



# Highlands News

September 2007

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

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## A message from Mayor Mark Cardinal

I am pleased to report that our municipal Council adopted our Official Community Plan on Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. The Official Community Plan is our guiding document for community land use and planning. It plays an important role in the ability of Council and staff to make informed decisions on land use. The Highlands OCP replaces the 1997 OCP which was approved by Council in July, 1997.

The OCP was ranked as the number one priority by all of council last year. Numerous public information sessions, questionnaires and meetings have been held over the past 5 years to receive input into the revised and now approved OCP.

We would like to acknowledge the work of community members who provided input towards the OCP and all who dedicated their time towards this very important community document.

Municipal staff will bring forward ideas around a motion made by council this Spring during OCP discussions, which was to consider reducing the minimum lot size for rezoning from 30 acres down to 20 acres.

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### Highlands District Community Association - STORM FORUM - October 16th

The Winter storms are coming...! Are you ready? Do you want to be better prepared for what nature throws at us this year? Do you have some experience or lessons learned that you might be willing to share?

The Highland District Community Association with the support of the Municipality is hosting a "Storm Forum" October 16<sup>th</sup> in the West Firehall from 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM. Come on out and hear from the experts and share your experiences with others in the community in an effort to help make us all better prepared to endure this year's storms. Door prizes!

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### Highlands News available on email

If you would like an electronic copy of the *Highlands News*, Official Newsletter of the District of Highlands Council, please email June Cameron at the Municipal Hall at [JCameron@highlands.ca](mailto:JCameron@highlands.ca).

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#### Contacts

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Councillor Joe Kadar	Ph. 391-1409	kadardev@shaw.ca	Fire Chief Barry Ford	Ph. 479-5741	b.v.ford@shaw.ca

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## Fall/Winter Youth Program



A *Youth Evening Program* will be hosted by the Highland Heritage Park Society at the Old School House (1589 Millstream Road) this fall. Join West

Shore Parks and Recreation staff for games; music; crafts, swimming, skating and movie outings, and much more in a fun and safe environment. Friday evenings, 7 to 9 pm probably fit school schedules best but Wednesday or Thursday are alternative suggestions. Registration \$10 for 12 evenings September 28<sup>th</sup> thru December 14<sup>th</sup>. Some evenings we may need a parent to help. Contact Bob McMinn 478-4403 or [bobmcminn@shaw.ca](mailto:bobmcminn@shaw.ca) for information and registration.

## Motorcycle Traffic

Over the summer there were numerous complaints from residents about motorcycles traveling through the Highlands at excessive speeds. Council sent a letter to the RCMP encouraging an increased police presence in the Highlands to address this concern. The general consensus is that the RCMP were successful in at least abating some of this traffic.

## American Bullfrog Status and Funding

Council ratified the motion made at a Committee of the Whole meeting to provide \$5,000 in funding toward critical field work related to control of the American Bullfrog population. In addition to this funding, any residents who are willing to make a donation, or who wishes to know more about the Highlands or regional bullfrog containment program is encouraged to contact Eric Bonham at (250) 474-5252 or e-mail [ebonham@shaw.ca](mailto:ebonham@shaw.ca).

Donations submitted through the Highlands Stewardship Foundation will be eligible for a tax receipt.



## Community Green Cultural Mapping Project

Many residents who attended the Highlands Fling on September 9<sup>th</sup> were able to get some initial insight into the Community Green Cultural Mapping project. Residents at the Highlands Fling were able to write down such locations as their favourite park, nature spot or play spot. At the Council meeting of September 17<sup>th</sup> Council approved up to \$15,000 in funding for the completion of a Community Cultural Map. Funding will come directly from the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) via a tourism grant. This is an exciting project for the Highlands community and will include input from all age groups and many skilled community members. It is anticipated that an open house will be held locally in early November. More information will be provided in the October Council Newsletter.

## Fire Department Stipends

Council has approved an adjustment to the Chief and Deputy Fire Chief's stipends to \$11,000 and \$5,500/year respectively. This is an increase from the former stipends of \$4,000 and \$8,000 respectively. In addition Council, on recommendation from the Fire Chief, has approved two new aspects for volunteers this year. The first is a per call stipend, the second a per practice stipend. Both of these stipends are \$5/call or practice. Our volunteers not only volunteer their time each Thursday night for up to four hours of practice but also leave their jobs and use their own vehicles to attend both practices and calls. Thanks to all our volunteers who give so much of their time fire fighting and training.

## Highlands Flag

With lots of community input it appears Highlands has an official community flag. The white flag was the selected option from our recent poll on flag choices. The new flag will be ordered and make its first appearance at the Remembrance Day ceremonies anticipated for November 11th at Veteran's Memorial Square in Langford.

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## Illegal Game Hunting

Recently there were at least three incidents of illegal deer hunting in the Highlands. All three incidents were detected in the vicinity of the Caleb Pike Homestead and West Firehall. It is illegal to hunt with firearms other than by bow or crossbow in the District of Highlands. Bow hunting is only allowed by Bow Hunting Permit in specified areas of the Highlands as set out in our Bylaw No. 145 "A Bylaw to Regulate the Discharge of Firearms and Bows". If residents see any suspicious vehicles, especially ones using lights and driving slowly at night, please write the license plate number down and if possible a description of the vehicle. All violations or suspicious actions should be reported to the local Conservation Officer.

Council has requested that staff review current Bylaw 145 to ensure it is sufficient for the protection of our community and wildlife in the area.

## Tight Pipe Request – City of Langford

The City of Langford requested the District's approval to extend a sanitary sewer main within the Highlands on an existing road right of way. The sewer main would be a "tight pipe" which means that there is no ability for Highlands to connect to it without inter-municipal negotiation with Langford. The tight pipe would be used to service one side of the existing Bear Mountain development area. Council has been unable to obtain a distinct resolution on this issue.

### Conservation Tip



Did you know that the most efficient use of a clothes dryer is to operate it using consecutive loads of laundry? The heat retained in the dryer as each load is finished allows the dryer to run more efficiently.

Of course the most energy efficient option for drying your clothes using a clothes line and letting the fresh air dry your clothes for you.

### Solid Waste

Did you know that the CRD tracks solid waste disposal by municipality? The CRD recently reported that the District of Highlands residents lead the region in solid waste reduction, having reduced our waste production some 18% in the last year. In addition our recycling initiatives also lead the region. Residents are encouraged to be proactive and compost organic kitchen waste at home in your own yards. For more information on backyard composting visit:

<http://www.crd.bc.ca/waste/organics/compostingathome.htm>

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## Highlands District Community Association Information

Thanks to the HDCA for hosting another successful Highlands Fling on Sunday September 9<sup>th</sup>. Attendance was great and the weather cooperated to make for a great community event. The next anticipated community event will be the Halloween bonfire, normally located at the firehall. More information will be forthcoming.

### Building Permits

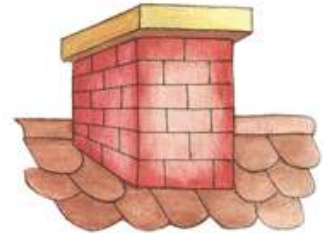
Recently, the District Office has been made aware of several structures constructed without the required Building Permits. Residents should be aware that almost all construction requires a permit. When the District becomes aware of construction without permits, due diligence warrants that the District move swiftly and decisively to gain compliance. Failing that, the unpleasant process of bylaw enforcement should take place. For construction, this starts with filing a notice on the property title. This can have lasting, negative impacts on the property and is not at all desirable for the District or the property owner. The District strongly recommends that all construction being undertaken should not be started without first consulting the District Office to determine whether a permit is required.

### District of Highlands Community Infrastructure and Services Committee

The next meeting of the Highlands Community Infrastructure and Services Committee is scheduled for October 17, 2007. The topics of discussion will include road signs (and reflectors), road maintenance and the issue of speeding motorcycles. Any public comments on these issues are welcome by email to the municipal planner - [lbeckett@highlands.ca](mailto:lbeckett@highlands.ca) Bob Flitton, Chair

### Clean Your Chimneys!

It is nearing that time of year again where you may be needing your wood burning stoves/fireplaces to heat your home. A friendly reminder to clean your chimneys a minimum of once a year. Help keep your home safe this winter.



### Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week 2007 runs from Sunday, October 7 through to Saturday, October 13, and this year's theme is The Great Community Fire Escape Drill. On October 10th, at 6:30 p.m., residents are encouraged to practice their fire escape drill in their homes. Although Highlands fire department, due to much deserved vacation scheduling, will not be taking part, they, along with district staff and council, encourage you to prepare and practice your family's escape plan. Additionally, we would like to remind you to test your smoke alarms and replace the batteries.

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### *The Highlands News*

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