



It's budget time at the SCRD!

Each year the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) Board, CAO and staff work together to develop an annual budget. The budget is a detailed plan showing where the SCRD will get its money (revenue) and what that money will be spent on (expenses).

In pre-budget meetings, the Board focuses on bringing projects forward that align with the Strategic Plan and other main policy documents. This helps all those involved in the budget process to remain focused on what is truly important for our communities, while striving to keep taxation as low as possible.

A series of meetings (see below) will be held to give you the opportunity to be part of the budget process. SCRD staff will also be available, in the new year, at information booths, at locations to be determined in Gibsons, Sechelt and Pender Harbour. Staff will be available to answer your questions and to find out how you would like to receive information about SCRD projects, services and the budget process.

Be part of the process and join us for Round 1 Budget Review Meetings being held at the SCRD Board Room, 1975 Field Road in Sechelt on **January 20, 21, 22 and 23 at 9:00 a.m.**



Photo: Sunshine Coast Tourism.

Discover the Magic of Snow at Dakota Ridge

Dakota Ridge is an ideal winter destination for cross country skiing and snowshoeing, right here on the Sunshine Coast. A trip up the mountain to this winter wonderland promises snow fun for the whole family during winter months.

Topping out at 1,200 metres, on a clear day the views from 19 kilometres of world class cross country ski trails (classic and skate) and 7 kilometres of snowshoe trails include the Salish Sea, the North Shore mountains and Mount Elphinstone.

This season, Dakota Ridge is growing with 9 kilometres of new cross country ski trails, new activities, and a newly refurbished warming hut.

Day rates are \$15 or less depending on age for cross-country skiers, snowshoers pay \$8 or less, and children 12 and under can use the facility for free. Group rates and season passes are also available. There is also a flat fee of \$6 per vehicle for all visitors who are not purchasing a snowshoe or ski ticket or pass. This fee supports the cost of road maintenance.

Season pass holders have the opportunity to ski at other winter resorts, such as Cypress Mountain, Lost Lake in Whistler, and Whistler Olympic Park at discounted rates. For example, Dakota Ridge season pass holders can receive 25% off Cypress Mountain's regularly priced, full day lift ticket, and off their regular cross-country area trail ticket price.

For more information go to www.scrd.ca/Dakota-Ridge. Like us on Facebook!

Winter/Spring Recreation Guide

Sunshine Coast residents can look to their Winter/Spring recreation guide for information on hundreds of leisure programs and activities being offered from December 2013 to June 2014.

The Recreation Guide is available online or for pick up at all SCRD recreational facilities. The guide includes a wide range of programs including arts and culture, fitness and sports activities, drop in skating, swimming lessons, information about special events, programs for seniors, and persons with specific needs and much more.

For more information about SCRD recreation programs and services visit www.scrd.ca/recreation or call 604-885-PLAY (7529).



If you Love Them, License Them

Dog licenses for 2014 are now available for purchase at the Sunshine Coast Regional District and at the Town of Gibsons.

The SCRD encourages responsible pet ownership through licensing, public education and enforcement. Licenses for spayed or neutered dogs are only \$15 while a license for an unaltered dog is \$35.

A dog license helps protect pets by providing an

easy-to-identify dog tag and registration with the SCRD Bylaw Compliance Department.

If a dog has a current license and it is impounded, it will get one "ride home free" per calendar year, and the owner will also avoid getting an "unlicensed dog" ticket which is \$50 for each infraction.

The SCRD provides dog control services in Halfmoon Bay, Roberts Creek, Elphinstone, West Howe Sound and to the Sechelt Indian Government District. The Town of Gibsons and the District of Sechelt provide dog control services to citizens living in those municipalities.

Seniors purchasing a dog license receive a 50% discount. Licences purchased after January 31 double in price.

For more information, visit www.scrd.ca/Dog-Control or call 604-885-6817.

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