

Political Priorities

Through listening, consultation, collaborative problem solving, I will....

- Champion the health of the local ecosystem services that provide our clean air and water.
- Engage constructively and respectfully with shishalh and Skwxwu7mesh Nations.
- Ensure Vision and Goals of RC Official Community Plan are central to local decision making.
- Foster political engagement from diverse segments of the population.
- Balance the needs of Area D with Regional issues.
- Maintain fiscal responsibility to taxpayers.
- Grow a more resilient Roberts Creek.

Issues moving forward

- Watershed Protection.
- Continue to develop positive First Nations relationships.
- Food Security (poultry, local food networks).
- Transportation Options (pedestrian safety, bike lanes, public transit, trails, car/ride share, road safety)
- Regional Economic and Social Development (affordable housing, community economic development).
- Mt. Elphinstone (local control, biodiversity, ecologically responsible logging, trails).
- Solid Waste Management (responsible production and consumption, re-use, recycling, landfill).
- Fostering Community Learning (Community School, garden at RCCES, other local learning resources).
- Supporting the arts, music and community-wide celebrations
- Ensuring meaningful public engagement.

Personal Statement

The other day I was at work, discussing the future of the world with a group of 12 year olds. It’s a tricky business, balancing a realistic view of a planet with diminishing resources, and harder times ahead, while at the same time fostering a sense of hope, optimism and empowerment. Often as not, the wisdom comes from the young people, not me. This was the case here, as one young woman, as we were brainstorming, piped up “You gotta be *in it*”! That’s exactly why I’m running. We *have* to be in it.

I have chosen to live in Roberts Creek because we are in it here - in a place that reminds us daily of our dependence on the Natural World, on each other, and our personal resilience. There is a scope and scale here that has worked for humans for millennia. When you look at the Vision and Goals of the recently updated Roberts Creek Official Community Plan you see the result of wide ranging public process and the hard work of some very wise people. Of course, implementing the plan can be uncomfortable, hard, messy but so can the rest of life. I live here because we understand that, and we embrace that life together. We potluck together, grow our children together, laugh, dance, cry, sing, farm, create, celebrate, mourn....all in a way that says “Bring it on”.

I am acutely aware that most of us go about our daily lives as uninvited guests on Coast Salish traditional territory. We also identify ourselves as Sunshine Coasters and have benefits and responsibilities as part of a Regional District. On a larger scale, I have firsthand experience struggling with issues of Provincial jurisdiction, like Transportation, Education and Forestry. In these and other areas, a diverse range of approaches is what it takes to make change. I feel that an elected representative needs the collaborative skills to listen to their constituents, build consensus among the players, and clearly communicate values-based opinions.

In talking with former Area D Directors, I have learned that the Sunshine Coast Regional District Board is most effective when learning, working and lobbying together. Intergovernmental relations are complex. Organizations like the Union of BC Municipalities provide the opportunity for lobbying the Province on behalf of the Coast, but only if there has been much joint process work in advance. I’m prepared and equipped to do that work.

As a musician, I value art and beauty. I would much rather attend a good jam where players listen, share and support each other creatively, than be the frontman at a show. Having said that, I take great satisfaction in the messages that one of my bands, Sweet Cascadia, puts out there at public events. We are both cursed and blessed to live in “interesting” times, as the Chinese saying goes.

The problems we face are clearly not ours alone. They are Global in nature. Climate Change and Peak Oil are going to challenge us in ways that we can’t yet fully comprehend. We are privileged to live in a special corner of a huge country with seemingly plentiful resources. With that good fortune comes a responsibility to steward those resources, share equitably with our neighbours local and overseas, maximize local economic benefit, while ensuring our quality of life. Fortunately the “Less is More” imperative towards shrinking our personal ecological footprints also moves us towards a healthier, more socially connected, and more economically viable way of life. We all hope that our children and grandchildren will have the option to live, work and play in a resilient, diverse, and vibrant coastal community.

Six months ago I was lucky enough to be in Vietnam with my family. In a café in Hanoi I had a conversation with a man in his 30s who had never known his father, who was killed in the conflict there. I told him I came from a place in Canada that several young Americans had emigrated to, as a personal choice around the military draft at the time. He looked at me in the eye and said “Good Men”. This village is full of Good Men, Good Women, and Great Children. I am humbled by the opportunity to represent you at the Regional District level. With your help, I hope to build on the achievements of previous Directors, while protecting and fostering what brought all of us to this Home Place. *Bring it on.*