

Dear Denman Island Planners and Trustees,

We live across Pinecrest Road from the proposed 3Ravens Housing Co-operative. We are very much in favour of the proposal - this community needs affordable, secure housing, and there is no better place for such housing than where the proponent landowners are passionate about it, have done their homework, and are ready to help the Denman Island community in a meaningful, immediate, and long-term fashion.

People make a vibrant community, and people need housing. There are many people who make this community special but whose housing situation is precarious, unsustainable or at least temporary. We'd love to have some of them live in our neighbourhood so that they can continue to live on this island.

Put another way: we own our home. We are lucky to do so. There are people on the island who do not own their homes. They contribute to this community. And they want to stay here. We would like them to be able to do so.

We can own a home on Denman because we bought a house in Courtenay five years ago. Lucky us. But we recognize our good fortune while maintaining the perspective to see that such good fortune shouldn't be the threshold for home ownership in a healthy community. We can only live here because we have been lucky.

This community is special. It has attracted many talented, delightful people, young families among them, with energy and vibrancy. But not all of them are wealthy. We would like these people, and families, to stay. What a shame that the housing market selects for wealth over talent, energy or vibrancy.

And here, on Pinecrest Road, we have generous landowners wanting to help solve this problem. They stand in a long Denman tradition of land shares, co-housing arrangements, and creative solutions to expensive land and lack of funds.

Regarding location, the best place for affordable housing, when affordable housing is needed, is where the property owner wants to create an affordable housing opportunity. So Pinecrest Road is a great spot.

We have no infrastructure concerns. There will be no appreciable increased demand on the aquifer. The owners have addressed electrical, fire safety, and every other potential issue that could reasonably be addressed at the outset.

Likewise for noise levels. The current owners have been kind enough to walk me around the site. Fifteen forested acres amply accommodates the proposed number of homes. Most will be well removed from the street. The property slopes away from the road and is private and secluded.

We want islanders to be able to stay on the island. They have the energy and ideas and outlook that contribute to the culture of this place. We want the voices speaking up about unfair land prices and growing wealth inequality to get a say. I grew up in the Lower Mainland; it appears to be a lost cause. Denman shouldn't be for only the rich, even if a lot of the rest of this province is. We want a healthy community, and so we support a well thought-out and kind-hearted affordable housing initiative on our street.

Thank you,



Logan Lapointe

