

## August Boot Tales Director's News

**Mark Lebell**, SCRD Director for Roberts Creek

### Contact

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Blackberries are ripe early this year. Everything seems early this year. Keep in mind that you can always check the News Blog on my website ***robertscreekmark.com*** to see if there are more recent postings on an issue.

**Volunteer Corner** – This month's volunteer service focus is on...you! Water consumption had dropped 35% by late July, and chances are you've got something to do with it. Dusty cars, bins in sinks, hoses from washing machines and dishwashers, containers under downspouts, yellow mellowing toilets, buckets watering food gardens, short shared showers....You know who you are.

This has been a **significant community achievement** that merits celebration.

The SCRD has a **Comprehensive Regional Water Plan** that lays out long and medium-term priorities around water provision. Medium-term actions include demand management through universal water metering. Long-term solutions have been challenging, as balancing increasing demand with the ecological impacts and costs of various supply options has proven difficult to achieve.

A recent staff report provides a good 3 page big-picture summary as of late July. A link to it can be found on the news blog of my website. In the short term, without significant rainfall, **SCRD staff will implement Stage 4 of the Drought Management Plan as required** and communicate accordingly. This web page is a good resource that contains not only water restriction information, but a usage chart that is updated daily to show if we are meeting our conservation targets : [www.scrd.ca/sprinkling-regulations](http://www.scrd.ca/sprinkling-regulations)

Whether you live above or below the highway, on or off the regional system, there are compelling reasons to conserve water whether it is from the Chapman system or our groundwater. Creekers can be proud of their part in this community success story. Let's keep it up!

### SCRD Board Strategic Plan

The Board recently completed its Strategic Plan, which will help guide our decision making over the next 3 ½ years. It contains 7 Priorities, which include: Embedding environmental leadership - Supporting sustainable economic development- Facilitating community development – Enhancing collaboration with shíshálh and Skwxwú7mesh Nations – Ensuring fiscal sustainability – Recruiting, retaining and acknowledging staff and

volunteers – and Enhancing Board structure and processes. It also lays out a vision, a mission and a set of values. **It is available online**, will be publicized in various media, and a hard copy can be found at the Roberts Creek Reading Room.

### **New Alternate Director**

Chris Hergesheimer, who has served ably as my alternate over the past 6 months, is taking advantage of a **temporary teaching opportunity in South America** with his family in the fall. I really want to thank Chris for his support, wise counsel, and community service over that time. If you know Chris, you know that he is a busy guy, but has always been there when asked. Thanks Amanda-Rae!

I am very pleased that **Michelle Morton** has agreed to fill the role of Alternate Director as of September. Michelle has a background in social work and recreation. She was the project manager for the recently completed Progress Plan for Women, and is currently an entrepreneur. She will be attending meetings on my behalf when I am unavailable, and will help keep our all-male Board in line.

### **Pier Park Upgrades**

The SCRD park at our beloved pier is about to benefit from some upgrades. Picnic tables, signage, parking curbs and seating are all going to get some attention. Garbage and recycling capacity will also be increased. This will take place over the fall. If you have any thoughts with regards to this project feel free to let me know.

Another Parks initiative this summer has been to do some preliminary surveying around improving the (non-existent) gravel “sidewalk” on the bend between the General Store and the Creek. Once the survey is complete, staff will begin to look at options to make that hill safer and more accessible for all.

Finally, a special thank you to Rob Marion, Pamela Messner and the crew down at the Mandala for facilitating another great painting festival this year. Beautiful design and results, as always.

### **Dogs on the Beach**

I've had some concerns raised about dogs running loose on Roberts Creek Beach. Most of these stem from a public safety standpoint, sometimes around young children or those with mobility issues. We want our beaches to be welcoming to all humans, and indeed all species. Owners should be aware that Rover's good time can sometimes create concern for others.

The SCRD has several responsible pet ownership resources available on their website at <http://www.scrd.ca/Dog-Control> . Contact information for the Dog Control officer is available on that site as well. Of course, dog owners are reminded to pick up after their pets.

### **Climate Action Survey**

While I try to stick to issues within the realm of the SCRD in this newsletter, I want to flag this opportunity for Roberts Creekers to engage at a Provincial level around Climate Change. The government is soliciting public input on a Climate Leadership Plan through a survey. The consultation period is short and mid-summer, from July 17 to August 17.

Need some motivation to take those 15 minutes to complete the survey? Think of the smoke and sacrifice of mid-July. A background paper and the survey can be found here:

[engage.gov.bc.ca/climateleadership/](https://engage.gov.bc.ca/climateleadership/)

### **The Roberts Creek Directory of Everything**

A reminder about this fabulous Local Economic Development initiative that contains over **170 listings** of Roberts Creek Businesses, Accommodations, Services, Organizations, and the like. Hard copies are available at local stores and there is a mobile-friendly online version that includes a search function, at **robertscreekdirectory.ca** There are even rack cards on the ferry. Way to go Lesley Roberts and the team at SLEDRC!