



# Highlands News



Councillor Ken Williams, pictured L to R with St. John Ambulance staff Div. Supt. George Hammond, Kyle Gillespie, and Leanne Woods, proudly flies the Highlands flag at the Canada Day celebrations at Fort Rodd Hill.  
PHOTO CREDIT: Lorie Hall

**MAYOR'S MESSAGE** Last week's roadside fire highlights the priority of boosting our volunteer fire department numbers. Although the department provided an astounding response, fewer firefighters means more responsibility for those that serve. Council urges residents to consider applying for membership; serving the community in this capacity has valuable benefits for both the Highlands community and department members. Training takes place once per week at the fire halls on Thursday evenings commencing at 6:30 pm. We invite you to contact the **Fire Chief and make arrangements to stop by and see if it's for you.**

Meanwhile, the district encourages residents and Highlands visitors to continue to be diligent regarding fire prevention. Additionally, while the risk of fire is rated at high or extreme, if you are planning to run equipment or machinery in or near at-risk areas, you are asked to contact the Fire Chief for guidance regarding reducing the risk of fire ahead of time.

August looks to be a quieter month for council, with just one scheduled council meeting. We do hope our committee members are finding time to recharge, as we anticipate that September will lead into a busy few months! Plan to attend the Fling in September, and watch for a number of invitations for residents to provide input on various topics in the fall.

Until then, we wish you a happy August!

Mayor Jane Mendum

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Community Calendar
- Water concerns
- Wanted! Additional Fire Department members



**2009 PROPERTY TAXES REMINDER**—This is a reminder that as of 4:00pm September 1, 2009 an additional 5% penalty will be added to any outstanding 2009 property taxes.

Outstanding taxes that are in arrears (1 year overdue) and delinquent (2 years overdue) will continue to accrue daily interest at a rate set by the province.

If you have any questions regarding your taxes, please contact our office at 250-474-1773. Please note our office hours 8:30am to 4:00pm, Monday to Friday.

This summer we've been seeing unprecedented heat and drought conditions, and the danger of fire is **EXTREME**. If you see or smell smoke or any other signs of fire, **PLEASE CALL 9-1-1 IMMEDIATELY.**

Your call will be routed to the appropriate department. This will be much quicker and more effective than calling the municipal office. If you'd like information about road closures and power outages, then call the office.



**Millstream Lake Road Grass Fire** On Wednesday, July 29, at about noon, a grass fire broke out on Millstream Lake Road near Davies Road under the transmission lines. Responders included 15 members of the Highlands Fire Department, (most of **whom left work to fight the fire**), **six members of Langford's** Volunteer Fire Department, and a BC Forest Protection Officer from Cobble Hill who arrived via helicopter.

Thanks to an observant passer-by, the impressively quick response, and the adept skills of our firefighters, the 30m by 30m fire was fully contained within a short time.

**The district's Emergency Coordinator, Val Fletcher, was also on site.** He ensured the firefighters stayed hydrated as they worked through one of the hottest days of the year, and kept district staff and the public informed regarding road closures, the power outage, and evacuations.

The fire is suspected to have been started by a discarded cigarette.

# Community News

**Return of the Fling!** The popular Highland Fling, our annual community get together, is set to return September 13<sup>th</sup> from noon to 4:00pm at the Pike House, preceded by a community ball game across the street at Twinflower Park, commencing at 10:30am. The event will also feature a talent show with performances by our talented Highland youth..

*Mark September 13<sup>th</sup> on your calendar!*

For more information call Scott Richardson @250-478-2526 or Sheila Taylor @ 250-474-1685.

*\*further information on page 4*

**EAGLE'S LAKE PARKING ISSUES** Visitors to Eagle's Lake have reached unprecedented numbers this summer, creating local parking challenges. The district is looking at options to manage parking in the area; meanwhile, visitors can assist by being mindful of leaving clear access to driveways, Eagles Lake Road, the dry hydrant, and the fire hall while they are enjoying the lake.



**WATER CONSERVATION** This year's historically low water table and extended lack of precipitation is causing water concerns in rural communities throughout Vancouver Island, including Highlands. As all

Highlands residents rely on ground or surface water to run their households, it is an important time to find ways to reduce water consumption to help ensure quantity and quality remain viable until recharge occurs during winter.

For tips on water conservation, residents can find plenty of information on the internet. Locally, the Capital Regional District has a number of documents which provide ideas and solutions for **reducing water consumption. To access the CRD's materials, phone 250-360-3000, or visit online at <crd.bc.ca> (type 'water tips' into site search bar).**

The provincial government hosts a Living Water Smart program that includes an online home assessment and other helpful information. Navigate to <livingwatersmart.ca> to learn more.



*The Vancouver Island Health Authority recommends that you test your drinking water for quality on a regular basis. Both MB Labs and Cantest Labs are government approved water testing providers, and are listed in the Victoria area yellow pages. There is a fee for service.*

## TWINFLOWER PARK VANDALISM - WHY?

*You only have to phone and I will be glad to show you what's inside!*

Inside the shed or pump house are the pressure tank for the well and the sensitive electronic controls for the irrigation system. When damage occurs, repairs cost Highlands taxpayers money.

If anyone knows who is damaging the pump house beside the bicycle jump park, would you kindly suggest to them that repairs cost money and we don't need extra expenses on a facility that is for the benefit of Highlands residents, especially for our young people. *Phone me at (250) 478-4403 and I will meet you at the pump house to show you what is inside.* We also do not need graffiti on the outside.

I would like to thank the jump park users for going around the field and not disturbing the reseeding. It is anticipated that the field will be ready for use in mid September. Thank you for your cooperation. Bob McMinn

**Editor's note: Mr. Bob McMinn is Chair of the Highland Park and Recreation Association, which manages Twinflower Park on behalf of the district. He spends much of his days doing volunteer work for the benefit of the community, especially on behalf of Highlands youth.**

*Thank you, Bob!*



*Inside the pump house at Twinflower Park*

**MOUNT WORK REGIONAL PARK  
MUNN ROAD PARKING LOT  
IMPROVEMENTS** CRD Regional Parks staff will present final plans for the Mount Work Munn Road parking lot upgrades to the District of Highlands Council on Monday, August 17th. For more information visit :  
<http://www.crd.bc.ca/parks/mountwork/>



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



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

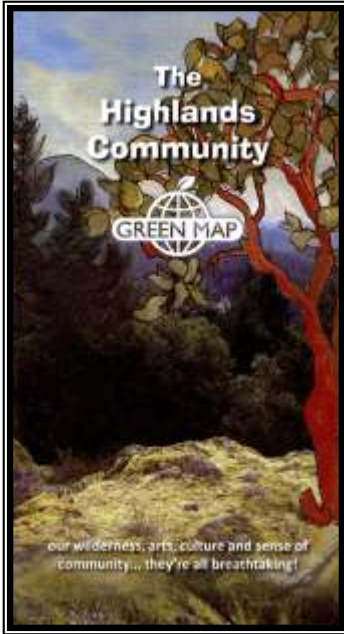
*Thank You!*

## 2009 Council Meeting Schedule

August—17th  
September—8th and 28th  
October—5th and 19th  
November—2nd and 16th  
December—7th and 21st

visit the district website: [highlands.ca](http://highlands.ca)

# Council News



## Highlands Community Green Map Banner

At its regular meeting on July 13th, Council was presented with a banner by Elaine Limbrick, representing the Highlands Green Mapping Group. The beautiful banner, a gift from the West Shore Arts Council, depicts the Highlands Green Map, and will hang in the Old School House.

A reminder that a copy of the Green Map is available for Highland residents and can be picked up from the District Office.

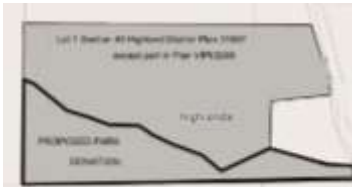
**Siphon Pipe** - Council has approved a request from Langford Council for the installation of a "tight" sewer pipe along a portion of Hanington Road. The previous Council had already approved much of the route, but a small section (160 metres) of Hanington Road had been left out, and without Council approval the pipe would have had to cross private property for completion, a crossing which would, according to a consultant's report, have necessitated the removal of 137 trees in Highlands. Council has requested that staff consult the builders to form a work plan that would inconvenience Highlanders as little as possible, including provisions to work only nights and weekends, and formulation of a traffic management plan.

**Eagles Lake Cob Washroom**—The cob composting toilet at Eagles Lake has made excellent progress in July! The foundation is complete and the cob walls are rising quickly, thanks to Gord and Ann Baird, who have been working daily on the project. Sadly, the foundation suffered damage due to weekend vandals at the lake. A watchful Highlander reported a licence plate number and the vandals have been contacted and have apologized for their actions.

The damage was thankfully minor and easily repaired.

**Suzy the Tiger** Suzy the Tiger, recently of Millstream Road, has been relocated to the BC mainland by her owner, Highlands resident Dave Bennett. Suzy is reportedly in the company of other tigers on a large acreage, and it is hoped that she settles happily into her new home.

**School House Quilt** - A group of Highlands quilters led by Daphne Allen has completed a quilt with 16 panels, each showing a unique representation of the Old School House and each made by a different member of the group. The unique quilt, begun in 2007, commemorates the 115th anniversary of the School House, and was presented to Council at its regular meeting on July 13th. It resides in the School House for all to enjoy.



## Rezoning No. RZ-07-08

After a public hearing at which none of the speakers objected to the rezoning, Council adopted a bylaw (Bylaw 319) allowing an

additional residential lot on the 41-acre Munn Road property. The rezoning includes a 13-acre land donation to CRD Parks for park/conservation use, which will occur before final subdivision approval. The property is bounded on two sides by Thetis Lake Regional Park.

**The Valley Course Open House To Be Rescheduled** The folks at Bear Mountain have requested a postponement of an Open House and tour of Highlands golf course, originally slated for August, until September or early October. The event will provide an opportunity for Highlands council, committee members, and residents to view the course and the work done to date. Details will be made available as they become known.



Gord Baird working on the Eagle Lake cob washroom



COFFEE HOUSE NEWS

Please note: The Coffee House will resume in October

## RCMP INCIDENTS June 16 to July 15, 2009

### JUNE

16th - Lost Property - Southwood Dr  
21st - Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Millstream/Lost Lake Rd  
22nd - Firearms Act - Caleb Pike Rd  
22nd - Mischief \$5000 or Under - Finlayson Arm/Millstream Rd  
22nd - Utter Threats Against Person - Munns Rd  
27th - False Alarms - Industrial Way  
28th - 911-False/Abandoned Calls - Caleb Pike Rd

### JULY

01st - Assault/Common/Trespass - Emma Dixon Rd  
03rd - 911-False/Abandoned Calls - Verona Cres  
03rd - Theft-Other Under \$5000 - Millstream Rd  
04th - Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Robb/Woodridge Pl  
09th - Bylaw-Noise - Rockridge Pl  
10th - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Woodridge/Lakeridge Pl  
10th - False Alarms - Duggan Pl  
10th - Suspicious Pers/Veh Occur - Millstream Rd  
10th - Bylaw Noise - Hawkins Pl  
13th - False Alarms - Millington Pl  
13th - Lost Property - White Pine Terr  
14th - Bylaw-Other - Hanington Rd  
15th - Theft from MV Under \$5000 - Industrial Way  
15th - False Alarm - Blue Valley Rd

**SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM**—The West Shore Parks and Recreation Society will hold the Roving Play Park, a youth program, in the Highlands this summer: Thursdays at Twin Flower Park: 10am to 11am for pre-school (parent participation required) and 11am to 3pm for school ages.

August— 6, 13, 20, 27

For more information call (250) 474-5825.



**REMINDER** The Habitat Acquisition Trust's Millstream Watershed Good Neighbours Project continues into the fall. The program offers free confidential consultations on ways to increase the value of your watershed property while reducing maintenance. For information visit <hat.bc.ca> or phone 250-995-2428.

**VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH** Although the list is not exclusively made up of volunteers, Council would like to recognize and thank all those who worked to put out the Millstream Lake Road fire of July 29, including Highlands Volunteer Fire Department, members from Langford Volunteer Fire Department, BC Ministry of Forests Protection Branch, BC Hydro, and West Shore RCMP, along with Highlands Emergency Coordinator, district staff, neighbours, and residents who worked to support those on the front line.

Thank you one and all for a job exceptionally well done!

Thanks

## Contacts:

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

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

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

Councillor Sigurd Johannesen—[Sigurd.johannesen@shaw.ca](mailto:Sigurd.johannesen@shaw.ca)  
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Councillor Marcie McLean—[marciemclean@shaw.ca](mailto:marciemclean@shaw.ca)  
250-474-4725

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

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

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

Emergency Coordinator Val Fletcher—[val.fletcher@shaw.ca](mailto: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)

**MORE FLING INFORMATION** The Highlands Fling, to be held September 13, will include an art show. Residents are invited to display their work, themed 'The Highlands'. For more details, pls. contact Marcie McLean @250-474-4725.

Fling organizers are welcoming volunteers for various tasks and shifts during the event. To volunteer, or for more information, please contact Scott @ 250-478-2526 or Sheila @ 250-474-1685.

### AUGUST COMMUNITY CALENDAR

August 6, 13, 20, 27 Roving Playpark\*, Twinflower Park,  
10 - 11am (pre-school age), 11am - 3 pm (school ages)

August 7th - CRD Recycling bluebox pickup

August 11th - 7 pm, Highlands Garden Group - cacti and succulents field trip to Langford- pls. phone Terri Smith for details, 250-474-9905

August 17th - Regular Council Meeting\*\*, School House, 7 pm

August 21st— CRD Recycling bluebox pickup

August 30th - Highlands Market, Pike House, 10 am - 1 pm



\*details elsewhere in the Newsletter

\*\*please visit the district website, [highlands.ca](http://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