

**DIRECTOR'S NEWS APRIL 2011**  
**AN UPDATE FROM SCRD DIRECTOR,**  
**DONNA SHUGAR**



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**CONTACT**

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**GUMBOOT OFFICE**

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Normally I am available at the Gumboot Restaurant the first Saturday of the month but I will be unable to be there April 2. I am happy to make an appointment for another time if you wish to see me in person about any issue.

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**EARTH DAY**

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Earth Day celebrations at the Pier are shaping up for April 17 thanks to Sheila Wilson, Earth Day Coordinator. Ride your bike there and you will get a free tune up! Be sure to check out the Annual Roberts Creek Clean Up table to sign up for a stretch of road to spruce up for Spring!

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**OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN**

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The Roberts Creek OCP Review is nearing completion at long last! A team of dedicated and passionate volunteers has been hotly debating the issues and will be ready to present a draft to the wider community in May. Please visit the OCP booth at Earth Day to talk to the volunteers about their work and to pick up a copy of an introductory document that will present a few of the highlights as well as the overall goals and objectives that are proposed. Details about the May open house will be available at that time as well. For those who are unable to make it down to Earth Day, the document will be available at the library and

on both my and the SCRD's websites.

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**BUDGET**

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The SCRD 2011 budget is complete and was formally adopted on March 24. At the time of writing this I cannot confirm the exact amount of the Roberts Creek portion as we are still awaiting final figures from the BC Assessment Authority, but I can tell you that the overall tax increase for the Regional District is 3.79% over 2010 with Roberts Creek at approximately 2.06% over 2010 numbers. Why is there a difference from one area to the next? There are two parts to the answer. First, each area participates in a different suite of services. For example, Area A does not pay into recreation, but they do pay into parks. Roberts Creek contributes to the Sechelt, Gibsons and Roberts Creek libraries whereas Area B (Halfmoon Bay) only pays into the Sechelt library service. All areas pay for 911 services and Dakota Ridge, and so on. Another reason is that each area has different rates of assessment change depending on sales and construction in each area. In 2011, Halfmoon Bay properties saw a higher increase in property assessments than other areas so this year they are attracting a larger share of the taxation for the services they are involved in than other areas.

On April 27, after the Community Association meeting I will offer a presentation on the 2011 budget for your information. Please join me at the Roberts Creek Hall at 7:30pm.

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**COMMUNITY ENERGY &  
EMISSIONS PLAN LAUNCH**

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Local government, institutions and businesses share a leadership role in saving energy and

reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

However, it is through our combined individual efforts as citizens, families and communities that we will succeed in reducing GHGs. In collaboration with the Town of Gibsons, District of Sechelt and School District 46, the SCRCD is celebrating the launch of the Community Energy and Emissions Plan with a series of upcoming public events.

April 13: Speakers, displays, treats and music in Sechelt at the Ravens Cry Theatre, 6:30-9:30pm.

April 14: Speakers from the Whistler Centre for Sustainability and the Pembina Institute at the Gibsons and Area Community Centre, 8:30am-3:00pm (lunch provided)

April 20: Film "Powerful-Energy for Everyone" and panel discussion at the Gibsons Heritage Playhouse, 6:30pm

To register for April 13 and 14, email with the subject line "One Coast One Climate" to [inf@scrd.ca](mailto:inf@scrd.ca) or call 604-885-6806. For more information on these events, go to [www.scrd.ca](http://www.scrd.ca) (under Sustainability/Climate Change).

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### **BACKYARD BURNING**

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The short Spring window for backyard burning is April 1-15. Please note that there are some regulations around this. Materials to be burned must have been generated on the property where the fire is; burning is permitted only on lots that are 1 hectare or larger; and the BC Ventilation index must be rated as "good." Please check the Roberts Creek Fire Dept website for details. [www.robertscreekfire.ca](http://www.robertscreekfire.ca)

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### **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

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Earthquakes and tsunamis are on many people's minds these days. A couple of weeks ago, Bill Elsner, the SCRCD Emergency Planning Coordinator and President of the BC Association of Emergency Managers, came before the SCRCD Community

Services Cttee to answer questions and share information. There is a great deal of extremely valuable information about emergency planning on the SCRCD website and there are links to other useful sites as well. You can have a look at maps that were prepared a few years ago on the possible impacts of a tsunami on different areas of the Sunshine Coast. But, Bill also told us that because of Vancouver Island, the local risk of Tsunami is very low. Bill also stressed the importance of personal preparedness for ALL hazards, not just earthquakes. Bill is available at 604-885-6800 ext 6887 if you have questions.

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### **DAKOTA RIDGE**

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The Dakota Ridge winter recreation site is now closed for the season. What this means is that the road will not be ploughed or the trails groomed and the warming hut will be locked. This has been a fabulous year on the Ridge! Many people have visited the facility for the first time and have become hooked on the wholesome fun and healthy exercise they can enjoy up there. Revenues were more than triple last season! Congratulations and thank you to the volunteer Advisory Committee ably chaired by Peg Neilon and all the volunteer trail hosts who helped to make this season such a success. We look forward to seeing you all again next year!

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### **PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

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A public information meeting will be held April 5, 7:00pm at the SCRCD Office on Field Road. The proposed zoning bylaw amendments would limit minimum parcel size for subdivision under the "subdivision to provide residence for a relative" Section 946 of the Local Government Act and introduce a requirement that the useable area of a lot be contiguous when it is subdivided. At the meeting, SCRCD staff will outline the draft amendments, followed by a question-and-answer and comment period. For information contact David Rafael, Senior Planner at 604-885-6804, ext. 4 or [david.rafael@scrd.ca](mailto:david.rafael@scrd.ca).

