

## The HISTRA Report: May 2021

April was a busy month for meetings and discussions on and off Hornby. On April 7, the HISTRA Board hosted our first AGM via Zoom. It was a productive time revisiting our early successes followed by a frank discussion of the work ahead. We are grateful for the members who attended and the questions they posed. We finished by reaffirming our commitment to raising the standard of vacation rentals on Hornby.

Congratulations to HIRRA and its partners for organizing the COVID Community Discussion on April 11. The facilitators skillfully led us through three productive discussions where the intimacy of small groups gave everyone a rare chance to speak, be heard and, what's more, learn from one another. During the last group I attended someone spoke to being tired of the divisiveness in our island community and my wholehearted reaction was "Me too!". The benefits were immediate in it inspired a couple more honest, open dialogues demonstrating the common desire to listen and share ideas and perspectives. In short, the Community Discussion provided a good start. We all want a better tomorrow and a better Hornby. And even if we can't agree yet on the specifics, we know we can get there a lot faster working together. The challenge is to continue being open and receptive to one other.

And lastly, on Monday, April 19, Dr. Henry and the Provincial Government asked British Columbians to stay inside their individual Health Authority and not travel for vacation until at least after the May Long weekend. The tourism sector is being asked to step up and refuse visitors from outside their Health Authority for the time being in an effort to keep people at home. In solidarity, the HISTRA Board strongly recommends all Hornby short term accommodation providers postpone and/or cancel their bookings (save essential workers) until after the May Long in a concerted effort to stop the spread of COVID19 and to salvage the prospect of summer travel. Thankfully, our community immunization clinic in early May will further safeguard our community. Stay safe and stay positive everyone!