

Roberts Creek SCRD Director's Newsletter, May 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

Come and chat with SCRD Staff

Under the name "Community Dialogues", SCRD staff are holding Open Houses up and down the Sunshine Coast this spring. This provides the opportunity for the public to learn, share information and discuss local government issues directly with senior SCRD managers, staff and Directors. **This year's Roberts Creek event will be Wed May 17, 7- 8:30 PM at the Hall.** If that time isn't convenient for you, there will be similar events in other areas that Roberts Creekers are welcome to attend. Here are a few more details and a schedule for all Rural Areas and Municipalities. Hope to see you there!

<http://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Administration/News/2017-April-Community%20Dialogues.pdf>

Help Wanted

The **Roberts Creek Advisory Planning Commission** meets monthly on the third Monday of the month at 7 PM at the RC Library. It is a statutory committee that gives local input into referrals from the SCRD Planning Department. The committee is a few members short of a full compliment. If you would like to have more input to things like Zoning issues, and Development Variances and Bylaw Amendments, and are prepared to contribute within the context of a committee structure, then drop me a line or contact Angie.Legault@scrd.ca

In addition, following a review of its public engagement practices, the SCRD has updated the Terms of Reference of a couple of coast-wide Advisory Committees. Staff will be advertising shortly for volunteers for the **Natural Resources Advisory Committee** and **Agricultural Advisory Committee**. It is important for Roberts Creek to have representation on these committees. Contact Angie.Legault@scrd.ca for details.

I often know of local groups that are looking for volunteers, am personally looking for help with short term local projects, or am aware of other SCRD volunteer opportunities. **The Sunshine Coast is a great place that it is largely through the efforts of community-minded folk like you,** and opportunities like those above are a chance to both honour the work that has gone before, and to "pay it forwards".

If you have questions about any of the above, or are looking for the right opportunity to contribute to the community in a manner that matches your interests and skill sets, **do drop me an email or come by and see me at the Gumboot one Saturday morning.**

Water...

Recently, the SCRD Board received notice from BC Parks that in order to access a greater volume of water from Chapman Lake in times of drought they would require either a re-designation of an area of the park, or a boundary amendment. Options will be brought forwards through **a process to be developed and led by BC Parks, and will include opportunities for public input.** I will work to inform you of opportunities for input, but am constrained by the degree to which BC Parks communicates information to the SCRD. Keep your eyes peeled in various media for this opportunity to have input into the management of one of the few Provincial Parks on our peninsula.

It should be noted that **initial proposals for Provincial Park designation of the Chapman Watershed in the 1960's were denied** due to the area's status as a domestic water source. Fortunately, park proponents persevered, and the Tetrahedron Park designation has played a key role in maintaining water quality on the coast since its inception in 1997, and will continue to do so.

If you are looking to **get up to date on the processes and agencies involved** with the Chapman Lake Drawdown Project, then there is a summary in this month's Coast Current newsletter, which is linked to at the end of this Newsletter.

I continue to advocate for a **less compartmentalized, more integrated approach to water governance** on the Sunshine Coast. The Union of BC Municipalities has been lobbying the Province for the same since at least 1971.

Water...

As part of National Drinking Water week SCR D Staff are offering a **tour of the Chapman Water Treatment Plant on Friday May 12, 1-2 PM**. The plant opened in 2004 and if you haven't had a look around it yet, I would highly recommend it, as you will never look at what comes out of your taps the same way again. Please RSVP to Raphael Shay at raph.shay@scrd.ca or at 604-885-6800 ext. 6481 for registration and directions to the site.

Water...

Recently the Board received updates on **initial water savings due leak detection in Pender Harbour** (21% in one area, 9% in another), the progress of meter installations in all other Rural Areas (58% complete), and the **search for aquifers** that merit further study as potential regional groundwater sources.

Also of note were the results of a national **Water Utility Benchmarking project** that measured our Regional Water Use to about a dozen similar communities. Some interesting features from the study:

- we spend more \$ on saving water conservation than most areas studied
- our water conservation targets were "ambitious" (to save 33% between 2010-2020)
- we spent more days on average **under water restrictions** than "peer" utilities
- of all groups studied, **energy consumed** in the treatment and distribution of water was **lowest**
- our **daily consumption per capita** is **higher** than the median, as are our **water rates**
- and happily, the report noted that our regional utility had zero occurrences of fecal coliform ☺ Not all areas achieved this 'status'.

More details on the above can be found in this Agenda package:

<http://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Administration/Agendas/2017/2017-APR-20%20ISC%20Agenda%20Package.pdf>

Also included in this Agenda were items with regards to flow levels in Chapman Creek, and **shishalh Nation and Provincial technical responses** to the SCR D Consultants' Environmental Impact Study of the Chapman Drawdown Project.

Water...

May 1st sees the **automatic** annual implementation of Stage 1 water, and involves some restrictions on lawn watering timing and hose use (nozzle required). Get any planned pressure washing done soon prior to Stage 2. <http://www.scrd.ca/Sprinkling-Regulations>

SCR D May Newsletters Topics

The **May edition of the SCR D's "Coast Current" Newsletter** includes information on and links to the Summer Recreation Guide, the Recycling Directory, tours for Compost Awareness and Drinking Water week, and Updates on the Chapman Lake Access Expansion Project, 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 the left as you walk in.