



A letter of response to our Island neighbours,  
cc Galiano Local Trust Committee

I am writing you on behalf of Crystal Mountain Society (CMS). We appreciate your care and concern for your island home and wish to assure you we share the same respect and intent of good stewardship.

We would like to encourage you to read our 'FOREST RETREAT MEDITATION CENTRE PROPOSAL' Nov 2015, for a full explanation of our application and how we comply with OPC and Island Trust mandates. Questions raised relating to Forest Use and Density have been addressed in this proposal. It has not yet been posted to the IT website. If you would like to contact us through our website [www.crystalmountainsociety.org](http://www.crystalmountainsociety.org) it can be emailed to you directly.

In 2010 we conducted an extensive study of the ecosystems, wildlife and plant species with local biologist Keith Erickson, (now posted on the Island Trust website as; Environmental Assessment - April 2014).

Quote from page 26; [6.4 Ecological Restoration](#)

[A large portion of Crystal Mountain has been impacted by intensive forestry and associated road building over the past century. This has created long-term impacts to soil ecosystems, altered the hydrology, destroyed wildlife habitat, caused the spread of invasive exotic species and resulted in an overall reduction in biotic diversity.](#)

As a result of this study we have been able to identify the areas of greatest fragility, those in need of assistance for the natural balance to be restored, areas to leave alone, and where building will have minimal impact. This report indicates Spotlight Creek stream water has been impacted by activities prior to our purchase. As part of our continuing forest management, we plan to restore the creek bed by removing an old car, and other debris abandoned in the creek. We recognise and will, of course, continue to respect the terms, rights and responsibilities of the Water Licence issued under the Water Act and would like to discuss these plans further with our neighbours. Repairs done to the stream will take place when it is seasonally dried up, and we will inform our neighbours before hand.

We have recently conducted a Hydrological report that has been submitted to Island Trust. It is a thorough study of the groundwater table on the Crystal Mountain property and surrounding neighbourhood. The study was conducted by Al Kohut, P. Eng, of Hy-Geo consulting, Victoria. This quote from page 2 of the report:

[No discernable pumping effects were observed in two observation wells at the centre that were monitored during the October testing. Based on these monitoring results, use of the central well at a rate of 1.972 L/min \(2839 L/day\) would have no measureable effect on any of the neighbouring wells or surface water sources in the region.](#)

We are currently engaging septic engineer Ian Ralston, with the purpose of ensuring our activities on the land do not impact neighbours of the two or four legged kind. We will follow his recommendations for site specific designed systems.

Regarding road access, we believe you will be pleased to hear, the centre has been reoriented so the main access is via the Devina Drive entrance. Participants in our programs, most often, do not bring cars. We have a volunteer shopper who makes weekly deliveries to those in retreat.

I would also like to address the shore access to Spotlight Cove, on Porlier Pass, opposite the CMS driveway. This point is indicated on the 'Galiano Island Parks and Recreation Commission Map' as an unmanaged public water access. <https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/southern-gulf-islands-ea-pdf/galiano-island/galiano-sa-north08.pdf?sfvrsn=2> It is our understanding that any person may clear a way through an unimproved MOTI R/W to get to the shore. Perhaps, as neighbours, we can work together with GIPRC to define and manage this public shore access. As for any littering; there is no excuse for that. We offer an assurance that we will clarify these points in our orientation documents.

Respectfully yours,

Libby McClelland  
Crystal Mountain Board Member  
Rezoning Committee Member  
Galiano Island Resident