

# Roberts Creek SCRD Director's October Newsletter

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

I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving weekend! If you haven't put the garden to bed yet, now is the time. Leaves make great mulch, of course...even better if they are shredded. Or use them as brown matter in your compost to balance out the green-ish stuff that comes out of your kitchen.

**Lots going on in the community this weekend and beyond:**

**Community Garden work party this Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>** from 10-2 at the school. Invasives like blackberries and laurel will be tackled, so dress and equip yourself accordingly. Questions can be sent to [rccommunitygarden@gmail.com](mailto:rccommunitygarden@gmail.com) More information on this great project can be found at [rccssel.ca/roberts-creek-community-school/school-programs/roberts-creek-community-school-garden/](http://rccssel.ca/roberts-creek-community-school/school-programs/roberts-creek-community-school-garden/)

"Howdy Neighbour" **Fall Community Potluck** for Newcomers (and the Rest of Us) happens **Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup> from 5 onwards at the Hall**. Bring a dish to share...there will be music, fun, human bingo, good company and activities for the kids. Many community organizations will be represented, and I will be attempting to summarize Roberts Creek in 3 minutes or less. Questions? Email Jane at [jcovernton@gmail.com](mailto:jcovernton@gmail.com)

The fabulous **Sunshine Coast Art Crawl** takes place **Friday through Sunday, October 21-23<sup>rd</sup>**. There are 130 or so venues this year, about 30 of them in the Creek...details at [www.sunshinecoastartcrawl.ca](http://www.sunshinecoastartcrawl.ca) Book nothing else that weekend, except perhaps...

...some Reconciliation work. Three good learning opportunities ahead. The first is **Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>** from 10-4 at Living Faith Lutheran Church in Davis Bay. It will be focused on the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. A second workshop, on the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples will be held on **Sunday, Nov 20** from 12:30-5:00 at the same location. More info and RSVP with Nancy Denham @ 740-6400.

The (recently renovated) Gibsons Public Library is also hosting an event on **November 16<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30** that will involve elders from the Skwxwú7mesh Nation, and Shelly Joseph from Reconciliation Canada. If you are interested in developing a deeper understanding of what Reconciliation looks like, then I would encourage you to get out to one or more of these events

On the **Weekend of October 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup>**, Or perhaps catch some live music at one of our several great venues in the Creek. Oh, and my kids tell me there is **some sort of event happening on Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup>**.

## RC Volunteer Fire Department News:

The Office of the BC Fire Commissioner has been working to establish formal Levels of Service with regards to Fire Departments throughout the Province. The SCRD Board has formally adopted the "**Interior Service Level**" with regards the Roberts Creek Volunteer Fire Department. For context, the Egmont VFD chose the "Exterior" level, Halfmoon Bay the "Interior", and Gibsons the "Full Service" level. Member training has been oriented towards those levels, there was an increase in taxation to support that training, and you will see our crews practicing on Wednesday evenings at the Hall.

Now is a **great time to consider joining the VFD**, as they are gathering a new recruiting class. Creekers serve in so many different ways, but those who carry a pager in their pocket merit a special appreciation in my books.

## SCRD October Newsletters Topics

The **October edition of the SCRD's "Coast Current Newsletter"** includes information on the following topics: details on the new Zoning Bylaw for ALR and RU3 land, tips for keeping bears and humans safe in our community, waste reduction Tricks and Treats for Halloween and beyond, and a waste reduction Initiatives Grant program (deadline Nov 25<sup>th</sup>) It can be found on the SCRD.ca website, or you can subscribe here: <http://www.scrd.ca/Newsletter-Signup>

## **Union of BC Municipalities Conference Update**

Last week, the SCRD Board attended the annual UBCM Conference in Victoria. The conference draws about 2000 delegates from across the province, and provides an opportunity for Local Governments to network, attend workshops, debate resolutions and lobby the Provincial government.

I attended a pre-conference Session called **Forest Policy Decision Making: The Case for Greater Community Consultation and Engagement**. There were more than 150 Local Government Elected Officials representing over ½ of all local governments in the province, along with some Industry and NGO representatives.

Ministry Staff heard loud and clear about the need for proactive community engagement to address issues of Social License. Different communities were asking for improved consultation for a variety of reasons, but it was clear that MFLNRO should be doing better right across the province, and that our experience here on the coast is not uncommon. The recommendations of that session will be taken via UBCM's Economic Development Committee, to the Forests and Range Practices Advisory Council (PAC) which provides recommendations to the Minister.

Later that night I had the opportunity to ask Minister Thompson (who had been away in the Great Bear Rainforest with the Royal couple that day) what the entry point to a more proactive community engagement process might look like. No concrete answer, but he had clearly been briefed by his staff on the tone and outcomes of the morning's session. Of note is a letter from the Minister in the October 6<sup>th</sup> Coast Reporter.

**Other sessions of interest during the week included....**Growing the Creative Economy...The Provincial Drought Strategy....Liability in the Context of Climate Change... Short Term Vacation Rentals...Emergency Management and Wildfire Program Updates. Delegates debated over 150 resolutions, heard from the leaders of the Green and NDP parties as well as the Premier, and met with various Ministry officials. If details on any of the above interest you, drop by the Gumboot on a Saturday morning and I can fill you in a bit.

On the way home, I stopped in Vancouver to attend a 2-day conference with regards to **Watershed Governance**. The Province's new Water Sustainability Act will eventually provide some scope for local water boards, and this conference, co-sponsored by the First Nations Fisheries Council, was an opportunity to explore what those opportunities could look like. There is recognition that building resilience to drought and floods and sustaining ecological flows will take a more integrated approach to collaborative governance than has been typical in this province in the past.

## **What's ahead?**

Commitments this week include a trip to Narrows Inlet to visit the joint Shishalh/Blueearth Independent Power Project site Intergovernmental Meetings with the municipalities, SIB, SD46, the MP and MLA, a gathering of the Howe Sound Forum (for local governments that abut the Sound), Official Community Plan Committee and Advisory Planning Commission meetings....as well as the usual Standing Committee and Board Meetings

## **Are you reading this?**

With the Boot Tales newsletter hiatus extending longer than planned, the cost of printing and mailing out this monthly SCRD Director's update has doubled. Further, it only reaches 1200 of the 1600 mailing addresses in Roberts Creek (due to "junk mail" prohibitions in some mailboxes, including mine) Roberts Creek has a long tradition, and a long archive, of hard copy Directors' updates being read at mailboxes or over tea at home, but perhaps the time has come to consider other options.

**To this end I'm soliciting feedback about different methods of communication with you.** I should note that my website [robertscreekmark.com](http://robertscreekmark.com) often contains updates on emerging items, and any reduction in time spent on the mailout would result in a corresponding increase in information there.

**Drop me a line at [robertscreekmark@gmail.com](mailto:robertscreekmark@gmail.com) with your thoughts on this** or anything else.