

July Boot Tales Director's News

Mark Lebell, SCRD Director for Roberts Creek

Contact

In Person, Gumboot Café,

Saturday Mornings in July, 10-12

Phone: (604) 885-6800 ext. 6505

By Email: robertscreekmark@gmail.com

Facebook: robertscreekmark

Website: robertscreekmark.com

Orcas and porpoises were spotted off the Pier the other day. I'll be taking advantage of the fact that the Board doesn't sit in August for some coastal paddling that month with my family. Catch me at the Gumboot before then if you want to chat in person. I can be reached through the summer via email, and Chris Hergesheimer, my alternate, will be around in August, but won't be keeping Gumboot hours. 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 – The Pathways Project

The Roberts Creek Village Pathways were planted on Earth Day in the spring of 2012 by 60 community members! At that time names were gathered of those interested in the ongoing maintenance of the gardens and the group continues to welcome new volunteers on a regular basis. They meet the **last Friday of the month 9 am to 11 am March to October**. Every month 8 to 10 gardeners clip, weed, rake and chat then all go for coffee at the Gumboot... thank you, Joe! No gardening experience is necessary.

The biggest challenge they face is low-water gardening, but with thoughtful plant selection and the addition of deep mulch, along with the occasional hand watering, the plants are thriving.

Because we are not a municipality with our own staff, our "common" areas are maintained by a combination of Ministry of Transportation contractors, Regional District Parks staff, Roberts Creek Community Association people, private land and business owners and volunteer groups, depending on the site in question. **A big thanks** to Odessa Bromley (odessa_bromley@hotmail.com) and the gang for their ongoing contribution to the aesthetics and walkability of our "downtown core"!

Wildfire Risk

It's dry out there!!! Beyond **watering restrictions (www.scrd.ca/Sprinkling-Regulations) which we all should be aware of**, this lack of rain has contributed to wildfires in nearby Horseshoe Bay, Nanaimo and Squamish. 40% of wildfires are human caused and preventable.

By the time you read this, if there hasn't been significant rainfall, there will likely be a **campfire and beachfire ban in Roberts Creek** to go along with Provincial restriction on all

other burning. Check the Roberts Creek Fire Department website or call 885-6871 to confirm. Anyone found in contravention of an open fire ban can be fined up to \$345 dollars. If you are found to be responsible for a wildfire, the fines range up to \$1,000,000.

Roberts Creek's rural interface setting and combustible material load make it particularly susceptible to an event. **A quick call to 911** will activate both the RC Volunteer Fire Department and the provincial Wildfire Service if required. Last summer, a potentially significant fire was avoided due to citizens who smelled smoke and acted quickly. Should a wildfire or comparable local emergency event occur, the SCRD website (including a Twitter feed), and Coast 91.7 FM Radio are sources of reliable official information.

Here's a link to how to make your property less vulnerable to wildfire: bcwildfire.ca/Prevention/firesmart.htm or drop by the SCRD office or the Roberts Creek Fire Hall to pick up a FireSmart guide.

Our First Nations Neighbours

One of the key elements of the Board's soon-to-be-finalized Strategic Plan is to forge stronger collaborative relationships with the shishalh and Skwxw7mesh First Nations. The Village of Roberts Creek sits on the historic boundary between shishalh and Skwxw7mesh Territory, and we share many values with those communities.

Recent publication of the federal Truth and Reconciliation Commission findings reinforce the moral imperative to come to terms with our mutual history. Recent court decisions have acknowledged the requirement to involve the original inhabitants in land use decisions. **Reconciliation of our past and present situations is not an easy path, but there are many on the coast who are doing the hard work together.**

I would encourage Creekers to drop by the Tem swiya museum beside Ravens Cry Theater this summer, as the current exhibit reflects the Band's residential school experience. I would also suggest taking advantage of invitations from the shishalh nation to attend cultural events. These are sometimes in the paper, or circulate via email, the band's website or facebook.

We need to build more bridges, and have much to learn about living well in this place from those who have been practicing it for thousands of years.

Goldmoss Gallery Rezoning Application

As a result of an amendment at the Board level that would have prohibited live amplified music in the operation of the Residential Art Gallery, the proponents requested that the process not proceed to the previously scheduled Public Hearing. **The application is on hold** while they take some time to consider their options.

What's Coming Up?

Check the flipside of this Bootales for details about upcoming and ongoing Roberts Creek events like the Mandala Painting Festival (week of July 20), VegFest! (Aug 8), Creek Days (Aug 15), The Farm Gate Market (Wednesday afternoons at the Hall) and the Heart Market (Sunday afternoons in the village), not to mention events at the Legion, the Hall, local restaurants...**what a fun summer ahead** in our fabulous community!

SCRD Recreation News: (more info at scrd.ca/recreation)

Summer Adventures Camp – Presented by the YMCA (Gibsons and Sechelt)

Campers will have lots of fun with arts and crafts, swimming, games, physical education, outdoor exploration and more! Pre & Post Camp options are available: Pre-camp: 8:00 am - 9:00 am Post camp: 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

BMX Introduction Camp

July 6-10, 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Red Cross Swimming Lessons

Multiple sessions available at Gibsons and Sechelt Aquatic Facilities

Aquatic Leadership Programs

Register today to become certified as a Lifeguard and Red Cross Water Safety Instructor. Courses begin on July 2

Adult Learn to Swim

Sechelt Aquatic Centre, beginning July 6th

Gibsons and District Aquatic Facility, beginning July 8th