



Director's News, June 2006

**An update from SCR D Director,
Donna Shugar**

Thank you Elaine!

A big thank you is due to Elaine Futterman, Alternate Director, who filled in for me while I was away with my family. The budget discussions are particularly demanding and Elaine did an awesome job representing Roberts Creek's interests. She has once again resumed her duties as Chair of the OCPC. If you have questions or comments about anything in this newsletter, or any other issue, please phone me at 886-2843, email me donna_shugar@hotmail.com or visit me at my "Gumboot Office" Saturdays 9-11am in the restaurant.

Check out the SCR D website: www.scrd.bc.ca for more information on many of these topics.

What is happening with the Roberts Creek Pier?

First, I want to reassure everyone that **there is no plan to remove the Pier!**

Several months ago it was discovered that there was serious corrosion of the supporting beams under the deck at the end of the Pier. Another severe storm caused more damage and, in response to safety concerns, the deck was removed by SCR D Parks staff. In March, \$18,000 for restoration was approved in the SCR D budget.

The RC Pier is an important and much loved gathering place in our community so I am asking for your input. **On June 21 at 7:30pm, the Roberts Creek Community Association is hosting a community meeting (along with its regular monthly meeting) to talk about the design for the new deck at the end of the Pier.** You are all invited to attend and share your views about the Pier. A report from the meeting will go to the SCR D Parks Dept. You may also email parks@scr.d.bc.ca or call Rebecca Porte at 885-2261.

What is the Green Shores project?

A team of marine scientists has been examining the Roberts Creek waterfront to develop recommendations for how we can live sustainably along the shoreline. Their suggestions will include both "best practices" guidelines and language we can put in our OCP.

Green Shores is based on 4 principles: that coastal processes are interconnected, that we must maintain or enhance habitat diversity, that we must minimize or reduce pollutants to the marine environment, and that we need to reduce cumulative impacts to the coastal environment, such as shore hardening (e.g. concrete walls) and loss of riparian vegetation. This winter brought a number of storm events which have caused damage to shore areas in many parts of the coast. This means that some waterfront property owners may be considering repair or protection works in the near future. If you are, please consider a "Green Shores" approach that could be used as a model for other Roberts Creek property owners. Contact Brian Emmett briane@archipelago.ca or 250-383-4535 to obtain more information. Mark Lebbell (885-2627 mlebbell@hotmail.com) is the local contact for the Roberts Creek Green Shores project.

Are we getting an LRMP?

The Province, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, is undertaking a "scoping exercise to determine what the resource issues are in our community and what type of planning process is required to address those issues." This will not necessarily result in an *LRMP* (*Land and Resource Management Plan*), but we hope it will. SCR D staff is currently preparing a report to contribute to the "scoping exercise" and many community groups such as the OCPC, the Sunshine Coast Conservation Assoc. and the Natural Resources Advisory Committee of the Regional Board have also been asked to give their input.

What steps are being taken to curtail open burning of land clearing slash?

Open burning is a serious health and environmental concern. The municipalities have taken steps to address it and the SCRCD has also discussed what the rural areas can do. The big stumbling block is alternatives. What do we do with stumps that cannot be chipped because of the rocks and sand embedded in the roots? On June 8, the Board will be looking at this issue again.

Cliff Gilker Park: A few years ago the SCRCD Board agreed to place a covenant on Cliff Gilker Park to preserve the ecological integrity of this special natural space in perpetuity. Part of the covenant will be a management plan that will guide park managers into the future. A community committee has been formed to make recommendations about the management plan and your input is requested. There was an **open house** on May 17 and another is taking place on **June 1 at the Hall**. Drop in between 5 & 8pm with short presentations being given at 6 and 7pm. You can also send your comments to parks@scrd.bc.ca, or by mail to CGP Management Plan, c/o SCRCD, 1975 Field Rd., Sechelt, V0N 3A1.

Policing Committee: This committee of the SCRCD meets every 2 months to talk about policing issues such as drugs and alcohol use amongst our youth. Roberts Creek has not had a community representative for some time. If you are interested in sitting on this committee please contact me.

RCCA Executive: The Community Association has a new executive: President: Betty Baxter; Vice President: Steve Henry; Secretary: Mike Allegretti; Treasurer: Diane McDiarmid; Directors: Ed Lands, Laurie O'Bryne, Peter Yunker

RC Grants in Aid: This year, for the first time, the Board budgeted \$5,000 for Roberts Creek Grants in Aid. This is in addition to the contribution Roberts Creek makes to the Regional Grants in Aid program. I would like to hear from you about productive ways this money could be spent in our community.

Alternate Approval Processes: Parks Master Plan and 911 Service

When the SCRCD wants to borrow large amounts of money, the electorate must give approval. This can be done in 2 ways, by referendum (a very expensive option) or by *alternate approval process* (AAP). Under the AAP system, electors are asked to respond if they do not approve of the proposed borrowing. In April, the Board passed bylaws authorizing 2 AAPs. July 4 is the response deadline for both AAPs.

One of the AAPs concerns borrowing to implement the **Parks Master Plan**. Borrowing for the whole package (**up to** \$1.2 million over a 15 year period) would provide the parks program with the funding security it needs to plan and implement parks projects. **Please note:** the \$18,000 budgeted for the Pier this year is exempt from this process and the community trails projects for 2006 would also proceed (with deficit spending) even if the AAP fails. Full information packages, including the necessary forms if you do not approve of this borrowing, are available at the RC Reading Room, the Gibsons Library and the SCRCD office on Field Rd.

The second AAP provides for **911 Emergency Telephone Service Upgrading**. This project will create a 10 year debt of \$654,000. The upgrade would include communication towers and radio equipment focused on fire dispatch to all Sunshine Coast fire departments. Information packages for this AAP are available at The RC Reading Room, the SCRCD office on Field Rd and the municipal halls in Sechelt and Gibsons.