

**DIRECTOR'S NEWS APRIL 2009**  
**AN UPDATE FROM SCRD DIRECTOR, DONNA  
SHUGAR**

**CONTACT**

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In Person: Gumboot Restaurant Saturdays 9-11 Drop by for coffee and a chat!

**BUDGET**

The SCRD has now completed the 2009 budget process. This has been an exceptionally challenging year and both staff and the Board have worked very hard to retain the services the public values while striving to keep costs down. We received a lot of feedback from residents about our proposals to reduce hours at the Gibsons Pool and our HandiDart bus program. In response to the public's concerns these programs have been restored. The savings we have made in other areas to be able to restore these programs, however, are not sustainable over the long term and we know we will be faced with challenges next year as well. For example, several positions made vacant through illness or maternity leave will not be filled this year or will be delayed; staff attendance at conferences and other training has been cut back. In a vital and current organization, cutbacks like these cannot be sustained so savings will have to be found by other means. Please check the SCRD website for details about the budget.

Recreation facilities and programs were the reason for most of the increase in taxes over 2008 levels. Landfill costs and recycling are the other main areas of increase, primarily because of reductions in tipping fees resulting from a decline in construction and the downturn in revenues from recyclables. Overall other functions are primarily the same as in 2008. We are planning to conduct an audit of our recreation services to ensure that we are delivering the programs that people want at an affordable cost. In addition, there have been some deficiencies at the Sechelt Aquatic facility that will be addressed during our May maintenance closure so we expect that energy consumption and costs at the Sechelt pool will go down.

The provision of a variety of recreation services is part of our commitment to a healthy community. However, it is important to understand if recreation programs and facilities are to continue at current levels, people need to actively support them. If programs are under utilized, we do have to assess their value to the community and reconsider what we offer.

The SCRD budget process is a very public and open one, but few people take the time to participate. Next year, please try to attend even

for a short while. I think you will be impressed with the level of care and attention that is paid to the process. We value your input and your questions.

## EARTH DAY

Celebrate Earth Day at the Roberts Creek Pier on **Sunday, April 19, noon–5pm**. You will enjoy a wonderful line-up of local entertainment. Visit booths containing local artwork and crafts, sample the food, and learn about local issues. Cycle to Earth Day and receive a free bike tune-up! Encourage your children to bring well-loved yet little worn books or toys to trade at the Toy Exchange. Black Cat Productions presents an Earth Day screening of *Blue Gold: World Water Wars* on Monday, April 20 at the Roberts Creek Hall. Thanks to Sheila Wilson for coordinating the event again this year!

If you would like to book booth space, volunteer, or make a donation to the Earth Basket, contact Sheila at [shemark@dccnet.com](mailto:shemark@dccnet.com) , 604-885-3384.

## COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

Volunteers are needed to clean up Roberts Creek **April 19-May 16**.

The RCCA is sponsoring this effort to pick up all the litter along the roads in Roberts Creek from the Cemetery to the Provincial campsite. You can help out by volunteering to clean up part of your neighbourhood. Pitch-in Canada bags and garbage tags will be provided and your filled bags will be picked up at curbside on your normal garbage day. Please help out by contacting Elaine Futterman at 604-885-2395 [creekclayworks@dccnet.com](mailto:creekclayworks@dccnet.com) or Suzy Naylor at 604-740-0963 [suzy\\_naylor@sunshine.net](mailto:suzy_naylor@sunshine.net). Or sign up and get your Pitch-in garbage bag at the booth on Earth Day, Sunday, April 19, 12 to 5 pm, at the Mandala. Get your name on the map of Roberts Creek and pitch-in!!

There will also be a Roberts Creek Hall clean up **work party** on **Sunday Apr. 26<sup>th</sup>, 10-5**. Lunch, pop and coffee will be provided. The day will end with a Pot Luck at 6pm and an open mike jam, 7-9pm. Come out and support the folks who bring so many great events to our community!

## ROBERTS CREEK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The RCCA AGM will be held on **April 22, 7:30pm at the Roberts Creek Hall**. This is the group that owns and maintains the Hall, the library building and the park behind it. They put on Creek Daze and sponsor many other worthwhile events in our community and in many ways are the heart and soul of Roberts Creek! Come out and volunteer. Everyone is welcome and this is a great way to become involved.

Another item to note at the RCCA AGM on April 22 is a presentation by the **Roberts Creek Library Committee** who will share their plans for the new space that is being vacated by Canada Post. They will let you know how you can become involved in this exciting development.

Our attractive new post office is now open and the Heart of the Creek crew is hard at work preparing the new patio space behind the café. I have been told there will be a grand opening event at the Post Office in May. Watch the local papers for info.

### **SINGLE TRANSFERABLE VOTE**

During the May provincial election, there will also be a referendum on the proportional representation system known as Single Transferable Vote or STV. The RCCA is sponsoring an information evening on STV, **Wednesday April 29, 7pm at the RC Hall**. Anne Dykes who was on the citizens' committee which examined proportional voting systems and made recommendations to the provincial government will be on hand to explain STV and there will be a panel as well. Refreshments will be served.

### **BACK YARD BURNING**

Please remember that the Roberts Creek Smoke Control Bylaw is now in effect and backyard burning is only permitted April 1-15. You must have a lot one hectare or greater if you want to have a backyard fire. On smaller lots a permit may be applied for but will only be granted in exceptional circumstances where alternatives like hauling, composting or chipping material are not possible. Small campfires for warmth, cooking or ceremony are permitted. Please check the SCRCD website or my website for full details. [www.scrd.ca](http://www.scrd.ca). Respect your neighbours by helping to keep our air clean.

### **GRANTS IN AID**

The application deadline for SCRCD Grants in Aid is April 15. Although the format will be a little different this year, community groups requiring funding under this program should apply as usual. However, applicants should be sure to explain either how their project serves the community of Roberts Creek in particular or how it has a regional focus. The grant limit for groups that are not registered as societies is \$500. The maximum for societies is \$5,000. Forms are on line on the SCRCD website or call Joanne Fraser at 604-885-6800.

### **CLIFF GILKER PARK**

Finally after 4 years of work, a covenant on Cliff Gilker Park has been registered. This covenant will protect the park in a natural state and will preclude any development within the park beyond what is currently there. A few years ago, a public process resulted in a management plan for the park which forms the basis of the covenant.

### **DAKOTA RIDGE**

We have now concluded a very successful 2008/2009 ski season on Dakota Ridge with all kinds of new folks discovering and enjoying many days on the Ridge, the most person days ever!

Road upgrades allowed vehicle access to the top parking lot, in winter, for the first time. Kudos to our dedicated plowing contractor who brought us through the crazy month of January.

This year a Trail Host program was established with volunteers donating hundreds of hours in order to make the Dakota experience safe and enjoyable.

This was the second successful year of the Volunteer Groomer Program, again with hundreds of hours volunteered and appreciated.

The first formal snowshoe trails on Dakota were developed and the SCRD hosted the very successful Snowshoe Race and the March Winter Fest – big thanks to all the volunteers and Search and Rescue without whom these events would not be possible!

The Tetrahedron Outdoor Club established the Dakota Ridge Jackrabbit Program - introducing kids and parents to the lifelong sport of cross country skiing through playful instruction.

Several schools enjoyed outdoor education programs and overnight camping at Dakota Ridge.

#### **OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN COMMITTEE**

The Roberts Creek Official Community Plan Committee has a new meeting schedule. Because many of the members are also on the OCP Review Committee, they have decided to meet every other month to see how that goes. However they will hold a special meeting if required. The next scheduled meeting will be on May 20, 7pm at the Roberts Creek Community School. These meetings are open to the public.

#### **OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN REVIEW**

The minutes of the Official Community Plan Review meetings are available on the SCRD website. Check them out to see what this group has been discussing.