

DIRECTOR'S NEWS MAY 2010
AN UPDATE FROM SCRD DIRECTOR,
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In Person: Gumboot Restaurant Saturdays 9-11am
except May 1 & 8.

RECYCLING SURVEY

The SCRD has been grappling with how to best deliver recycling services for some time now. Previous newsletters have included information about the SCRD's goal of zero waste and our commitment to creating the most sustainable community we can. The first step is for us all to become responsible consumers. Responsibly dealing with things we no longer need is the second. Recycling helps to cut out the most ecologically harmful part of the cycle, namely that of extracting materials from their natural environment to make products. Recycling also helps to conserve natural resources and avoid unsustainable rates of resource extraction (e.g. minerals and petroleum being mined faster than they can form). Finally, by re-forming unwanted products into new useful ones, we reduce the need for landfill space and the GHG emissions landfills produce. The question for local government is how can we provide recycling services that are convenient for people to use, energy efficient, cost effective and ensure the maximum value is obtained from recycled materials?

To help us with our decisions about the future of our recycling programs, the SCRD is organizing a telephone survey in the rural areas for the end of May. This survey is being conducted by a professional polling firm. To ensure that the results are statistically significant, the respondents will be randomly selected. If you receive a call regarding recycling services on the Sunshine Coast, please take the time to answer the questions. Also, to ensure that respondents are well informed, an information booklet will be sent by unaddressed ad mail early in May. Please watch for it and take the time to read this material. There is also some valuable information about recycling and zero waste on the SCRD website: www.scrd.ca

The information booklet and the survey are important

aspects of ensuring that the community is well informed and that we have a good idea of what you think about recycling options and their costs. Survey questions will focus on recycling depot services, curbside collection options, and options for the collection and composting of organics.

Did you know that you can drop off used rechargeable batteries at the recycling depots in Gibsons and Sechelt? As of July 1, all other batteries will be accepted as well. There are some other new products being added to the provincial extended producer program so that soon you will be able to recycle old electronic products in addition to the computer products that are currently accepted. I will keep you up to date through this newsletter.

CARBON NEUTRAL RESERVE

Local governments are entitled to a rebate from the province related to the carbon tax we have to pay on fuel. This includes all fuel we use for our fleet of work vehicles, our busses as well as our natural gas consumption. In 2009 the SCRD received a rebate of just over \$21,000. Recently the Board decided to establish a Carbon Neutral Reserve Fund so that these rebates can be used for projects that further our commitments under the Climate Action Charter to reduce GHG emissions and energy consumption. Some of these actions include energy retrofits of SCRD buildings and changes to more fuel efficient vehicles and equipment.

TRAFFIC LIGHT

How do you like the new traffic light? The feedback I have had so far has been positive. If you have experienced any problems please let me know.

EARTH DAY

Big green thank yous go out to all the hard working Earth Day volunteers! What a wonderful family oriented community event it was! So many people are doing great work in this community to build awareness of issues and innovations from how to build a cob house or grow an organic garden, to the issue of rare corals deep on the sea bed of the Strait and the need to preserve amphibian habitats. Thank you to the people who prepared the delicious food, thank you to the bicycle repair

crew, thank you to the musicians, thank you to Pamela Messner for her thoughtful and organized MCing and especially thank you to Sheila Wilson for putting it all together!

BACK YARD BURNING

Please note that backyard burning is not permitted at this time. Please compost your yard waste or take it to the green waste facilities in Gibsons or at the landfill. There is no charge for this at either site.

DOGS ON THE BEACH

I have been receiving complaints about dogs on the beaches (particularly in the Whittaker Beach area)... or, more to the point, the complaints are about owners who do not clean up after their dogs on the beach. Please carry a bag, pick up after your dog and don't forget to dispose of your bag afterwards!

PARKS AND RECREATION

The SCRD will be developing a new Parks and Recreation Master Plan and volunteers are needed. We are expanding the existing SCRD Recreation Advisory Committee to include people with an interest or expertise in parks and trails. This is an important project with implications for how parks are developed and enhanced in the future so please look for the ad that will be appearing soon in the local paper and consider applying for a position on this committee.

FRUIT TREE PROJECT

SCRD Board members have agreed to plant some fruit trees on the site of our Field Road offices to contribute to the Fruit Tree Project and the Food Bank. In honour of the Roberts Creek community I have purchased a Gravenstein apple tree for this endeavour. We will be planting the trees in May and are grateful to the volunteers with the Fruit Tree Project for their help.

SUNSHINE COASTER BIKE RACE

On May 8 & 9, Mt. Elphinstone will be the site of the opening cross country race in the BC Cup Series and a downhill race showcasing the trails of the Sunshine Coast. Signage indicating the race locations will be posted the week before and Sunshine Coast Cycling, the organizers of these races, have obtained the necessary permits from BC Parks and Integrated Land Management Bureau. Please note that parking around the B&K at the power lines is expected to be heavy on the race days.

EELGRASS

Eelgrass, which grows in many places along our shoreline, is among the world's richest and most productive habitats. Many people are unaware of the numerous marine ecosystem benefits that eelgrass provides including erosion protection and filtering pollutants, in addition to being a vital feeding and nursery area for many species of invertebrates, fish and birds. Eelgrass is protected by law under the Federal Fisheries Act due to its high fisheries value. Whether you are a boater, a waterfront resident or a visitor to our beaches, please be aware of eelgrass in the shallows. Walk around, not through eelgrass beds and choose an eelgrass free area to beach your boat or kayak. Refrain from pulling up eelgrass. Avoid activities that can cause sediments to enter streams and make their way to the shoreline. Do not anchor your boat in eelgrass beds.

TRANSIT NEWS

I hope you have had a chance to enjoy the new bus shelters that have been added to the transit system along the highway. These shelters were made possible thanks to a gas tax rebate grant. Soon some bike lockers will be installed at the bus shelter at the top of Roberts Creek Rd on the upper side of the highway. This will enable cyclists to ride to the bus stop, lock their bikes in a secure and dry location and then proceed on their way by bus.

Please talk to your kids about bus safety. They should wait until the bus has left the stop and there is good visibility before crossing the road.

SEARCH & RESCUE

On May 6, 12:00-3:00pm, you are invited to view the Search and Rescue building that is now located at the SCRD site on Field Road. The building has been named for John Hind-Smith who was a much loved Sunshine Coast outdoorsman. It houses Search and Rescue equipment and provides a meeting and training venue for volunteers. Search and Rescue volunteers will be on hand to show you around.

CNI

The lands up above Roberts Creek that were clear cut by CNI a couple of years ago have reverted back to the former owner, AJB. The Ministry of Forests has required the company to remove this fire hazard of approximately 400 piles of slash left behind by CNI. We would all prefer them to chip the material, but AJB has chosen the least expensive method and will be burning it. They must comply with provincial land clearing burning regulations.