

# DIRECTOR'S NEWS DEC. 2006

## AN UPDATE FROM SCRD DIRECTOR, DONNA SHUGAR



It has been a year since I became the SCRD Director for Roberts Creek and it has been an interesting and challenging time! I'd like to give you a sense of some of the projects that have been undertaken in the last year since many of them have reached the end of the study phase and will be ready for implementation in 2007.

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### GREEN SHORES

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Over the last year, the Green Shores Project has been studying the shoreline of Roberts Creek to determine what should be the most ecological ways to handle shoreline properties. That work is now complete so the Greenshores Project and the SCRD are hosting an open house to give the community an opportunity to review the Draft Greenshores Study Report. The report provides a review of the environmental, property and aesthetics issues associated with shoreline erosion and protection in Roberts Creek.

The SCRD is inviting your comments on the draft report and the SCRD Planning Committee's recommendation to establish shoreline Development Permit Areas to better manage shoreline protection.

The meeting will be at Roberts Creek Hall, Wed., Jan 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 - 9:00pm. Brian Emmett, the biologist on the Greenshores team will be there to present the report and answer questions.

For information, call the SCRD Planning Department at 604-885-2261 or email [mark.mcmullen@scrd.bc.ca](mailto:mark.mcmullen@scrd.bc.ca).

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### CLIFF GILKER PARK

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I hope you have had a chance to look over the draft Management Plan which will form the basis of the covenant on the park. A citizens' advisory committee worked with SCRD staff and consultants over the last year to produce the Plan; 3 open houses were held; and the Plan has been available for viewing and comment (via questionnaire) at the Roberts Creek Reading Room and on the SCRD website. The draft Plan has now been referred to the Sunshine Coast Conservation Association

for comment since we hope that this group will be one of the covenant holders. In 2007 a covenant will be developed for the protection of this special natural environment.

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### THE PIER

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It has been about a year since the deck at the end of the Pier was removed for safety reasons. Finally repair work is imminent! It has been decided that restoration of the deck would be premature if the erosion repairs to the end of the Pier were not done first. Cost estimates have been done and we are in the process (with the help of the RCCA) of soliciting donations of large rip rap. John Clayton has made a commitment to donate at least some of what is needed and you can expect to see some large rock appearing at the Pier very soon! I am confident that the Pier will be ready for full use by the summer.

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### KENNELS

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The amendments to the zoning bylaw which would require proposals for new kennels in Roberts Creek and Halfmoon Bay to go through a spot zoning process has been given third reading by the SCRD Board and has been forwarded to Victoria for approval. Final adoption of the bylaw should take place in 2007.

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### REGIONAL GROWTH MANAGEMENT

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A tremendous amount of SCRD staff and Directors' time was spent on the examination of restructuring on the "lower Coast". The referendum has been held and the voters chose overwhelmingly to retain the existing structure of government. Now we need to turn our attention to other pressing issues such as growth management. Many people have spoken to me and have written in the local papers regarding their concerns about the rate of growth and development on the Sunshine Coast. I certainly share their sense of alarm and urgency.

Many of us on the SCRD Board have talked about beginning a Regional Growth Strategy process. This is a

detailed and formal process which is eligible for Provincial funding. The end result is something like an OCP for the whole Coast: where do we want to see densified development? Where are our commercial zones? How do we deal with infrastructure issues? How do we provide for low cost housing and seniors' housing? The process includes a high level of public participation and requires the commitment of all our local governments: the SCRd, the Town of Gibsons, the District of Sechelt, and the Sechelt Indian Government District. I hope all jurisdictions will be prepared to make that commitment in 2007.

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**LRMP**

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A Regional Growth Strategy is a plan for the settled areas of our community. A Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) is a plan for the Crown lands. These 2 processes can run concurrently and because we are so close to our Crown Lands and affected by what takes place on them, it makes sense to me to run them this way. The SCRd has joined forces with the Powell River Regional District to lobby the Province for the funding to have an LRMP process.

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**OCP**

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The Roberts Creek OCP became a bylaw in 1994. The West Howe Sound OCP was created in 1988! Our OCPC has been collecting issues that need to be addressed in an OCP review for some time now and the list is long! Now that the Restructure process is over and the Elphinstone OCP (which was even older) is almost done, I am hopeful that the West Howe Sound and Roberts Creek OCPs can both be reviewed at the same time (with separate processes, of course). Keeping all these planning processes going at once with the high level of public involvement that is required would be a difficult juggling act. I will keep you posted.

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**OCPC**

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The OCPC elections were held on November 22. Welcome to new members: Dave Kelm, Gail Cromie, Julie Gleadow, and Peg N. Thanks to Jim Budd, Trish Desbrisay, Graham Nash, and Germaine Wilson for their service.

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**PARKING AND  
TRANSPORTATION IN THE  
DOWNTOWN CORE**

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The study done by Itrans and the Roberts Creek Transportation network is complete and the final report will be presented to the Board in December. Over 120 people responded to the questionnaire and there was a lively discussion at the open house in October. A number of suggestions for dealing with the problems in the downtown area came out of this process. We have some funds from the Federal gas tax rebate which is specifically intended for projects which enhance public transit and other green forms of transportation. So many of the recommendations will be implemented under this program.

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**BIKE LANES**

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One of the transportation alternatives I am asked about most often is bike lanes. The SCRd Parks Dept has developed a bike lane network plan based on the work of citizens' committees in each rural area. There is a Provincial funding program specifically for bike lanes. An area can apply for a maximum of \$250,000 but the amount applied for must be matched. \$500,000 would not buy more than about 2km of bike lane. The program requires the lanes to be on both sides of the road. Not all Directors feel that residents of their areas would agree to be taxed for bike lanes. I'd like your feedback!