

# Roberts Creek SCRD Director's Newsletter

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

## Happy Belated Earth Day, Everyone!

What a great day it was down at the pier...lots of good connections, learning and celebrating. Thanks so much to organizer Graham Starsage and his team. Very special to have shisháhl Chief Calvin Craigan open the day for us. The first ever documented sighting of a Flying Humpback Whale as well.

The publishers of **Boot Tales** have decided to take a **hiatus** through the spring and summer. Their intention is to return in the fall with some adjustments that will make this valuable community newsletter more sustainable. In the meantime, I will likely not mail out monthly hard copy newsletters other than this one, but would suggest folks bookmark my website [www.robertscreekmark.com](http://www.robertscreekmark.com). By clicking on Follow at the bottom right of the screen you can receive email alerts when I update the News Blog. Finding the font too small here? Look under Newsletter Archives on the website and you can make it as big as you like.

## Volunteer Corner

Here's a great opportunity to "**Pitch in**" around here. On a yearly basis, Roberts Creekers sign up for stretches of local public property to clean up. If you didn't get a chance to sign up at Earth Day, drop a line to [zerowasterobertscreek@gmail.com](mailto:zerowasterobertscreek@gmail.com). Thanks to one of RC's highly engaged citizens, Douglas Fugge, for coordinating the project through our busy Community Association. Doug can set you up with bags if needed, and a tag that will allow you to put your collected litter out at regular garbage times. Wear high visibility clothing and be safe out there.

## Backcountry Trash Bash

Each year a different Rural Area benefits from the SCRD's one-day Backcountry Trash Bash. Six tons were hauled out from above Halfmoon Bay last year. **This year the event will be held in Roberts Creek, on September 17<sup>th</sup>**. Pencil it in on your calendar, get your truck and work gloves ready, and in the interim as you're out hiking, biking, dog walking or otherwise exploring our precious backcountry keep an eye out for spots that could use some cleanup. They can be phoned in to the Provincial "Report all Poachers and Polluters" program at 1-877-952-7277, or Google RAPP BC and do it online.

## Upcoming Public Engagement Opportunities:

As part of the Regional District's approach to public engagement, a series of "**Community Dialogues**" are being held. Roberts Creek's will be held **Thurs May 19<sup>th</sup>, from 7-9PM at the Hall**. I have asked for the **2016 Budget, Water, and Public Engagement** to be part of the focus in the Creek. We can expect short presentations from staff from various departments, and then a chance to follow up in smaller groups, to express perspectives, clarify viewpoints and share information. I hope you can make it! There will be further details published online and in the newspaper.

Other opportunities for learning and sharing your perspective include sessions on **Invasive Species Monday May 16**, late afternoon or evening at the shisháhl Band Hall (behind the Re-Store) and **Bike Paths and Walkways...moving forwards, Wednesday May 18**, 4-7, Seaside Center. Look to the SCRD's website for more details about these events.

## February 21 Resilience Forum Update

The Ecology and Emergency Preparedness event held in Feb brought 80 community members out for a variety of workshops, presentations and opportunities for input. Hats off to the Community Association who immediately organized a First Aid training session in response to an identified need.

Forum organizers are still working with the accumulated data to bring forward a report to the community around possible next steps.

## Community Diversity

Concerns with regards to affordability and rental availability issues have been discussed of late in a number of local forums. A number of young and engaged community members have had difficulty finding accommodation for themselves or their families of late and have had to move out of the Creek. Clearly, it is an issue of concern in the Lower Mainland as a whole, and also in places like Tofino. The province has just announced a study of the impact of the (arguably misnamed) “Sharing Economy” that is facilitated by technology like Uber and Air BnB. At a recent Official Community Plan Committee meeting it was noted that while Bed and Breakfasts are supported in our OCP within certain limits, “Short term home rental where the owner or property manager is not present shall be discouraged”(RC OCP pg 29). While this policy has not been turned into bylaw, new technology and market forces combine to make our existing affordable housing challenges more significant than ever. The implications of this trend on our community resilience and on institutions like the Volunteer Fire Department and School bare consideration.

Currently, within Rural Areas, a working group has been looking at bridges and barriers to a “Smart Farm” model that would meet both agricultural and housing objectives... a recommendation of the recently released Sunshine Coast Affordable Housing Committee Report. A local housing-oriented Land Trust Society has been formed as well. Contact me if you’re interested in details.

## Provincial Climate Advocacy

At the recent Association of Vancouver Island Communities convention in Nanaimo, the SCRD introduced a resolution that **Provincial Government implement all 32 recommendations of its own Climate Leadership Team**, and work with Local Government to turn those recommendations into policy and programs. The motion received broad support and will be on the floor at the Union of BC Municipalities convention in September. The intent of the motion was to leave no question in the mind of the newly formed Cabinet Committee on Climate Change that Local Governments were both supportive of the recommendations and advocating for prompt implementation.

## Community Events!

Earth Day, Creek Days and shindigs at the Hall, Gumboots or the Legion aren’t the only time to get together and have fun around here! This summer, an initiative called **Slow Sundays in the Creek** will enhance the usual Downtown Creek energy with live music, heart market, art activities, and the like on Sundays throughout the summer. Organizers Graham Walker and Lesley Roberts are holding a soiree at the **Gumboot Café on May 13 from 7-8** for folks learn more and help shape and contribute to the plans. You can connect via the Facebook site called Slow Sundays in the Creek too.

In addition, sometime this year SCRD planning staff will be engaging the public around a **Special Events Bylaw** for Rural Areas. This will provide the opportunity for the community to discuss things like what attendance numbers would trigger the bylaw, frequency of events, exempt organizations or sites, zoning considerations, and the like. A balance between facilitating things like backyard weddings and grassroots cultural events, while maintaining health and safety standards and rural lifestyle considerations will be the aim. This would allow event organizers some planning certainty, along with providing community input into the parameters of such events.

## Pier Park Renaming Feedback

Our beloved Pier is an SCRD Park that sits not only at the estuary of what is now called Roberts Creek, but also at the boundary between shishálh and Skwxwu7mesh traditional territory. As we progress down the path of Reconciliation both practical as well as symbolic changes are important.

To this end, I am soliciting feedback with regards to the potential renaming of what is currently officially known as Roberts Creek Park to something that better reflects the 3 communities that hold the estuary as a place of significance. Clearly, the specifics will require discussions with both nations and an opportunity for more formal input from the “settler” community. In the meantime, as with anything, do let