

# Roberts Creek SCRD Director's Newsletter, June 2018

## Mark Lebell

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

*(If you have trouble with any of the links below, copy and paste them into your browser)*

I mentioned in a previous newsletter that I have decided not to run for a second term, for family reasons. As you can imagine, it was a difficult decision. Roberts Creekers are largely a very supportive, progressive and appreciative group of folks to represent. I would encourage anyone interested in this very rewarding, dynamic and multi-faceted job to do some research. A good starting place is here:

<https://robertscreekmark.com/local-governance-resources/>

### Water Projects Summary

If you are looking for an **updated 2-page summary** of current SCRD water initiatives, you can find it here.

<http://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Infrastructure/Water/2018-May-17%20CRWP%20Implementation%20Executive%20Summary.pdf>

### Wildfire Season

Although we have had a bit of rain in early June, this past month was the warmest and driest on record for the Vancouver region.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/month-of-may-warmest-and-driest-on-record-in-vancouver-1.4687401>

Having our May lawns look like they usually do in August was a reminder of the risks of wildfire that are part of our “new normal”.

**Resources** on wildfire prevention, reporting, accessing information and proactive steps that property owners can take to “Fire Smart” their properties can be found in my **July 2017 Newsletter:** <https://robertscreekmark.files.wordpress.com/2017/07/july-summer-2017-directors-newsletter.pdf>

### Zoning Bylaw 310 Review

SCRD Bylaw 310 designates the permissible property uses in different areas of Roberts Creek, along with most other Rural Areas on the Coast. The Bylaw was first adopted in 1987 and has been amended over 170 times since then, and is up for review. It can be found here:

<http://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Community/Planning/Bylaws/2018-May-24%20Bylaw%20310%20Consolidation.docx.pdf> It should be noted that one of the goals of the review is to enhance the readability of the Bylaw!

Over the last several years, staff have been identifying issues that can be addressed in the context of this review. At this point most opportunities are grouped into **3 themes: Housing Diversity, Residential Agriculture, and Home Based Businesses** (called “Home Occupation”). This Review process provides an excellent opportunity to implement some objectives of our Roberts Creek Official Community Plan, which was updated in 2012. Short-term rentals are being addressed through a separate process.

Any proposed changes will be subject to a full Bylaw amendment process (Public Information meetings, Public Hearing, 3 readings at the Board Table ). Keep an eye on this space, the SCR D website or the Coast Reporter for opportunities to have your say.

### **Local Forestry “Tenure” Models**

The slopes of Mt. Elphinstone are some of the most bioproductive land in the province. This puts significant pressure on our area with regards to forestry operations. One of the challenges of addressing concerns around forestry issues are the different Provincial regulatory regimes and entities involved in practicing industrial forestry in BC.

There are **3 main types of tenure** that those seeking information or input into decisions should understand;

Much of what is often called “Crown” land above Roberts Creek is managed for forest values by **BC Timber Sales**. The Ministry of Forests (FLNRORD) provides BCTS with direction to facilitate the harvest of a certain volume within a particular Operating Area within the context of a rolling 5 Year Plan. As part of its engagement protocol with the SCR D, BCTS shares its Plans, and recently put on a series of workshops for Advisory Planning Committee members from across the Coast. The “zero sum” nature of BCTS’s operational role, as decreed by the Ministry (if harvesting doesn’t take place in one cutblock, then it will take place somewhere else), makes it a challenge to balance the multiple values and ecological services that our forests provide.

The BCTS 5 years plans can usually be found online here:

[https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/TCH/external/!publish/InformationSharing/DSC%20perating%20Plan%202018-2022/Maps/PR\\_20K\\_MAP\\_OperatingPlan\\_5YearSchedule\\_21\\_20180206\\_MT%20ELPHINSTONE.pdf](https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/TCH/external/!publish/InformationSharing/DSC%20perating%20Plan%202018-2022/Maps/PR_20K_MAP_OperatingPlan_5YearSchedule_21_20180206_MT%20ELPHINSTONE.pdf)

**Private Managed Forest Land (PMFL)** is another tenure model prevalent in Roberts Creek. Private landowners can register their land under this program and be taxed at a different rate, among other things. Recent harvesting up Pell and Lockyer Roads took place under this regime, and at the Island Timberland holdings at the end of Day Road are PMFL lands as well. There are PMFL holdings in our Chapman watershed,

which raises significant concerns at the Regional District, particularly since regulations around harvesting on PMFL are less restrictive than those on “Crown” land.

In 2003 the District of Sechelt was awarded a tenure under a third model, a **Community Forest**. Their land base includes areas within the Roberts Creek OCP area, and the Chapman Watershed (which the CF has agreed not to harvest). Dividends from forestry are granted to the community for various projects. The Province has made it clear that if the Community Forests harvest volumes are not met the land will be made available to other entities to harvest.

The awarding of the Community Forest license was controversial at the time, and the District of Sechelt recently announced that it will be initiating a public engagement process around the entity. Last year’s harvest of Block E28 near Wilson Creek was within the SCCF tenure.

While the shishálh and Skwxwu7mesh Nation receive referrals with regards to most of the harvesting that happens within their territory, an **emerging form of tenure** agreement is one that would allow these long-time land stewards a more significant role in aspects of the “value chain”.

At a recent meeting with MLA Nicholas Simons, **the cumulative impacts of these different tenure models** on the ecological integrity of our upslope area were discussed. The need for a broad, more integrated approach to land and resource planning came up, as did the opportunity for reviewing regulations on Private Managed Forest Land, particularly in community watersheds.

More on this topic can be found here: <https://robertscreekmark.com/news-blog/>  
If you would like to look at a big hard copy map of BCTS’s 5-year plan, drop me a line and I will bring it to the Gumboot one Saturday morning.

## **SCRD June Newsletters Topics**

This month’s edition of the **SCRD’s “Coast Current” Newsletter** can be found at the link below, but you can also subscribe to receive it directly. Information on Landfill tipping fees changes, Recreation Facility summer hours, SCR D Board and Committee meeting schedule, Utility Bill information and more can be found here:

<https://secure.campaigner.com/CSB/public/archive.aspx?args=MjY0ODUzMjQ%3d>

*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.*