

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



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Gumboot Office: Meet me at the
Gumboot Restaurant for coffee and a chat
Saturdays 9-11am except October 9.

FORESTRY

The Ministry of Forests & Range (MoFR) has been conducting a 10-year review of the Annual Allowable Cut for the Sunshine Coast Timber Supply Area. The SCRD has forwarded comments for the ministry's consideration. We have requested that all community watersheds and watershed reserves be removed from the calculation. We have proposed a "community interface area" to run above and parallel to the inhabited areas of the Sunshine Coast with specified special considerations to be given to this area including selective logging practices. In addition, we have recommended the establishment of a Coastal Tailed Frog Wildlife Habitat Area and the creation of connecting greenways between the three sections of Mt. Elphinstone Provincial Park. Of course, these are recommendations which the MoFR may or may not accept.

The SCRD has also written to BC Timber Sales (BCTS) regarding the proposed cutblock A71827 on Mt. Elphinstone requesting special consideration of the needs of downstream water users on Clough, Robinson and Malcolm Creeks who depend on this area for their domestic water supply.

CREEK DAZE

Boot Tales went to press last month before Creek Daze had taken place so I did not have the opportunity then to convey big thanks to the event organizers. Yanira did an awesome job and Creek Daze was terrific this year! Thanks Yanira and all the many volunteers!

BIZPAL

The SCRD has recently launched a new online service for people wanting to start businesses in the Regional District. BizPal is a web-based tool designed to help people find out what is required in the way of permits and licenses from local, provincial and federal governments. Check it out on the SCRD website by using the "services" tab at the top of the home page. www.scrd.ca

RECREATION NEWS

The SCRD has a number of initiatives for making recreation available to everyone including people with financial challenges. The Leisure Access Scholarship Program assists low-income Sunshine Coast residents to participate in recreation programs and services offered at SCRD recreation facilities. Enquire at the reception desk at either the Sechelt Aquatic Facility or the Gibsons Community Centre.

Free admission is provided to the attendant of a person with a disability who requires support to participate in recreation programs and services offered by the SCRD. If you think that this Attendant Fee Policy applies to you, please talk to front desk staff.

HOSPITAL EXPANSION PROJECT

Site servicing and excavation of the St. Mary's Hospital expansion began in April. Phase 2, which includes construction of the new 5,400 sqm expansion to the existing hospital, is now ready to begin. When complete, the new St. Mary's will offer single patient rooms, more acute care bed capacity, renovated, larger ambulatory care and radiology areas, a new emergency department, and greater surgical capacity. After construction of the new expanded area is complete, the construction focus shifts to the renovation and reconfiguration of the hospital's existing space. This is a huge project totaling \$44.15 million. Ministry of Health is providing 60% of the funding with the rest coming from the Sunshine Coast Regional Hospital District.

ROADS

At a recent Transportation Committee meeting we learned from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) that there is no budget in 2010 for paving. In the past there has been an annual budget allocation for new paving and a list of priority roads has been shared with each rural area director. The roads we had expected to be paved this year will remain on the list and we hope will be done in 2011.

We also discussed problems with the current road maintenance contract which allows for sweeping only once per year. I get frequent complaints about debris and gravel on the bike lanes. It has been suggested that we start an "adopt a bike lane" project in Roberts Creek to help with keeping our bike lanes clean and safe. If you are interested in participating, please let me know.

TRAILS STRATEGY

The SCRD Board members recently had a presentation on Trails Strategies by Frank Ullman of the Ministry for Tourism, Culture and the Arts which is responsible for the administration of recreational trails on Crown

lands. Trails Strategies are being developed in many communities around the province to plan where and how trails should be constructed, how they should be used, what signage should be placed and what the code of conduct should be. The goal is to minimize conflict and ensure that every type of trail user, including hikers, cyclists, equestrians, or users of motorized off road vehicles has trails appropriate to their needs. The Board has agreed to look at developing a Trails Strategy during the 2011 budget process.

HOWE SOUND PULP & PAPER

You may have read about Howe Sound Pulp & Paper's application to use construction and demolition wood waste as a fuel in their boiler system. This fuel would replace natural gas for both the production of electricity and for heating and drying the pulp and paper. This new fuel is lower in moisture content than the hog fuel that currently is used in the boiler and burns at a higher temperature. We have invited HSPP to make a presentation to the Board or one of our committees to explain the system and the changes that this process is expected to achieve. Air quality is a primary concern and we will be asking a lot of questions of HSPP and the Ministry of the Environment as this application moves through the assessment process to ensure that air quality standards continue at current levels, or better still, improve.

CPR TRAINING

VANOC and Vancouver Coastal Health recently made available a large number of CPR training kits which were left over from the Olympics. The SCRD Emergency Services Coordinator was able to acquire 600 of the kits which include a training DVD and a practice dummy. The plan is to make the kits available to groups wishing to put on CPR training sessions for their members. Please contact Bill Elsner at the SCRD Field Road office if you wish to have your group become skilled in CPR. Call 604-885-6800 or email Bill.Elsner@scrd.ca.

