

From: Elisabeth Eppich [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2023 4:10 PM
To: Alex Allen; Grant Scott; Timothy Peterson; Sonja Zupanec
Cc: hornbyshortterm@gmail.com; northinfo
Subject: Hornby Island Short Term Rentals

Dear Trustees,

I am Elisabeth Eppich, daughter and Power of Attorney of the owners Helmut and Hildegard Eppich. I write to you today to share with you our thoughts and experiences with short term rentals on Hornby Island.

My parents were fortunate enough to purchase property on Hornby Island over 30 years ago. Four generations of our family have been spending time making unforgettable memories on Hornby Island. My nieces and nephews grew up spending summers there and now they are parents and continue to create and share memories with their children. Unfortunately my parents, now 87 and 90, are no longer able to come but wish for the families to be able to continue enjoying Hornby.

As everyone who owns a property knows, the costs continue to increase and we decided to try 4 weeks of vacation rentals per year to help us with the costs. It was a pleasant surprise when we learned that the tenants were not only respectful of our cabin but also of the island sensitivities such as water conservation and taking garbage off the island. We hired a local property management company, Wind and Waves to vet and educate tenants, manage the property and make sure we operated within the bylaws. We have been renting for 4 years now and we have repeat guests that are making their own family memories on Hornby Island.

I understand the need for long term housing on Hornby Island. Some of the people we have hired have had to leave their beloved island because they could not find affordable housing. It is a true crisis. In our case if short term rentals are stopped our cabin will not come up for long term housing.

I understand the need to find affordable housing but I do not believe that stopping short term rentals is the answer. Short term rentals offer a way for families such as ours to be able to continue to enjoy the Island and offer it to others that share in the Hornby Island lifestyle. It offers employment and the guests spend money at the various businesses, adding to the Island economy. It also holds off another older cabin from being sold and torn down for a new larger house which is changing the character of the Island.

Thank you for your time.

Elisabeth Eppich