

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



CONTACT

donna_shugar@hotmail.com
604-885-6800 ext 6505 www.creekdirector.ca
Follow me on Twitter: @DonnaShugar
www.donnashugar.blogspot.com
SCRD website: www.scrd.ca

GUMBOOT OFFICE

Join me at the Gumboot Café Saturdays 9:30-11:00am if you have an issue you want to discuss. If that time does not work for you, please email or call me to set up an appointment. I will also be at the Gumboot Café on Friday, Nov. 4, 4:00-6:00pm for music and chat about issues that interest you.

ELECTION INFORMATION

All Candidates Meetings:

Thursday, Nov. 3, 7:00pm, Gibsons Community Centre, **Green Issues Forum** sponsored by the Sunshine Coast Conservation Association

Tuesday, Nov. 8, 7:00pm, Seaside Centre, Sechelt, **SCRD Area Director Candidates** sponsored by the Coast Reporter. Filmed by Channel 11.

Monday, Nov. 14, 7:00pm, Seaside Centre, **Sechelt School Trustee Candidates** sponsored by the Coast Reporter. Filmed by Channel 11.

Voting information:

Advance polls: Wednesday, Nov. 9 & Wednesday, Nov. 16, 8:00am-8:00pm, Gibsons Community Centre or SCRD Offices, 1975 Field Rd, Sechelt.

General Voting Day:

Saturday, Nov. 19, 8:00am-8:00pm, Roberts Creek Elementary School.

OCPC ELECTIONS

On Wednesday, Nov. 23, 7:30pm annual elections for the Roberts Creek Official Community Plan Committee will be held at the RC Hall. 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 SCRD Planning Committee makes referrals. Approximately 1/2 of the 11 volunteers on the OCPC are elected each year for a two 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.

RECREATION NEWS

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a project to hear from the community about how you feel about the services you are receiving and what suggestions you have about parks and recreation. Please attend a community meeting: Wednesday, Nov. 2, 7:00pm, Sechelt Indian Band Hall or Thursday, Nov. 3, 7:00pm, Gibsons and Area Community Centre. Try out the new climbing wall at the Sechelt Aquatic Centre! Please check the pool schedule to see when it is available.

BURNING

The Fall burning window for residential yard waste lasts until Nov. 15. Please check www.robertscreekfire.ca to ensure you are following the regulations. Burning is permitted only on lots of one hectare or larger.

BIKE LANES

730m of new bike lane is being added at the end of Lower Road to the Highway. The call for bids ends in mid-November. The work will begin early in the new year at the latest. This is paid for with Gas Tax Rebate funds from the Federal government.

PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

A number of years ago there was some community consultation about improving pedestrian movement in the village core. It has taken some time to secure the funding (Federal gas tax grants), approvals from MOTI, and statutory rights of way. The contract has been awarded to a local firm and work should commence shortly.

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

An Official Community Plan is a very important document. This is how citizens tell a local government what their vision and goals for their community are, what kind of development they want in their neighbourhoods, where and what kinds of parks they would like, where commercial activity should be located, etc. It is a citizen driven process so it provides a Director with very important information about what the people value. I rely on that information as the guide in making many of the decisions that directly affect the local community. The Roberts Creek OCP is over 15 years old and has been reviewed and rewritten by a volunteer citizen committee. This review began in 2008 with a visioning meeting in the Roberts Creek Hall. Everyone in the community was invited and about 60 people spent a whole day discussing what they valued most about Roberts Creek and their vision for its future. That vision informed the rest of the committee's work and became the goals of the new plan. There was a public open house in May to share the committee's work with the

public. This session was well attended and provided lots of suggestions for the committee to look at and incorporate into the new Official Community Plan. The SCRD Board gave the draft plan first reading on Oct. 27. This is the beginning of a full public consultation process. There will be at least one public information meeting and at least one public hearing before the document is finalized some time next Spring. The Draft OCP will be posted to the SCRD website shortly with information about how to comment. Your feedback on these changes is important!

Here are just a few highlights of the new plan:

Affordable Housing: There are new provisions to encourage more housing units working people can afford. This is required by new Provincial legislation.

Small Business: There are some new opportunities to encourage small business, including both commercial zoning (for stand alone businesses where there is no residence on the property) and home based business where the business is additional to residential use. **Home based business is permitted everywhere in the Creek, including along the Highway, and there is no plan to change that.**

Energy Conservation & Green House Gas Reduction: This section is required by new Provincial legislation and is guided by the SCRD Community Energy and Emissions Plan.

Agriculture: The Agriculture section has been expanded to include ways to encourage more local food production and sales as well as protect agricultural land.

Parks: Recommendations for new parks and trails include the 1500 hectare park on Mt. Elphinstone, a plan for the land behind the Roberts Creek Hall, 25 acres of Crown land on Malcolm Creek Rd, acquisition of additional park space near the mouth of Roberts Creek.

