Gratitude from HISTRA

Do not pray for an easy life, pray for the strength to endure a difficult one. - Bruce Lee

Needless to say, this is a challenging summer and year. Without one another’s help and kindness, it would be impossible to make it through. So it is with happiness and a good deal of awe the Hornby Island Short Term Rental Association (HISTRA) welcomed our 75th member this July, mid-way through the summer of COVID-19 and still shy of our first year anniversary as a group. This represents a solid number of the vacation rentals offered on Hornby and reflects the growing desire by many to inform and improve how we provide our service as individuals and as a sector.

Our Association accomplished a couple of important tasks over the summer. We passed along a request from Stani at the Depot to better handle the difficult process of recycling and garbage delivery. We reached out to the membership, and ultimately to each guest, with practical information to better manage their Depot trip. We advised guests to clean and pre-sort all recycling into the many different categories, gave them an idea of what to expect when going to the Depot, and a reminder to thank our wonderful Depot staff.

We also forwarded our members the news of Dr. Henry’s Public Health Order on July 27, requiring all BC vacation rentals to limit the number of people in a vacation home to its occupancy and a maximum of 5 additional visitors. We created and shared a Contact Tracing Form and information letter to all owners to collect and track those staying and visiting their homes, in an effort to prevent the spread of a possible outbreak.

We owe a great deal of thanks to our summer guests and visitors. Many spoke of their respect and gratitude to our small community for opening up our doors to them during this challenging year. It meant so much to so many how managers and owners stressed vacationing responsibly and safely.

We look forward to our first AGM this September, albeit it virtual, and are excited to proceed forward with our work encouraging responsible vacation rentals and educating and growing conscious and contributing visitors. We recommit to our goals of inclusivity and sustainability and welcome the chance to work with the community at large in caring for this island we all love.

Submitted by the HISTRA Board