

To members of the Island Trust Committee:
Laura Busheikin: Chair
Sandy Pottle: Trustee
George Harris: Trustee



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We purchased [REDACTED] in 1979. Crystal Mountain Society (CMS) is our immediate neighbour. We have significant concerns regarding the request by CMS to have its property, Lot A (Parcel Identifier 024-351-041), rezoned from a Forest lot. Any change of this nature to re-zoning would open the door to similar requests from other "Forest 1" lot owners with resulting degradation of the natural landscape on Galiano Island.

Also of concern are the effects of CMS accommodating an undisclosed number of guests in 30 huts and on an undisclosed number of tent sites for as much as 3 to 6 months at times. Then, there's the infrastructure to support this undisclosed number of people in a Resort that is couched as eco-sensitive. Retreat huts, manager's residence, food storage building, kitchen and dining facilities, laundry facilities, bath house, temporary shelters, meditation sites, septic fields, composting toilets and parking lots will be an impactful addition to the present landscape. Trails and access roads throughout the property will cause farther fragmentation of the forest. The assumption by CMS that overflow parking would be accommodated on Devina Drive during its special events suggests that large numbers of attendees are anticipated at times.

We all draw from the same aquifer and so the availability of water to sustain so many people is in question, Galiano being one of the drier Gulf Islands. The potential for contamination of that aquifer and surface water from human waste, including pharmaceuticals contained therein, is of serious concern.

While those attending CMS retreats may feel restored by experiencing the beauty and tranquility of this lovely Gulf Island, those of us who have temporary stewardship of it, in the form of property ownership, will be impacted negatively by the influx of many people adjacent to our property. We see no community benefit.

One of the many pleasures for us during our stays on Galiano Island is the sighting of a variety of birds and animals. Who will speak for them when their habitat is reduced and impacted by many visitors and development?

We commend the creators of the Official Community Plan for their wisdom and foresight to preserve a forest land base in perpetuity for the sustainability of this island and would like to have confidence in local government to recognize its merits.

We respectfully appeal to Islands Trust Committee Members to uphold their mandate to "Preserve and Protect" the OCP.

Sincerely,
Pat and Ian Mayhill

