



# Highlands News

March 2008

The Official Newsletter of the District of Highlands Council  
 RURAL LIFE    NATURAL BEAUTY    STRONG COMMUNITY

## A message from Mayor Mark Cardinal

Discussions on options for the Millstream Meadows site remediation have been ongoing between the CRD and the province. We are hopeful that more information will be available over the next few weeks to share with our community.

In this issue you will find information on our 2008 budget, an overview of a road evaluation report we had done for the District, and an update from our Community Centre Task Force and Green Mapping Project Group. Community input is being asked for by both the Community Centre Task Force and Green Mapping Project Group (see details inside).

### Council Meeting Schedule for April

Council Meetings: Mondays April 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>th</sup>  
 Committee of the Whole: Monday April 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>  
 (as needed)

Fiscal & Environment Committee: April 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Infrastructure Committee: April 9<sup>th</sup>  
 APC: as needed

### HIGHLANDS DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT



The Highlands District Community Association Annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place on  
*Sunday March 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Caleb Pike house and property.*  
 Please bring "nut-free" treats to hide, or finger food to share. Beverages provided.  
 Everyone is welcome! Rain or shine.

Organized by the Highland District Community Association  
 Pike House 1589 Millstream Rd.  
 Contact Marcie @ 474-4725

### Highlands News available on email

If you would like an electronic copy of the *Highlands News*, Official Newsletter of the District of Highlands Council, please email June Cameron at the Municipal Hall at [JCameron@highlands.ca](mailto:JCameron@highlands.ca).

#### Contacts

Mayor Mark Cardinal	Ph. 474-8985 Cell 380-8828	mecardinal@shaw.ca	Councillor Michelle Mahovlich	Ph. 812-5768	michelle_mahovlich@shaw.ca
Councillor Ken Brotherston	Ph. 478-0372	kmbhighlands@shaw.ca	Councillor Jane Mendum	Ph. 478-9449	jmendum@telus.net
Councillor Andrew Fall	Ph. 391-4801	andrew@gowlland.ca	Councillor Ken Williams	Ph. 479-7497	kgwmaya@shaw.ca
Councillor Joe Kadar	Ph. 391-1409	kadardev@shaw.ca	Fire Chief Barry Ford	Ph. 479-5741	b.v.ford@shaw.ca

## **DOH Road Evaluation**

The District of Highlands (DOH) retained Mr. Bruce Robertson of JBR Highway Consulting to undertake an evaluation of our road network and report on the current conditions of the roads. The purpose of the evaluation is to allow prudent fiscal planning that will enable the District to preserve road surfaces and prepare cost estimates for preservation repairs.

*The full Road Evaluation Report is available at the District office. Here are some highlights only:*

**Ross-Durrance Road:** embankment sections experiencing edge failure due to insufficient shoulder widths; flood damage causing shoulder failure; select bumper logs need replacing.

**Select Roads Needing Resurfacing in Some Sections:** Viart, Lorimer, Compton, Bukin, Caleb Pike, Blue Valley, Verona and Martlett Roads.

**Ditches Blocked are inadequate culverts on sections of:** Skyview Place, Millstream Road, Lost Lake Road

**Settlement Areas Noted on Portions of:** Millstream Road near Rockridge and Jay Hawk Place; and on sections of Millstream, Davies, Compton, Jayhawk and Blacktail Roads.

The report gave a list of recommendations including, but not limited to:

- Establishing a road surfacing reserve of \$170,000 to cover resurfacing 1.6km of road every year. There are approximately 48 km of roads in the DOH
- Starting an annual crack sealing program (\$5,000 to \$10,000 per year)
- Installing concrete barrier curbs in areas where there is excessive pavement drop offs
- Establishing a bridge reserve fund of \$120,000 for the eventual replacement of Bellamy and Corry bridges

The select findings and recommendations are being considered by Council but have not yet been ratified.

## **It's Budget Time!**

Each year municipalities must adopt their financial budget for the following year and revise their five year financial plan. This is mandated under the Local Government Act.

One of the reasons for receiving the Road Evaluation report (detailed above) was to enable Council to consider recommendations from that report as part of budget discussions.

Council began budget discussions at a Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting on Monday March 10<sup>th</sup>. The following summarizes some key points from the 2007 actual expenditures presented to Council on March 10<sup>th</sup>:

- The District underspent \$201,000 in 2007 of which \$46,000 was for fire protection services and automatically transfers to fire use in the 2008 budget. This leaves \$155,000 in surplus that transfers to accumulated operating surplus. \$58,000 of this amount was targeted for the Twinflower Park Upgrade which has not proceeded to this point.
- The target amount of funds in the District's "unrestricted surplus" should be 25% of the District tax base – in our case \$350,000. In 2005 the unrestricted surplus was as low as \$23,000, in 2006 Council had achieved an accumulated surplus of \$81,000 and at the year end 2007 it is up to \$236,264.

The largest capital investment currently showing in the Draft 2008 Budget is \$400,000 to pay for the new pumper truck for the Highlands Volunteer Fire Department. This truck has been ordered already and will likely be delivered in late summer, early fall.

It is expected that budget discussions will extend into late April. The public is welcome to attend COW meetings. Public input is allowed at COW meetings as long as there is no motion on the floor made by Council.

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### *Septic Tanks & Fields*

Proper maintenance of septic tanks and septic fields is very important, especially when we get our drinking water from the ground/waterwells!

Septic tanks should be pumped out every 2 to 3 years.

You should check your tank frequently to make sure the pump is functioning properly and that the wastewater is flowing as it should be from the tank to the field. Septic fields should also be inspected regularly to ensure they are not clogged or malfunctioning.

### **Call for Listings on Green Mapping Project**

The Green Map of the Highlands is progressing fast and completion date is scheduled for August 31<sup>st</sup>. The map is intended to promote tourism in five categories: art and cultural tourism; ecotourism; sports tourism (cycling, walking, hill climbing, golf, horse back riding, geocaching); and heritage tourism. Possible listings include: studios, B&B's, cottage rentals, ecotourism businesses, health and wellness businesses (yoga, spa treatments, retreats), farms, forestry associated businesses, market gardening, and sustainable food systems.

If you would like your business considered for listing on the map, please contact the coordinator, Elaine Limbrick at: E-mail : [arcady@shaw.ca](mailto:arcady@shaw.ca) Tel. 474-1420

***Final date for submission: April 30, 2008.***



### **So...You Wanna Do Something Within 30m of a Waterbody...**

Highlands is certainly a beautifully natural place. Part of this is due to the regulations limiting development. One of these regulation areas that staff often sees misunderstood, is working near waterbodies. First of all, what do I mean by waterbodies? Generally, if you see water on your land at least part of the year, that's what I mean. More specifically, it includes creeks, lakes, ponds, wetlands, whether manmade or natural, or flowing some of the time or all of the time.

Highlands' and Provincial regulations restrict any work – that means any earth disturbance and/or construction – within 30m of waterbodies. There is, however, a permitting process that may allow work closer than 30m. At the Highlands' level, this permitting process is called a Development Permit and/or a Development Variance Permit. Laura or Chris Leek at the District office can answer any questions you may have about these processes. At the Provincial level, the regulation is called the Riparian Areas Regulation. Information about this regulation can be found on this web site: [http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/habitat/fish\\_protection\\_act/riparian/riparian\\_areas.html](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/habitat/fish_protection_act/riparian/riparian_areas.html).

Generally speaking, it is easier – and cheaper – to stay 30m away from any waterbodies.

*By: Laura Beckett (District of Highlands Planner)*

### **Community Centre Task Force & Towns for Tomorrow Grant Application**

The Task Force has been working diligently to determine a potential location for a possible Highlands community centre, and one that could have multiple uses, such as: community centre, municipal hall, emergency shelter and cultural uses (such as a museum). It is envisioned that the community centre would be a sustainable building incorporating such options as geexchange energy, solar or other energy conservation measures that would discourage greenhouse gas emissions.

The Task Force would like your input! Please plan on attending an **Open House on April 13<sup>th</sup>** – information will be posted and circulated as soon as a firm date is known. You will be given an opportunity to provide comments and input towards some of the ideas in progress.

In the meantime, the Community Centre Task Force has asked Council to support them in applying for a *Towns for Tomorrow* grant application towards planning the first phase of a community centre.

The Task Force will be applying for a grant, for a total financial commitment of \$500,000 towards the first phase of this centre. The grant offers 80% funding on the dollar, therefore of the \$500,000 initial budget, the province would pay \$400,000 if the grant were successful and the District would pay \$100,000.

The grant deadline was March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Successful

candidates will hopefully be notified by the summer time.

### **Youth Centre**

There will be no program March 14<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup>. The Youth Program starts again March 28<sup>th</sup> 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Movie Night will be April 4<sup>th</sup>, pick up at Schoolhouse at 5:30 pm return 8:30 pm.



### **Broom Bash – Volunteers Needed!**

The annual Broom Bash will happen on **Saturday April 19<sup>th</sup>**. Volunteers are asked to meet at the Pike House at 9:30 am. Please bring brush saws, small chain saws, or loppers. Lots of pickup trucks needed!

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### ***The Highlands News***

Official publication of the District of Highlands Council  
1980 Millstream Road, Victoria, BC, V9B 6H1  
Telephone 250-474-1773 Fax 250-474-3677

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