

Roberts Creek SCRD Director's Newsletter, July/Summer 2017

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In person: Gumboot Café, most Saturday Mornings, 10-12, **except August**. Email first if you want to be certain I'm there.

Lots of web links in this month's newsletter! If any of them don't work for you try copying and pasting the addresses into your search engine address bar.

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.

WILDFIRES

Our thoughts and good wishes are with the folks, firefighters and forests in the interior of the province. These events, along with our experience in 2015, are reminders of the serious implications of wildfires on the coast. Here are some resources with regards to planning for, prevention of, and accessing information about wildfires.

Prevention:

You can learn about **Fire Bans in Roberts Creek** here: www.robertscreekfire.ca
Currently, there is an Open Fire Ban anywhere within the Roberts Creek Fire Prevention Area, the boundaries of which are shown here:

http://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Corporate/GIS_Files/DataDownload/Outgoing/PDFmaps/MAPBOOK_RC_2016_DOWNLOAD.pdf

Outside of Roberts Creek (and other local fire protection areas) **Provincial Fire Bans** can be accessed here:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/fire-bans-and-restrictions>
Currently there is a ban on all outdoor fires in our Coastal Fire District area.

Beach Fires fall into the category above, *and are currently banned by the province*, but are also regulated by this local bylaw:

<http://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Administration/Bylaws/631-scan.pdf> (See pgs 10-11)

Clearly, there are **other aspects to wildfire prevention** than just Fire Bans, and many of them can be found here:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/managing-our-forest-resources/wildfire-management/prevention>

Reporting of Fires:

Quick reporting of potential wildfires is key to containing them.

Local fires? **Call 911**. If you spot one in the backcountry? ***5555 on your cell or 1-800-663-5555** (for example, up the slopes of Elphinstone or while you are on a road trip)

Informing yourself:

Looking for **information around existing fires, or local events should they emerge?** In the event of a local incident, both the Sunshine Coast Regional District and BC Wildfire Service have communication roles and can be accessed at bcwildfire.ca and scrd.ca respectively. As well as website updates, Facebook, Twitter, and **Radio (91.7FM)** are other information sources and would include any evacuation Alerts (warnings to be prepared to leave) and Orders (mandatory) issued by the Regional District.

Assuming the infrastructure (hydro, cell towers) is intact, the **SCRD website** is a resource for accurate official information updates from the SCRD Emergency Program **in any large scale emergency situation**. Otherwise, a radio with batteries is a good investment.

Proactive Planning and Preparation:

Home owners are **strongly encouraged to** use the great resource below to **assess your property** with regards to best practices around preventing wildfire damage to your home:

<http://www.bcwildfire.ca/prevention/docs/homeowner-firesmart.pdf>

Collective emergency plans, such as Household and Neighbourhood level emergency Plans and checklists that are applicable in a variety of circumstances including wildfire are outlined in booklets here: <http://www.scrd.ca/Personal>

Looking to go deeper in terms of **neighbourhood preparation?** Consider this program:

SCEP Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program

<http://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Community/EmergencyOps/NEPP.pdf>

I'll post the above on my website **robertscreekmark.com** for easy future reference.

Rural Resilient Neighbourhoods Pilot in Roberts Creek

In a somewhat related item, and as a follow up to the Feb 2016 Resilience Forum we held in the Hall, I'm very excited to see the progress of the **Rural Resilient Neighborhoods Pilot program** being introduced to the community in this month's Boot Tales Community Newsletter. Details will emerge as the program rolls out, but if you are interested in organizing a neighbourhood-level event or project, or just want to stay informed, drop coordinator Naomi Fleschhut a line at resilientcoast@gmail.com and she will get back to you. Wondering what a "Resilient Neighbourhood" looks like? Looking for inspiration? Just plain curious? Have a look at this neighbourhood assessment Checklist tool:

http://resilientneighbourhoods.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/RN_Checklist.pdf

SCRD Annual Report

Interested in how your taxes are being spent? Looking to better understand what the SCRD does, or just looking for some good summer reading? The award winning **2016 SCRD Annual Report** has just been published! Along with the audited Financial Statements, a 5 year financial plan, the SCRD's debt ratio (8.75%) and the like, this year the report includes additional regional demographic, economic, and social 2016 Census data in an easy-to-read format.

[http://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Corporate/Finance/2017-Jan-SCRD%20Annual%20Report%20for%202016-%20WEB 2.pdf](http://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Corporate/Finance/2017-Jan-SCRD%20Annual%20Report%20for%202016-%20WEB%202.pdf)

A hard copy is **available in our Roberts Creek Library Reading Room**, on the left as you walk in.

Two Public Hearings ahead

There are two proposed site-specific Zoning and OCP Amendments in Roberts Creek being considered by the Board that have proceeded to the Public Hearing stage:

- a **Camping and Temporary Accommodation Establishment on East Wilson Forest Service Road** at the top of Lockyer Rd (Report #3, Pgs 21-30 on the Agenda below)
- an **Artisan Craft Distillery on Porter Rd.** (Report #4, Pgs 31-49, on the Agenda below)

<http://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Administration/Agendas/2017/2017-JUL-13%20PCD%20Agenda%20Package.pdf>

Both Applications have been considered our Roberts Creek Advisory Planning Commission and Official Community Plan Committee, where they each received general support. Public Information meetings have been conducted, and the Public Hearing stage is the public's final opportunity to comment on the proposals, either in writing, verbally, or both.

Both Hearings will be held at Roberts Creek Hall on Tuesday, September 12, starting at 7PM. Contact Senior Planner Yuli Siao at yuli.siao@scrd.ca if you have questions once you have read the reports.

Short Term Rental Feedback Questionnaire

Quick reminder: the first stage of SCRD public engagement around **Short Term Rentals** continues online until August 15th. An information workbook, a questionnaire and further context can be found here: <http://www.scrd.ca/str>

SCRD July Newsletters Topics

The **July edition of the SCRD's "Coast Current" Newsletter** includes information on the SCRD's 50th Anniversary, avoiding Food Waste, Water Well-Protection Planning, Totem Pole Restoration, along with an informative new video about our water infrastructure and conservation and more. It can be found at www.scrd.ca/newsletter