



Highlands News



Wanted:

Volunteer

Firefighters

920-6970

No experience necessary

This sign is posted at the East entrance to the Highlands . Our Volunteer Fire Department actively continues to seek volunteers who reside east of the Mt. Work parking lot on Munn Road.

Photo credit: E. Mendum

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The A/Fire Chief reminds everyone that the fire hazard rating is extreme and encourages residents and visitors to exercise caution at all times. The complete burning ban continues until further notice by the Fire Chief. Observation and early reporting of fires remains important to response times and outcomes.

On a related note, while both firefighters and residents appreciate the annual Hallowe'en bonfires (hazard rating permitting), materials for those fires are not being accepted at either firehall at this time due to the management risk they present. In October, if residents wish to donate materials, they are requested to contact the Fire Chief to arrange for delivery.

New recruits continue to train alongside veteran volunteers, and on Thursday evenings residents may notice fire department members at differing locations practicing their skills. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about joining the fire department, please contact the A/Fire Chief Guy Brisbois by phone, (contact information is on back page).



The department hopes that residents remain safe and enjoy the rest of the summer.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- *Local Sustainability Resources on the Web*
- *Traffic Advisories*
- *Bullfrog Reporting Continues*

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Highlands Volunteer Fire Department did a fine job when they responded to a fire late in July. The firefighters worked hard in order to ensure that the forest surrounding a recreational vehicle on fire did not succumb to the flames. We very much appreciate all that you do to keep us safe - thank you!

Council members have received a number of phone calls concerning the current fire hazard risk, indicating a good awareness of the extreme conditions among residents. Thank you for your continued caution and diligence.

Preparations are underway by dedicated volunteers planning this year's Highlands Fling. All Highlanders are invited to join in a day of fun and entertainment - please see below for more information.

Highlands Council hopes that Highlanders enjoy the remainder of the summer. We look forward to welcoming each of our committee members back in September.

Mayor Jane Mendum

COMING SOON! THE HIGHLAND FLING, A COUNTRY FAIR

Saturday, September 11th **SAVE THE DATE!**
Noon - 4:00 PM (ball game or hike before noon)
Caleb Pike Homestead, 1589 Millstream Road

Featuring pre-Fling ball game or local hike, food, heritage crafts, children's games and amusements, more food, kids' Talent Show, music by Daniel Lapp with Karel Roessingh and the B.C. Fiddle Orchestra and much more!

If you would like to volunteer to help out on the day of the event, please contact Sheila Taylor, 250-474-1685 or email stay@telus.net.

Community & Sustainability Page

** 2010 PROPERTY TAXES REMINDER **

This is a reminder that as of **4:00 p.m. September 1, 2010** an **additional 5% penalty will be added to any outstanding 2010 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: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m..

Late payments must now be made at the Municipal Office located at 1980 Millstream Road. We accept cash, cheque or debit.

CRD PARKS

CRD Regional Parks is seeking volunteer gatekeepers for security at the Munn Road park entrance at Mount Work. The gatekeepers help keep the park area safe and secure by opening and closing the parking lot gate daily at sunrise and sunset. This role can be shared by several volunteers in the neighborhood. There are numerous benefits to being a CRD Regional Parks volunteer. In addition to spending time in one of the most beautiful parks on the island, volunteers receive a variety of discounts, free summer parking passes, parks updates, newsletters and reports along with recognition at our annual awards event. As well, you will be providing a great service for this neighborhood park.

If you are interested in volunteering for this position, please contact Colleen Long, Coordinator of Volunteers, at 250.360.3329 or clong@crd.bc.ca.

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

- Looking for information to assist you in recycling to the max? The CRD website offers up myrecyclopedia.ca, a guide to all things recyclable. Visit it soon to help you meet your recycling goals!
- SustainableU is a regional web-based site chock full of ways that residents can increase home economy while being kind to the environment. Currently featuring 'classes' in courses such as H2O 101, Sustainable Living 101, Sustainable Laundry 101 and Source Control 101, visitors to the site can "work toward their degree in Home Eco-nomics". The site links to both Twitter and Facebook groups in order to easily keep apprised of new information. Visit www.sustainableu.ca on the web.
- CRD staff has indicated that the number of plastic bags that are thrown away is very high. Plastic does not decompose readily and its disposal today creates a problem that is forecast to last for generations to come. The CRD website provides information on ways residents can reduce the need to dispose of plastic bags in their trash. Visit crd.bc.ca/waste/recycle/plasticbags.htm.

TRAFFIC ADVISORIES

Millstream Road (Langford): south of Western Speedway, Monday – Friday, 6:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.. An upgraded water main is being installed. Lane closures are in effect as needed with traffic control directing traffic. Delays may be expected; motorists please be aware. It is anticipated that the work will continue into late September.

Finlayson Arm Road (Highlands, Langford): Commencing August 23, entire length of road, Monday – Friday, 9 a.m.—5 p.m.. A contractor for B.C. Hydro is installing new connector sleeves at each hydro pole. Expect alternating lane closures with traffic control directing traffic. Short delays are anticipated, especially along the portion of Finlayson Arm Road located in Langford. It is anticipated the this work will take two weeks to complete, (August 23 - September 3 inclusive).

Visit www.highlands.ca for current traffic advisories.

KNOW YOUR ZONE!

At any time of year, the possibility exists that Highlands residents may need to evacuate their neighborhood. The District's Emergency Plan Coordinator would like residents to be prepared. Do you know your zone? Information that is important to all residents in case of emergency is available on the District website, along with a map of zones. Visit highlands.ca under Emergency Planning for further information.

SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS - UPDATE

At its July meeting, Council approved Terms of Reference for a Sustainability Plan. The terms will be used to request proposals from qualified consultants to help the District create a Highlands Sustainability Plan. The process builds on the excellent work done by the Sustainability Task Force, and anticipates that the most important step will be bringing discussion into the public sphere and engaging as many residents, business people and other stakeholders as possible.

REMINDER: BULLFROG REPORTING

If you see or hear a bullfrog, please report the details to Pattie—250-478-3319 or email pattie@pacificcoast.net. This information will help the District to track migration and to plan for control. Thank you to all those who have reported.

For assistance in identifying the American Bullfrog, please visit the district website and follow the link located on the home page.

2010 Council Meeting Schedule

August - 16
September - 7 & 20
October - 4 & 18
November - 1 & 15
December - 6 & 20



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!

Council & District News

NEW REZONING APPLICATIONS

The District received two rezoning applications in July. The first proposes a conservation zone for Second Lake land on Millstream Lake Road. The second proposes the creation of 14 lots plus parkland and other amenities on a parcel which abuts Southwood Drive, Gowland Road and Rowntree Road.

Visit the Planning and Development page on the Highlands website (highlands.ca) and scroll down to "Current Rezoning/OCP Applications" or call the Municipal Planner at 250-474-1773 for more information.



REGIONAL CURBSIDE RECYCLING PROGRAM - UPDATE

At its July 19 regular meeting, Council was provided with a presentation from CRD staff members regarding planning for a future enhanced regional curbside recycling program. The current Blue Box contract expires in April 2012, and CRD staff, committees and Board members are working on shaping options for a new program. Decisions will be required for potential elements of a new program such as kitchen waste collection (definition: food waste you wouldn't put in your home composter, for those who compost, and all food waste for those that don't). Next steps will include public consultation on the numerous regional recycling options; the timeline for consultation may be as early as this fall.

To view a copy of the presentation, please visit highlands.ca and navigate to Agendas, July 19 2010, item 2a).

EAGLES LAKE - PUBLIC CONSULTATION

At its July 19th meeting, Council received a report from the chair of the Highlands Park and Recreation Association containing recommendations pertaining to Eagles Lake Park. The recommendations followed concerns received from a nearby property owner, and mostly focused on local parking issues, but also included the notion of expanding the beach. An accompanying staff report noted that any future mitigating regulations that might be adopted to address management of the park could be embodied in a bylaw. Other areas of concern that have come forward to date include refuse, animal control, partying and fire hazards.



Council received the report for information and voted to conduct public consultation on the matter. Council welcomes your comments, and plans to revisit these issues at its September 20th council meeting. To view the report, please visit the district website and navigate to: highlands.ca/agendas/council/2010/07_19_Council_Agenda.asp or stop by the district office.

REMINDER - HIGHLANDS IS A NO SHOOTING ZONE!

In response to incidents reported by residents over the past two months, the district would like to remind everyone that Highlands prohibits the discharge of firearms, as defined in Bylaw 145. The bylaw, adopted in 2000, makes exception for any Peace Officer, Conservation Officer, Animal Control Officer or member of the Armed Forces lawfully engaged in the execution of their duty.

Additionally, exception is made for farmers protecting their stock in an emergency. Persons discharging a firearm in accordance with the exceptions must report the discharge to the District within 24 hours.

The RCMP provides enforcement for Bylaw 145, which can be found in its entirety on the District website.

Note: The incidents referred to above did not involve wildlife.



NEW! DISTRICT LAPEL PINS

Lapel Pins are now available at the District office. In March 2010 Council approved a Lapel Pin Policy which includes the following:

1. Each resident of the District will be entitled to one (1) free pin.
2. District Pins shall be issued to members of the public at a cost of two dollars (\$2.00) each.
3. Proceeds from the sale of the pins shall be used to purchase replacement pins.
4. Groups requesting pins may be issued one "Complimentary" pin per member (up to a maximum of 20) and additional pins may be purchased by the Group at cost.
5. Complimentary pins may be given on a discretionary basis by officers of the municipality.

Highlands's residents are invited to drop by the district office to pick up your pin!



**HIGHLANDS FOLK MUSIC
WILL SEE YOU AGAIN IN OCTOBER!**

STAY INFORMED: visit the District website: highlands.ca

RCMP INCIDENTS REPORT

June 15 to July 15, 2010

JUNE

- 17th - False Alarms - Duggan Pl
- 18th - Theft-Other Under \$5000 - Millstream Rd
- 19th - Suspicious pers/veh/occurrence - Duggan Pl
- 21st - Suspicious pers/veh/occurrence - Woodridge Pl
- 24th - Collision-Damage Over \$1000
- 27th - Traffic-Insurance Violation - Millstream Rd/Taylor Way
 - Collision - Millstream Lake Rd/Millstream Rd
- 28th - Property-Lost - Stewart Mountain Rd
 - False Alarms - Lorimer Rd
- 30th - Property-found - Millstream Rd

JULY

- 3rd - Mischief \$5000 or Under - Finlayson Arm Rd
 - False Alarms - Raven Height
- 9th - False Alarms - Danby Pl
- 13th - 911-False/abandoned calls - Bear Mountain Pkwy
 - Property-Lost - Eagles Lake Rd
- 14th - Theft Motorcycle Over \$5000 - Bear Mountain Pkwy
- 15th - False Alarms - Stewart Mountain Rd
 - Unspecified Assistance - Millstream Rd

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



This month's recognition goes to Mrs. Mindo Worth, a resident of East Highlands. For years Mrs. Worth has kept the approach into Highlands cleared of huge amounts of roadside litter, and this dedication has earned great appreciation from her fellow residents.

Thank you so very much for your community-mindedness - the Highlands is more beautiful thanks to your ongoing volunteer efforts!

THURSDAYS AT TWINFLOWER PARK WESTSHORE PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAMS

When: July 8 - August 26

Location: 1564 Millstream Road (beside Fire Hall)

Cost: Free!

DAYCARE IN THE PARK

Time: 10:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.

Ages 3 - 5

WESTSHORE ROVING PLAYPARK

Time: 11:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Ages 6 - 12

For more information, check the Westshore Parks and Recreation Activity Guide, pages 63 and 69 (available online - visit westshorerecreation.ca) or phone Bobbi at 250-474-5825.



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— didoll@live.ca / 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

Acting Fire Chief Guy Brisebois— GuyBrisebois@Forces.gc.ca / 250-920-6970

Deputy Fire Chief Peter Schuttinga— hvfd.dc@gmail.com / 250-514-8526

Emergency Coordinator Val Fletcher— vfletcher@highlands.ca / 250-479-1725

District of Highlands Office—250-474-1773

CRD Bylaw Enforcement—250-474-3351

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

HIGHLANDS MARKET The next opportunity to replenish your supply of wonderful homemade jams, jellies and canned goods, baked goods, bedding plants for the garden or bouquets, and to discover fine handmade crafts will take place on **Sunday, August 29 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.** Buyers and sellers welcome!



Come Join Us!

Info: Leslie at 250-474-3453 / **Where:** Caleb Pike Homestead, 1589 Millstream Road

AUGUST 2010 COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AUGUST 6 & 20 - CRD Recycling Blue Box pickup

AUGUST 16 - Regular Council Meeting**, School House, 7pm

AUGUST 29 - Highlands Market, Caleb 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*

HIGHLANDS HISTORY - **DO NOT TRY THIS AT HOME!**

August of 1904 was hot and dry but that did not stop George Bernard who lived at Mitchell Lake from using fire to clear his swamp to make a meadow. Excerpts from his wife Jessie's diary:

- 11th "Very hot fire smouldering all day but suddenly burst into flames in evening, dead tree burnt and fell across road to lakes."
- 12th: "Very hot again. G. worked at fire all day."
- 14th: "Sunday very hot, fires burning all round and air very smoky."
- 15th "Very hot still. G. burning at slough all day and piling brush."
- 16th "George drove to Langford station, met the 9:20 AM train and brought Mr. Bernard back with him. Bert went too, to help if trees had fallen on road as fire is raging so fiercely down there."
- 20th "Fires are burning heavily round Aldermere (where our Municipal Office now stands) and the two houses at the lime kiln are gone."

Jessie wrote of the smoke they had to deal with for the next few days, "much cooler, air very black with smoke." and "Everything smoky and air liquid again. G. piling and burning brush in swamp." Thankfully the cool and wet of the fall eventually came and put an end to the danger.

Note: It sounds as if George Bernard may have lit much of the West Highlands on fire...



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.