

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



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GUMBOOT OFFICE

I am changing my "Gumboot Office" hours to be the first Saturday of each month, 9-11am or by appointment. Please come by the restaurant for coffee and a chat or call to arrange an appointment.

PUBLIC HEARING

On November 23, 7:00pm there will be a public hearing in the library of the RC Elementary School concerning a rezoning application by 7 property owners in the area of Byng, Pixton and Firburn Roads in upper Roberts Creek. These properties were previously owned by Weyerhaeuser and operated as forestry lots under the Private Managed Forest Act. In the 1990s they were put into the Z subdivision district with a minimum lot size of 100 hectares. The properties had been subdivided into 10 acre parcels about 100 years ago, before there was land use zoning and before there were requirements for developers to construct roads, put in water and prove septic capability prior to subdivision. The proposed rezoning requests a change to the G subdivision district with lots of 1.75 hectares. Details are available at the SCRD office. Everyone is invited to attend and provide comment.

PARATRANSIT

On October 2 some small but important additions were made to the SCRD's Para Transit (handiDART) program which provides special bus services for disabled people who require assistance using conventional bus service. As a pilot

project until March 31, 2011, the service has been extended to include Saturdays between 10:00am and 4:00pm. The new service has been very well received by handiDART clients. As well, there is now the opportunity for groups with members who are eligible for handiDART service to plan special or evening outings. Contact the SCRD Transit service for more information: 604-885-6899.

BACKYARD BURNING

Until November 15 people on properties one hectare or larger may burn yard waste on site. There are restrictions. The ventilation index must be rated as good, toxic materials such as plastics and painted wood cannot be burned; there must be someone 19 and over attending the fire; and adequate fire fighting equipment must be on hand. Consult the Roberts Creek Fire Dept. website for further information: www.robertscreekfire.ca Please use the free green waste drop off locations in Gibsons or the SCRD landfill site rather than burning. SCRD staff are investigating the cost of a biannual green waste pick up in areas B, D and E. I will keep you posted on that possibility.

DAKOTA RIDGE

Early bird passes for snowshoeing and cross country skiing at Dakota Ridge are now available at 10% off. This offer lasts until December 15. Passes can be purchased at either the Gibsons and Area Community Centre or the Sechelt Aquatic Facility. People who held passes last year can get an additional 5% off.

SQUAMISH FIRST NATION

Did you know that part of Roberts Creek is within the Squamish First Nation territory? On October 15 the SCRD met with Chiefs and Councillors from the Squamish First Nation in a Commu-

nity to Community Forum. This is the first time that the SCR D Board has met formally with the Squamish and it was a very meaningful and beneficial beginning to establishing a relationship. Councillors from the Town of Gibsons and Trustees from the Islands Trust were also invited. The purpose of the meeting was to establish protocols for how we can work together, how we should consult with one another, and how we can share in environmental protection and rehabilitation projects. It is important to acknowledge the history of first nations people so one possible project will be to create appropriate signage at FN heritage sites in our community. Many thanks to former RC Director, Brett McGillivray, who ably facilitated the meeting.

OCPC ELECTIONS

On November 24, 8:00pm the annual elections for the Roberts Creek Official Community Plan Committee will be held at the RC Hall following the monthly meeting of the RC Community Association. This is an active group of volunteers whose mandate is to ensure that the Official Community Plan is being adhered to. It is one of the committees that I go to for advice and to whom the SCR D Planning Committee makes referrals. Approximately half of the 11 volunteers on the OCPC are elected each year for a 2 year term. Everyone is welcome to attend the election meeting. You must be a resident of Roberts Creek to vote and a resident for one year to run. Please contact the current chair, Elaine Futterman, to find out more: call 604-885-2395 or email creekclayworks@dccnet.com.

SCR D STRATEGIC PLAN

At the beginning of each 3 year term the SCR D Board develops a Strategic Plan to guide its work. Each year, we reassess it to determine whether any adjustments should be made. Each time we have examined the plan, our thoughts about our strategic directions have become more refined resulting in a very interesting and useful document which will soon be posted on our website. We have agreed to use 3 lenses or filters through which we examine our decision making. The first is a collaborative leadership lens. We have resolved to operate in a spirit of meaningful consultation and engagement with the community, other local govern-

ments and our staff. The second is the lens of sustainability whereby we examine our present actions in the light of ensuring the ability of future generations to meet their needs: are we compromising our environment, our economic vitality, or our social fabric by the actions we take? Finally, we have committed to financial sustainability to ensure that we conduct our operations in the most fiscally responsible manner over the long term and we are putting policies in place to ensure and direct how that is done. The plan also includes strategic objectives and targets in the areas of water servicing, waste management and regional approaches to transportation, affordable housing, parks and recreation. Check out the draft plan at www.scrd.ca. Comments will be accepted until November 30.

SUNCOASTER TRAIL

You are invited to the grand opening of the new Suncoaster Trail on November 6. This new multiuse trail runs from Earls Cove to Homesite Creek in Halfmoon Bay and is the first phase of what we hope will one day reach all the way to Langdale. The project was funded by a Job Opportunities grant designed to create jobs for unemployed forestry workers. Park at the trail head at noon and walk or cycle the 3.5km to the Iris Griffiths Centre for the grand opening festivities at 2:00pm. A bus will return people to the parking area at 2:45pm. The trail head is located at the Malaspina Substation Road, about 6km north of the Kleindale Petrocan station. The trail is level with a gentle downward slope. Please wear appropriate footwear! There will also be parking for those with mobility challenges at the Iris Griffiths Centre and along Hwy 101 within a 5 minute walk for others.

COMMUNITY HOUSING FORUM

The Homelessness Outreach Project Team is hosting a Community Housing Forum November 19, 11:00am-1:30pm, RC Hall. Guest speakers from local government, the Ministry of Housing and Social Development and community organizations will present on a range of housing issues on the Sunshine Coast. Please RSVP by November 12 to Matt: mthomson@gmail.com.

