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Sent: Sunday, December 3, 2023 7:59 PM
To: Alex Allen; Grant Scott; Timothy Peterson
Cc: Sonja Zupanec; northinfo; hornbyshortterm@gmail.com
Subject: Short-term vacation rentals

Donald and I bought our Hornby place at [REDACTED] in 1991, the year our son Josh was born. We have been part-timers, more than 'summer people', since that time. Our son was able to partly grow up on Hornby with many Hornby friends and learned the ways of the forests, creeks, rocks and ocean. While we've never been among the privileged who can earn a living on Hornby, we've had jobs that allowed us to compress our work weeks and eek out time so that we have been on Hornby consistently over three decades. We've worked hard to afford Hornby; the vacation rentals helped us along the way.

We started to do vacation rentals when Josh was a toddler at day-care. We would put up hand-written signs on the bulletin board and other families started their vacation experiences on beautiful Hornby. Three of those families bought properties on Hornby and are now solid parts of the community.

Other ways we advertised was word-of-mouth at work, and then more recently through Hornby Island Accommodations. We carefully interview people who want to stay to make sure they fully understand the water conservation issues, respect for neighbours and the community, support the Co-op, local arts and craft and food people, and leave the place better than they found it. We keep our rent on the lower side to enable working people and their families to have a chance to enjoy the clean air and positive vibes.

We have good relationships (friendships) with our neighbours, never had a complaint or problem, have their consent to carry on with whatever level of summer rentals we want to engage in. We cheerfully pay our local taxes even though we don't access all the services, and we generously give to local charities and non-profits. We support the Hornby community.

We have a large extended family and are delighted to report that our three generations of cousins love Hornby. We are so happy to share our place with them and are thrilled at how much the little ones love nature, the forests, the ocean and the bike and Frisbee facilities at Joe King Park, just a short walk down the back trail. We come up a good part of the year as does our son with his friends. People are seriously mistaken when they assume our place is “empty” except for the summer. Far from it.

As a result, there’s not a snow-ball’s chance in hell we would rent our place full-time should short-term vacation rentals be banned. We have tried longer term rentals and sadly things have largely gone badly for us: collecting damage deposits that don’t cover damage, taking loads of garbage to the depot. And I can hardly imagine trying to run a rental and keep up maintenance while living away, especially with problems of getting Hornby tradespeople to fix things.

In conclusion, we have worked long and hard for our Hornby place; we will not rent it full-time should short term vacation rentals be banned; our immediate and extended families will continue to use the place much of the year. And we will continue to support the Hornby community, merchants, charities, municipal services, and the environmental ethic that drew us to Hornby in the first place.

Banning all short-term vacation rentals is overkill and will not begin to solve Hornby’s housing problems.

Thank-you for considering our views as a long-time, short-term vacation rental family.

Mae Burrows and Donald Gutstein

