



HORNBY ISLAND RESIDENTS AND RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Providing services and a voice for our island community.

Tribune Bay Ad hoc Committee Proposals for Recommendations to HIRRA

Mary MacKenzie and Kevin Woods reporting:

Who are we?

We are long term and newer full-time residents, people of different income levels, different ages, from different parts of the island, those who frequent Tribune Bay regularly and those who occasionally use the Park. Some are directly affected by noisy parties and some by the disgust at the state of the beach below the private property on Tribune Bay. In this broad spectrum of residents, all recognized that some activities on long weekends and during the summer need to change.

What are our objectives?

We wished to find solutions to the state of the beach and Shields Road after long weekends and during the summer months. We do not wish to fall into the trap of having to endlessly ramp up police support to solve these problems. We wish to help protect the environment in the area.

What is our process?

Knowing that many groups and individuals have worked for years on aspects of the problems at Tribune Bay, we went out to find the information we needed. We talked with:

- Youth
- Co-op summer staff

- Hornby Fire Patrols
- Park Security Personnel
- Community School Programs Organizer
- Tribune Bay Administrator
- Parks Maintenance Personnel
- Many volunteers who pick up garbage daily and yearly

and we approached:

- Ministry of Highways with regard to Shields Road

We appreciate all the people who, in many cases, have spent years working with youth and RCMP, or are familiar with Hornby's beach problems.

We also recognize the ongoing work being done by individuals and organizations, which we do not wish to repeat or compromise. This includes Islands Trustees and the Regional District representatives. Therefore:

We support and encourage continuance of existing programs

- Information to Schools
- Information to Newspapers
- HD Health Society Youth Programs
- work by Island Trustees and Regional District Representatives with the above organisations and the RCMP

After five committee meetings with particular guests, and some separate interviews with individuals in person and by phone, we realized that just being "mothers and nursemaids to litterbugs" and picking up after-party garbage didn't address the problem.

The deeper issue lies in part, with the Internet-Published portrayal of Hornby Island as a place where, "the booze is great, the drugs are great, the sex-fest is great, " and "the residents are afraid of us."

Garbage on the beach is a visible symptom of a much larger, more complex, problem. From this realization come the following recommendations:

Practical and Immediate actions:

- Installation of Garbage cans in wooden bins at the foot of Shields Road with appropriate directions and (amusing) signage.
Are there dollars available for this?
- Larger sign "No Overnight Camping" at the foot of Shields Road.
Ministry of Highways is being approached on this.
- Request enhanced RCMP presence:
 - **visibility** - e.g., on bicycles through parks and public places
 - **flexibility** - able to respond to more than one incident
 - **Enhanced roadblocks and patrols** on long weekends
 - at Buckley Bay and on island.
- Enter into constructive dialogue with Co-op regarding restricting / modifying / ceasing liquor sales in summer months, and or on long weekends.
- **Consistent Enforcement of by-laws**

Short term actions:

1. Signage at Buckley Bay be simple and direct:
 - a. Consumption of alcohol in public is against the law (there is a phone number if you wish to call) ???
 - b. Camping in registered campsites is required
2. Signage at Gravelly Bay be easily visible:
 - a. Overnight accommodation is required before proceeding
 - b. (Repeat) Consumption of alcohol in public is against the law
 - c. By-laws prohibit littering
3. Signage on Hornby:

No Overnight Camping (or Car Parking), as above, at Shields Road

4. A Sheet containing above be available for posting in all rental accommodations
5. Pamphlet distribution - include much of the above and distribute
6. **Consistent Enforcement of by-laws**

Long Term actions:

- Enforcement of by-laws - drinking, noise, littering

- Sustain information and advertising as above.
- Residents inform visitors of Island by-laws and behaviour

It is recognized that the individuals who come to Hornby Island **to have uncontrolled alcohol- and drug-fueled parties** comprise one constantly changing element as the young go through those partying years. Residents seem to be the only unchanging factor in the equation of youth, alcohol, drugs, and prized locations, like Tribune Bay.

Tribune Bay ad hoc Committee report, April 2008

Note: Hornby Island kids comprise less than 10% of beach partiers. The local youth, for the most part, do not go to Tribune Bay on summer nights. Of the visitors, less than 10% comprise the real trouble-makers, but most are drinking and using various drugs.

The major recommendation for immediate and long term action:

USE THE INTERNET.

Blogs and Facebook are used extensively by young people to encourage uncontrolled behaviour on Tribune Bay.

- Anyone with a computer can look up this island and see just what is thought of it and us. .
- Are RCMP aware?
- We propose to use the internet as the youth do to reverse their messages about Hornby.
- (Handouts with sites are available.)

We recommend that residents with access look at these sites to see how we are perceived.

VOLUNTEER ACTIONS

Volunteer Cleaners: In the event HIRRA is not able to fund 2 hours 3 times a week at \$12, (\$72/wk, or , \$576/2 mos.) to clean up the beach and Shields Road, volunteers will need to be organized. Volunteers will do the picking up until the July 1 weekend and after Labour Day if required, but the heavy months on the beach outside the Park should be funded by one method or another.

Food and drink sellers who do take-out (whether it is food or alcohol) may be asked for contributions to fund clean-up.

Beach A.M. Patrols: Early morning patrols will wake up kids (those who are still there and relatively sober.) and get them to clean up the messes.

The word may spread rather quickly that the residents are not "afraid" and are going to make the antisocial kids and irresponsible adults responsible for their actions.