



# Highlands News



Millstream Meadows

photo credit: Allen Dobb

What are the next steps?

The remediation of this site has been on hold for the winter. Monitoring and water treatment are ongoing, but options for completing the work are not yet decided, and may be dependent on funding. The issue is scheduled for consideration at the March meeting of the CRD Environment Committee, with

recommendations anticipated to go to the CRD board. Golder and Associates is working to identify those options, and the CRD and the province have met to discuss the issue.

Highlands supports all contamination being removed from the site, in order to protect the district's groundwater aquifer.

## Mayor's Message

Council recently held its strategic planning session, proposing an ambitious yet practical work plan - look for a draft online at [highlands.ca](http://highlands.ca). Come to the March 9th Committee of the Whole meeting for the debut of the annual budget; everyone is welcome to attend.

Council is seeking volunteers for several interesting positions, providing opportunity for Highlanders to spend time together while contributing to their community. Details inside.

Do you know of an individual or business deserving of regional recognition? The CRD Ecostar Awards and the CFA Community Awards are open for nominations in several categories until March 6th, ([crd.bc.ca](http://crd.bc.ca)) and March 9th ([cfax1070.com](http://cfax1070.com)) respectively.

Mayor Jane Mendum

In this issue:

- Community Calendar - something for everyone!
- Volunteer opportunities
- Budgets, accessibility audit summary, and more!

## Measuring Up In Highlands

At its regular meeting February 16th, Highlander Marnie Essery, chair of the Intermunicipal Advisory Committee on Disability Issues (IACDI) made a presentation to Council with Bobbi Neal (Community Development Coordinator for Westshore Parks & Recreation Society) on the Measuring Up Program, which helps BC communities assess and improve accessibility and inclusiveness for people with disabilities.

The program includes an audit, which Marnie completed on behalf of Highlands. Marnie related that the municipality received marks for safety, environmental appreciation, and portrayal of people with disabilities, but could use improvement in transportation (e.g. no taxis in the Western Communities for the disabled, bus service in the Highlands is minimal) housing (there are no assisted living units or targeted affordable housing), and public building access.

The 5 Westshore municipalities received a total of

\$85,000.00 from a joint provincial grant; \$7,500 is allocated for Highlands to implement improvements, and IACDI, in partnership with the district, is preparing to identify potential projects. Initial ideas include an accessible trail, an arts event for people with disability issues, access for persons with disabilities to appreciate nature or create art. Those persons with disabilities who might consult on projects would be paid an honorarium for site visits, and are invited to contact Marnie. The deadline for project completion is May of this year.

In addition, the grant will fund an accessibility guide for people with disabilities, to be created in conjunction with the other participating municipalities. Marnie invites any Highlanders who have information pertaining to access on Westshore trails or in parks, negative or positive, to provide their insight. She may be reached by email at [meteach@telus.net](mailto:meteach@telus.net), or by phone at 250-474-5939.

## Highlands Coffee House

submitted by Zhinoos Armstrong

On Saturday, March 14th, Highlands' Coffee House is very pleased to bring to you the band Gerald Fitzella for our featured performance, an eclectic, genre-bending and blending band from Vancouver Island. Drawing on primarily original material, this band encompasses adept vocal harmonies, with poetic and yet often humorous and insightful lyrics. Gerald Fitzella has performed at various venues, and are presently recording their first CD.

We have heard great reviews about this band, so are very pleased to bring them to you. We will also have an open stage bringing to you further talented musicians.

Saturday, March 14th  
Caleb Pike Homestead  
1589 Millstream Rd.  
7:30 pm (doors open at 7:00 pm)

Charges: Honour system, with a recommended minimum \$5.00/person. Includes tea/coffee & goodies. Under the age of 15: free.

If you have talent to share, let us know!  
For information call Zhinoos at 727-9561

More details can be found on posters at community mailboxes.

### Sustainability Task Force Membership Update

Council has made two additional appointments to its Sustainability Task Force. Welcome to Bob Flitton, the Community and Infrastructure Services Select Committee representative, and to Greg Nuk, representing the Fiscal and Environment Select Committee.

### Highlands Youth Centre

#### March Schedule of Events

March 6: Movie Night at Old School House 6:30 to 8:30 pm

March 13, 20: Spring Break - no program

March 27: Card Night at Old School House 6:30 to 8:30 pm

April 10: Swimming, pick-up at Old School House at 5:30 return 8:30 pm

April 3, 17, 24: at Old School House usual times

For more information, please phone Amy at WestShore 250 478-8384 EXT 2261 or Bob 250 478-4403

## Community Volunteers Wanted

### ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION Four – 2 Year Terms

The District of Highlands requires four (4) volunteers to serve on the Advisory Planning Commission for a two year term. Pursuant to Section 898 of the Local Government Act, a Council may, by bylaw, establish an Advisory Planning Commission to advise Council on matters respecting land use, community planning or proposed bylaws and permits. The APC meets as required to review land use applications referred by Council.

### REPRESENTATIVE FOR HIGHLANDS IN THE WEST SHORE LITERACY NOW PROGRAM

The District is seeking a representative to liaise between the Literacy Program and the Highlands community. West Shore Literacy Now is a provincial initiative designed to address local literacy needs. The program will ultimately lead to the creation of a region specific literacy plan based on local knowledge and insight. Please visit the Highlands website for more information.

### COMMUNITY CENTRE TASK FORCE

The District of Highlands requires four (4) volunteers to serve on the Community Centre Task Force. The Committee will continue to study the feasibility of building a community centre in the Highlands with many considerations. The District is specifically interested in having representation from persons living in the Caleb Pike/ Millstream Road area. Information on this Task Force is available at the District Office

Persons interested in serving are invited to submit a letter and brief personal resume outlining details of residency, community activities and reasons for wanting to serve.

All submissions should be forwarded to the following by March 16, 2009:

The District of Highlands  
Tina Neurauter, A/ Corporate Officer  
1980 Millstream Road, Victoria, BC V9B 6H1  
Phone: 474-1773  
Fax: 474-3677  
E-mail: [tneurauter@highlands.ca](mailto:tneurauter@highlands.ca)

If you would like an electronic copy of the Highlands News please visit the district website's homepage - [highlands.ca](http://highlands.ca)

## Council and Municipal News

### Rezoning Applications

#### RZ-01-08 889 Finlayson Arm Rd.

At its regular meeting on February 16th Council considered first reading of a zoning bylaw for an application which proposes to rezone an approximately 30-acre parcel from 1 lot to 4, with a proposed amenity of \$8769 per lot. Also proposed is a 2-party covenant to protect a hilltop manzanita grove. The area is identified in the OCP as sensitive.

Council did not give the bylaw first reading, instead expressing concerns for the amenity offered, that no pro forma has been submitted, that the proposed covenant would not adequately protect the hilltop, and that a house site is proposed on the hilltop inside the perimeter of the sensitive area.

#### RZ-07-08 3813 Munn Rd.

Council considered a rezoning application for an approximately 41-acre lot at its regular meeting February 16th. The application proposes to divide the property into 3 lots; two (approximately 15 and 13 acres respectively) to be retained by the owners, and the other to be donated to CRD parks as an extension to Thetis Lake Regional Park, which borders the property on 2 sides. The 13-acre park parcel is proposed to be donated in two sections, the first 30% at the time of subdivision approval and the remainder from the estate of the last remaining spouse.

CRD Parks has expressed interest in the donation, and Council has referred the application to the Advisory Planning Commission and Select Committees for comment, and has sent a formal request to the CRD board regarding the proposed park donation.

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### Juan de Fuca Recreation 2009 Budget

Council considered the 2009 budget proposed by the West Shore Parks and Recreation Society. The budget was presented in two sections: an operating budget (including \$670,000 in capital projects identified as "most critical" proposed for this year) with an overall 3% requisition increase, (but only 1.39% requisition increase for Highlands), and a 5-year capital plan containing a list of proposed capital projects for 2009 and future years.

The 5-year capital plan includes \$800,000 for maintenance of the artificial turf field inside the velodrome, \$3.9 million for a fitness centre expansion, \$600,000 for additional parking and \$330,000 for addition financing of the seniors centre expansion. The plan totals over \$6¼ million for 2009 and over \$17.5 million over five years.

Neither the recreation centre staff nor the society has suggested how the funds might be raised. The Society proposed a referendum last fall requesting borrowing of approximately \$10 million, and the proposal failed at Highlands Council. The request to other West Shore Councils was subsequently withdrawn.

Council requested clarification of the operating budget, and a prioritized list of capital projects along with technical details, project timelines, and impacts of not funding the projects, and the completion of a strategic plan now underway which would set out the capital requirements and how funding could be sought. Without unanimous agreement of the owners, the budget reverts to the previous year's.

#### HELP Volunteers Needed

Val Fletcher, the Highlands Emergency Program Coordinator, has established the HIGHLANDS EMERGENCY LOCAL PREPAREDNESS (HELP) program, a neighbourhood preparedness program designed to provide the information, training and skills necessary for individuals, families and neighbourhoods to be self-sufficient immediately after a disaster. Neighbourhood groups are small (15-25 homes) to facilitate emergency communication, and within reasonable walking distance of

each other. One person (and a back up) in each neighbourhood fills the role of a Group Leader, acts as liaison with the Highlands Emergency Program, and will be among the first to receive information in an emergency.

Currently, group leaders are required in the following areas: Caleb Pike (South and West), Finlayson Arm, Millstream Rd. south of Millstream Lake Rd to Langford border, Hanington, Davies Rd, and Munn Rd east of Talon Ridge, among others. If you are interested in serving as a leader or back up support, or to learn more about the program, you may contact Val by phone at 250-479-1725.

## Contact Information

Mayor Jane Mendum  
250-478-9449, (c) 250-893-9440  
[jmendum@highlands.ca](mailto:jmendum@highlands.ca)

Councillor Allen Dobb  
250-391-3998, [allendobb@telus.net](mailto:allendobb@telus.net),  
website: [allendobb.ca](http://allendobb.ca)

Councillor Diane Gill  
250-391-8928, [randgill@telus.net](mailto:randgill@telus.net)

Councillor Sigurd Johannesen  
250-514-1880, [sigurd.johannesen@shaw.ca](mailto:sigurd.johannesen@shaw.ca)

Councillor Marcie McLean  
250-474-4725, [marciemclean@shaw.ca](mailto:marciemclean@shaw.ca)

Councillor Karel Roessingh  
250-727-9808, [karel@roessong.com](mailto:karel@roessong.com)

Councillor Ken Williams  
250-479-7497, [kgwmaya@shaw.ca](mailto:kgwmaya@shaw.ca)

Fire Chief Barry Ford  
250-479-5741, [b.v.ford@shaw.ca](mailto:b.v.ford@shaw.ca)

Emergency Coordinator Val Fletcher  
250-479-1725, [val.fletcher@shaw.ca](mailto:val.fletcher@shaw.ca)

CRD Bylaw Enforcement - 250-474-3351  
Animal Control (24 hrs) - 250-478-0624  
CRD Parks - 250-478-3344  
RCMP non-emergency - 250-474-2264  
Wildlife Violations - 1-800-663-WILD (9453)  
Victoria Highway Maintenance  
8 - 4:30 Mon-Fri - 250-474-2688

## Volunteer of the Month

Volunteer of the month is Marnie Essery, 20 year chair of the Intermunicipal Advisory Committee on Disability Issues, and long time Highlands resident. Marnie dedicates her considerable experience and skills to serving organizations throughout the region, and is active in a multitude of roles, including spokesperson, chair, teacher, counsellor, researcher, lobbyist, support person, and leader. Marnie loves and appreciates nature, and is committed to improving accessibility, on behalf of an aging population and those with disabilities, throughout the region. Thank you, Marnie, for your dedication and ongoing hard work!

The Highlands News  
March 2009

District of Highlands Council  
Newsletter

1980 Millstream Road  
Victoria, B.C.  
phone: 250-474-1773  
fax: 250-474-3677  
web: [highlands.ca](http://highlands.ca)

## March Community Calendar

Fridays, 6:30-8:30pm - Youth Program\* - School House  
Mon, 2nd, 7 pm - Regular Council Meeting\*\* - School House  
Wed, 4th, 7:30, Fiscal & Environment Committee, Pike House  
Fri 6th - CRD Recycling Pickup  
Mon 9th, 7 pm - Council Committee Of the Whole Meeting (COW)\*\* - School House  
Wed 11th, 7 pm - La Leche League - call 478- 0073  
Mon 16th, 7 pm - Regular Council Meeting\*\* - School House  
Sat 14th, 7 pm - Highlands Coffee House\* - Pike House  
Fri 20th - CRD Recycling Pickup  
Wed 25th, Infrastructure & Services Committee, 7:30, School House

\*details elsewhere in this newsletter

\*\*please visit the district website - [highlands.ca](http://highlands.ca) - for detailed agenda

## RCMP INCIDENTS Jan 15th - Feb 15th

With thanks to Corporal Richard Boyle and  
Jennifer Brown of the West Shore RCMP

### January

18th - 911 False/Abandoned Calls - Deerfield PI  
19th - Abandoned Vehicles - Quail PI  
19th - Property- Lost - Jayhawk PI  
23th - False Alarms - Millstream Rd  
23rd - Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Woodridge PI  
23rd - Theft-Other Under \$5000 - Skyview PI  
24th - False Alarms - Industrial Way  
25th - 911 False/Abandoned Calls - Millstream Rd  
25th - Suspicious Pers/Veh/Occur - Munn Rd  
26th - Theft from MV Over \$5000 - Caleb Pike Rd  
27th - Collision-Damage Under \$1000 - Millstream Rd  
29th - Breach of Peace- Highlands Park Terr  
30th - Traffic-Other Non-Moving - Millstream Rd

### February

02nd - 911 False/Abandoned Calls - Ross Durrance Rd  
03rd - Collision-Damage Under \$1000 - Bukin Dr  
04th - Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Millstream Lk/Munn Rd  
04th - Suspicious Pers/Veh/Occur - Millstream Rd  
07th - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Millstream/Millstream Lk Rd  
08th - Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Caleb Pike/Millstream Rd  
08th - False Alarms - Millstream Rd  
10th - Property Found - Industrial Way/Millstream Rd  
10th - Unspecified Assistance - Munn Rd  
11th - False Alarms - Munn Rd  
12th - Property Found - Millstream Lake Rd  
13th - Property Found - Millstream Lake Rd

Please consider passing this newsletter on to any tenants or other residents who are without a Highlands mailbox. Thank you!