

# Roberts Creek SCRD Director's Newsletter, September 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

It wouldn't be a September SCRD Director's Newsletter if it didn't begin with the topic of water. I had the chance to explore south-eastern BC this August with my family and see firsthand some of the impacts of this very dry summer weather that seems to be becoming the norm across most of the province.

SCRD Staff report that **nearly all water meters for regional water system users in Roberts Creek and most other Rural Areas have been installed**. Staff have been working collaboratively with property owners whose meter data has indicated leaks.

An early estimate is that the 10 largest leaks detected in Roberts Creek were losing a combined 250,000 liters a day of sourced, treated and transported water that we were all paying for. Special kudos to the Roberts Creek Community Association whose Board members were quick to act when metering detected a significant leak under the Library.

In terms of the **Chapman Lake Supply Expansion Project** (the deepening of the lake's access channel) the Board is awaiting a public process from BC Parks that will consider a re-designation of a portion of the Tetrahedron Provincial Park to allow for increased access to lake water, as per the park's Management Plan. This is a BC Parks process, and the Board has yet to learn what options will be presented, how the process will unfold, and when the opportunity for public input will occur. Maximizing the ecological protection of the area while enabling potential drawdown of lake water in times of drought will be the anticipated goal. Those wanting more information, including FAQ's, technical and environmental staff and consultant's reports, can look here:

<http://www.scrd.ca/chapman-lake-supply-expansion>

The Board is also anticipating an interim report on **potential aquifer sources** in the fall. While aquifers may have some ability to augment our volumes of accessible water, I don't believe that they should be seen as an ecologically benign "silver bullet" solution to our source challenges.

### **Special Events Bylaw Update**

The SCRD is beginning the process of updating its Special Events Bylaw, which regulates large gatherings for music, art, sports, parades or other cultural events. The intent is to ensure the viability of these important events while managing safety, public health, neighbourhood and other concerns. An easy to complete 7-question survey (along with room for open-ended comments) has been developed, and will be **online until September 17<sup>th</sup>**. The questionnaire, along with a bit more context, can be accessed here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7HTKG83>

You can also contact SCRD Senior Planner Yuli Siao at any time ([Yuli.Siao@scrd.ca](mailto:Yuli.Siao@scrd.ca)) with your thoughts, questions or concerns. This is an **early stage** in the process, and no specific recommendations have been brought forward at this point. It is a good time to ensure that your personal views are taken into consideration. I will keep the community informed as the process moves forward through public meetings and is referred to our Roberts Creek Advisory Planning Commission and Official Community Plan Committee.

### **SCRD Board Makeup changes ahead**

SCRD Chair Garry Nohr has returned to work following a summer spent recuperating from a medical issue. In his absence, Halfmoon Bay Alternate Director Brian Smith filled in at the Board Table, while Vice-Chair Frank Mauro of Pender Harbour assumed many of the Chair's duties.

The most most recent Census indicates that Sechelt's population has climbed above 10,000. As a result, the Local Government Act stipulates that **Sechelt will have a second representative on the SCRD Board**, bringing the total number of Directors to 9 (5 Rural Areas, 1 Town of Gibsons, 1 shishálh Nation, 2 District of Sechelt). That change will happen this fall.

## **Upcoming Union of BC Municipalities Conference**

This year's conference takes place in Vancouver from Monday Sept 25<sup>th</sup> to Friday Sept 29<sup>th</sup>. The conference provides an opportunity for Elected Officials from across the Province to learn, network, jointly advocate for programs and significantly, to meet with Provincial Government representatives. This will be a particularly interesting year with the opportunities presented by a new Provincial Government.

The Board has prioritized Meetings with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and her staff. During the aforementioned family road trip, one of the car games we played was "Spot the Provincial Highway that is in worse shape than Hwy 101" ...We were unsuccessful!

SCRD staff are also working with MOTI with regards to an agreement that would allow for further bike path infrastructure on MOTI right-of-ways. More on the Conference can be found by following this link:

<http://www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/convention/convention-information/2017-convention-program.html>

Also of note is the prominence of the **housing affordability** issue on the conference agenda, with several workshops planned along with the striking of a UBCM Special Committee on the topic.

## **SCRD Fall/Winter Recreation Guide**

If you are on the search for some aquatics, ice, exercise, arts and culture or elder college programming to add to your quality of life this fall, the guide can be found here: <http://www.scrd.ca/recreation-guide>

## **SCRD September Newsletters Topics**

The **September edition of the SCR D's "Coast Current" Newsletter** contains information on the wrap-up of the Toilet Rebate program at the end of this year, the upcoming (Oct 10) Transit Service expansion, the Backroads Trash Bash, a bridge replacement in Cliff Gilker Park, the Waste Reduction grant program, and more. It can be found at [www.scrd.ca/newsletter](http://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.*