

Photojournal



More summer construction

ABOVE: A hard-working Pender Harbour Music Society volunteer hammers a few more nails in the group's new building right beside the Harbour Artists' gallery before packing up his tools to go home.

When complete, the two-storey building will be used for storage and will house an elaborate speaker system that will broadcast Music School performances and practices for everyone in the Pender Harbour Cultural Centre park to enjoy.

Oops! No, sorry, scrap that second-storey idea. We're not so sure about the sound system either, but it seemed like a good rumour to start.

Rees's Piece

John Rees, Area A Director

Normally, I am told, SCR D Directors have the month of August off. However, I have never been so busy, and numerous local issues, site visits, visiting SCR D staff, correspondence, research and column writing have kept me hopping.

A number of issues on which I would like your input are coming up in the fall:

OUTSIDE BURNING BY-LAWS

The Sunshine Coast Clean Air Society is working hard to encourage a ban on outside burning. Gibsons is close to establishing a by-law, and other rural areas have the matter under consideration.

One problem still to be dealt with is a workable method of dealing with site clearing, slash and large stumps.

Outside burning is optional in our area; however, we could participate to a lesser degree by banning, for example, "barrel burning." Any comments?

ANIMAL CONTROL

I have had several calls about dogs running wild in the community, doing their usual business everywhere and harming wildlife.

The SCR D has an Animal Control function in place, which consists of licensing, a dog catcher, a pound and a contract with the SPCA.

We would of course have to pay for it through taxation. Let me know your feelings on this one.

BUSINESS LICENSING

The SCR D is preparing a proposal for business licensing in rural areas.

This would be optional for each area; however, I would like to hear from our business community regarding their feelings on this issue.

I would only support this move if the proceeds remained in our community. More information on this proposal soon.

POLICING COSTS

It now seems almost certain that your 2004 taxes will be going up by at least \$75 per \$100,000 value of property to pay for policing in communities with under 5,000 in population (that's us, folks!).

We already support these costs through Rural Taxation; however the Provincial Government seems determined to go ahead with this plan.

Do not expect service to improve, and do not expect a reduction in Rural Taxation.

There has been no opposition to this move in Victoria, and your concerns on this issue should be addressed to MIA Harold Long.

WATER METERING

You can bet that, as a result of our extremely dry summer, the SCR D will continue with their plans for water metering. Area A, with the exception of Hotel Lake (SCR D) service, will be exempt.

The SCR D Universal Water Metering Master Plan (Feb. 2003), identifies Hotel Lake as a high priority for metering.

How do the 68 customers on this system and the private license holders feel about this proposal measure? Please let me know.

Remember I need YOUR input on all of these issues. I can be contacted as follows: Phone 883-9033, fax 883-9037, e-mail jarees@decnet.com or write to me at RR-1, S-5, C-7 in Madeira Park, V0N 2H0.

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 - Evening Public Swimming
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Pender Harbour Aquatic & Fitness Centre 883-2612