

From: Dave Burch [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 3:32 PM
To: Alex Allen; Dave Burch
Cc: northinfo
Subject: We LOVE Hornby. Support of Controlled and Managed Vacation Rentals on Hornby Island

Trustee Alex Allen
Hornby Island Local Trust Committee

Dear Mr. Allen,

Since 1st experiencing Hornby in May 2003, I have felt an affinity for the island and had a dream to be a part of Hornby some day. As a young family we began spending short stays, renting various homes in different neighbourhoods of Hornby, for 1 – 2 weeks in May and eventually very memorable family vacations in summertime as well.

Our kids love swimming, biking, hiking Halliwell, stargazing, Saturday market, coop ice cream, wandering in the ferns in the forest, fresh vegetables and treats as well as artists. We've got to know so many amazing local artists, painters, farmers, plumbers, handyman, water/well experts, landscapers, ice cream scoopers, retirees, fisherman, etc. etc.

Our dream came true 2 years ago and we now own a piece of paradise. Knowing that short term rentals were allowed in the zoning and taking a large mortgage we rely on a number of rentals throughout the May – Sept season to help cover (not fully) our mortgage, tax and other costs.

We have employed over a dozen locals to work, maintain, clean and care for our property. We, and our guests, spend money at Coop, at farm/food stands, support artists and musicians, etc.

We know many similar owners on Hornby who do STR. We are NOT the greedy, evil, vacation rental owners that just want to make money at expense of Hornby community. In fact, the opposite is true.

Our guests are all families and friends who love Hornby and/or share common values of respectful tourism, respect for the environment and a love of everything Hornby. I installed a cistern so that we draw slowly from our well and conserve water throughout the year in numerous rain barrels.

We feel that the overall benefits to Hornby Island small businesses, community members, locals and overall vitality of community favours allowing legal, managed, controlled feel that the Short Term rental allow should be done legally, controlled, environmentally and respectfully. We do not feel the removal of legal property use from the OCP is right thing to do.

There are many ways STR's and the owners that own them can and will support local Hornby affordable housing. In fact, in speaking with other neighbours on Hornby that do some STR rentals, the conversations is that WE want to help Hornby with financing, building AFFORDABLE housing on island.

There is an incredible amount of potential for volunteers, raising money, from the 'second' homeowners that own and love Hornby.

Appreciate your time and the work you put into the Hornby Island community.

Regards,

Dave Burch

Lindsay, Stella, Sebastian