

## October Boot Tales Director's News

**Mark Lebell**, SCR D Director for Roberts Creek

### Contact

In Person, Gumboot Café,

Saturday Mornings, 10-12

Phone: (604) 885-6800 ext. 6505

By Email: [robertscreekmark@gmail.com](mailto:robertscreekmark@gmail.com)

Facebook: robertscreekmark

Website: robertscreekmark.com

Huge Pink Salmon runs this year echo a time when “the fish ran so thick you could walk across the river on their backs”. As with much in the natural world, the reasons for such an abundance this year are speculative, but it is great to see the possible resurgence of such a keystone species.

### Volunteer Corner:

Our Hall has long been a treasured part of our community. The Roberts Creek Community Association applied to include the Hall in the Sunshine Coast Community Heritage Register and was successful. The application involved producing a 4-page statement of significance, and it is a very interesting read. It provides a broad historical perspective on volunteerism in our community. Look for it in the History section of the RCCA website [www.robertscreekcommunity.ca](http://www.robertscreekcommunity.ca) or in hard copy at the Hall. Special thanks to past executive members John and Anne Dykes, and Sunshine Coast Museum Archivist Matthew Lovegrove for their work on this project.

### Stormwater Runoff

As the seasons change, our **water challenges shift from too little to too much**. Living between a mountain and the ocean as we do, storm water runoff issues have always been a challenge to individual property owners and to our public infrastructure. With the changing climate, we no longer have the luxury of relying on historical weather patterns to predict future events, and winter rains are no exception.

There is currently no legislation regarding the impact of land use decisions on neighbours “downstream”. With this in mind, the onus is on property owners to pay attention to water flows on their land, and to consult with neighbours around solutions that work for all. Roadways and ditches in Roberts Creek are the responsibility of the **Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure**, and work is done through their contractor, **Capilano Highway Services**. Should you note an issue that requires attention, **604-740-0667** is the number to call. Having said that, clear access culverts (under driveways) are the responsibility of landowners.

On another note, the Board's recent resolutions regarding our **summer water situation** include moving forward with water metering, studying the potential for a cistern rebate program, and assessing the ecological impact and engineering aspects of deepening the Chapman Lake “drainage” channel. The goal is to provide more emergency access to water for drinking, food production, firefighting, and salmon habitat in times of drought. Long term alternate supply solutions are also being examined.

### Board “Activism”

The **Union of BC Municipalities** recently held its annual conference in Vancouver. This conference serves as a venue for Regional Districts and Municipalities to jointly pass resolutions that lobby the Provincial Government, to meet with Provincial Ministry officials, and for Local Government officials from across the province to stay up to date with emerging issues and best practices.

Resolutions on the floor included such topics as the limited scope of environmental assessments, infrastructure costs, mental health resourcing, oil spill response, affordable housing, and the right to a

protection, public transit, bike lanes, invasive species, broadband connectivity, and reconciliation processes with First Nations.

### **A Fixed Link**

A fixed link?!? Discussion of a road, tunnel or bridge to the “mainland” has ebbed and flowed over the years. This is particularly true when concerns arise around BC Ferries’ service or cost. The Province recently announced that a consultant will study and report on the feasibility of different fixed link routing options. There is no doubt that a fixed link would precipitate significant change on the coast, and could impact much of what initially attracted many to the area. I have yet to learn the specifics of the study as the request for proposals has yet to go out, but the socio-cultural aspects will need to figure prominently in any long term plans.

### **Public Information and Consultation Ahead:**

As part of the development of a **Strategic Housing Action Plan**, The Sunshine Coast Housing Committee will be hosting a series of workshops on affordable housing across the Sunshine Coast. Join Housing Coordinator Matt Thomson for a presentation and World Café discussion of housing issues and directions for rural SCRD communities. The **workshop for Roberts Creek will be held on October 13, at the Co-Housing Common House, from 6-8 PM**. Drop him a line so he knows how many people to expect: [mthomson@gmail.com](mailto:mthomson@gmail.com)

As part of the approval process around a **new Bylaw for ALR and RU3 zoned lands**, there will be a Public Information Meeting on **Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, at the Field Rd SCRD Offices, from 7-9 PM**. The intent of the Bylaw is to more consistently align our zoning with ALR regulations, and to move land use towards better supporting the 2014 Agricultural Area Plan.

As we reflect on the **Sechelt Fire** this past summer, our community’s shared learnings around **Emergency Preparedness**, Operations and Management bare scrutiny. While the date and location are yet to be finalized, expect an **invitation to a workshop** that both **looks back** at some of the specifics of the event, **and looks forwards** at what we can do as ensure we are suitably prepared for similar events that might arise in the future.

### **A New Chief Administrative Officer at the SCRD**

The Board recently hired a new CAO. Janette Loveys has a background in Community Development, Public Participation, and several other areas of local government. After working with the Capital Regional District in Victoria, Janette spent some time in public service in Ontario, eventually as City Manager in Welland. With Ms. Lovey’s hiring in this key role, Acting CAO Angie Legault returns to her role in Legislative Services, after so ably leading staff through the challenges of this past summer.

### **Roberts Creek School Facility Saturday Use**

As we head into the dark months (sorry), a reminder that both the Roberts Creek School Gym and the Community Use Room are **available at a significantly reduced rental rate for local programming on Saturday afternoons** through the winter. Sports teams, birthday parties, family fun drop-in, art classes...all it takes is an organizer. This availability is a collaborative initiative of the SCRD and SD46, and can be booked via the School District through [tchapman@sd46.bc.ca](mailto:tchapman@sd46.bc.ca)