

**DIRECTOR'S NEWS FEBRUARY 2010**  
**AN UPDATE FROM SCRD DIRECTOR,**  
**DONNA SHUGAR**



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**CONTACT**

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604-885-6800 ext 6505

[www.creekdirector.ca](http://www.creekdirector.ca)

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

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**OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY**

The Olympic Torch is coming to the Sunshine Coast on Thursday Feb 4th. The route through Roberts Creek begins at the Hall, travels down Roberts Creek Road past the elementary school, and runs down Lower Road as far as Stephens Road where it gets back into the convoy for transportation to Gibsons. The main festivities in Roberts Creek will take place at the elementary school starting around 12:30pm. There will be hot chocolate, chai, coffee and gumboot cookies to enjoy while you listen to some home grown music. The event is based on a Creeky theme so wear your gumboots!

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**SUSTAINABILITY NEWS**

Julie Clark is the SCRD's Sustainability Education and Outreach Coordinator. Julie is putting together a biweekly email bulletin called Sustainability News to keep people informed about the success stories, projects, events, funding and opportunities you can participate in to help grow sustainability efforts on the Coast.

The Sunshine Coast is home to many individuals and organizations committed to the goals of sustainability. If you would like to contribute to Sustainability News to raise the profile of a local sustainability effort or opportunity, please send Julie

the information in 150 words or less with the appropriate contact information, and, space pending, she'll include it. [Julie.Clark@scrd.ca](mailto:Julie.Clark@scrd.ca)

Sustainability News is one way to connect citizens, businesses, institutions, our non profits and our local governments to the good work that is being done in the area of Sustainability. To subscribe, email [sustainability-news-subscribe@list.scrd.ca](mailto:sustainability-news-subscribe@list.scrd.ca). You will receive an email response from the system asking you to confirm. Do so, and voila! You're on the list.

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**SCRD BUDGET**

During the Round 1 budget sessions in January, the SCRD Board began work on a new budget process. The emphasis is on keeping taxation as low as possible while retaining the services the community relies on and expects as well as working towards financial stability in the face of economic ups and downs. The process continues this month with Round 2 when many of the major decisions for 2010 work plans and projects will be made.

The budget week begins Monday Feb 8 at 9:30am and the meetings are open to the public. A rough schedule is as follows: Feb 8: Planning, Water & Sewage Treatment Services, Grants in Aid; Feb 9: Emergency & Protective Services, Libraries & Museums, General Government; Feb 10: Parks & Recreation, Transit; Feb 12: Solid Waste & Recycling. If there is a topic that interests you, you may wish to attend to hear the discussion and gain a better understanding of how the Board makes the decisions that affect your services and taxation. Please check before you come by calling 604-885-6800 to

make sure the schedule has not been changed.

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### **OTHER SCRD MEETINGS**

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To accommodate the Olympic Torch Relay, the February meeting of the SCRD Infrastructure Committee has been moved to Thursday Feb 11 at 10am. This committee discusses issues such as water services, solid waste, and transit. As usual the public is welcome to attend.

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### **PITCH IN COMMUNITY CLEAN UP**

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Wanted: a volunteer coordinator and helpers for the annual Roberts Creek roadside cleanup. Sign up begins around Earth Day in April and the clean up takes place over the following couple of weeks. People who take on a section of road receive garbage bags and extra garbage tags so the stuff collected will be picked up on your regular garbage day. The coordinator is responsible for:

1. Publicity and posters
2. Setting up a sign up booth at Earth Day.
3. Providing a contact email address and phone number for people to sign up that way.
4. Providing a contact during the cleanup if people have questions or need assistance.

If you can help, please contact RCCA President Laurie O'Byrne [lo@dccnet.com](mailto:lo@dccnet.com), 604-885-8899. A bag full of thanks goes to Elaine Futterman who has coordinated this important community project for many years. Elaine is willing to be of assistance to the new coordinator.

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### **BIKE LANES**

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Line painting for the bike lanes that were recently completed on Lower Road will be done as soon as the Spring weather arrives. It is expected that Capilano Highways will be doing the annual sweeping when the winter storms are over. Kudos to the person on Lower Rd who has been spotted sweeping

the bike lane in front of her property. She is making it safer for cyclists and pedestrians! Thank you!

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### **EMERGENCY PROGRAM**

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The SCRD Board recently received the 2009 Annual Report from the Sunshine Coast Emergency Services Program. This program has many facets which include scores of volunteers and comprise thousands of hours of volunteer time. Between the Coast Guard Auxiliaries and Search and Rescue alone, 64 people were rescued in 2009 and 5519 person hours of training were spent! People also volunteer with Emergency Social Services and Emergency Communications for an additional 1260 training hours. Along with our volunteer fire departments, these dedicated people deserve our respect and appreciation! We are so glad they are there when we need them!

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### **PARKS**

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SCRD Parks staff have conducted a thorough review of the damage our parks have suffered during the recent storms. The Roberts Creek Pier and the beach access in that area have been particularly hard hit. Repairs will be undertaken as soon as the storm season is over when we can be reasonably sure that there will be no more damage this year.

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### **EARTHQUAKES**

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The recent tragic events in Haiti have brought renewed interest in earthquake preparedness. There is some erroneous advice being circulated on the internet. For correct information on how to respond during an earthquake, consult this website: <http://www.earthquakecountry.info/dropcoverholdon/>

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### **ROBERTS CREEK LIBRARY**

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The expenses for the wonderful new expansion of the RC Reading Room have been kept low thanks to so many volunteers - Mariko, Mary, Yvonne, Tom,

Carolyn, Scott, Mack and Steve Henry - and others. Steve Bethune donated painting materials and time; Alan May loaned equipment; Vern Lofstrum and Tom Dixon put up new lights; GBS at Sechelt gave the lighting at cost. Volunteers are planning a raffle to raise more funds to complete the expansion. The Grand Opening event is expected to take place in May.

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### **SEAWEED COLLECTING**

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I have been asked to pass on this important message by Diane Sanford, coordinator for the Sunshine Coast Forage Fish Sampling project. Herring eggs are present on seaweed washed up on shore, and not just on seaweeds growing in the water, during herring spawning season starting mid February to the end of March on the Sunshine Coast.

Herring “glue” their eggs onto many solid items in the intertidal zone during their spawn season, and during the turbulence of the storms and large tide variations some of these objects (especially seaweeds) may become detached and wash up to the high tide “wrack” zone. The eggs are still perfectly viable, and they are vulnerable to the collectors during their spawn season and for a couple of weeks past that until they hatch. Due to human impacts on herring stocks and the effect of that decline on the food chain, gardeners should refrain from collecting seaweed especially during this period.

Outside of the spawning season, gardeners and other collectors of seaweed may also want to consider seaweed as a “treat” for the garden and collect only small amounts of seaweed, if at all. There are many marine creatures that use the seaweed piles (wrack line) as a source of food, shade, and shelter, and if you can find other sources of mulch for the garden, the impacts will be minimized. The shoreline inhabitants will thank you for it!!

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### **REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT**

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The SCR D Board also sits as the Sunshine Coast Regional Hospital Board. This Board is involved in the coming expansion of St. Mary’s Hospital and is in charge of a budget which includes the 40% local contribution to the expansion project as well as an annual grant to St. Mary’s for some of the minor capital expenditures needed to ensure the hospital runs well. Such things as new patient beds, vital signs machines and other small equipment purchases are included. The selection of items to fund under this program is based on recommendations from hospital staff. The budget for 2010 must be finalized by March 31, and at the end of January the Board made a decision to keep taxation the same as 2009 levels.

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### **CLIFF GILKER PARK**

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The Rotary Club of Sechelt has volunteered to construct another short wheelchair accessible path in Cliff Gilker Park. This will be a welcome extension to the wheelchair accessible path and viewing platform that the Club placed in the park a few years ago. The project will benefit more people with mobility issues and allow them to enjoy more of the amenities of our beautiful park. This path will go from the playground park to the bridge at the top of the waterfall to make that view accessible. Thank you!

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### **AREA PLANNING COMMISSION**

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I would like to welcome new member Bill Page to the APC and to thank Ed Lands, Gerald Rainville, Kye Goodwin and Dana Gregory who are all returning for another term.



# You Me We: Zero Waste

A message from Julie Clark, SCRD Education & Outreach Coordinator

**“Zero waste is a goal that is both pragmatic and visionary, to guide people to emulate sustainable natural cycles, where all discarded materials are resources for others to use. Zero waste means designing and managing products and processes to reduce the volume and toxicity of waste and materials, conserve and recover all resources, and not burn or bury them.”** *Zero Waste International Alliance*

In 2005 the SCRD adopted the ambitious, long term goal of *Zero Waste* as defined above. **Zero Waste is a goal and a process**, that is both visionary and flexible to meet the needs of a dynamic future for the Sunshine Coast.

**Zero Waste is also a movement of committed people and best practices** for creating positive change, waste reduction, economic development opportunities and resilience by working towards the elimination of waste in all areas of our individual and collective lives.

**Zero Waste is a goal and a process that involves individuals, communities, businesses, and local, provincial and federal governments.** *Zero Waste* is about a united spirit and intent, as much as it is about changing the systems and approaches we use to reach the end goal.

To achieve the systems change, and develop the collaborative spirit that is necessary for a successful *Zero Waste Sunshine Coast*, we must plan for a progressive roll-out of affordable actions that are aligned with the *Zero Waste* goal.

Getting to *Zero Waste* is a journey that the SCRD hopes every resident and business in the region will share.

For *Zero Waste* definitions and resources please see:

- Zero Waste International Alliance: <http://www.zwia.org/>
- Recycling Council of BC: <http://rcbc.bc.ca/education/zero-waste>
- Grassroots Recycling Network <http://www.grn.org/zerowaste/index.html>

To learn more about how the Sunshine Coast is applying Zero Waste please see:

- SCRD Solid Waste Management Plan Update  
[http://www.scrd.ca/index.php?page\\_id=529](http://www.scrd.ca/index.php?page_id=529)

To learn more about The Province of BC's Product Stewardship Programs please see:

- <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/recycling/>