

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



CONTACT

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I would like to wish everyone all the best for 2010. May this new year and decade bring health and happiness for all of you!

ROAD CONDITIONS

Capilano Highways has the contract with the Ministry of Transportation to maintain our roads. So far this season we have been spared the challenges we experienced last winter. However, should we get snow and you need to report a problem on the roads, you can phone: 1-800-665-3135. During normal business hours this goes through to the head office and after hours it is an answering service. That means you can get a live body 24/7 through this number. Make sure you wait for the prompts to get you through to the answering service. It will always be faster than dialing the Cap Highways Field Road office. You can also email: info@capilanohighways.ca or use snail mail: 118 Bridge Rd, West Vancouver, B.C., V7P 3R2.

AREA PLANNING COMMISSION

There are a few vacancies on the Roberts Creek Area Planning Commission. (APC) This group of volunteers meets on the last Monday of each month to discuss and make recommendations on referrals from the SCRD. The topics include subdivision

and rezoning applications, development permit applications and other aspects of land use planning in Roberts Creek. If you are interested in serving a 2 year term and you reside in Roberts Creek, please contact me by email, phone or at the Gumboot on Saturday mornings. Many thanks to outgoing members Dana Gregory and Dawn Thomson who has served as Chair this last year.

BACK YARD BURNING

Please remember that the Roberts Creek Smoke Control Bylaw is still in effect and backyard burning is not permitted until April 15 and then only on lots one hectare or larger. Small campfires for warmth, cooking or ceremony are permitted. Please check the SCRD website (www.scrd.ca) or my website for full details. You may drop off yard waste for free at either the Landfill or the Gibsons Greenwaste Facility just past the IGA mall. Thank you to everyone who has respected these regulations which are meant for the health of our residents and the planet! The SCRD Bylaw Dept reports that in the first year of this bylaw there were only 4 complaints requiring action by the bylaw officer. Halfmoon Bay is now looking at replicating our program.

WOODSTOVE CHANGE OUT

The Clean Air Society has received a grant to conduct a woodstove change out program on the Sunshine Coast. If you exchange your older woodstove for a new energy efficient model you could receive a \$250 rebate. Contact the program coordinator, Nadi Fleschhut, for more information: stoveexchange@cleanaironthecoast.com

OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY

The National Olympic Torch Relay Committee made the selection of the route communities and Roberts Creek was chosen to have the torch travel through on foot. We are all aware of the controversy surrounding the Olympics and its impact on other programs. Despite this I anticipate that the community of Roberts Creek will give the torch a respectful reception when it travels through here on February 4. We have been given a grant towards creating an event in conjunction with the torch's visit. There are plans in the works to ensure that the money is used wisely for the benefit of the community in a meaningful and lasting way rather than buying flags and other swag that will end up in the landfill. These include some educational programs at the elementary school and an event that will involve the general public. The grant will enable us to purchase some portable tents and other equipment that will be available for community use for years to come. Keep an eye on the Coast Reporter and the Local for details which will also be included in my next newsletter. If you wish to volunteer to help, please call Mar-Lyn Church at 604-885-3539.

SHORELINE BYLAWS

The Roberts Creek Shoreline Bylaws have been given 3rd reading by the SCRD Board and have been sent to the Ministry of Community and Rural Development for approval. The Bylaws have received endorsement from DFO so we expect them to be approved and returned to us in Feb or early March.

LIBRARY NEWS

You may have noticed that the Roberts Creek Reading Room renovations are progressing well and with the new carpet now in place, the new space has begun to be used. It is so exciting to have the additional room! Check it out and put a toonie in the jar to help out if you can. Bravo and thank you to outgoing President Carolyn Dixon and wel-

come to Rhona Kelly who will serve as President for 2010. Thanks also to all the hardworking volunteers who keep the library running year round and who are putting so much effort into creating a welcoming environment in our Reading Centre!

SCRD BUDGET ISSUES

Last month I told you about staff cuts at the SCRD which have been part of our response to fiscal pressures. Negotiations to mitigate these impacts are being held with union representatives and all union staff have been reinstated on a temporary basis while these discussions proceed. We hope that the same level of cost savings can be achieved with less impact on staff. Our goal remains the same, however, and we plan to enter the 2010 budget deliberations with a zero to very small increase in taxation. The budget process begins the week of January 11. We will have daily budget meetings all that week and again for a week in February and one in March. These meetings are open to the public and I encourage all who are interested to attend at the SCRD Field Rd office to see how the process unfolds.

SCRD MEETINGS

SCRD Board and Standing Committee meetings are open to the public. They are held every Thursday with committees in the afternoon and Board meetings on alternate Thursdays at 7:30pm. Please note that the time of standing committee meetings has now changed to 1pm (from the previous 1:30pm) Standing Committees are: Infrastructure Services, Planning and Development, Community Services and Corporate and Administrative Services. Policing and Transportation Advisory Committees are also open to the public, bimonthly on Monday mornings. Check the website for the schedule.

