

From: Donna [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2023 9:18 AM
To: Grant Scott; Alex Allen; Timothy Peterson; Sonja Zupanec
Cc: northinfo
Subject: A few thoughts from us on Hornby Island and Short Term Rentals

Hello,

We have been coming to Hornby every summer for over 34 years, since we first camped at Brad's Dad's Land in 1989. We were able to buy a little "fixer upper" cabin in 1992 and try to spend as much time as we can on Hornby, although it is a summer cabin and not really comfortable for year round living.

We have always rented our cabin out for 3 or 4 weeks in the summer to help pay our taxes, do repairs and upkeep on the cabin and the trees, and to be able to support the businesses and artists on Hornby.

We think of Hornby and our community here as a healthy, sane, and very healing home and don't mind letting a few others also experience what we love about this island. When we rent our cabin, we go off island. Our guests are limited to 4, and they take our place while we are away. We have always used Wind & Waves and Albin La Pierre to help manage our property. By and large, our guests have always been very respectful of our home, our neighbours, and the fragile ecosystem of the island.

We agree that the increase in the popularity of Hornby (social media has had a huge impact) must be managed well to preserve the quality of all our lives here. That said, people do need to make a living. As the elders have retired, many of the younger ones on the island have started businesses that do rely on the summer visitors for their livelihood. If we didn't have Short Term Rentals, it would greatly affect the income of these businesses and services. It may open up the possibility of large hotels or resorts starting up and we would see more and more motorhomes and RVs on our roads and already crowded campgrounds.

We would like to see the "Pillow Tax" which is collected on all rentals go directly to a fund to help create Co-op housing to address the lack of year round affordable housing on Hornby. Also, easing restrictions on the building of additional dwellings, where septic and water supply is adequate, specifically for year round housing, may be another solution.

We believe that well managed, transparent, Short Term Rentals are a positive and meaningful way to provide visitor accommodation on our island. They have helped many full time islanders to keep and maintain their homes and have an improved quality of life in so doing. We believe that with proper oversight, and a good plan for the future, the Short Term Rental system does work.

Thankyou for taking the time to listen to our thoughts and also thankyou for the work you do as our Islands Trust Representatives.

Sincerely,

Horst and Donna Abreder

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Hornby Island, B.C.