

## Paddle for ?EL,TOS and the Salish Sea! September 2

Written by Joan Russow

Friday, 24 August 2018 10:02 - Last Updated Monday, 10 September 2018 20:28

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Tsawout Chief and Council invite all relations in WSÁNEC and neighbouring communities to participate in the PADDLE FOR ?EL,TOS and the Salish Sea, in support of Tsawout's claim to the island, also known as James Island.

The event is taking place on Sunday, September 2, 2018, beginning at 9:00 am at ?IX\_E? (Cordova Spit) with a community breakfast, followed by a paddle around ?EL,TOS (James Island) and then a feast in the Tsawout Gymnasium. The history of use and occupation is significant combined with significant archaeological history. The island was part of the homelands and provided a rich, productive way of life as it was well supplied with plantlife and surrounded by a rich variety of saltwater food supply (fish/shellfish). When it was taken over as part the war efforts it was still occupied and people felt that the island would be fully returned once it was no longer required. However, the history shows that the Tsawout/WSÁNEC People were forced off the island and it then became privatized and was eventually sold.

In the past Tsawout has made overtures to have the island rightfully returned and it is hoped that this time justice will prevail and the island will be restored as part of the homelands.

The Paddle Please sign up TODAY for the Paddle for ?EL,TOS and the Salish Sea, which Turning the Tide is organizing in partnership with Tsawout First Nation and other organizations, happening on Sunday September 2 beginning at 9:00 am at TIXEN (Cordova Spit) (view map here), followed by a Community Meal in the Tsawout Gym. People are encouraged to join the events on the water and on shore -- with plenty of activities on land if you are unable to paddle.

The Community Action Bus is organizing shuttles to and from Victoria and Tsawout on September 2, so please email [community.action.bus@gmail.com](mailto:community.action.bus@gmail.com) or call 250-893-7848 if you would like to reserve a spot on the bus!

Also, some paddlers are camping before the Paddle at the CRD Island View Beach Campground, from Friday to Monday (August 31-Sept 3). A block of campsites has been reserved, so please let us know if you would like to camp, so we will have an idea of numbers (suggested donation of \$20 toward campsite costs).

We've posted a new promotional film about the significance of ?EL,TOS to the WSANEC People (thank you Daphne for putting the film together!):

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<http://www.turningthetide.ca>. The purpose of the Paddle for ?EL,TOS and the Salish Sea is to demonstrate support for the Tsawout First Nation's claim to ?EL,TOS (James Island), which despite never being surrendered fell into private hands contrary to the Treaty and Crown policy. The island is current listed for sale by the American owner. The Paddle is intended to ramp up pressure on the Crown to reach a fair settlement and return the island to Tsawout. We are therefore asking if you can help us ramp up publicity for the event, by sharing this message with your contacts and encouraging them to sign up for the Paddle. You can also join, share and invite friends to the event on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/465166783945217/> .

Finally, if you are able to volunteer on Sept. 2, with meal prep, set up or other tasks, please let us know.

Thank you / HISKWE! We hope you are able to participate in this important event on September 2!

The Turning the Tide Organizing Committee

Tsawout would like the Paddle event to be a fundraiser to assist with the research and legal work required for the claim and will be accepting donations prior to the event and at the event made out to TSAWOUT FIRST NATION with notation for “ ?EL,TOS” (which can be mailed to Tsawout First Nation, 7728 Tetayut Road, Saanichton, BC V8M 2E4).

To join the Paddle for ?EL,TOS and the Salish Sea, sign up today at:  
[www.TurningtheTide.ca/leltos](http://www.TurningtheTide.ca/leltos).

HÍSW\_?E,

Chief Harvey Underwood

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