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Thetis Island Property Cleanup Successfully Completed

Lək'wəŋən, METULIYE/Victoria, B.C. – The cleanup of a property on Thetis Island that had been unlawfully used as an automobile salvage yard and outdoor vehicle repair business is now complete. This marks the conclusion of a lengthy process aimed at bringing the property into compliance with local land use bylaws.

The cleanup was authorized by a BC Supreme Court order and funded by the Islands Trust Council and approved by the Islands Trust Executive Committee. The cleanup involved the removal of derelict vehicles, debris, and auto parts from the site, with Islands Trust Bylaw Compliance and Enforcement staff overseeing the process to ensure full compliance.

The property had been the subject of legal action by the Thetis Island Local Trust Committee since 2020, with the owner repeatedly failing to comply with bylaw compliance and enforcement actions and BC Supreme Court orders to cease unlawful activities and remove debris. Despite compliance and enforcement efforts, the site remained a safety hazard, further exacerbated by a fire in April 2023. With the cleanup now complete, Thetis Island Local Trust Committee has taken further steps to recover taxpayer funding used for the remediation of the property, in the form of certificates of costs from the Registrar of the BC Supreme Court.

"The cleanup of this property not only supports efforts to restore the environmental integrity of the area but upholds local bylaws and maintains safe, livable spaces for residents," said Tobi Elliott, Chair of the Thetis Island Local Trust Committee.

Most investigations originate from community complaints, though under Islands Trust Council policy, staff may also initiate action if there are concerns about environmental damage or safety risks. Islands Trust Council and local trust committees may adopt general bylaw compliance and enforcement policies to set priorities for investigations.

The successful resolution of this case underscores the Thetis Island Local Trust Committee's commitment to maintaining the integrity of land use regulations while protecting both the community and the environment.

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