

Roberts Creek SCRD Director's Newsletter, October 2017

Mark Lebell

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

Email first if you want to be certain that I'm there.

Water

As our fall water scenario is in flux I would refer you to the SCRD website for current status updates. I did put a long piece on my website the other day that gives some further background and perspective on our current situation.

www.robertscreekmark.com/news-blog

Union of BC Municipalities Conference

Spring Floods, Summer Fires, Affordable Housing and Cannabis Legislation were some of the themes at this year's Union of BC Municipalities conference in Vancouver.

The SCRD Board met with the Minister of Transportation (Road Maintenance, BC Ferries), the Minister of the Environment (Chapman Lake, Solid Waste), the Health Ministry (Seniors Care) along with staff from several other Ministries. It was a **good opportunity to communicate some of the priorities of our Region** to the incoming Ministers and their staff.

Resolutions were considered for debate on the floor on such topics as boards of variance, public libraries, a provincial zero waste strategy, the opioid crisis, interface wildfires, homelessness strategies, watershed management, and homeowner/builder certification. A full list can be found here:

<http://www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/resolutions/resolutions/resolutions-responses.html>

The program included addresses by the Premier, and Green Party and Interim Liberal Party leaders as well as an excellent keynote by retired CBC correspondent Terry Milewski the value of solid professional journalism in our current age of information saturation, chiding "There is no equality between opinion and fact".

The **opportunity to share approaches, successes and challenges** with Elected Officials from other Regional Districts and Municipalities made for an invaluable, if tiring week.

Cannabis Legalization

With the Federal Government committed to a July 1, 2018, rollout date, Provincial and Local Governments are working to proactively manage the impact of legislative changes around cannabis use.

While Federal Bill C 45 has laid out some baseline provisions around legalization, Provincial-level questions remain in BC around such policy issues as minimum age, personal possession, public consumption, impaired driving, personal cultivation, and the distribution and retail model.

The **Provincial Government is currently seeking public input via an online consultation portal which runs until November 1st**. I would encourage you to let the province know your thoughts here:

<http://engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc/consultation/bc-cannabis-regulation/>

Local Governments have Local Land Use Zoning responsibilities, but until Provincial regulations are proposed, it is a challenge to anticipate all of the issues that might surface. UBCM is heavily engaged in working with the province to ensure the concerns of local governments are addressed.

In Roberts Creek, balancing the local economic development opportunities with neighbourhood level concerns, public safety issues and protecting young people will be significant part of the picture. Certainly the impacts of smell in residential neighbourhoods has been a common theme in the feedback I am receiving.

Emergency Preparedness

Recent Global and Provincial events are reminders that we need to be ready for disruptive natural disasters. I would strongly encourage you to review your household plans, and ensure that you are prepared to evacuate or “shelter in place” for at least a week in the event of such an occurrence.

The SCRD Emergency Program has two upcoming preparedness workshops: Sechelt - Thursday, October 19, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

Sechelt Community meeting room (5797 Cowrie Street across the hall from the Sechelt Public Library).

Gibsons-Thursday, October 19, 2017 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Gibsons Public Library

Everyone is welcome to attend these free sessions. For more information, please contact the Emergency Program at 604-885-6887.

The more prepared we are on a household level, the **better we can support our more vulnerable neighbours**. Online household and neighbourhood level resources are available here: <http://www.scrd.ca/Personal> .

Short Term Rental Feedback

Did you complete the summertime SCRD questionnaire with regards to Short Term Rentals on the Sunshine Coast? Even if you didn't, you might be interested in the staff report and results from this first stage of engagement that can be found on pages 63-98 of this Agenda:

<http://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Administration/Agendas/2017/2017-SEP-21%20ISC%20Agenda%20Package.pdf>

A second Stage of consultations with stakeholder groups is taking place now and a Staff Report with legislative options will likely come forward in the **first quarter of the new year**. Keep an eye out in the newspaper or in this space for public information sessions.

A New Fire Truck

Last month the Roberts Creek Volunteer Fire Department took possession of a brand new pumper truck! The previous vehicle had reached the age of 25, after which fire trucks no longer meet insurance requirements, no matter how well they have been cared for.

Financial reserves had been built up in anticipation of this capital purchase and **a volunteer sub-committee worked long and hard to ensure that the specifications were what we needed and that value for the tax dollar was achieved.** Members have been training on the new vehicle for the last few weeks. The previous pumper is temporarily being stored in Gibsons, and will be disposed of in accordance with the asset disposal policies of the SCRD, after consultation with local fire chiefs.

I am always humbled by commitment of our VFD members, who not only drop everything to respond when their pagers go off, but put in countless hours of training, equipment maintenance, and administrative work.

SCRD October Newsletters Topics

The **October edition of the SCRD's "Coast Current" Newsletter** contains information on Waste Reduction Grants, Fields and Rinks, Fire Prevention, Dock Repair work, and an SCRD 50th Anniversary Time Capsule (don't worry, I'll ensure there is a least one gumboot in there). It can be found at: www.scrd.ca/newsletter

Note that a hard 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.