

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

FORBES HALL COMMUNITY CENTRE

June 2024

Summer's here, and with it comes Thetis Island's Summer Events!

Some of the community activities have gone on hiatus for the summer, but there's still lots happening at Forbes Hall. We look forward to seeing many islanders attending the events.

Full-time, part-time, summer residents and visitors – welcome!

Mark your calendars for these upcoming Events

- **July 1, 2024:** The annual **Canada Day Pancake Breakfast**: Again, this year Virginia Lamb and her wonderful team of volunteers will provide the pancake breakfast at this popular event. Followed by the **Thetis Island Sail Past**. 
- **Saturday, August 3, 2024:** **Book and Bake Sale** followed by the **Parade**.
- **Saturday, August 17, 2024:** *Thetis Island Community Fund's* **Family Fun Day**

Forbeshall.ca

The creation of a stand-alone website for Forbes Hall and TICA was a long-term project beginning in the early days of the Forbes Hall Expansion Project and finally launching on April 20, 2024 at TICA's AGM. Thanks go to Stephanie Dickie and Megan Brand for their great assistance in helping create the architecture of the site, which enabled its ease of use.

Forbeshall.ca allows members to pay their annual dues online, subscribe to print issues of [the Quarterly](#), and make donations. It makes booking the Hall an easier process for islanders and non-islanders by providing the calendar for availability and associated booking documents. Financial updates, meeting minutes and all TICA's required record keeping can be easily found. Take a browse and perhaps learn more about the different activities and committees involved with TICA and see how the Hall benefits Thetis islanders.

Thetis Island Calendar



Last fall, TICA created a 2024 calendar filled with curated photographic images from islanders. The initial order of 100 quickly sold out, and a subsequent order for 50 more arrived just in time to sell out at the Christmas market. Plans are underway for a 2025 calendar, so get going taking snaps of Thetis Island – beaches, trails, events, all things Thetis!

More information will be posted on e-SPOKES in the coming months.



Forbes Hall Sports Court

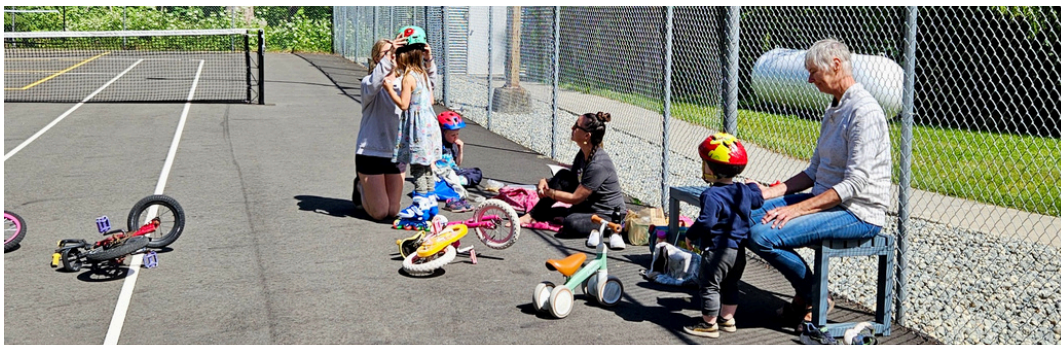
The Sports Court is ready for summer with the basketball hoop and backboard installed, and the rebound net positioned at the rear of the court. Thank you to Ron Bannister and JT Hammill for doing this work for the community! There's one goal net ready for use, with a second that will be put out for the winter months when the tennis net comes down. Enjoy yourselves using the court in whatever form that takes!

Exercise and Sport at the Hall

Currently, there are five exercise/sports groups meeting at the Hall each week:

- Early Morning Exercise (Kathleen Thompson)
- Strength & Mobility Exercise (Michelle Sutter and Eleanor Vandergaag)
- Tai Chi (Carol Sowerby)
- Ping Pong (Mary Forbes & Matt Hess)
- Pickleball (Dave & Bev Greene)

Contact any of the activity leaders listed for more information. There are often drop-in games at the sports court, so look for roller hockey, bicycle practicing, skateboarding and even dog training! Thanks for energizing Forbes Hall!



Bike Skills



Pickleball



Strength & Mobility Exercise

TICA Outreach Meeting

In October 2023, TICA held a public meeting to update the community on TICA's financial status as well as the work going on "behind the scenes". The major announcement was that TICA would be paying down \$160,000 of the \$310,000 debt remaining from the expansion project. This landmark payment was made in January 2024. Three of the original Local Lenders extended loans totalling \$150,000 to December 31, 2026. Thanks to them, we now have three more years to clear this remaining debt.

The October meeting reminded us of just how grassroots TICA is. TICA's 400 members own and operate Forbes Hall Community Centre for all islanders and visitors. It is rare to have this level of involvement and it is this on-going commitment that allows Forbes Hall to be operated with NO tax dollars.





Forbes Hall Health Services Group

What an incredible 10 months for health care on Thetis Island.

The Nurse Practitioner Clinic is up and running, with NP Erin VanWieren servicing an active slate of clients.

- Thetis Island's community paramedic, Vinh Pham, works with islanders individually, at clinics and alongside Erin.
- Health Services also works with practitioners who use Forbes Hall as their clinical location. There are now regular foot care clinics by LPN Burnie Nicholson and dental clinics by registered dental hygienist Meghan Mitchell.

We thank all these professionals for their commitment to our health care.

Health Services also spearheaded clinics and support services through Island Health:

- September 2023 -- combined Shingles and Tetanus Vaccine Clinic with pharmacist Mo Osman
- November 2023 -- combined COVID and Flu Vaccine Clinic
- May 2024 -- COVID Booster Clinic
- and, most recently, their advocacy has helped home care service to be re-established on Thetis to help islanders who need support from in-home care workers.

The Health and Food Services Groups are collaborating to ensure the Hall is open during power outages, made feasible with an emergency generator. During the planned power outage on March 9 of this year, the Hall was open from 9 am until mid-afternoon when the power returned. About 70 people came to the Hall and were welcomed with hot and cold beverages, baking, snacks, and hot food, as well as games, music, quiet spaces for working remotely, and the enjoyment of a warm, bright space with plumbing! Plans for unexpected power outages are ongoing.

We can see first-hand what a difference these services mean to Thetis Islanders, and we sincerely thank the Health Services Group for their continued work on all islanders' behalf.

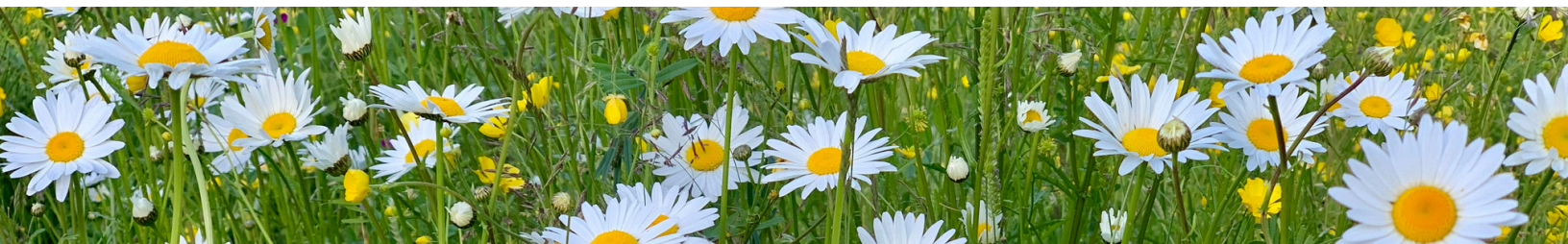


CVRD Grants

There have been a series of talks and clinics supported by a CVRD grant covering a number of diverse topics:

- Electrical Safety in the Home with Tom Nezil, retired BC Hydro technician
- Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) with Dr. Adam Sandell
- Advance Care Planning with social worker, Marcela Mrynka
- Slips and Falls with Vinh Pham.

The funding for these talks also allowed TICA to install a [Purple Air Monitor](#) on-site and a HEPA filter in the library. Now, even with poor air quality days, there will be a healthy air space available at the Hall for all to enjoy.





Soup's On

It was another great year for Soup's On with a record number of people attending. Once again Capernwray provided a wonderful pair of volunteers, Olivia and Jenna, who came to help, along with some other new Soup's On volunteer faces. Soup's On started in 2008 as a simple outreach program to provide an inviting place for seniors to gather once-a-week through the rainy season. The program just finished its 14th year, now with all ages attending, and volunteers are ready to get back at it this coming fall. We are looking for soup-makers, bakers, dishwashers and set up volunteers. Please contact Don Sinclair sinry@telus.net if you'd like to be involved.

Look what else has been happening at the Hall...

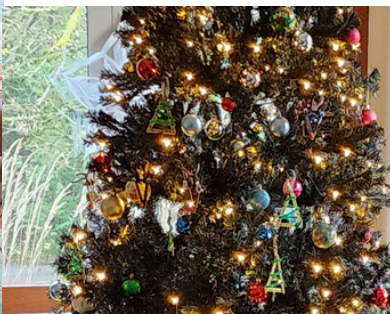
Last fall, BINGO made a return to the Hall after many, many years. With 25¢ per card per game it's not what you'd call high stakes, but it's high fun! Held once a month, it has been a welcome Friday evening activity for families. It looks as though the BINGO caller, David Reay, has as much fun as the players!

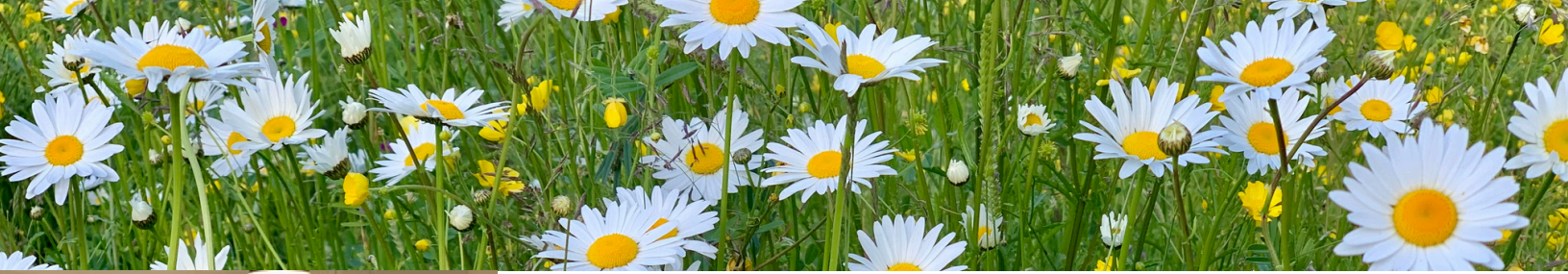


During the fall, the Friday **Knitting and Craft Group**, produced two beautiful wool lap blankets, which were raffled at the Christmas Market in early December. The lucky winners were Pauline Harwood and Ray Smith. All proceeds from the raffle supported the Hall's debt reduction program. Huge thanks once again to the Knitters!

Thetis Island's annual **Christmas Market** was held December 2, 2023 and was a huge success. The tag line "A West Coast Wonderland bringing you Island Joy" really hit the mark. It is wonderful to see the skills and artistry of so many of our islanders (and neighbouring islanders). With the crowds enjoying baked treats and beverages, and a hot lunch of sandwiches or cottage pies, everyone went home with treasures and full tummies. It's time for all crafters and artists to get working on their wares for December 2024!

How do you follow a holiday event like the market? Invite **Santa** to visit, of course. For all the little ones, Santa delivered gifts from under the tree! But Santa, how did you know? Thanks to all the elves (including the big one) for making this a very special treat for our little islanders.





It's not just TICA Events that Keep the Hall Busy...

Many Island groups hold events that are not fundraisers, are open to all, and are free of charge or have a minimum fee to cover costs. TICA supports these community groups by providing the free use of the Hall. Other independent or special interest groups, associations or societies hold events with profits from ticket sales or donations going to the group or another charity. These are non-TICA supported events and the groups pay a minimal \$100 rental fee. Two such events were recently held at the Hall.

In January, TICA supported **Burns Night '24**. Pipers, dancers and haggis entertained a packed room of 85+ people. A grand evening for all, with most excellent MC Gary Geddes, musicians, readers, and Auld Lang Syne! Hat's off to the organizers, "aye, 'twas a stoatin forenicht". A small profit was made after expenses were covered and this was donated to the Hall's debt reduction program.

Another event, which was not TICA-sponsored but was of interest to many islanders, was the May 25, 2024 **Humanitarian Relief for Ukraine Fundraiser**. This was held on behalf of the non-profit Women's Refugee Advocate Project, Vancouver. With a buffet dinner, readers and friendly conversation, it was not only a neighbourly gathering of Thetis Islanders, but a successful fundraiser with net profits of \$3,750. This money was sent directly to a contact who works on the ground in Ukraine. Thetis Islanders showed their generosity once again.



What does "TICA supported" mean?

When a community gathering is organized, it is usually made available at no charge to the organizing group (TICA supported). When a community group uses the facility for its own fundraising or as a purchased ticketed event to raise funds, TICA charges a flat rate of \$100 for use of the hall (not TICA-sponsored).

The Library Catalogue

It's so easy to use! Go to forbeshall.ca and go to the [Library Page](#) and click on the Catalogue button.



Sort by Fiction, Dewy (Non-Fiction), Junior, DVDs, and Picture books. So many titles, have fun!

Note: Not all library titles are on the system, but most are. Use the drop-down menu, under "ticalibrary" on the left of the panel, to select by type, or alternately use the Profile button to access the resources.



While not every event has been mentioned here, there were many other occasions to gather with fellow islanders. With all these events and others, the 100 comfy black chairs often get toted in and out of the storage room. There are trolleys to move 10 at a time, but there weren't enough trolleys to store them all, meaning they needed to be lifted off to gather more. Enter **Don Hunter**, builder of the originals, who saw the need, got to work and built some more! A big thank you, Don, from the community, and the community's backs!

Our wonderful little library is seeing more and more use by young families, and we say "welcome". Remember that the library is open to all during most community events or activities, it is also open with an attendant on Saturdays 10-1, Sundays 1-4 and Mondays 10-1.



Not to slow down, on June 1st Thetis Island's first **Repair Fair** was organized by the Community Climate Resilience Group. An amazing group of 20 craftspeople, technicians, and those who just seem to know how to do things, turned out as Neighbours Helping Neighbours. Light switches were made to switch once again, chainsaws saw their chains sawing, bikes were tuned up ready for Tour de Thetis, and sweaters had rinds mended. People were happy to wait, as they could fill up with great offerings from the kitchen, a very Thetis Islandy day.



On June 8th, a **Work Party** was held at Forbes Hall with many projects to keep workers busy! More than 25 hard-working volunteers showed up to get the Hall sparkling, the gardens refreshed and the grounds tidied and trimmed. Volunteer days like this are important reminders of how much Thetis Islanders care about their community.

A sincere thank you to our volunteers, our life on Thetis would not be the same without you!

Garden Teams

Calling out to all community activity groups and organizations!

Are you willing to take on a patch of garden to look after? TICA has the tools, gloves and weeding bin at the ready for weeding and trimming. Supplies are in the main storage area in the Hall to make it easy to do a few minutes of work before or after your activity or meeting. The gardens are lovely and deserve care from a broader group of volunteers. Contact Don Sinclair at sinry@telus.net if you'd like a section of the garden to be designated as under your group's care.



teucrium chamaedrys
Wall Germander



amsonia hubrichtii
Bluestars

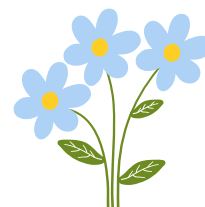
Financial Update May 31, 2024

On December 31, 2023, TICA repaid \$160,000 of the \$310,000 debt owed to our Local Lenders. The purpose of the Local Lenders program was to avoid a commercial loan and its associated costs while acquiring funding to complete the Hall Expansion. By keeping the loans "on island", 100% of donations could be used for debt reduction.

In three years (2021, 2022 and 2023), Thetis Islanders donated a significant amount of money even though the building was still under construction (2021) and COVID protocols (2021 – 2022) restricted the use of the hall. This funding, with some from operational surpluses, was enough to pay back \$160,000 of the loans.

In the spring of 2024, an additional operational surplus of \$20,000 was transferred from TICA's operations account to the debt reduction savings account. A large part of this money was from committee driven income; funds raised through Food and Event Services, Forbes Hall Health Services Group, and the well-supported merchandise program.

\$335,000	January 1, 2021: Funds Borrowed
<u>25,000</u>	<u>March 2022: Loan forgiven (Donation)</u>
\$310,000	Remaining Debt: Due December 31, 2023
<u>- 160,000</u>	<u>December 31, 2023: Repayment</u>
\$150,000	Remaining Debt: Due December 31, 2026
<u>- 35,800</u>	<u>May 31, 2024 Balance Debt Repayment Savings Account</u>
\$114,200	Remaining to be raised by December 31, 2026



**Together,
we can do this!**

Photo credits:



Ron Bannister, Janna Boren, Ann Dickie, Marjan Jackman, Georgina Maule, Teresa Moore, Ellen Rush, Don Sinclair and Eleanor Tofin.

