

Roberts Creek SCRD Director's Newsletter

Mark Lebbell

Email: robertscreekmark@gmail.com Website: robertscreekmark.com

In person: Gumboot Café, Saturday Mornings, 10-12, except August

Bring the Rain!

Sorry kids, but nothing makes an SCRD Director smile more than rain in July or August. Food growers, firefighters, gardeners and ducks all seem to be happier than this time last year too.

Of note is that Vancouver Island, just 17kms away, has been significantly drier than here this year. Salt Spring Island is already at Stage 4 of their Drought Management Plan. SCRD Staff monitor local conditions daily, and will implement Drought Management Plan Stages as appropriate. **Conservation measures were very successful last year**, due to a significant community-level response. No normal is the new normal.

I recently posted two relatively long pieces of writing about Water on my website newsblog. One addresses my rationale for supporting the Chapman Lake access project, and the other lays out a vision for a conservation-based and resilient water supply on the coast. The good news? We're heading in that direction. They can be found here: www.robertscreekmark.com/news-blog/

Volunteer Corner

Thanks to Ian Thomas and the RCCA for picking up the Boot Tales Community Newsletter ball and running with it. Be sure to support the local businesses that advertise in this newsletter, as that support helps make this community enterprise sustainable. The RCCA's **Creek Daze** is coming up on Saturday August 20th from 12-5 at the Pier. Volunteers and vendors can contact organizer Graham Starsage at creekdaze@robertscreekcommunity.ca. Look for more details on the RCCA's website.

Good Neighbours

In order to help facilitate the peaceful enjoyment of our community, SCRD staff have produced a set of recommendations and a summary of bylaws governing neighbourhood issues. The **guidelines** cover such areas as construction, noise, wildlife, home based business, water use, dogs, and emergency preparedness.

Informal communication with neighbours is the best way of addressing many concerns, but in some situations this is not a viable option. Copies in booklet form can be found at the RC Library, or online here: www.scrd.ca/files/File/Administration/News/2016-Good%20Neighbour%20Guidelines-for%20web.pdf

Newsletters upon Newsletters

The July edition of the **SCRD's Coast Current Newsletter** includes updates on the following topics as well as a link to the 2015 Annual Report...Zero Waste Picnics, Transit Passes, Emergency Grab and Go Kits, Water Conservation, Grant in Aid Program Allocations, Recreation Programming on the Water, Chapman Lake Water Project Updates and more. It can be found here:

www.mailoutinteractive.com/Industry/View.aspx?id=809679&q=0&qz=c99e17

Mt. Elphinstone

The previous SCRD Board worked hard to establish a communications protocol with BC Timber Sales, in an effort enhance the opportunity for transparency. As part of that protocol, the Board had the opportunity to comment on a cutblock proposed for auction, close to two of the existing small pieces of Provincial Park on the mountain.

Block A87125 is identified within our Roberts Creek Official Community Plan as part of a 1500-hectare area for maintaining ecological and recreational values. Despite a long conversation with BC Timber Sales and Ministry of Forests, Land and Natural Resource Operations staff, which included a request to defer the auction of the block, the sale unfortunately proceeded.

The Board will continue to work with First Nations around sustainable land use practices on the Sunshine Coast. The Ministry posted a Fact Sheet with regards to the specific cutblock, available here:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/factsheets/factsheet-bc-timber-sales-and-proposed-timber-sale-licence-a87125-on-mount-elphinstone>