



News Release

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PROHIBITION ON SHORT-TERM VACATION RENTALS CONTINUES ON SALT SPRING ISLAND

VICTORIA — Earlier this year, the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee confirmed it would uphold long-standing Official Community Plan policies and the existing Land Use Bylaw, which prohibit renting private homes in residential zones for fewer than 30 days, and has directed Islands Trust staff to enforce the bylaw.

The bylaw does not affect bed and breakfasts, or commercial resorts, hotels and motels, all of which are widely available on the island. People may continue to rent cottages as part of a bed and breakfast operation. They may also continue to rent their residential properties for periods longer than 30 days to one tenant.

“The community has said over and over that our neighbourhoods should be for neighbours, and we want people to be aware that we will enforce the bylaw,” said local trustee George Ehring.

“We will be notifying property owners by mail and through advertising in local newspapers to ensure that people are aware of the bylaw and its enforcement,” added Peter Lamb, also a local trustee.

Property owners who fail to bring their property into compliance could face legal prosecution or fines of \$200 per day. The enforcement also applies to advertising short-term vacation rentals in residential neighbourhoods.

For more information, contact the Islands Trust local Salt Spring office located at the Hydro building at 1 – 500 Lower Ganges Road, weekdays from 10:00 to noon and 1:00 to 4:30 or phone 250.537.9144.

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