

Roberts Creek SCRD Director's Newsletter, June 2017

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In person: Gumboot Café, most Saturday Mornings, 10-12. Email first if you want to be certain I'm there.

Short Term Rentals and Affordable Housing

The relationship between the online technology-driven growth in Short Term Rentals on the Sunshine Coast and our affordable housing challenges has been emerging for the last while. There are examples of negative impact of STR's on the rental stock as accommodation is shifted from stable long term rental to short term. There are also situations where the kind of young, engaged families that we need to attract to the Creek are able to make their property more affordable by involvement in this aspect of the tourist industry.

The SCRD is embarking on a Community Engagement process to gather information from the public and other stakeholders to assist with identifying preferred approaches to managing short term rental accommodation. A two-stage engagement process will be used.

Stage One's goals will include listening, gathering information, informing and educating. This will take place over the summer, and will have a number of elements, including a "workbook" to provide information and solicit feedback. Information about outreach timing will be publicized on the SCRD's website and by other means, or you can contact Planner David Rafael at david.rafael@scrd.ca

Stage Two will depend on results of the above, and will discuss specific implementation options and tools in more detail. One of the fundamental challenges is that the SCRD does not issue business licenses, a strategy that has been used in municipalities like Tofino and Nelson, and is available to the Municipalities of Sechelt and Gibsons.

As noted in a previous newsletter, there will be a **review of our main zoning Bylaw 310** over the next couple of year or two, and it is possible that land use changes that emerge from the above process are incorporated into that update.

Transit

As reported in local papers, some Board Members expressed concern with regards to the cost of the upcoming Transit Expansion. Following further deliberation the following week, and a resolution that staff review the current funding model, the expansion will be going ahead in September as planned. It will involve service along the Highway every 30 minutes at rush hour peak times, improved ferry connections, and hourly service with smaller 30-foot vehicles along Route 1 (Lower Rd/Beach Ave) as per the 2014 Transit Future Plan.

Grants in Aid awarded

The Board recently **reviewed Grant in Aid applications** from various community groups and allocated funds to support some of the great events and undertakings that happen on our coast. The list of supported projects **that may be of interest to Roberts Creekers** includes the Roberts Creek Community Association (repairs to the Hall roof and Slow Sundays), the Wednesday Farm Gate Market, the Mandala project, Earth Day, Bike to Work Week, Pride Event Programming, Community Neighbourhood Resilience Programming, the Rogue Arts Festival and a July 15th youth Basketball tournament at RC School.

More information on Grants in Aid can be found here: <http://www.scrd.ca/Grants-in-Aid> and the full list of this year's disbursements can be found on page 15b of this Agenda: <http://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Administration/Agendas/2017/2017-MAY-25%20BRD%20Agenda%20Package%20-%20Amended.pdf>

Parking in the Heart of the Creek

Summertime brings seasonal parking challenges in our "downtown" area. Keeping bike lanes clear and pedestrians traffic safe is a big part of making our commercial center a welcoming place to be for all.

Of note is that as per our Official Community Plan, **outside of school hours** (weekends and July and August) **visitors are encouraged to leave their vehicles on the Timberland road allowance beside the Basketball court** or uphill, and stroll down to the shops, restaurants and pier. A reminder that roads in Roberts Creek are the purview of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. The Area Manager can be reached at 740-8987.

Water leaks

SCRD staff are already beginning to work with some property owners in Roberts Creek whose water meter data has indicated that they have significant leaks on their property. An early estimate is that the "Top 10" properties in the Creek alone were accounting for a cumulative total of about 250,000 litres per day of "lost" water. The average North American uses about 450 liters per day. The reclamation of this treated water is an important part of the conservation aspects of the Comprehensive Regional Water Plan and will save both source water and taxation dollars in the long run.

Ferries

A reminder that BC Ferries is conducting an online survey about proposed schedule changes. The proposals do not involve any more sailings, simply a re shuffling of the 8 daily sailings with the goal of improving on time performance. The survey, along with some more context can be found here:

http://www.bcferrries.com/about/ontime-sc/?utm_sunshinecoastengage&utm_medium=web&utm_source=bcfhome

SCRD Summer Recreation Programs

The SCRД is offering programs this summer in the areas of aquatics, fitness, sports, arts and culture, rehabilitive exercise, elder college, outdoor activities and more. Details can be found here: <http://www.scrd.ca/Recreation-Guide>

Staff also have compiled a resource of **summer community programming for young people** (not just SCRД programs) that is available by request at the Gibsons Community Center front desk.

SCRД June Newsletters Topics

The **June edition of the SCRД's "Coast Current" Newsletter** includes information on this year's WildSafeBC Sunshine Coast Program, SCRД's Mapping and Property Viewer tools, how to pay your Utility Invoice online, the annual Auditor's Report and Financial Information Meeting, Census information, and more. It can be found at www.scrd.ca/newsletter

Note that a copy of this Newsletter is posted in the glass case beside the General Store, and hard copies are available in the Roberts Creek Library Reading Room, immediately on your left as you walk in.