



# Highlands News

June 2008

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

## A message from Mayor Mark Cardinal

As many of you may be aware there has been a circumstance where one of your council members, for the time being, will not be able to attend council meetings.

Although Councillor Brotherston will not be attending the meetings he continues, for the time being, to hold his seat on council. Council has discussed this issue and it is determined by legislation that it is up to a council member to determine if he/she wishes to step down or hold their seat. Council by resolution or at least 10 members of the members of the public can petition to have the seat declared vacant following a period of 4 missed council meetings or sixty days, whichever is greater. The legislation also provides Council the ability to grant a leave of absence to a council member for an extended period of time.

I must say that I am pleased but not at all surprised by the genuine outpouring of support and well wishes for both Ken and his family from so many in this community. Ken has been a good friend of mine over the years and has served this community tirelessly for the past 6 years as a councillor, not to mention the many decades his family and he have contributed to our community.

Council's thoughts and well wishes are extended to Ken and his family in these uncertain times.

*On behalf of himself and his family Councillor Brotherston would like to take this opportunity to thank the community for their overwhelming support during this difficult time. Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.*

**CONGRATULATIONS!** Volunteer Fire Chief Barry Ford reached a significant milestone celebrating 30 years as a volunteer firefighter and Chief of the District of Highlands Fire Department. On behalf of all residents, past and present, we thank you for serving our community.

### Council & Committee Meeting Schedule for July & August

Council Meetings: Mondays July 21<sup>st</sup> & August 18<sup>th</sup>

Committee of the Whole: As needed, non scheduled right now

Fiscal & Environment /Infrastructure/APC: None Scheduled

### 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

## Raising Social Awareness in the Highlands

A recent afternoon tea was touted as a big success when local residents gathered together to enjoy each other's company and to raise awareness for the plight of the homeless of Greater Victoria. The event was held at the Caleb Pike home of Tina and Tony Akhavan. Tina initiated the idea for guests to bring personal hygiene items to be donated to Streetlink.

The result was several large boxes of items which ultimately had to be delivered with the use of a dolly into the headquarters of Streetlink, to a very grateful employee who gave assurances that the downtown needy would be most appreciative.

Monthly socials are held at the home in the West Highlands and it is hoped that future social economic projects will be undertaken with the organizers encouraging and challenging other Highlands neighbourhoods to get together regularly for the purpose of community building and outreach. For future events please contact Tina at 391-9105 or Gail at 592-8710.

### 2008 Property Tax Notices Have Been Mailed Out

**\*\* due 4:30pm on Tuesday JULY 2, 2008 \*\***

Office Location 1980 Millstream Rd

*By now you should have received your 2008 Property Tax Notice by mail.* If not, please contact the municipal office at 474-1773 and we will be happy to reprint one for you. Remember Tuesday July 1 is a statutory holiday and our office will be closed.

### Payment Options:

- ❖ Interact ~New This Year~ you can now pay your taxes at our office with your *Debit Card*
- ❖ Cash or Cheque – also accepted at our municipal office
- ❖ Mail us a post-dated cheque to avoid a line up (please include roll # on cheque for reference).
- ❖ Drop off your Home Owner Grant (HOG) and/or Payment at the Municipal Office at 1980 Millstream Road, Victoria, BC, V9B 6H1 between 8:00am & 4:30pm or front door mailslot after hours (note: we are opened till 4:30pm in June only including due date). Remember, you can claim a HOG without making a

payment; this should be done every year before the due date to avoid a penalty on the HOG portion.

- ❖ Bank or Credit Union – to pay your property tax bill at your bank or credit, please present your tax notice to the bank teller along with your *completed* Home Owner Grant application (if eligible). Remember to sign your HOG and if over 65 include your date of birth. Your completed HOG will then be forwarded to our office for processing. However, if your property taxes are paid through your mortgage you *cannot* claim your HOG through your bank. Home Owner Grant applications should be mailed or dropped off at our office. Unfortunately we do not accept Credit card or online payments.

## Mount Work Regional Park Update

CRD Parks had a community consultation night receiving input on the incorporation of a large tract of land currently owned by the TLC and proposed to be transferred to CRD ownership as part of Mount Work Regional Park. The consultation went well and it is expected that the CRD Parks Committee will ratify the addition of parkland shortly. An additional parking area will be constructed off of the Munn Road entrance complete with washroom facilities.

## Highlands Youth Program

### SPRING PROGRAM

Friday evenings until June 27

6:30 to 8:30 pm Schoolhouse basement

Swimming June 20, meet at 5:30 back at 8:30 pm

### SUMMER PROGRAM

Wednesday evenings July 2<sup>nd</sup> to August 27<sup>th</sup>

Schoolhouse basement & Caleb Pike Park 6:30-8:30 pm

MOVIE NIGHT July 16<sup>th</sup>

SWIMMING August 10<sup>th</sup>

meet at 5:30 back at 8:30 pm

ages 5+ to 12+ come and join the fun

*Sponsored by: Highland Heritage Park Society and West Shore Parks & Rec.*

Any questions Amy 478-8384 ext 2261 or Bob 478-4403



## MARK YOU CALENDARS!

### 2008 GENERAL VOTING DAY Saturday, November 15, 2008

The Local Government Election for the offices of Mayor, Councillor and School Trustee will be held on **Saturday, November 15, 2008** (General Voting Day) from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Highland's West Fire Hall, 1564 Millstream Road.

The District of Highlands will use the Provincial List of Electors for voting purposes. To register or to ensure you are on the List, consult the Elections BC website at

[www.elections.bc.ca](http://www.elections.bc.ca) or call 387-5305. **Please be sure to register with Elections BC prior to July 10, 2008**, this way your name should appear on the List of Electors. If you miss this cut off, you may still register at the District of Highlands office until the close of advance registration, **September 23, 2008**. After the close of advance registration your only option will be to register on General Voting Day.

**More information regarding the 2008 General Voting Day will be included in the upcoming newsletter and information will also be posted on the District of Highlands website ([www.highland.ca](http://www.highland.ca)).**

## HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE SURVEY RESULTS

### *Highlanders survey shows support for community centre*

*Council would like to thank Highlanders for responding to the community centre survey. We received 81 survey responses, and 54 residents attended the Open House. We value all of your comments and suggestions. On the next page is a breakdown of survey responses provided by the Highlands Community Centre Task Force.*

The majority of survey respondents supported creating a community centre in the Highlands that would include a community hall, municipal offices, café and playing fields. The community centre is also intended to serve as an emergency shelter. Highlands currently has small meeting spaces in the heritage Caleb Pike House and School House, but no suitable space to hold large community meetings, social gatherings, cultural events and private functions, or indoor recreation and fitness activities.

As indicated in the earlier newsletter, a new municipal office could be a component of the community centre. This would provide additional office and storage space, and allow the community hall to provide some of the meeting space. Funding for the new municipal office could come from the sale of the present municipal office property and building. The majority of survey respondents believe that community centre development should be funded from grants, donated contributions from residents of labour, equipment, materials or professional services, and space rentals, while a minority (19%) supported municipal borrowing for the centre. A significant proportion of respondents (65%) were willing to make a voluntary contribution to building the community centre; 20% of respondents were willing to make a cash donation for a tax receipt.

Work will be proceeding this summer on the upgrading of the Twinflower Park soccer and baseball fields, with funding support from an Olympic Live Sites grant (\$150,000) and matching funding from the District budget. The fields will be laid out to allow future construction of community centre buildings to the south. Prior to building construction, the existing bike jump facility would be re-located to another area of Twinflower Park.

We are awaiting confirmation from the Province regarding our Towns for Tomorrow and Spirit Squares grant applications which would allow for a small museum at Caleb Pike Heritage Park to be built and for planning of the community centre to move forward. The survey sample indicates a wide base of support among Highlanders for a community centre, and a strong interest among residents in participating in its creation. Volunteer involvement is key to the success of this project. We look forward to your ongoing engagement through the public consultation process as plans evolve and more information is available, and we welcome your support in creating the Highlands community centre.

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## Survey Results

### 1. Do you support in principle the concept of a single location in the Highlands for a community hall, municipal offices, small cafe and sports playing fields?

Yes\_49\_(65%)\_ No\_26\_(35%)\_

Some of the “No” responses, and people who did not check “Yes” or “No” were supportive of one or more, but not all community centre components in a single location. If included, the proportion of “Yes” and conditional “Yes” responses is approximately 74%.

### 2. Would people in your family use the following;

- |                          |        |            |          |            |
|--------------------------|--------|------------|----------|------------|
| a. a community hall      | Likely | _56_(71%)_ | Unlikely | _23_(29%)_ |
| b. a small cafe          | Likely | _41_(53%)_ | Unlikely | _37_(47%)_ |
| c. sports playing fields | Likely | _23_(32%)_ | Unlikely | _49_(68%)_ |

The greatest support was for a community hall. Some people were concerned about how a café would be operated, and a number of residents stated that they no longer had children at home, but supported sports fields in principle.

### 3. Where do you believe a community centre should be located? Please circle

- |                                |               |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| a. Twinflower Park             | 44 (77%)      |
| b. Other site (please specify) | 13_(23%)_____ |

Other suggestions included locations between the east and west Highlands, and locations further south in the Highlands.

### 4. How do you think community centre development should be funded? Please circle all that you favour.

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| a. federal / provincial grants                             | 58 (72%)      |
| b. donated contributions of labour equipment and materials | 51 (63%)      |
| c. cost recovery (tenants pay rent)                        | 48 (59%)      |
| d. municipal borrowing                                     | 15 (19%)      |
| e. amenities   | 30 (37%)      |
| f. other (please specify)                                  | 13 (16%)_____ |

Other funding suggestions were community fundraising, West Shore Parks & Recreation, lottery, and foundations & corporate sponsors. A significant proportion of respondents supported donations of labour, equipment and materials. Only a minority of people supported municipal borrowing for the centre.

### 5. Would you be willing to make a voluntary contribution to the community centre in any of the following ways? Please circle those that you would consider.

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| a. labour  | 26 (32%)    |
| b. materials                                       | 6 (7%)      |
| c. equipment                                       | 6 (7%)      |
| d. trade or professional services (please specify) | 5 (6%)_____ |
| e. cash contribution for a tax receipt             | 16 (20%)    |
| f. volunteer co-ordination                         | 21 (26%)    |
| g. fundraising co-ordination                       | 7 (9%)      |
| h. other (please specify)                          | 7 (9%)_____ |

Trade and professional services included engineering, site planning, environmental assessment, sustainability consulting, landscape and irrigation services, promotion planning and sponsorship, and project management.

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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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