

*...Cast your memory back to the morning in early July when we all woke up to an orange sky and a significantly compromised air quality. That dramatic intersection of environment and emergency was a reminder of our fundamental dependence on systems that are in flux. Everything from rising food prices, peak oil, climate and economic instability, and recent tectonic events speak to us of the need to pay attention to what keeps us thriving. To that end, a great team is putting together the following event:*

**“Taking Care of Each Other -  
A Roberts Creek Resilience Forum”  
Ecology and Emergency Preparedness  
Roberts Creek Hall, Sunday Feb 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:30 – Lunch (together)**

Far from taking a “Survivalist” approach, this event is aimed at forging stronger community awareness and connections around how we can take care of one another in the event of a crisis, be it a slowly-emerging or fast-moving one. A recent VCH Survey found rural Sunshine Coasters at the top of the Lower Mainland list in terms of household preparedness. The bad news? That still involves only 50% of us with 72hr readiness, and the accepted wisdom on the coast is it would be at least a week before we could expect external resources, depending on the nature of the situation. Having said that, and building on the personal preparedness piece, our community is well-placed to embrace some of the better practices in this field.

Partners like the Roberts Creek Community Association, the RC Volunteer Fire Department, SCRD Emergency Program, Transition Town, RCMP Victim Services, SD 46, the Seniors Planning Table, One Straw, and other local experts are all contributing to a Sunday morning that is taking shape along these lines:

9:00 Doors open and coffee's on!

**9:30 Start Time**

- Slide show and brief case study of Sechelt Mine Fire
- Activity: What do we need to learn in the Creek?
- Personal Preparedness and the Sunshine Coast Big Picture
- Assets and Challenges in the Creek
- Mini-Workshops: Participants choose 2 of the following short (15 min) workshops:  
Fire Smart-ing your Property, Neighbourhood level crisis response, Transition Streets, Supporting Seniors/People in Need, a Permaculture Approach to Disaster Mitigation, Caring for School-age Children, The Psychological Aspects of Crisis (note workshops are subject to change)
- “Open Space” identification of areas of common interest

**12:30 Lunch together** sitting in common interest groups

**This will necessarily be a quick treatment of a broad and deep topic. Intended outcomes include:**

- determining community interest levels in areas of further learning or action,
- raising awareness of existing resources and avenues for engagement
- sharing findings from the event in a future Boottales mailout, and RC Library Reading Room resource,
- a community better able to support not only itself, but other areas of the Sunshine Coast.

Bring your perspectives on the topic, **a pen, a bag for hard copy resources, \$10 for lunch** and an appetite for engagement. Too busy? Thinking of not coming? Experts in the field agree that getting past the “denial” stages of processing this challenge is a key piece of the picture! Your neighbours will thank you.

*...What is this “Resilience” term that keeps getting thrown around? Like “Sustainability” definitions vary, but a further breakdown of the term often includes components like adaptation, diversity, decentralization, self-activation, flexibility, shared understanding, inclusive participation, redundancy, self-organization, managed connectivity, and shared learning.*