

# Roberts Creek SCRD Director's Newsletter for Nov. & Dec.

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In person: Gumboot Café, Saturday Mornings, 10-12 (Except Dec 17, 24, 31<sup>st</sup>)

**An early best of the Holiday season to all.** I hope that the season brings you peace, light, and time with loved ones. There are many reminders out there of how blessed we are to live where we do. I would encourage you to search out "the local" in your expressions of holiday spirit this year, be it organizations, events, shops and restaurants, or volunteer time.

## Newsletter format update

Last month I asked for feedback about this paper version of my newsletter, and mentioned concerns around the increased cost and lack of universal accessibility (only 1200 of 1600 mailing addresses). A number of folks responded that they preferred hard copies, while roughly an equal number were content to read it online. There was some thoughtful input around the nature of communication in this day and age. Carrier pigeons were mentioned.

I am in conversation with the Roberts Creek Community Association around a sustainable model for resurrecting an online (and limited printed) version of the Boot Tales Community Newsletter. It would contain not only RCCA news and my SCRD updates, but also provide a forum for other local organizations to spread word of their events, along with the likelihood of some business advertising. Hopefully, it would be a bit of a **one-stop-shop for RC information**, much as Boot Tales was, but likely using a Mail Chimp - style email platform that folks could subscribe to (or unsubscribe from) themselves.

Details are still in the works, but if you don't have it already, make a note of the RCCA website [robortscreekcommunity.ca](http://robortscreekcommunity.ca). A self-subscription process or button will likely be posted on that site at some point.

In the meantime, here are some commitments on my part...I will continue to provide more or less monthly updates of SCRD business of interest to Roberts Creekers. I'll post a hard copy in the glass bulletin board on the **side** of the General Store and ensure that there are a few printed versions to pick up at key locations in downtown RC to read or take home, and continue to archive newsletters on my website. A reminder that if you are looking to connect electronically in any way, start with **robortscreekmark** (@gmail or .com or on Facebook).

Look for a mid-January final hard copy mail out in your mailbox.

## Official Community Plan Committee Elections:

Our Roberts Creek's Official Community Plan was extensively reviewed over 3 years and adopted in 2012. Unique in BC, The OCP **Committee** is an elected group of volunteers who meet monthly to ensure the Plan is being followed, remains current and reflects the needs of the community. In order to vote you must be a resident of Roberts Creek, and candidates are required to have lived here for at least a year. There are a few spots that need filling, so come on out to either run or to vote. Drop chair Dianne Sanford ([diannesanford@gmail.com](mailto:diannesanford@gmail.com)) or myself a line if you have questions. Elections follow the RCCA Meeting on Wed Nov 23 at 7PM at the Hall.

## Roberts Creek Advisory Planning Commission :

Advisory Planning Commissions exist all over the Province and fall under the Local Government Act. This group receives **referrals from the SCRD Planning Department** with regards to land use issues such as proposed Bylaws, Development Variance Permits, Subdivisions, ALR applications, Crown Referrals and the like. Commission members are appointed by the Board. There are a couple of vacant seats on the Roberts Creek APC, and best practices include having members who come from different geographical areas of the community and who have a range of backgrounds and skills. If you are interested in serving on the Commission drop me an email and we can meet to discuss if and how your profile might fit the current needs of our APC.

## Water Meter Update

Meter installations will take place for Roberts Creek regional water system users through this winter and spring. You can expect a notice in your mailbox and a hanger on your door when the install date gets close for your neighbourhood. There is more information on the SCRD website, or you can give staff a call.

The full **Universal Water Metering Program implementation schedule** at this point involves waiting until Sechelt residents have their meters installed before setting the rates. This could give Roberts Creek property owners two years or more to learn from the information provided by their meters, identify leaks, and implement data-based water conservation strategies.

A staff report, including an implementation chart can be found on page 1 of the following agenda: [www.scrd.ca/files/File/Administration/Agendas/2016/2016-OCT-20%20ISC%20Agenda%20Package%20.pdf](http://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Administration/Agendas/2016/2016-OCT-20%20ISC%20Agenda%20Package%20.pdf)  
There will be a public engagement opportunity when the rate setting process takes place.

The SCR D continues to move forwards with both the Chapman Supply Expansion Project, and a 2 year Groundwater (Aquifers) Investigation. Details of both can be found on the SCR D website. My website News Blog has many posts on the topic.

### **Community Halls**

Recently, the SCR D Board asked for a report with regards to the asset management, community development, volunteer engagement and financial aspects of the Regional District's six Community Halls. **Our treasured Roberts Creek Hall** is not one of those, as it is owned and operated by the Roberts Creek Community Association who work hard to steward it and other community assets. If you haven't invested any sweat equity (and no, dancing doesn't count) in our Hall yet, keep your ears open for a Community Association work party callouts. It should be noted that the Regional District has given support to our Roberts Creek Hall through the Grant in Aid function over the last number of years.

This is a good example of some of the "asymmetrical" aspects of our coast. One of the principles of a Regional District is that taxation is linked to the user of a service or what is called a "function". Our Sunshine Coast is so integrated that this can play out in various ways, depending on where and how you live, work or play. Funding models for shared functions such as Recreation, Docks, Libraries, Transit, are often the subject of "good discussions" in the Boardroom. A key part of my role is to ensure that Roberts Creekers get value for their taxes while keeping the whole coast in mind. Drop by the Gumboot for a chat some Saturday morning if you want to follow up on this or any other item.

### **The Suncoaster Trail is coming to Roberts Creek!**

Currently, the Suncoaster Trail begins in Earl's Cove and ends in Halfmoon Bay. Last year, the Board set aside funds for the planning of "Phase 2" between Halfmoon Bay and Langdale, a distance of about 60 kms. There are already some elements of the route in place. It was noted in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan of 2014 that using trails is by far the most prominent of all indoor or outdoor rec activities on the Sunshine Coast.

Clearly, there will be many visions around routing, trail infrastructure, target users, partnerships, and the like. SCR D Parks Planning staff has done some preliminary work, and the next step is to engage with the public, the shishalh and Skwxwú7mesh Nations, referral groups and other stakeholders and find out what those visions are.

To that end keep your eyes peeled for an **Open House in Roberts Creek**, likely at the Hall. There will be other opportunities for public input involving suggestion forms, maps that can be drawn on, and the like.

On a personal note, I am very excited about the potential for this initiative to further connect upper Roberts Creek to existing recreation opportunities and to provide an alternative active transportation link between our communities that isn't shared with cars. I will ensure that the Open House and other public input opportunities are well publicized. In the meantime, get out for a ride or hike, and maybe jot some thoughts down. The SCR D has updated its online mapping resources lately, which you might find useful for this or other projects: [www.scrd.ca/myscrdmaps](http://www.scrd.ca/myscrdmaps)

A **staff report** that includes the current Suncoaster Trail criteria and planning process can be found on this agenda on pages 148-150 : [www.scrd.ca/files/File/Administration/Agendas/2016/2016-NOV-10%20PCD%20Agenda%20Package.pdf](http://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Administration/Agendas/2016/2016-NOV-10%20PCD%20Agenda%20Package.pdf)

### **SCR D November Newsletters Topics**

The **November edition of the SCR D's "Coast Current Newsletter"** includes information on the following topics... the 2017 Budget Process, Dakota Ridge, the Waste Reduction Initiatives Grant program (deadline Fri Nov 25), Waste Reduction tips, along with Committee and Board schedules. It can be found here: [www.scrd.ca/newsletter](http://www.scrd.ca/newsletter)

### **Local Community Event Updates:**

Sat Nov 20 – Open House at the Firehall 10-4 PM...Firehose target practice, try on the gear, get some lunch, a garage sale, household safety plans, wildfire smarting your property, a training maze, family fun, come out and learn!

Wed Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> OCP Committee elections 7PM RC Hall. Following the RCCA Meeting...see above

Mon Nov 28 – A Night at the Longhouse...an invitation to a community cultural celebration. Details:[www.shishalh.com](http://www.shishalh.com)

Fri-Sun Dec 2-4 – Great community Craft Fair at the Hall & Masonic Hall as well as the Legion (Sat only)

Festive Potluck – Dec 25<sup>th</sup> at RC Hall...let the RCCA know if you can help with this: [info@robertscreekcommunity.ca](mailto:info@robertscreekcommunity.ca)