The Thermometer is installed at the Main Fire Hall and is observed regularly during heat warnings. Over the 3-day period more than 50 people accessed the cooling centre. Water and simple snacks were available, and folks spent their time puzzle-making, reading, visiting, and working on their laptops. CVRD Emergency Support funds the opening of the hall for these periods. Plans are being made to develop a similar plan for power-outages and/or extreme cold prior to the winter months.

How are the operations of Forbes Hall paid for?

The operations of Forbes Hall Community Centre are funded by the Thetis Island Community Association's membership. Membership fees and rental charges pay for the everyday costs of running the hall.



Merchandise Sales in Support of TICA

Did you know that it has been over 5-years since the Thetis Island Merchandise program in support of the Forbes Hall Expansion Project began? Since March 2018, there have been more than 1600 items sold, with over \$25,000 net being raised towards the project.

Each item sold represents a point of contact with islanders and visitors, to learn more about the Forbes Hall project and our community in general. Sales were brisk at Community Day, the Canada Day Breakfast and the Book & Bake Sale.

Thanks to the artists, Bill Dickie and Maynard Johnny Jr., the sellers and the committee's lead, Ellen Rush.

Hope & Health

A portion of the proceeds of all sales of the Maynard Johnny Jr T-shirts is donated to the Hope and Health organization, to date we have been able to donate over \$609. Hope & Health's vision is: For Indigenous children and youth to carry themselves with pride and confidence to achieve their highest potential and dream big.

Donations from these sales go to support sports on Penelakut Island.

[Link to Hope and Health](#)

Thank you for buying these beautiful t-shirts!



Miscanthus
sinensis
'Adagio'

Deborah Martin's Artwork

TICA was approached by Deborah Martin in May wondering if a showing of her art with sales proceeds going to the Hall would be something she could do. Deborah is a Thetis Island artist, who trained at Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design. In the same vein as Emily Carr, she is perpetually enthralled with BC's landscape. She began her nature quest in the 80's, camping at numerous Gulf Islands, photographing and painting, prior to settling on Leech Island in 2015. It was here she became familiar with Thetis Island. Her work is always the attempt to experience and capture the beauty of creation in intimate portraits of nature, animals and people. The art show opened with the Forbes Hall Community Dinner, and sales were immediate. The art has hung through the summer, with all proceeds of ongoing sales and future commissions going towards TICA's debt reduction.

Thanks so much, Deborah – you've made a difference!



EV Charging Station

A big thank you goes out to Peter & Simone Luckham for donating the EV Charging Station at Forbes Hall.

As well as their initiative, we thank Ron Bannister and Tim French for the installation.

The EV Charging Station operates on an honour system of a maximum of a 2-hour charge.

Currently there is no charge :)



Multi-use Sports Court Resurfacing

TICA was the grateful recipient of a bequest from late BC tennis player, Asako Marus. The Multi-use Sports Court has been resurfaced, bright new lines painted, and a new tennis net installed. Work to remove adjacent grass from the perimeter of the court will continue this fall, and other sports equipment purchased as funds allow. Thanks to all who stepped up to co-ordinate the project and to the volunteers who attended callouts for help!



Art & Display Committee

Committee members have kept things fresh on the walls at Forbes Hall!

This summer, in addition to Deborah Martin's works, there was a charming display of island art – loaned to TICA by islanders who were happy to share part of their collections with the island. Images of cabins, boats, and views we all know and love.

Bouteloua Gracilis



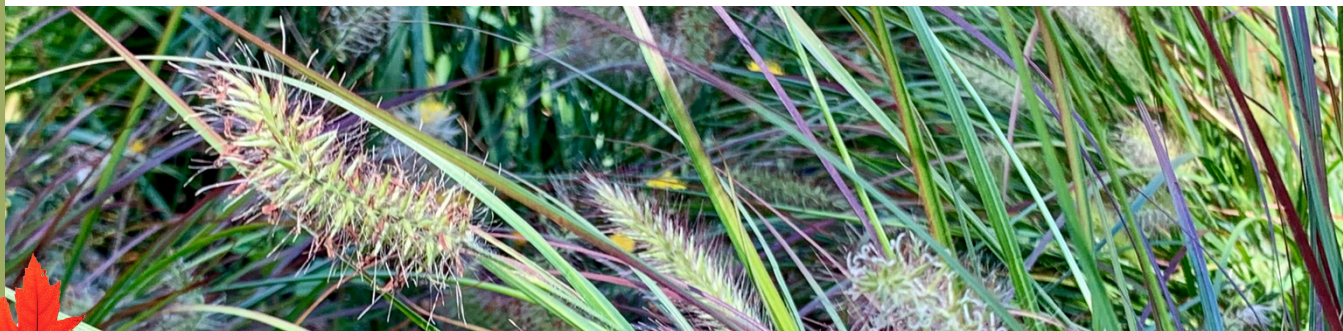
Online Issue of the Quarterly Debuts

In June, TICA's first online issue of the Quarterly was sent out to all members. Readers appreciated the high quality of the colour photos and ease of reading through zoom viewing. A frequent comment was "I read through from start to finish, I've never done that". The Quarterly in print form remains available to member subscribers.

A heartfelt congratulations and thank you to Veronica Shelford and her team for persevering and succeeding with the change, while continuing to create a magazine worthy of Thetis Island.

[June Issue Link](#)

[September Issue Link](#)



TICA Meeting Notice:

Sunday, October 15th at 1:00 pm
Community Conversation & Update regarding TICA's Financial position,
and other relevant items.

**Pennisetum
Karley
Rose**



What are donations to TICA used for?

The Thetis Island Community Association has a debt remaining from the rebuild of Forbes Hall. The generous donations of Thetis Islanders go towards the repayment of the debt.

Forbes Hall Community Dinner

It was a beautiful evening for a wonderful community dinner party! More than 80 people attended the event, dressed up and ready for an evening out with friends and neighbours. Large planters of flowers were at each table and early evening light streamed in through the windows. Deborah Martin's artwork was displayed throughout the Hall, bringing a lovely island vibe to the event. The bar did a brisk business, and after a great meal including a fantastic array of colourful and varied salads, everyone was able to act like a kid and enjoy the Ice Cream Sundae buffet.

A great evening, all 'round!

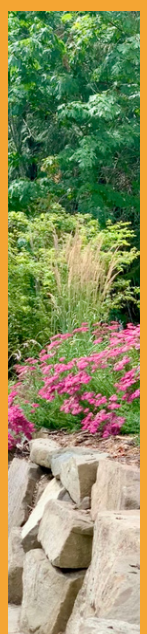
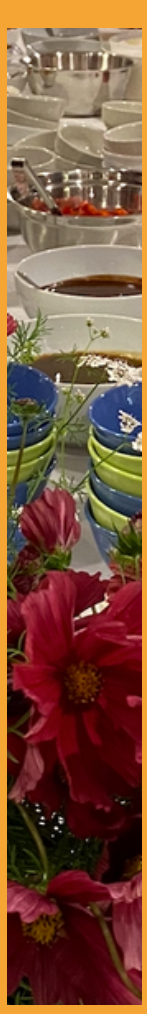


Thetis Community Day

A fabulous Community Day was held on June 24th, with 27 different Thetis Island groups represented. With interesting displays and a passport encouraging folks to ask questions, all in all it was an information and fun day! This year's event was sponsored by Coastal Community Credit Union, which helped fund lunch for all, the Grand Prize of a copy of the Thetis Island map, and all the other bits and pieces that go into holding events.

Canada Day Breakfast

A huge event on Thetis Island's Calendar! A big round of applause goes to Virginia and Andy Lamb and their large team of helpers to put together such a successful event. Over 160 islanders, friends and family took part in celebrating Canada Day together, while being fed an amazing breakfast. A great example of folks taking the initiative to bring islanders together, while raising funds for TICA. Less than a year to go until the next one!



Annual Book & Bake Sale

Loaded tables of books were all lined up the night before, ready for Saturday's shoppers. People loved the advantage of their Members Bonus Cards to get in a ½-hour early to the sale (and yes, they enjoyed their ice-cream sandwiches, too)! The BC Day long-weekend seems to bring different generations of many families to the island, making this a very social event. Besides all the books, the Bake Sale did the island proud, so many accomplished bakers contributing to the day.

Over \$2,400 was raised in support of the library, and more than a hundred islanders took part in a yummy lunch, making it a successful day overall and a great day for bibliophiles!



Danielle Lebeau-Peterson & Phil Albert Concert

Brianna Sloan presented a lovely TICA fundraising evening of music for islanders, held on the BC Day long-weekend. Arranging the artists, tickets sales, promotional needs, snacks and beverages, and managing volunteers, it was a big project to take on. The concert was well-attended. The artists shared their love of Joni Mitchell's songs, and they appreciated the Hall's acoustics! We look forward to the possibility of more concerts in the future. Thank-you, Brianna, for making it happen!

Family Fun Day

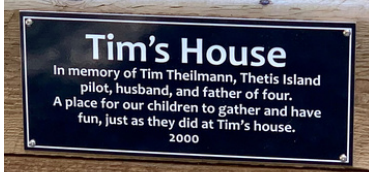
The Thetis Island Community Fund made good use of Forbes Hall for their fun-filled annual event with over 120 people attending. Lots of volunteers looked after food, games, sports, set up, clean up, and the TIVFD's Structural Protection Unit managing the drop tank swimming pool and sprinklers.

This was a give back to the community day for the TICF and judging by the smiles and laughter of all attending, their goal was accomplished!

Thank you to the TICF and all the volunteers for pulling off a fantastic island day!



Refurbished playground including the replaced slide and memorial plaque.



What's next?

2024 Fundraising Calendar is in the Works
140+ photos have already been submitted and we are looking forward to many more before the final submission date of September 30th. The calendars will be sold at Soup's On and at the Christmas Market in early December, as well as through email orders. Given the content available for the images to be chosen from, it is sure to be a beautiful representation of Thetis, perfect for your own use or as gifts.

Ordering and pricing information will be posted when available.



Energetic youngsters enjoying the sack race at Family Fun Day.



Financials

Donations:

TICA continues to be a beneficiary of our community's generosity. Since January 2022, TICA has received individual donations of \$101,651, and additionally has had a \$25,000 loan forgiven through the loaner's donation.

Current Debt:

\$ 335,000	original debt
<u>- \$25,000</u>	<u>forgiven loan (donation)</u>
\$ 310,000	current debt



Wait, there's more!

TICA is forecasted to be in a position to pay off \$150,000 of our remaining debt by December 31st 2023. This is possible through the kindness of islanders by their donations as mentioned above, as well as pledges, committee-driven incomes, fundraising events & sales, and operational surplus.

Community Conversation – Sunday, October 15th – Everyone Welcome!

TICA will be holding a Community Conversation and Update meeting on Sunday, October 15th at 1:00 pm. There's encouraging news and we want to share it with members and islanders alike.

We encourage attendance as information that is given directly to as many as possible maintains its accuracy.

The Board feels it is time to meet with the community and share our financial news and be available for questions and ideas. Light refreshments will be served.

TICA Board

If you have a question or idea for consideration prior to the Oct 15 meeting please contact any of the board members.

For general e-mail contact please use info@forbeshall.ca

Ann Dickie, Don Sinclair, Ron Bannister, Teresa Moore, Ellen Rush, Marjan Jackman, Colleen Kasting

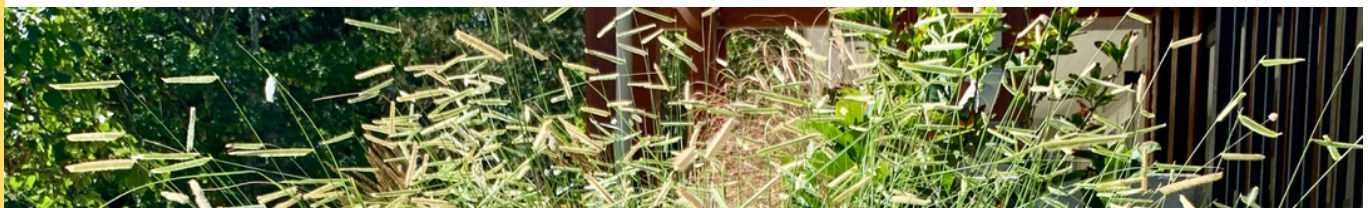


Photo Credits: Kelly Bannister, Carol Sowerby, Laurel March, Teresa Moore, Kathleen Thompson, Ann Dickie

