



Highlands News

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR JANE MENDUM

Welcome to the May issue of the Highlands News. The annual budget process is nearly complete, and council expects to adopt the five year plan at a special council meeting on May 11th. Detailed draft documents can be found on the district website under 'agendas'.

Recognition goes to staff, who have skillfully produced working drafts reflective of both council's priorities and the community's needs.

Council members recently attended the annual Highlands Volunteer Fire Department awards ceremony, where Chief Ford received his 30 year service bars from the federal government, and firefighters were recognized for their years of service to Highlands and their training accomplishments. Highlands firefighters work hard to help keep Highlands safe, and Council thanks each of you and your families for your dedication to our community. If you would like to join this valuable community service, please contact Chief Ford, as resident volunteers are actively being sought.

With the improved weather, Highlanders are once again concerned with the issue of racing motorcycles on local roads. Council members are seeking solutions, and ask that you contact the Westshore RCMP when appropriate, in addition to contacting council if you share this concern.

Watch for an upcoming community forum on Wildfire, and for a public meeting opportunity to learn more about the Millstream Meadows remediation plan. As always, please check the district website regularly for updated announcements and information.

Mayor Jane Mendum

HDCA EASTER EGG HUNT



With a brief break in the wet weather, the annual Highlands Easter Egg Hunt was a well attended event.

Thanks to all who participated!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- *Community Calendar—something for everyone*
- *Council and Land Application updates*
- *Property Tax News*
- *Community Clean Up of Highlands Public Lands*
- *Highlands Market News*

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS

The District of Highlands requires two (2) volunteers to serve on the Advisory Planning Commission for a two year term. APC advises Council on matters respecting land use, community planning or proposed bylaws and permits. The APC meets as required.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

This month's volunteers are all those who helped with the Highlands Annual Broom Bash in April. Many thanks to the hard-working volunteers who gathered up just over one tonne of Scotch broom and gorse, and to Highwest Recycling for accepting all the broom and gorse for burning.



Thank you for helping to sweep the
Highlands clean of broom!

The Highlands News—MAY 2009

District of Highlands Council Newsletter
1980 Millstream Road, Victoria, BC
Phone: 250-474-1773/ Fax: 250-474-3677

Tax News – 2009 Taxes Due July 2, 2009



PROPERTY Tax Notices will be mailed out at the **end of May**. This year's due date is 4:30pm on July 2, 2009. Please note:

Regular Office hours are 8:30am to 4:00pm, however, for your convenience the office will remain open until 4:30pm June 29, 30, (July 1 Canada Day office closed) and July 2. After July 2, any outstanding 2009 (current) property tax amount is subject to a 5% penalty. Another 5% penalty will be applied after 4:00pm on September 1, 2009. Any outstanding arrears and delinquent taxes accrue daily interest at a % set by the province.

MAILING ADDRESS

If you have moved or bought your property this year, please ensure that the District has your current mailing address before the end of May by calling the Municipal Office at 250-474-1773.

PAYMENT

The municipal office does accept debit card payments, however, please be aware of what your debit transaction limit is. Your debit transaction may be denied if you have not contacted your bank to arrange for a large amount, such as your property taxes, to be debited from your account. You can still pay by cash, cheque, or postdated -cheque (please include roll# on cheque for reference). However, we do not yet accept on-line payments or credit cards.

You may also pay your property taxes at your bank or credit union. Your financial institution will require the

your payment and will accept Home Owner Grant applications only if accompanied by a payment.

THE HOME OWNER GRANT MUST BE COMPLETED EVERY YEAR!

If eligible, please claim your Home Owner Grant (HOG) by completing the reverse side of the property tax notice and dropping by our office or mailing in at 1980 Millstream Rd, Victoria, BC, V9B 6H1. We also have a mail slot in the front door. *If not claimed by the due date, the HOG portion is subject to penalties.* You do not need to make a payment to claim your HOG.

NEW FOR 2009

No Increase in *Threshold* for HOG Phase-out. For properties assessed at \$1,050,000 (threshold) and above, the HOG is reduced by \$5 for each \$1,000 of assessed value in excess of the threshold. The basic grant (\$570) is therefore eliminated or phased-out on properties assessed at \$1,164,000+ and the additional grant (\$845 for seniors, veterans and persons with disability) is eliminated on properties assessed at \$1,219,000+. For more information on the Home Owner Grant (HOG) Program please go to www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/hog.

ADDITIONAL HOME OWNER GRANT EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY TO LOW-INCOME SENIORS, VETERANS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Continuing from 2007, the home owner grant is provided to some low-

income home owners and occupants who did not qualify for the additional grant because their property exceeded the assessed threshold value.

How it works....once the eligible home owner has received their property tax notice, fill out and mail/bring in your HOG application to our office before the due date. If that home owner meets the low-income criteria, he/she should then contact the Provincial government to claim the remainder of the decreased (or phased-out) HOG. Details about income eligibility can be found at www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/hog (Additional Grant) and (Forms) to download FIN 65 *Application for Home Owner Grant Low Income Supplement Program* or by calling 250-356-8904.

TEMPORARY FINANCIAL HARDSHIP PROPERTY TAX DEFERMENT PROGRAM

In light of recent global economic events, the provincial government recently announced amendments to the *Land Tax Deferral Act* creating a new temporary program which will allow eligible home owners facing financial hardship, and who have at least 15 per cent equity in their homes, to defer their 2009/2010 property taxes. Details for applying and eligibility requirements will be made available on the following website starting in May 2009 http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/individuals/Property_Taxes/Property_Tax_Deferral/ptd.htm or at 250-387-6121.

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

2009 Council Meeting Schedule

May—4th and 19th
June—1st and 15th
July—13th
August—17th
September—8th and 28th
October—5th and 19th
November—2nd and 16th
December—7th and 21st

HDCA ANNUAL ROADSIDE CLEANUP

Mission: Cleanup of litter and garbage items from main roadside and municipal parks within Highlands

When: **Saturday, May 2, 9am to 1pm ("POT LUCK" breakfast, 9-9:30am)**

Where: Caleb Pike House, 1589 Millstream Road

Information: contact Marcie McLean at: 250-474-4725

Organized by Highland District Community Association

Council and Community News

Funding Requests

Council has approved requests for funding for:

The Capital Regional District Pesticide Education Program	\$500
Fort Rodd Hill and Fisgard Lighthouse Canada Day Celebration ----	\$250
848 (Royal Roads) Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron	\$500
RCMP Crime Prevention and Bike Patrol	\$1500
1/4 page full colour advertisement in the Legion Military Service Recognition Book	\$575

Funds will come from the grants-in-aid fund, since applications for grants-in-aid totaled well below the budgeted fund amount.

Upgrades to Mount Work Park Entrance

CRD Parks Department has informed Council that it is working on a project to upgrade the south entrance (Munn Road) to Mount Work Regional Park and the parking lot. Included in the plan are additional parking, an information kiosk, toilet building and portal sign. The project is expected to be completed this year. Parks staff will be scheduling a presentation about the project for a future Council meeting. For more info: www.crd.bc/parks or phone 250 360 3354.

Highlands Sustainability Task Force

The Highlands Sustainability Task Force held its first meeting on March 26 and appointed Andrew Fall chair, and Eric Bonham co-chair. The

task force was created by council to provide input on issues related to sustainability within our community. The task force will deliver an interim report to council in three months, and a final report in six months. A key goal of the task force is to develop recommendations for sustainability initiatives for consideration by council and/or the community. Transportation, local food, climate change, energy and water conservation and building practice are some of the topics to be examined by members of the task force.

A very full second meeting was held on April 21, with a presentation from Sustainability Facilitator Angela Evans from the Fraser Basin Council's **Smart Planning for Communities program**. Task force Chair Andrew Fall gave a presentation on fossil fuels and green house gases, and member Anne Baird examined a policy concept for encouraging energy and resource conservation at the local level.

Task Force members were drawn from key community organizations and committees to build linkages within the community. If you have issues, ideas or concerns related to sustainability in the Highlands, please do not hesitate to contact one of the task force members, or a member of council.

Task Force Members:

Ann Baird, Highland District Community Association
Eric Bonham, Ground Water Task Force; vice-chair
Allen Dobb, Council representative

Task Force Members continued.....

Andrew Fall, Community representative; chair
Bob Flitton, Community Infrastructure Select Committee
Warren Lee, Highlands Stewardship Foundation
Dave Mackas, Community representative
Bob McMinn, Community Centre Task Force
Greg Nuk, Fiscal and Environment Select Committee



COFFEE HOUSE NEWS

PLEASE NOTE THAT FOR MAY ONLY, the Coffee House will be held on

Saturday, May 2nd for a special event to celebrate the arts and talents of young people in Highlands and their friends.

Inviting all youth, (toddlers to age 18) in Highlands and their friends—come and share your talents!

- sing a song, play a musical instrument, perform a dance, talk about your art work (painting, statue, pottery, furniture or dress making,...), share a joke, recite a poem, or other talents

Please call Zhinoos Armstrong at 727-9561 to let us know what kinds of talents you will be sharing.

Date: Saturday May 2nd, 2009

Time: 7:00 pm (doors will open at 6:30 pm)
(please note the time)

Place: Caleb Pike House, 1589 Millstream Road

Charges: Free, everyone welcome



WATCH FOR THE POSTERS AT THE COMMUNITY MAILBOX BOARDS!

RCMP INCIDENTS March 16 to April 15, 2009

March

16th - Mental Health Act - Finlayson Arm Rd
16th - False Alarm - Industrial Way
17th - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Lost Lake Rd/Millstream Rd
17th - False Alarm - Industrial Way
17th - Cause A Disturbance - Blacktail Rd
20th - False Alarm - Industrial Way/Millstream
21st - 911-False/Abandoned Call - Ross Durrance/Willis Point
21st - Suspicious Pers/Veh/Occur - Industrial Way
23rd - Collision Damage Over \$1000 - Millstream Rd
25th - Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Munn/Millstream Lake Rd
25th - Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Millstream/Millstream Lake
26th - Abandoned Vehicles - Finlayson Arm/Millstream
28th - Mischief \$5000 or Under - Ross Durrance/Willis Point
28th - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Millstream Rd
29th - Cause a Disturbance - Millstream Lake Rd
30th - Mischief \$5000 or Under - Millstream Rd/Lorimer Rd
30th - Bylaw-Other - Millstream Rd/Lost Lake Rd

April

02nd - False Alarm - Talon Ridge
08th - 911-False/Abandoned Call - Duggan Pl
09th - False Alarm - Southwood Dr
10th - False Alarm - Blue Valley Rd
13th - Impaired Operation Motor Veh - Ross Durrance Rd
13th - Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Millstream Lake Rd
15th - False Alarm - Industrial Way
15th - Sexual Assault - Millstream Rd

THE HIGHLANDS MARKET season 2009 begins on Saturday, May 31, from 10am to 1pm at Pike House. This will be your chance to replenish your store of wonderful home-made jams, jellies and canned goods, buy some baked goods, find bedding plants for the garden or a bouquet to take home, and discover fine handmade crafts. Come Join Us!



Info: Leslie at 250-474-3453
When: Sunday, May, 31st - 10am to 1pm
Where: Caleb Pike House

Buyers and sellers welcome

HIGHLANDS YOUTH PROGRAM

School house basement, Ages 6 and up welcome

The Highlands Youth Program continues through May, Fridays from 6:30—8:30pm. Details of special nights are not available at press time.

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

Contacts:

Mayor Jane Mendum—jmendum@highlands.ca
250-478-9449, 250-893-9440

Councillor Allen Dobb—allendobb@telus.net
250-391-3998/ Website: allendobb.ca

Councillor Diane Gill—randdgill@telus.net
250-391-8928

Councillor Sigurd Johannesen—Sigurd.johannesen@shaw.ca
250-514-1880

Councillor Marcie McLean—marciemclean@shaw.ca
250-474-4725

Councillor Karel Roessingh—karel@roessong.com
250-727-9808

Councillor Ken Williams—kgwmaya@shaw.ca
250-479-7497

Fire Chief Barry Ford—b.v.ford@shaw.ca
250-479-5741

Emergency Coordinator Val Fletcher—val.fletcher@shaw.ca
250-479-1725

CRD Bylaw Enforcement—250-474-3351

Animal Control (24 hrs) - 250-478-0624

CRD Parks—250-474-2264

Wildlife Violations—1-800-663-WILD (9453)

Victoria Highway Maintenance 250-474-2688 / M - F

If you would like an electronic copy of the Highlands News please visit the district website's homepage: highlands.ca

BIKE RACES Continue

Council has approved eight cycling events, held by the Schwalbe Cycling Club, for the Millstream Road/Caleb Pike loop.

May schedule is as follows:

May 6 and 27 —5:30 to 8:00 pm

MAY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FRIDAYS 6:30-8:30pm, Youth Program*, School House

May 1 & 15 CRD Recycling pickup

May 2 Highlands Coffee House*, Pike House, 7:30pm

May 2 HDCA Roadside Cleanup*, Pike House, 9-9:30am

May 4 & 19 Regular Council Meeting**, School House, 7pm

May 6 Fiscal and Environmental Meeting— Pike House, 7:30 pm

May 11 Committee of the Whole**, School House 7pm

May 12 Garden Group*, School House, 7pm

May 27 Community Infrastructure and Services Meeting,
School House, 7:30pm

May 31 Highlands Market*—Pike House, 10-1pm

*details elsewhere in the Newsletter

**please visit the district website, highlands.ca for detailed agenda information in advance of meetings



'Beautiful Rocks', a fascinating book about the history of Highlands, is available at the municipal office for \$29.95, or phone