



Highlands News



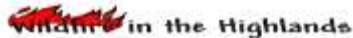
Photo credit: Allen Dobb

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH



Council would like to recognize and thank all those who participated in the annual Highlands Community Clean-Up of Public Lands. Thanks for marching up and down the roadsides, picking up unwanted items for recycling, reuse, or disposal, and making the Highlands a much neater and cleaner community! Special thanks to Eric Stade for taking away all the metals at no charge. Well done, all!

WILDFIRE FORUM



TIME: 7- 9 pm

JUNE 2: West Fire Hall - 1564 Millstream Road

JUNE 4: East Fire Hall - 3613 Woodridge Place

In the event of a wildfire in our Highlands your family's well-being will correspond directly to how informed everyone is on what to do! PLEASE ATTEND. It might save your life or contribute to the protection of your property.

The district's Emergency Program Coordinator, in partnership with the Highland District Community Association and the Highlands Volunteer Firefighters, will present important information regarding wildfire risk and response, and will introduce the newly-created Evacuation Plan.

Everyone is welcome: come join the discussion regarding this important topic.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Council updates (Millstream Meadows, Soil Deposit Bylaw, 2008 Property Taxes, Mt. Work Parking Lot Plans)
- Water Conservation Measures
- Update on Highwest Curtain Burner
- Community Calendar—something for everyone
- Highlands Market News

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Council has appointed Bessie Nuk and Susan Leslie to the Community Centre Task Force. Current members are: Michael Bocking (chair), Bob Flitton, Verna Ford, Bob McMinn, Ellie Rayner, Rachael Sansom, and Gord Baird, and the Council Liaison is Councillor Marcie McLean.

Appointed by Council to the Advisory Planning Commission are Rick Lester and Allan Roger, joining current members Ellie Rayner (chair), Colleen Robertson (vice chair), Mara Dhillon, Honora Johannesen, and Fred York. Councillor Marcie McLean serves as Council Liaison and Councillor Ken Williams serves as alternate.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

June will be a busy month in Highlands - check the community calendar on the back page for dates you won't want to miss! Two wildfire forums launch the district's new evacuation plans, an important community safety initiative. Do you have questions about the Millstream Meadows contaminated site remediation? Plan to attend the upcoming information session. Join us as we learn about and celebrate the spectacular Highlands Green Map, a gift to Highlanders created by a diverse group of dedicated and talented folk. Residents have a unique opportunity to observe or assist the construction of the cob washroom facility at Eagles Lake, planned to **start this month. Watch the district's website for details.**

The new ball field at Twinflower is expected to be ready for action in September, at earliest. Confirmation will be posted in a future edition of this newsletter.

In response to numerous complaints from residents concerning the racing motorcycle situation, Westshore RCMP are enforcing speed limits in Highlands. Speeds up to 200 km/h have been documented by sport bike riders on Highlands roads, creating unacceptable risk to our community. Council wants you to be aware and to stay safe.

As the dry season approaches, we remind everyone to practice fire prevention. Residents may check the current restrictions and conditions online at <highlands.ca> and are welcome to phone the Fire Chief for clarification, (contact info on back page).

Council members look forward to seeing you at the June events.

Mayor Jane Mendum

The Highlands News — JUNE 2009

District of Highlands Council Newsletter
1980 Millstream Road, Victoria, BC V9B 6H1
Phone: 250-474-1773/ Fax: 250-474-3677

Community News

WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR YOUR HOME

Your plants are thirsty, the kids want to play in the sprinkler and your lawn is brown.....

Welcome to Summer!!

Here are some suggestions to conserve water use during our hot, dry weather:

Showering: Reduce your shower time. Shortening it from 10 minutes to 5 minutes or less while using 9.5 litres/minute shower head will save 40 litres of water each time. Turn the water off while you lather.

Washing Machines: Use anywhere between 100 to 200 liters/load. Operate at full capacity and/or if your machine has a "sud-saver" feature be sure to use it, as it reuses the clean rinse water in the next load.

Lawns: Lawns need only 25 millimetres (1 inch) of water per week, including rain. Longer, infrequent watering will help to develop deeper, healthier roots. Keep your grass two to two and half inches high and you will help the soil retain moisture and reduce evaporation from sunlight and wind.

Gardens: Mulching around plants reduces the number of weeds (which compete for water) and conserves soil moisture and moderates soil temperatures. The recommended depth for mulches is 2 to 4 inches (5 to 10 cm). Good mulches are straw, leaf, bark, gravel or wood chips.



Reference: <http://www.crd.bc.ca/water/conservation/index.htm>

BIKE RACES Continue

Council has approved eight cycling events for 2009, held by the Schwalbe Cycling Club, for the Millstream Road/Caleb Pike loop. May schedule is as follows:

June 17 —5:30 to 8:00 pm

WATCH FOR...

District staff have been busy preparing the following inserts for inclusion with the tax notices: well water advice, a copy of the 5 year financial plan, (complete

with explanatory notes), and a nomination form accompanying the district's volunteer recognition policy. If you are not a property owner but would like to access these documents, copies are available online at <highlands.ca> or at the district office.

HIGHLANDS GREEN MAP DEBUT

Come celebrate the publication of the Highlands Community Green Map on Sunday, June 21, 3-5 pm, at both the Caleb Pike House and the School House. Meet the Mapping Group and enjoy music by our local musicians. Pick up a copy of the map, if one was not delivered to your house. This map is a tribute to the wilderness and loveliness that is the Highlands and to the people who live there.



EAGLES LAKE COMPOSTING TOILET

Construction of the first ever public composting toilet in B.C. is set to begin in June, with construction expected to take about six weeks. The design of the toilet has been adapted from the home model of Ann and Gord Baird, owner-builders of Eco-Sense, their green and sustainable home in the Highlands.

The Bairds will oversee construction of the toilet, which will feature cob construction and a living roof, will save water, and will eliminate the need for the portable toilet rented in past summers for the municipal park. Opportunities to observe construction highlights or take part in the work will be posted online at <highlands.ca>.

DID YOU KNOW?

The CRD maintains a recycling directory that contains information on how and where to recycle almost everything!

Check it out at: <http://crd.bc.ca/waste/recycle/directory/default.aspx>



REMINDER: PROPERTY TAXES

Attention property owners. Your tax notice will be mailed out at the end of May. This year's due date is Thursday, July 2nd by 4:30 pm. Please note: regular office hours are 8:30 - 4:00 pm, Monday to Friday. For your convenience, the office will be open until 4:30 pm on Monday June 29th, Tuesday June 30th, and Thursday July 2nd. The office will be closed on Wednesday, July 1st, for Canada Day.

Please note that after July 2nd, any outstanding 2009 (current) property tax amount is subject to a 5% penalty. Another 5% penalty will be applied after 4:00 pm on September 1, 2009. Any outstanding arrears and delinquent taxes accrue daily interest at a % set by the province.

HIGHWEST CURTAIN BURNER EXTINGUISHED

On May 21st, the curtain burner was lit for the very last time at the Highwest Recyclers property located at 1943 Millstream Road. In accordance with the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan, the curtain burner on the Highwest property has ceased to operate after decades of use. The burner has been used for disposing of clean wood waste and has been included in the SWMP since 1995.

2009 Council Meeting Schedule

June—1st and 15th

July—13th

August—17th

September—8th and 28th

October—5th and 19th

November—2nd and 16th

December—7th and 21st

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

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

Thank You!

visit the district website: highlands.ca

Council and Community News

MILLSTREAM MEADOWS

The CRD is proceeding with the cleanup of Millstream Meadows, with the CRD board voting to fill in the portion already cleaned up and to consider options for the remainder of the contaminated areas. The Highlands Groundwater Task Force will be meeting with consultants Golder and Associates and CRD staff to find out more about the clean-up process and proposed next steps.

A public information session with Golder and CRD staff will be held on Tuesday, June 9th, (please see the calendar), so that interested Highlanders may learn about the 2009 work plan, and have their questions and concerns addressed. Everyone is welcome to attend.

In separate but related news, the CRD Environment committee is establishing a subcommittee to review the 2008 cost sharing formula for the site cleanup, consisting of one council member from each of the **region's municipalities plus the electoral area**. The initiative is in response to concerns that the current formula, based on the estimated **number of septic systems in service during the lagoon's history**, may be inaccurate and/or unfair.

SOIL DEPOSIT BYLAW

Council has been presented with a draft new soil deposit bylaw. Revision of the 1987 bylaw inherited from the CRD has long been identified by Highlands Councils in strategic planning, and concerns about the impacts of soil deposit and removal on property and infrastructure have long been expressed. The thorough and excellent review was carried out by intern Maureen Connelly in 2008, working in a legislative internship program sponsored by the Local Government Management Association.

Council has referred the draft bylaw to its advisory committees for study and comment, and will hold a committee-of-the-whole meeting in the fall to discuss committee recommendations.

Further notice of the meeting will be published in this newsletter, so that residents can attend and provide comment. You can find the bylaw and staff reports in the May 19th Council agenda, posted on the <highlands.ca> website.

2008 AUDIT, 2009 BUDGET AND PROPERTY TAXES

KPMG representative Wanda Farrant presented the audited financial statements and audit report to Council on May 19th, and our financial health looks better than ever! At the end of 2008 Highlands fund balances totaled \$1.1 million, with just over \$600,000 in reserves. Revenues exceeded expenditures by \$100,000, and the budget included a \$436,000 surplus, meeting the widely-recognized target of 25% of the total municipal budget.

For the 12th consecutive year, Highlands Council has not raised the municipal portion of property taxes. A full explanation of the budget will be sent out with the property taxes.

Highlands Council was pleased to increase funding to the CRD Regional Arts from \$500 to \$1000 annually - about 50 cents per resident, in recognition that Highlanders participate in and enjoy regional arts events and an indication that Council would like to contribute to regional arts organizations' well-being.

JUNE 6TH IS ACCESS AWARENESS DAY

Highlands Council has declared June 6th, 2009, as Access Awareness Day in the district.

MOUNT WORK PARKING LOT PLANS

CRD Parks is scheduled to present their draft plans for improvement to the Mount Work parking lot, located on Munn Road, at the June 15th council meeting, (see calendar).

Please check the council agenda, (published on the **Friday before each meeting**), on the district's website for confirmation of this presentation.



COFFEE HOUSE NEWS

Last month we had a delightful Coffee House focused on celebrating arts and talents of the young people in Highlands. A big thanks go to all who helped, and to each of the talented, fabulous young performers of our community and their friends. Looking forward to the next year's celebration!

For June, Highlands' Coffee House will feature the Mufaro Marimba Band

Mufaro band plays mostly traditional pieces arranged for Marimba, as well as some contemporary tunes. The music is happy, fun-to-play polyrhythmic parts that fit together like a puzzle, and really make you want to move! The instruments are handmade wooden marimbas consisting of three sopranos, two tenors, one baritone, and a big bass that you need to climb up on a platform to play, and "Hosho" shakers.

Make sure to come and bring all the family members and friends too for an enjoyable evening of entertainment.

We will also have a brief open stage presenting further talented musicians.

Please call Zhinoos Armstrong at 727-9561 for more information.

Date: Saturday, June 13, 2009

Time: 7:30 pm (doors will open at 7:00 pm)

Place: Caleb Pike House, 1589 Millstream Road

Charges: Minimum recommended donation \$5/ person (honorary system), 15 and under free, includes tea/coffee & goodies



RCMP INCIDENTS

April 16 to May 15, 2009

April

16th - Traffic-Other moving Provincial - Millstream/Caleb Pike
 16th - Impaired Operation of Motor Vehicle - Munn Rd
 17th - Theft-Other Under \$5000 - Munn Rd
 18th - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Ross Durrance Rd
 18th - Trespass at Night - Crestwood Crt
 19th - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Ross Durrance Rd
 19th - Collision-Damage Under \$1000 - Willis Point Rd
 19th - Animal Calls - Finlayson Arm Rd
 20th - Property Lost - Stewart Mountain Rd
 20th - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Munn Rd
 23rd - Missing Persons - West Highlands
 25th - Breach of Peace - West Highlands
 27th - Trespass At Night - Industrial Way
 28th - Breach Bail Violations - Central Highlands
 28th - Harass/Obscene Phone Call - East Highlands
 29th - Break & Enter Residence - Millstream Rd
 29th - Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Millstream/Lost Lake Rd
 29th - Theft-Other Over \$5000 - Talon Ridge

May

03rd - Abandoned Vehicle - Millstream Rd
 04th - Theft Motorcycle Under \$5000 - Munn Rd/Millstream Lk
 04th - Animal Calls - Millstream Rd
 05th - Mischief \$5000 or Under - Woodridge Pl
 05th - Collision-Damage Over \$1000-Millstream Lk/Ross Durrance
 08th - Suspicious Pers/Veh/Occur - Millstream Rd/River Rd
 11th - Suspicious Pers/Veh/Occur - Hazlitt Creek Rd
 12th - Traffic Other Moving Prov - Millstream Lake Rd
 13th - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Millstream/Finlayson Arm
 13th - Assault-Common or Trespass - West Highlands

THE HIGHLANDS MARKET season 2009 begins on Sunday, May 31, from 10am to 1pm at Pike House. This will be your chance to replenish your store of wonderful homemade 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



HIGHLANDS YOUTH PROGRAM

School house basement, Ages 6 and up welcome

The Highlands Youth Program continues through June, Fridays from 6:30—8:30pm. Please note, at press time, the June 19th program is scheduled to begin at 6 pm. For more information, please phone:

Amy at 250 474-2847 or Bob at 250 478-4403

Contacts:

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

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

District of Highlands Office—250-474-1773
 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)

JUNE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- June 1 Regular Council Meeting**, School House, 7 pm
- June 2 Wildfire Forum*, West Fire Hall, 7-9 pm
- June 3 Fiscal and Environmental Meeting, Pike House, 7:30 pm
- June 4 Wildfire Forum*, East Fire Hall, 7-9 pm
- June 5, 12, 26 Youth Program*, School House, 6:30-8:30 pm
- June 8 Committee of the Whole**, School House 7 pm
- June 9 Highlands Garden Group*, Pike House, 7 pm
- June 9 Millstream Meadows Info Session*, School House, 7 pm
- June 12 CRD Recycling bluebox pickup
- June 13 Highlands Coffee House*, Pike House, 7:30 pm
- June 15 Regular Council Meeting**, School House, 7 pm
- June 19 Youth Program*, School House, 6:00-8:30 pm
- June 21 Highlands Green Map Celebration*, School House & Pike House, 3-5 pm
- June 23 Sustainability Task Force Meeting, Pike House, 7 pm
- June 24 Community Infrastructure and Services Meeting, School House, 7:30 pm
- June 26 CRD Recycling bluebox pickup
- June 28 Highlands Market*, Pike House, 10 am -1 pm

**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 Daphne Allen, 250-478-7338