Who We Are

In the Summer of 2022, we asked Hornby’s STVR community, both owners and visitors, to tell us about themselves and their relationship with our beloved Island. This is some of what they told us[[1]](#footnote-1).

Who is an STVR Home Owner on Hornby?

We are your neighbours and friends with long histories and deep roots in the community.

* 75% of us have been Hornby community members for more than 20 years,
  + 90% more than 10 years
  + 51% more than 30 years
* 98% of us come to Hornby throughout the year, we do not have a long term rental to offer to the community.
* 58% of us live on the Island at least some of the year.

“I bought in 1994. My husband loved, lived, and has been buried here. It is my home “

“My family has been a part of the Hornby Community since the mid-1960’s. Over the years we have been visitors, summer residents, full time residents and part time residents. We are deeply rooted here and want to be able to support our community and protect the legacy of our elders. Having the legal right to offer vacation rentals allows us to keep our home for the generations that will come. Ensuring we do so in a way that has the least impact on our environment and neighbours is essential us.”

“We have been coming to Hornby every summer since 1989. We bought our cabin in 1992 and love this island, the community, and the tranquility of the nature, forest, and ocean”

“First came to Hornby Island in 1962 (camping at Heron Rocks), coming regularly since... Purchased our own land in 2002”

We Care for our Island and Environment

We know that some visitors are not always as aware of what is required to manage water use very carefully and to tread gently on our Island.

So, we are proactive in our efforts to minimize the impact of our homes on the island and are committed to educating our visitors and joining the larger community voice for rain water collection and other actions that help to minimize our footprints.

“Important to me: to ensure that short-term rentals on Hornby are done in a socially and environmentally sustainable way.”

“Preserving what makes Hornby so special and also providing short term accommodation for others to appreciate and share in that in ways that will be good for the island and its people”

“We strongly care about the community and wish to retain the quality of life it provides to all of its members. We do not (want) the environment to be jeopardized either and strongly advocate stepping lightly on the earth.”

* 100% of the STVR operators surveyed have water conservation instructions and requirements for their guests.
* 63% of STVRs have water storage cisterns and 41% have rainwater harvesting systems.
* Guests at STVRs stay at least a week at a time and represent less than 1 in 5 visitors on Hornby in the summer months.
* 76% host 6 or fewer guests and 80% host for less than 12 weeks, 43% host guests for 8 weeks or less.
* 63% have low flow appliances and 75% water gardens with separate cistern systems.
* 72% never buy water to support visitors.
* 75% serviced their septic systems in the last 2 years, 92% in the last 5 years.

Our Visitors Values

Visitors staying in Hornby homes offered as short term rentals have a long history with Hornby. Most have been coming for more than 10 years.

They come here to experience our beaches and parks, the rural character of the island and to support our artists and artisans. They value what we value about our home.

Here’s some of what they tell us about what the love on Hornby:

“Beautiful scenery, wonderful hiking and beaches all in a quiet community whose residents care about their island habitat”

“The whole everything on Island vibe. Vendors at the Ringside market, farmer's market Weds/Sat, the co-op, Fossil creek farm, Phrog Creek distillery, music, restaurants, in precious years Elderwood farm (Jan's farm), the Natural history museum, the Cardboard House bakery and shops.”

“The incredible people”

“The beauty, serenity and peacefulness that Hornby offers”

“It has a very special feel... laid back and beautiful”

“Spirit & welcome of Islanders”

We Respect the Rules

* In 2020, when proactive Short Term Rental bylaw enforcement (BEN) began there were 17 proactive files opened and 6 community complaints. In 2021 there were 2 complaints and 6 proactive files created. In 2022 one Short Term Rental bylaw complaint was made. Most are quickly resolved.
* The Islands Trust says that ‘complaints about specific Short Term Rentals on Hornby are infrequent’.
* We work to support one another to both understand and be in compliance with the Bylaws and STVR regulations.

“My primary interest is that HISTRA works to ensure the current STVR regulations are complied with fully and widely and respected in a way which allows all residents of Hornby to be satisfied that a good balance between the interests of tourism and the interests of local residents not directly involved in tourism has been established...”

“Short-term vacation rentals (should) happen in a way that balances the various interests of the Hornby Island community as a whole”

“We ... stay informed and engaged in the Hornby community and ensure that our rentals align with all appropriate rules and processes”

My Experience as a Host

“We rented out for 5 weeks and all the families were very respectful. We are happy to share the space with others. We have a big family and would like to keep the cabin in the future. We have seen many second generations lose their cabins....As a result the older cabins are being torn down for newer larger cabins that are used by one family for short periods.”

“I ask my neighbours to ensure my guests are treating the community with respect and meeting the expectations of good visitors. They have all had wonderful and complimentary things to say about our guests. That is what I have come to expect of our visitors, they love and respect Hornby as much as I do.”

The Economics

We support the local businesses and experts by hiring local.

* It’s estimated that STVR owners contributed $500,000 last year to local workers and our guests add close to $2,000,000 to local businesses, artists and restaurants each year.

Visitors staying in our homes spend their time and money in these ways:

* More than 9 in 10 eat at sit down restaurants.
* More than 4 in 5 get meals from takeout restaurants.
* Almost all our visitors buy goods from local artists
* More than 9 in 10 buy food and other supplies at local stores and kiosks and go to the Farmers Market.

1. ‘the numeric information comes for the 2022 HISTRA Owners and Visitors surveys, quotes are from the surveys and community members and STVR owners comments made to HISTRA [↑](#footnote-ref-1)