

**Thetis Community Assembly**  
**Forbes Hall Community Centre**  
**7:00 pm – March 23, 2026**  
**Meeting Notes**

Co-Chairs: Keith Rush & Ann Erikson

Notes: Paul Duncan

Peter Luckham opened the meeting by acknowledging Indigenous peoples' lands.

1. Ann Erikson for Nature Conservancy. The Summer 2026 program has hired 1 staff and are looking for a second. They are taking over the deposit bottle return from the school parents advisory. They completed removal of invasive species along the Fairy Slipper trail and people can drop off invasive species at the Fairy Slipper parking lot this coming Saturday.
2. Ellen Rush for TICA: Ellen read Maynard Johnny Jr's speech from 5 years ago opening Forbes Hall. Upcoming dates: April 25 Yard Sale & BBQ lunch; May 23 Spring cleaning of Forbes Hall; May 30 Community dinner, June 6 AGM.
3. Terry Hamilton for TICA: Terry provided an update on the Solar Panel project. Projecting an 8-year payback on costs from BC Hydro credits. BC Hydro donated \$25,000 and the installer donated \$500. TICA is monitoring performance of the system and Forbes Hall energy use is about the same as a single home.
4. Mary Des Chenes for Carol Sowerby who could not attend for TI Community Fund. Making it easier to donate and updating By-laws. Explained Emergency care fund for people who are in an emergency and need immediate funds for living costs. Trcia Hunter is stepping back from organizing the Family Fun Day.
5. Rodney Brownlee for TI Food Bank. Every Thursday at noon at the Forbes Hall pavilion with food from Harvest House in Chemainus and day-old bake goods from Telegraph Harbour Marina. There are about 10 regular clients. Rodney for Alcoholics Anonymous meets 6:30 to 7:30 PM each Monday night.
6. Michelle Sutter for Forbes Hall Health Committee. Researching the purchase of 4 Radon detectors which people could borrow to check their Radon levels. The nurse practioner is taking new clients. There is a health equipment loaner program. Working on the funding for a community medical person to visit people in their homes.
7. Suzanne Sarioglu for St. Margaret's Cemetery. Rain gardens collect rainwater so that it slowly goes into the soil instead of running off. Capernwray is providing the land. St. Margaret's requires a maintenance person to supplement the person who cuts the grass.
8. Lynne Smith for TIRRA described the various services from TIRRA. Claire Hess has resigned from eSPOKES. TIRRA AGM is May 16/26.
9. Reid White for TI Marine Association. At owner's request TIMA will help optimize the location of moorings. A derelict boat broke its moorings and required assistance.
10. David Reay for TI Port Commission. The existing parcel tax does not fund the depreciation on the Government Wharf and CVRD, the owner of the wharf, has not agreed to make up the difference of

about \$15/parcel. The wharf will become part of emergency services which currently services several emergencies each week, some of which use the wharf.

11. Keith Rush for TIID. TIID paid about \$200,000 when the chassis was ordered from Mexico. There were no tariffs. There are two \$75,000 instalments required prior to an expected delivery in June 2026. TIID opposes the BC government taking control of fire inspections. CTV news ran a story on a lady who fell into a cave 35 years ago who continues to send a Christmas gift to TIID.
12. Patrick Mooney for Islands Trust information. The BC government has proposed minimum 2000 - gallon water storage on new construction, stricter setback from the shoreline, and unlicensed vehicles can be seized after 2 years instead of the current 5 years.
13. Peter Luckham for Islands Trust. There is no interest in shutting down the Saturday market but must respond to complaints. The site cleanup on Pilkey Point Road cost over \$130,000 and was delayed by the current law the vehicles cannot be seized until after 5 years of no license. Islands Trust 2026 tax increase is 8.1%. BC Ferries prohibit Electric Vehicles is due to safety concerns.
14. Norm Kasting for Fire Department recruitment. Several volunteers are leaving this year, and we require 15 volunteers to receive a reduction in our property insurance premiums. Asking people to get the word out looking for volunteers. You won't be asked to do anything you don't want to do. There is a place for everyone.
15. Ann Erikson for Doug Fenton who could not attend for Indigenous Reconciliation. Considering a project with Penelakut to use hydrophones to record listen to whales reacting to ship noise. They went to Penelakut school to learn more about how noise affects sea life.
16. Keith Rush for Penelope Terry for TI School. Thank you for all of the community's support.
17. David Reay for Community Climate Resilience Group. There is a current focus on the role of trees with climate change and are planning a community day focused on trees. They also plan to focus on food security.
18. Jesse McClinton for CVRD. The past 3 years have had major property tax increases. For 2026 the tax increase is 3.87%. Jesse met with Chief Jack of Penelakut and noticed the poor quality of their wharf. Jesse is working on improving transit service in his district. Expanding Vancouver Island rail is difficult because it requires agreement to use Cowichan Reserve lands.
19. **Next TI Assembly: Sept. 28, 2026**

**Following are submitted reports from several organizations.**

### **Thetis Island Parents Association**

President Penelope Terry

Thetis Island Parent Association is a non-profit group of parents of students at Thetis Island Elementary School. The main purpose of the Association is to coordinate and fundraise for the school.

This spring we are planning a Student Art Show and Auction. Funds raised from this and other fundraising initiatives will go towards future music lessons, theatre workshops, sailing lessons, field trips, graduate bursaries, books for the classroom, teaching materials, and art supplies.

We are very grateful for all of the support and generosity the residents of Thetis Island show towards the school and students.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Thetis Island Residents and Ratepayers Association**

President Lynne Smith

I want to thank the TIRRA Board members for dedicating copious amounts of time so far this year. Board decisions are based on collaboration and consensus.

Thank you to all the TIRRA volunteers that help keep our services running smoothly. The volunteer list is long but there is always room for more. Services that the community and beyond benefit from.

We are saddened to accept the resignation of Claire Hess who has been a driving force with the TIRRA Communications eSPOKES. Knows how to get rid of those nasty tech bugs.

Secretary Susan Unger due to family needs has also left a vacancy.

TIRRA services included under Communications - eSPOKES, Thetis Island Phone Book, Visitors Guide, Welcome package and the TIRRA website.

Other TIRRA services include - Solid Waste Management, Trails, Transportation and co work with St. Margaret's Cemetery

All Thetis Island property owners and residents are encouraged to become members. TIRRA Memberships are only \$10 for an individual or \$15 for a 2-person household. Donations toward TIRRA trails are greatly appreciated. Membership forms are found on the TIRRA Website [www.thetisisland.net](http://www.thetisisland.net) just click on Thetis Island Residents and Ratepayers Association for the fillable form.

TIRRA is currently seeking to fill a couple of TIRRA positions. Secretary, eSPOKES and Trails Chair. Please let us know if any of these positions work for you.

The TIRRA AGM will be held on May 16 - 2:30pm. There will be lots of updates at that meeting. I look forward to seeing you all there.

TIRRA email: [tirrboard@thetisisland.net](mailto:tirrboard@thetisisland.net)

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Thetis Island Community Association**

Director Ellen Rush

The grand opening for Forbes Hall Community Centre was almost 5 1/2 years ago. We are so fortunate to have a beautiful piece of original artwork on the outside the building.

Some of you here tonight are new to the island since that time and others may not have been at the Grand Opening. That day, artist, Maynard Johnny Jr. shared this story with those attending:

**Lee muxutun**  
**Shhwuee'u Talu**

**Guardian, We Welcome You All**

Thetis and Penelakut Islands were once connected. Thetis Island was the high point and a lookout for enemies and danger coming to Penelakut Island. The Thunderbird represents the lookout and protector of the people, the Wolf represents the runner and messenger to keep the people informed, the Human represents the people giving thanks to the lookout and runner.

In our modern society today, we need the Thunderbird to watch over us, protect us, and guide us in protecting our Mother Earth and our waters. Just as the Wolf travels in packs to protect one another, we need to care for one another and work together, not as segregated communities. For too long, we have been separated by race, creed, and class. As Humans, we need to raise our hands in a gesture of gratitude, goodwill and commitment to heal. It is time for all of us to work together for a better world for our future generations.

Maynard Johnny Jr.  
Coast Salish – Kwakwaka'wakw  
2021

A reminder that the story is also on the wall in the hallway leading to the multipurpose room.

### **Upcoming Events at Forbes Hall this Spring** (Watch for e-spokes postings for these events)

#### **TICA/ Community Yard Sale & BBQ Lunch**

Saturday, April 25th

10 – 2

Book a Table and sell items, details will be on e-spokes

TICA will also sell items that are no longer used and have been stored in the basement

#### **Spring Clean-up at Forbes Hall**

Saturday, May 23rd

Garden and grounds clean up

Patios will be power washed, outdoor furniture cleaned

Windows washed

Lunch provided for those who are there to help

#### **Community Dinner at the Hall**

Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>

#### **TICA AGM**

Saturday, May 16,

1:00 pm at Forbes Hall Community Centre

\*\*\*\*\*

## TIMA Report - Thetis Island Marine Association

Chair Reid White

TIMA is a creation of the BC Societies Act, with a Constitution and Purpose:

“To promote and advise on the safe, orderly and equitable management of the Water Zones as defined but the Thetis Island Land Use Bylaw.”

- And to do so by management of:
  - Public boat moorage and anchorage
  - Commercial marine facilities
  - Air transportation services
  - Matters of navigation
  - Recreation
  
- Our focus has been and remains primarily on vessel moorage and anchorage.
  
- Our purpose includes the creation of a sensible arrangement of mooring balls for the benefit of Thetis Island upland owners, Thetis Island boaters in general and transient vessels.
  
- We have mapped the existing moorings and are developing a layout to optimize their placement. In 2024 we converted a small barge to place new moorings and relocate existing moorings. Installing new moorings, re-placing or relocating existing moorings is always at an owner’s request.
  
- In 2025 we lost use of the work boat to move the barge but that will be remedied this season.
  
- TIMA has access to new moorings that we would like to lease to owners and providing semi-annual inspections for these and other interested mooring owners.
  
- TIMA does not have statutory authority to regulate any activities within our Water Zones. We trust that having a sensible plan and the ability to implement it will encourage compliance with TIMA’s purposes.
  
- The trend in public spaces, in our parks, on our parking areas, right of ways and waterways is occupancy by increasing numbers of desperate individuals. Our approach is to treat the individuals with compassion while supporting the statutory rights of legally placed mooring owners.
  
- There are one to two derelict vessels needing attention every year.
  
- This season a single vessel parted with its anchor chain, was carried by high winds through the mooring field, and then secured at THM. The Marina paid for a commercial tow to safety.
  
- We continue to lobby for government level support for waterway management and continue to work with and learn from the Small Craft Harbour Masters.