



What's Happening at Doe Bay?

A (Too?) Long Note from Joe



Dear Friends of Doe Bay,

What a year 2020 has been. Reverting to basic values has served us well in a tough time. We emphasized safety from day one. We tried to put people over money and we worked hard to make the magic of Doe Bay available to those of you who really needed it.

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The financial results have been poor at best. On every other level, the results have been amazing. The comment I have heard more often than any other is, ["My time at Doe Bay was the highlight of my summer and the highlight of 2020."](#)

Please support small business, hospitality businesses, food service businesses and music venues. We hope you are able to allow us to serve you this year when we need the support. And, we hope to be available to you for decades to come.

Longer Stays are Better

I usually spend about 45 days a year here. I came up for a weekend 14 weeks ago and have been here almost non-stop since then. Even with the daily challenges, financial and others, it has been wonderful to be here in a place I love so much. I found it healthy to have some extended periods of time where I could feel centered and not disrupted. No TV, limited news, reading, paddling in Otter Cove, swimming in Mountain Lake, and hiking in Moran.

Come for a week. We will make it easy.



Wearing a Maldives shirt in honor of the house band for the first 8 Doe Bay Fests.



We hired our friend and master woodworker, Kevin Sur, to build us 13 outdoor dining tables. You should too!

surwoodworking.com



Hike to Mountain Lake and jump in!



Note to our Orcas Island Neighbors - One of the hardest decisions we made was to isolate. Our ethos is all about welcoming everyone from near and far. But in the face of so many unknowns about the pandemic, we elected to minimize interaction between our visitors and our fellow Orcas residents. We have long thought of Doe Bay as a somewhat public space; almost a park. We apologize for being so firm in our messaging, but we felt it was the right thing to do if we were going to allow mainlanders to come to the island. We still need to know who is on the property (for tracing), but we will be able to be more welcoming while being safe in the off-season months.

To be clear, we love and welcome our neighbors.



All are now welcome to come and eat at the **Doe Bay Cafe** at our limited outside full service tables, to eat your takeout on our grounds and to shop in the **Doe Bay Store**. More services are opening every week.

Celebrating a 10-year Anniversary at Doe Bay



River Augenstein - General Manager

You will forever be a part of the magic of Doe Bay.

Thank you River!

JOE



Shandra Augenstein - Events Manager

Shandra & River arrived at their new home at Doe Bay November 1st, 2010.

Thank you Shandra!

JOE



They are still here at Doe Bay!

Early in the process, they introduced another Doe Bay Favorite;

JULIA



The Doe Bay Spa

Many have waited patiently for the spa experience to return. There is nothing quite like feeling the warmth of soaking in a tub as you look out on Otter Cove. We follow all governmental guidelines and add our own sense of safety in evaluating the spa. We are now doing private rentals, available to families or small groups staying at Doe Bay. This is more like if you rented a house with a tub and it was available to use. We have been pilot testing this successfully and implementing protocols for cleaning and down time between guests.



If you are reserved as a Doe Bay Guest and interested in reserving a private spa rental:

[**CLICK HERE for Private Spa Rental Inquiries. And please take our brief survey too!**](#)

Doe Bay Membership

We have appreciated our local on-island supporters throughout this crisis. Anyone with an active membership in the latter half of 2020 will automatically receive an extension into the first half of 2021 at no charge.

Membership discounts continue to be available in the **Doe Bay Store** and **Doe Bay Cafe**. Our **Doe Bay Spa** pilot program in the spa will soon be extended to our members interested in private spa rentals, at a deep discount. Additional discounts will also be available on massage. Stay tuned for our upcoming membership newsletter.



The Bells of Doe Bay

This has been a long time project based loosely on Tibetan prayer wheels and Buddhist Bells.

As you walk across the Doe Bay Bridge, you may gently pull on the rope to make the bells ring. Soon the stream will power the bells. Namaste, or whatever...



What we need from you:

Plan a visit to Doe Bay this fall winter or spring. We need the activity to sustain the business and we guaranty that you will be glad you came. Consider the following:

- **Come for a week** – We have lowered our weekly rates such that they are half price. [Visit our Specials webpage for more info.](#)
- **Work from home, but your home is Doe Bay.** If you are primarily working at a computer, you can do so here as well as in your home. But when the work day is done, you have Doe Bay at your doorstep.
- **The Doe Bay School House** – If your kids are primarily attending school online, they can do so from your Doe Bay Cabin. Again, when the final bell rings for the day, they will have a Doe Bay experience.
- **Connected and quiet** - Our internet works well. We will accommodate special places for quiet work or study.



Eat at the Doe Bay Cafe

- **Food and Drink for on premises guests** - We will have food from the Doe Bay Café available for takeout to your cabin and undercover outdoor dining as weather allows. You will also be set up to be able to cook for yourself in your cabin and buy essentials from the Doe Bay Store.
- **Doe Bay Cafe Takeout** - Our takeout program will be active all year long. If you are on the island, please call in an order and come pick it up (360-376-8059). The menu and current information is available on the website at doebay.com/cafe. While you are picking up your takeout, do some shopping for essentials at the Doe Bay General Store.

The Holidays at Doe Bay

We are open for all the holidays this year for the first time in a decade. Plan a visit to Doe Bay at these special times.

Halloween	Election Day	Thanksgiving	Christmas
New Years	Martin Luther King Holiday	Valentine's Day	
President's Day	Ides Of March	St. Patrick's Day	April Fool's Day
Tax Day	May Day	Memorial Day	

Each holiday will have special events and meals and small safe experiences. Whatever the occasion, consider Doe Bay.

"Rumors of my death have been greatly exaggerated!"

~Mark Twain

Like Mark Twain, we aren't done yet.



GET TESTED

We urge you to get your travel group tested prior to arrival. It will improve the safety of all AND you will enjoy your experience of Doe Bay SO much more!

Below is a group who had infants so they followed a strict testing regime and were able to have a party including a silent disco.



Massage at Doe Bay

We are soon to re-open massage on a limited basis. You must schedule prior to your visit. We have engaged one of the best therapists in the area and it is safe and incredible! Contact the front desk at (360) 376-2291 for more information. PLEASE reserve well in advance!



Please do this now!

So [make a reservation now](#) online, using the code "Old Friends" for 20% off your 2020 stay of 2 or more nights (not available over holidays). Put together a group of fellow workers or a group of your kids' classmates (and maybe a teacher) to come up so you can have some safe after hours interactions outside in nature to supplement your work on a screen.

Save 20% with Promo Code: Old Friends



Give Us Feedback

If you have been at Doe Bay in the last 9 months, I have one more request. I assume that you had a wonderful experience. If that is not the case, and we dropped the ball at some point, please tell us. We are focused on wanting your experience to be great so we will use your comments to do better. Write to Joe@DoeBay.com If you had a good experience, please take time to do one or more of the following:

1. Post photos videos and comments to social media sharing the magic and encouraging others to check us out. **Instagram, Facebook, Tik Tok**, etc...
2. Post reviews to the big review sites. It is fairly easy to post a review on [Yelp](#) or [TripAdvisor](#). We really appreciate it.
3. Post reviews to Google or Facebook as well.
4. Tell your story about your experience at Doe Bay. You know, the old fashioned way of just talking to someone, face to face or maybe on the phone.

I thank you in advance for your support for Doe Bay.

Update! We received another signed Adirondack from our favorite guests:

The only guests who have a camping area named after them,

Holts' Corner





MUSIC AT DOE BAY

Artists in Residence – Doe Bay has received so much from so many artists in our decades of owning it, largely as a result of Doe Bay Fest, Imagine Festival, Write Doe Bay and MAI Fest. And the performing arts community took the most direct hit from the pandemic and appears to be one that will be slowest to recover. So I decided that we would fund a summer of creativity for artists. [This link will tell you more.](#) I can only say that it has exceeded all of my expectations. Most artists received their first real paycheck in months and guests on the property who heard them play provided added support.



Anna Tivel, Artist in Residence, August 2020

The Garden - We committed in March to fund and support the garden, not knowing if we would be open to use the produce. We figured it is a symbol for our staff and community that we had and have hope for the future.

Planting a seed is the ultimate act of faith.

Pictured: Dena Rebozo, garden fairy. George Orser, garden gnome. Bringing the magic to the Doe Bay Garden.



The Future is, of course Uncertain

The Only Sure Thing is the Past

What will next summer bring? The honest answer is that we don't know. With the overwhelming positive response to our 5-night minimum operating model this past summer, longer term rentals will become the standard for June-September 2021, outside of contracted events. Opportunities for shorter summer stays will be made available one month in advance if space is available.

Events such as weddings will happen but they will be smaller.

Dining outside on the property will be a big thing.

People will come and have a magical experience. Please consider being one of them!



Doe Bay Fest 13 will happen although we don't yet know what it will look like.

Remember You are always Welcome at Doe
Bay!



Thanks for looking at this and for being part of our grand experiment.

Joe Brotherton

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We are really proud to have been [featured in the New York Times](#)