

Ship and Shore Restaurant -

A great seafood restaurant off the beaten track in Deep Bay (Vancouver Island).

Ship and Shore was originally established as a coffee house/arcade/beer store 25 years ago. A little run down but full of promise. Bruce and I purchased the property in October 2016 and put our heart and soul and restored the life in this sleepy little community. We are a seasonal operation (up until COVID) which was primarily open February thru October. We have 4 employees on payroll and the two of us are in the kitchen.

Our primary customers consist of locals and those who have heard of us who travel as far away as Campbell River and Victoria to enjoy the experience of homemade goodness with amazing views and 40 feet from the ocean. Non COVID customers during the summer months are primarily (80%) tourists.

Our revenue base has dropped significantly since this last turn. We managed to do well considering the circumstances last year due to that we have an amazing 1200 sq foot patio. We manage to stay open because Bruce and I do a majority of all the work here. With the exception of our 3 wait staff gals we do everything else. We have one gentleman who comes in on the weekends to help with dishes and sauces etc. We have applied and have received our government support and are keeping those funds tucked away until we desperately need them.

We used to advertise but because of the cost of marketing and publishing, we have elected not to go that route this year.

The government decisions are extremely hypocritical. It upsets us to no end that the restaurant industry is being constantly targeted. The restaurant industry maintains strict guidelines for the health and welfare of our employees and customers on a continual basis. Pre COVID we are monitored by our local health inspectors and most restaurants take cleanliness and hygiene very personally. There are no recommendations there are only quandaries as to why our provincial government can say it's safe to dine on BC Ferries (clearly in an enclosed atmosphere) yet restaurants are not safe.

Our community contributions for the most part have been very positive except for last year in the height of the pandemic, we were forced to remove all our directional signage from the main local highway. We were told that the person or persons involved would lose their job if the signs were not taken down. We had signs that were on the highway for over 25 years and those were taken down. We have a constant struggle. We reached out to Horgan's office and our local MLA's and ALL of them said "our hands are tied". What a shame - what a disgrace. Last week when Bonnie Henry shut us down again - Bruce and I put our signs back on the highway and to our surprise...we started getting more traffic. Because of the signs being on the highway we had an incredible first weekend of our dining room being closed.

Our government officials are hypocrites and they make up the rules as they please. We have lost weight, we are completely exhausted, sleep 12 hours a day (on our days off), friends and

family are scarce because we are either busy buying products at Costco and local stores (to keep the costs down) or sleeping. This pandemic has devastated lives, households, children, friends, family, our sense of humanity and has certainly made people mean, rude and uncaring.

We can't be the scapegoat any longer...shut down a Costco once in a while or perhaps malls? Stop bullying the restaurant owners. Perhaps the people making these decisions have never put their entire life savings into something. Perhaps they have never lost sleep about making payroll? Why? because they get a paycheque regardless of what decisions they make.

Thank you for everything you are doing for our industry - I look forward to receiving your emails and updates. As a restaurant owner we rely on people who know what we do and what we are all about.

Stay well and safe and thank you again for everything.

Cheers
Bruce and Melanie Cook
Owners