

From: Leticia Gardner [REDACTED]

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Cc: 3ravenscoop@gmail.com

Subject: In Support of 3Ravens

Dear Denman Island Planners and Trustees,

I would like to voice my wholehearted support for the 3Ravens Affordable Housing Application. As someone who has lived precariously on Denman Island since 2019, I can share that housing projects like 3Ravens are much needed on this beautiful island. I have known Paul and Tara for a number of years now and I have always been inspired by their generosity and tenacity to start this project. Denman needs more, not less, creative solutions to this housing crisis we find ourselves in. Paul and Tara are paving the way, demonstrating one model that begins with private ownership and transitions to cooperative ownership.

While there will always be concerns by neighbours, I hope that the trustees and planners can consider the long term horizon of Denman in their consideration of this project. While it may not provide the ultra low cost housing that something like a BC Housing project may provide, I would like to share that I have known many Denmanites who have found creative lending agreements with friends and neighbours that have allowed them to make the leap to enter projects like Coho (or to purchase land privately). These "underground" options are certainly not the linear path, and often rely on relationships of trust, but have and continue to be in existence on this island. Taking land off the private market is surely a step in the right direction, and there are a multitude of ways our community could work to support people who may not have the funds up front for entry into these kinds of projects.

I live at Coho, and I can speak from direct experience about the feasibility of living entirely off rainwater. It is entirely possible, and you can live quite comfortably! Our toddler can have baths, we water our flowers, we run a dishwasher daily and even use our personal washing machine periodically. Coho has also already demonstrated that we can have shared laundry facilities in our common house run entirely off rainwater as well, serving 15 households. Having shared laundry is a joyful meeting place where I often run into neighbours and end up in interesting meandering conversations. Not to mention the added benefit of someone reconnecting you with your lost sock.

A share these small anecdotes as, with projects like these, it's easy to get caught in the spreadsheet lists of pros and cons. I hope to remind us all that these are people's lives we are talking about. Paul and Tara are striving to create a project that creates a hearth of community, a place to linger together and share in the joys and heartaches of living a good life.

With all this being said, I sincerely hope this project gets approved with ease and in a timely manner, we really need this!

Liticia Gardner

