

DIRECTOR'S NEWS JUNE / 08

AN UPDATE FROM SCRD DIRECTOR, DONNA SHUGAR



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HERBICIDES

I have recently been made aware of a plan by Island Timberlands to use herbicides (glyphosate and triclopyr) to control alder and maple around replanted areas on one of their forestry blocks at the end of Day Rd in Roberts Creek. This is a property many people think of as a park because it has lovely trails running through it and is a favourite hiking and biking route for many people. Roberts and Clack Creeks both run through the property which was formerly owned by MacMillan Bloedel and was patch logged and replanted quite a few years ago. The land is now owned by Island Timberlands who operate in this area under the Private Managed Forest Land Act. The SCRD has written to the company to express our opposition to the use of chemicals and asking them to use alternate methods. We have also asked the company to hold a community walk on the property.

There is a **petition and information** at the stores and restaurants in Roberts Creek.

RECYCLING OPEN HOUSE

The review of the SCRD Recycling Program is well underway. On **June 21** you can join members of the citizens' steering committee to view options for managing recycling on the Coast. This is your chance to let the SCRD know your views on recycling services. You can choose to attend in Sechelt, 1-3pm at the

Seaside Centre or Gibsons, 4-6pm at the new Community Centre in Room 204.

"NOT LRMP"

On May 14 I went to Victoria with several other Board members to meet with the Minister of Agriculture and Lands, Pat Bell, to discuss this community's need for a Land and Resource Management Plan for our Crown Lands. It has become clear that the Provincial Government does not intend to assist us in developing such a plan, which 85% of the province of BC already has. The provincial government has changed the process to focus on negotiating First Nations agreements and benefits related to Crown Land use and to bring local governments in afterward simply to comment on those agreements. Nor has there been provision for public input other than through local government. Furthermore, the Province has not begun a dialogue with the Squamish First Nation whose territorial boundary runs through the middle of Roberts Creek. We argued the case for more meaningful involvement for both the public and local government as well as for a process which includes the Squamish territory. There was unfortunately little movement on the Province's part. I will continue to keep you posted on any developments regarding this "not LRMP."

REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY

The SCRD has started phase one of a Regional Growth Strategy (RGS), a strategic plan for the next 20 years. A RGS is developed by local governments with community participation and is designed to promote human settlement that is socially, economically and environmentally healthy. This planning process deals with the settled lands as opposed to the Crown lands in our community. Communities can manage growth in a way that respects our values and

our lifestyle...clean air, clean drinking water, affordable and diverse housing options, protected farmlands and wilderness areas, and our unique natural environments. This plan could promote coordination and cooperation between our municipal and regional governments.

You are invited to attend one of two public meetings to find out more about RGS, review growth trends on the Coast, and share your ideas about the issues we face as our population grows. The dates are Monday **June 16**, 6:30-8:30pm in Room 204 of the new Community Centre in Gibsons and Wednesday **June 18**, 6:30-8:30pm at the Seniors Centre in Sechelt.

OCP REVIEW

The review of the Roberts Creek Official Community Plan has at last begun! Response from the public to work on this process was so strong that we changed the terms of reference for the review committee to include all 18 volunteers. They are: Ed Lands, Gerald Rainville, Stacia Leech, Mike Allegretti, Lesley Ann Rolls, Carolann Glover, Anne Dykes, Dave Kelln, David Moul, Lynn Chapman, Bruce Moseley, Elaine Futterman, Roger Sayer, Creeshan Everett, Maureen Drake, D'Arcy Davis Case, Scott Avery and Norma Brow. My alternate, Peg Neilon, and I will also sit as participating but non-voting members. You will be invited to a public meeting to discuss future directions for Roberts Creek some time in the Fall.

BACKYARD BURNING

I hope to have a copy of the latest draft of a backyard burning bylaw for your consideration at the final Roberts Creek Community Association meeting of the season on **June 25**, 7:30pm at the RC Hall. Here are the **proposed** highlights: backyard burning (of yard waste) would be permitted on larger properties only (i.e. one hectare or larger). Burning would only be permitted for a 2 week period in April and a 4 week period in October when the material

should be dryer. Burning will only be permitted when the Provincial ventilation index is good (information will be available through the SCRCD and the Fire Dept.) and a person at least 19 years old must be present at the burn site at all times. An education program will be developed and SCRCD staff will be exploring alternatives (e.g. chipping) for discussion during the 2009 budget. This bylaw does not restrict the use of wood stoves or food and ceremonial fires.

Please make use of the green waste drop off near the IGA mall in Gibsons. The pollution from driving your material there is far less than what is created by burning and you can do this with other errands on the same trip.

NOISE BYLAW

The SCRCD is proposing some changes to our Noise Bylaw #597. The major changes regard construction noise on Sundays. You may view the bylaw on the SCRCD website: www.scrd.ca. We welcome feedback (pro or con) on the changes until **June 18**. Write to info@scrd.ca or Community Services Committee, SCRCD, 1975 Field Rd, Sechelt BC, V0N 3A1.

SPRING CLEAN UP

I hope that you all noticed your clean up coupon when you received your annual utility bill from the SCRCD. Please note that this coupon is good for one free pick up load at the landfill. It is valid until **April 30, 2009**. All the rules are listed on the coupon.

REZONING INFO MEETING

QES Holdings is proposing a rezoning to accommodate a new music camp on the property that was previously operated by the Rod and Gun Club at the eastern end of Roberts Creek across from the cemetery. To learn more about the proposal, you can attend a public information meeting at the Roberts Creek Hall on Thursday **June 19** at 7pm.