

November Boot Tales Director's News

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Contact

In Person, Gumboot Café,

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Chattering Steller's Jays adding to the soundtrack of fall. Walkers, cyclists, skateboarders and the like are reminded to **make themselves visible** with lights and bright reflective material. Wildlife don't read this newsletter, and drivers should reduce speed on our roads as darkness falls earlier and earlier, for any number of good reasons.

Volunteer Corner:

In September the SCRD officially appointed **Pat Higgins as the new Fire Chief for Roberts Creek**. Pat has served with the Department for 20 years, most recently as Assistant Chief. Pat is supported by Officers that include Assistant Chief Arthur Griffiths, Training Officer Brad Plows, Captain Billy Wray, and Lieutenants Sean Hatanaka and Kevin Kennelly. The commitment and professionalism of all VFD members is something that should not be taken for granted. Living within earshot of the Firehall, I am often reminded of how often the volunteers leave their families or other responsibilities to respond to those in need, and for training purposes. Congratulations, Chief Higgins, and thank you for your team's dedication.

Trash Bash

Last month, the SCRD held its 4th annual Backroad Trash Bash in Halfmoon Bay. This involved staff and volunteers removing trash from pre-identified sites in the backcountry. **Next year the event will be held in Roberts Creek and Elphinstone**. This will be a great opportunity to take an organized approach to getting some of what doesn't belong up there off of the mountain. Here are 3 things you can do until then:

1. Document any trash sites you come across on the mountain by sending details to the provincial RAPP program (Report Poachers and Polluters) by phone 1-877-952-7277 or here <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/rapp/form.htm> GPS coordinates would be great, but not necessary.
2. If you have the capacity, don't wait until next year to clean it up! Call or contact the SCRD first in order to take advantage of the SCRD's Good Samaritan program that funds the tipping fees for your recovered backcountry trash delivered to the Sechelt Landfill.
3. If you observe any illegal dumping taking place, report it to the RAPP line above.
4. To reduce illegal dumping, if you hire someone to take your garbage to the landfill, ask to see the receipt before paying.

Food Waste Resources

Currently **34% of what ends up in our landfill can be classified as food waste**. There are so many reasons to reduce that figure! The ecological, social and financial implications of wasting 1/3 of the resources that go into food production are significant, on a household, community and planetary level. During Waste Reduction Week in October, the SCRD shared a "Tip of the Day" via Facebook and Twitter. Those collected Tips can be found here, on the Recycling Council of BC's Website <http://www.rcbc.ca/events/waste-reduction-week#Tips> . Our rural setting provides both opportunities and challenges in terms of some of the strategies listed.

The SCRD has a Solid Waste Management **Plan Monitoring Advisory Committee** that meets quarterly to advise the Board on matters with regards to implementing its Solid Waste Plan. This involves

landfill issues, recycling, green waste, composting and the like. Drop me a line if serving on that committee is of interest to you.

Bylaw Enforcement

The Board is considering a change to the way in which Bylaw Tickets are served, disputed, and adjudicated. Currently, in **most Rural Areas including Roberts Creek, staff implements a system called the Municipal Ticketing Information (MTI) system.** With this system, tickets need to be issued face to face, and disputing them involves a visit to Sechelt's provincial court judge, with its attendant rights, rules, witness' physical attendance, and potential legal costs.

The alternate system being considered is called the **Bylaw Enforcement Notice (BEN) system,** and is currently used by the municipalities of Sechelt and Gibsons, along with being piloted in Halfmoon Bay. This system allows tickets to be mailed or left on site, and disputes are first referred to a Screening Officer (a Regional District Manager) or a provincially appointed Adjudication Officer (with a background in Administrative Law and tribunal adjudication). Hearings are less formal, can involve appearances of witnesses by electronic means.

Further information can be found in a 7-page staff report that begins on page 139 of this Agenda: <http://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Administration/Agendas/2015/2015-Oct-8%20PDC%20Agenda%20Package.pdf> (also linked on my website, along with other reference material)

Note that the processes and policies leading up to the issuance of the Ticket would remain unchanged, as would the right of individuals to apply for a review of the legal validity of the decision in BC Supreme Court.

Art Crawl

The 2015 Art Crawl, which took place over the weekend of October 16-18, was a resounding success again up and down the Coast. This year nearly 30 Roberts Creek venues participated in the event! Organizer Linda Williams of the Coast Cultural Alliance reports record numbers of studio visits and corresponding sales figures. The Arts community forms such an important part of our fabric.

If you don't receive the Coast Cultural Alliance's great electronic newsletter of all things cultural, send an email to artsinfo@suncoastarts.com with "Sign me up" in the subject line. This weekly update of gallery openings, live music, films, workshops and other opportunities sets the table for a rich winter of Coastal arts events.

Pier Hill pathway planning walkabout

SCRD staff have been examining ways to make **the hill between the store and the pier** safer and more accessible throughout the year. If you're interested, meet at **10 o'clock in front of the Gumboot on Saturday, November 14th** to have a look and discuss what is being considered there. Any improvements would be funded with Gas Tax revenues.

Official Community Plan Commission Elections

The Roberts Creek OCPC is charged with preserving the values expressed in our Official Community Plan. Items get referred to the group by the SCR D Board and Staff, or are brought forward by committee members, the public, or the Area Director.

The 11 members are elected for a two-year term, and to be eligible you must have lived in Roberts Creek for a minimum of 1 year. There will be several vacancies on the committee this year. This is a great opportunity to learn about and contribute to your community.

This year **elections will be held on Wed, Nov 25th at 8PM** at Roberts Creek Hall. Note that the elections will be preceded by a regular Roberts Creek Community Association meeting at 7 PM. Electors must reside within Roberts Creek. The Plan itself can be searched on the SCR D website, or on my website under Community Links. Please contact current Chair Dianne Sanford with any questions via diannesanford@gmail.com or at 885-6280.

Finally... This month's newsletter had a lot of website links and email addresses in it. If you are reading this somewhere between your mailbox and your computer, know that **I also post it under Bootales Archives on my website**, which should make it easy to click on and follow any of the above.