**Tribune**

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**Report from the Hornby Island Short-Term Rental Association (HISTRA)**

In order to retain its idyllic rural character, Hornby Island has intentionally avoided high density commercial tourist development and opted instead for the casual sharing of residential homes in local neighbourhoods, low-density resorts, and campgrounds to accommodate its guests. Short-term rentals are a way for Hornby Island to bring visitors to the Island and give them a way to participate in a laid-back lifestyle, supporting local businesses, and to enjoy island life for the week or two they spend here. Many a Hornby resident started their love affair with the island by coming as a Visitor. We hear words like “recharge’, “magic”, and “pause and take a breath”. As the visitors enjoy a slower time, locals welcome the cash injection into our sleepy economy.

**Slow & Steady**

When the review on legalizing Short Term Vacation Rentals was being undertaken, the Island Trust asked owners to form an association. That request sat on a back burner for more than a few years, but last Fall a dedicated group came forward and formed an Association. The intent being to develop best practices, help bring more professionalism into the sector, and to provide an avenue to help the community better understand the local benefits of the house sharing economy.

**Sustainability**

The Hornby Island Short Term Rental Association (**www.histra.ca**) supports a philosophy of mindful tourism. We are inviting travellers to share our homes and cabins, and it is only fair to these guests to also share how they can be good company. With this in mind, the Association has established a set of Best Practices, that encourages short-term rental owners and property managers to:

➢ educate and inform guests about how to be respectful visitors

➢ work with neighbours to promote harmonious relationships

➢ be environmental stewards by ensuring the sustainable use of each property, by recognizing the limits of the existing septic system, ground water, road capacity and other community considerations

➢ share your property responsibly by ensuring guests are aware of Hornby Island rules that apply to their stay.

**Membership is encouraged**

The Association is here to help. We are a group of volunteers who own and/or manage short term rentals on Hornby Island. We can assist owners in keeping in the loop about best practices for short term rentals and provide assistance or suggestions to meet the bylaws and legal requirements related to your short-term rental. It is important to

harmony in our community that people are united in welcoming our guests, and that visitors are respectful of our island community.

The email for the Association is hornbyshortterm@gmail.com.

For the Board: Michael Williams, Patrick Lui, Ray Therrien, Frances Millan, Donna Tuele, Karen Ross, Helen Grond, Diana King, Michelle Easterly, Ben Peterson, Stephen Bishop, Karen Young