

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



CONTACT

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In person: Gumboot Restaurant 1st Sat of the month
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OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

An Official Community Plan is the document that guides the decision making of elected officials and Regional District staff about land use in our community. The original Roberts Creek OCP is now over 15 years old and is currently being reviewed and rewritten. Join your friends and neighbours at the RC Hall on Saturday, May 14, 10:00am-2:00pm for an Open House to unveil the draft of the new RC Community Plan. The Review Committee of community members has been hard at work for some time and welcomes your feedback. A formal presentation will be offered twice at 10:30am and again at 12:30pm and there will be plenty of time to view displays and talk to committee members about the reasoning behind the suggestions they have made. In advance of the meeting please visit the SCRD website (or mine) for more information about OCPs and to read a draft of the plan document. Help create the future of Roberts Creek by participating in this important project!

SCRD BUDGET

The final assessment numbers are now in and the level of taxation change I told you about last month has not altered. When you receive your tax notice, you will see that the 2011 property taxes in Roberts Creek are 2.06% over 2010 amounts. This is the overall amount, with residential rates being less and commercial/industrial being more. Of the 61 different services offered by the SCRD, Roberts Creek property owners pay into 29. The Roberts Creek Fire Dept., Recreation, and Parks Services are the three functions that take up the bulk of the taxes provided from Roberts Creek. General Administration, Transit, Rural Planning and Library Ser-

vices take up the next largest amount, followed by Solid Waste and a grouping of Emergency Programs such as 911 and Emergency Planning.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WEEK

As part of National Emergency Preparedness Week, May 2-9, SCRD Emergency Planning Coordinator, Bill Elsner, is offering a series of free emergency preparedness presentations showing what the risks are, what the Sunshine Coast Emergency Program has in place and how residents should prepare. There will be a session in Gibsons on Tuesday, May 3, 7:30pm at the Christian Life Assembly on School Rd and one in Sechelt on Wednesday, May 4, 7:30pm at Seaside Centre.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

The draft Solid Waste Management Plan Update is now ready for public review. This plan focuses on the principle of Zero Waste and includes a number of recommendations for improving waste reduction, reuse and recycling across the Sunshine Coast, as well as ways to deal with our residual garbage more responsibly. With the support of qualified consultants, the draft Zero Waste Management Plan was developed by a multi-stakeholder working group comprised of industry, government, and community organisations from across the Coast.

Next steps involve taking the draft ZWMP out to the public for your feedback. We want to hear from you! Your feedback will be used to help the SCRD Board decide on what should be included in the final ZWMP that we will ask the Ministry of the Environment to approve. Once approved, this document will provide the guidance for decisions about Solid Waste Management programs for the next five years and strategic direction for the next 10-20 years. Many of you have been wondering about when we will get blue box pick up of household recyclables in Roberts Creek. We are awaiting completion and adoption of the ZWMP before moving forward with any changes to our program. The recommendation in the draft plan is to develop enhanced collection depots in the major centres of Gibsons, Sechelt, and Pender Harbour before proceeding with curbside recycling pick up. These would be one stop drops for

not only household recyclables, but also other items (such as used building materials) that can be diverted from landfills by being refashioned into new products. I am very interested to know whether you agree with this type of program.

The public consultation campaign kicks off in the first week of June with open houses in Gibsons, Sechelt and Pender. For more information on the draft ZWMP, details on the public consultation process, or to download the project documents, please visit the SCRD website: www.scrd.ca. Email zerowasteplan@scrd.ca if you have questions or comments or would like to be added to the consultation email list.

BACKYARD BURNING

Please note that there is to be no backyard burning until October. There have been a number of properties where people have had backyard fires to burn yard waste after the April 15 closure was in place. Please use the green waste depots in Gibsons or at the landfill on Dusty Rd. There your green waste is chipped and converted to compost, which is much more environmentally sound than burning it... even taking the transportation of the material into consideration. In addition to observing the requirements for fire prevention, please respect your neighbours who may have respiratory problems.

EARTH DAY

Thank you to Sheila Wilson and the numerous volunteers who helped with the 2011 Earth Day celebrations at the Roberts Creek Pier!! We were so lucky that the sun chose to shine on the proceedings all day! Three cheers for the Sunshine Coast Cycling Club who serviced over 50 bikes for folks who cycled to the event. Thank you to the musicians who provided the terrific entertainment. And kudos to the SCRD Transit Department and Mark Lebbell for organizing the Music on the Bus program that transported people to Roberts Creek for the day in fine style!

ROBERTS CREEK CLEAN UP EVENT

About 80 wonderful people have signed up to pick up litter along the roads in Roberts Creek. However, we still have a few roads which need volunteers, especially above and along the Highway. Phone Elaine at 604-885-2395 if you would like to volunteer. You will be given bags and extra garbage tags so that you can leave what you collect at the end of your driveway on garbage day. You

also receive one free tag to use for yourself if/when you need it.

RECREATION FOR ALL

We are committed to ensuring that everyone has access to an active and healthy lifestyle. To that end, there are a number of programs to assist people in need with the cost of participating in recreation programs on the Coast. For more information on any of the programs listed here, please contact Michelle Morton at 604-885-6823.

Leisure Access Scholarship (LAS) - This program enables low-income residents to participate in recreation programs and services offered by the SCRD. If you are living on a low income and would like to use the Leisure Access Scholarship, please enquire at any of the SCRD recreation facilities.

Disability Access - Attendant Fee Policy. Free admission is provided to the attendant of a person with a disability who requires support (whether it is of a physical, psychological, emotional, intellectual or sensory nature) to participate in recreation programs and services offered by the SCRD. The person with a disability will pay the relevant admission/registration fee and his/her attendant will attend free of charge. If you think that the Attendant Fee Policy applies to you, please talk to front desk staff at any of the recreation facilities. If the person with a disability is living on a low income, they can also apply for the Leisure Access Scholarship (LAS).

TELUS youth passes - These are provided for Sunshine Coast youth who are identified as 'vulnerable' and/or 'at risk'. Partner agencies in the community ensure that the passes are given to youth that need them the most.

Canadian Tire Jumpstart Foundation for Families-Sunshine Coast Chapter - A limited number of sponsorships are available via this partner agency.

KidSport - See www.kidsport.ca for information or you can call or write to: KidSport™ Sunshine Coast, PO Box 1835, Gibsons, BC V0N 1V0 or phone 604-886-9766 or 604-886-8510.

Ministry of Social Development Summer programs - Children/youth, whose families are on income support may be eligible for summer camp subsidies in July/August. Parents should ask their workers for information.