



Highlands News



Our office will be closed December 24, 2010 at 12 noon for Winter Holidays and will reopen at 8:30am January 4, 2010. Mayor and Council wish you a wonderful holiday season!



A snowman greets those who braved the winter weather to attend the Sustainability Fair November 20th. *Photo credit: Allen Dobb*

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT Last month we moved our clocks back one hour, and the Fire Chief would like to remind residents this is a good time to change the batteries in your smoke alarms so they work properly when needed.

In last month's issue of the Highlands News residents were asked to ensure their address signs are clearly visible to emergency responders. The Fire Department would like to add the following suggestion. If an emergency situation is called in, and if there is an extra person at your address not immediately involved with the emergency, it would provide certainty to the responders and could save valuable time if that person waits by the road ready to flag down emergency personnel.

Details on this year's Santa Run are below - we hope to see you on Saturday, December 18th. Members of Highlands Volunteer Fire Department wish Highlanders safe and happy holidays!



Announcement: After serving as Acting Fire Chief since January of 2010, Guy Brisebois was appointed by Council as Highlands Fire Chief at the December 6th Council meeting. It is with sincere appreciation that Council welcomes Fire Chief Brisebois to his new role in the community.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Community Calendar
- Wanted! Committee Members
- Planning for a Sustainable Highlands - Update

WINTER ROAD MAINTENANCE It is important to note that during the winter season, Highlands roads are inspected and responded to in accordance with the road maintenance contract 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This does not eliminate the presence of challenging or dangerous winter road conditions from time to time. Motorists should be aware of the potential for slippery conditions and should ensure their vehicles are appropriately equipped to drive under these conditions. Highlands has many weather patterns within the District that create different conditions in different areas and this impacts on the ability to plan ahead or react to the conditions.

The District's road maintenance contract has comprehensive provisions for winter maintenance to address ice and snow. It establishes both minimum and maximum response times as well as establishing priorities for main roads, hills and school bus routes so they receive a quicker response than that of other local roads due to traffic volumes or the more challenging terrain. The Contractor is responsible to adhere to the conditions of the road maintenance contract and generally greatly exceeds the standards. They are supervised by District staff on a daily/weekly basis depending on winter conditions. Neither the District nor the Contractor currently has on-call staff to take phone calls outside of District Office business hours **including weekends. You may leave a message on the District's answering machine for service requests during winter storms as staff will check for messages after hours.**

It is important that residents do not contact the District's Fire Chief or Emergency Coordinator to report road conditions or request winter maintenance. These calls unnecessarily occupy these volunteers who do not have the authority to have the contractor respond.

Further information regarding winter road maintenance is being developed and will be posted on the District's website in the coming weeks.

*Note: Council will be reviewing staff suggestions for enhancing communications during the winter season. This may result in changes for **after hours contacts. Please ensure you check the District's website for further information: <highlands.ca>.***

ANNUAL SANTA RUN The Highlands Volunteer Firefighters' Association will hold their annual Santa Run on Saturday, December 18th. Santa will be on board to visit with Highlands children, and his helpers welcome donations of cash or non-perishable food items to aid the local food bank. *Santa will start in the east Highlands first thing Saturday morning and finish his route in the west at approximately 6 p.m.*



The Highlands News — DECEMBER 2010

District of Highlands Council Newsletter | 1980 Millstream Road, Highlands, BC V9B 6H1 | P: 250-474-1773 F: 250-474-3677

For Updates & Information, visit the District website: highlands.ca

Community News

THE WEST SHORE CHRISTMAS HAMPER FUND is located at 761 Station Avenue (bsmt). Applications for the food bank are available at this address. While food donations are always appreciated, this year staff say the best donation is money. Cheques can be made out to the West Shore Christmas Hamper Fund and dropped off or mailed to the Station Avenue address. Please contact 250-391-9627 for more information. The District office will gladly accept any food or gift donations and will ensure that they are delivered to the Christmas hamper.



OUTSTANDING PROPERTY TAX REMINDER As of January 1, 2011, all outstanding 2010 property taxes will become taxes in arrears and taxes already in arrears will become delinquent taxes. Both delinquent taxes and taxes in arrears accrue *DAILY* interest at a rate set by the Province.

Delinquent taxes (2009 outstanding taxes) will be subject to tax sale on Monday, September 26, 2011.

To confirm today's outstanding amount of taxes due, please contact our office between the hours of 8:30am and 4:00pm at 250-474-1773.

Late payments must be made at the Municipal Office located at 1980 Millstream Road. We accept cash, cheque or debit. Remember to contact your bank to arrange for large debit transactions to be processed at point of sale!).

Please note our office will be closed Friday December 24, 2010 at 12noon for Winter Holidays and will reopen at 8:30am Tuesday January 4, 2010

WESTSHORE LITERACY CONNECTION is an initiative that seeks to increase awareness of literacy opportunities and build community capacity to deliver and sustain literacy programs and services in the West Shore Communities, which includes the Highlands, Colwood, Langford and Metchosin. Since May 2010 community stakeholders, businesses, local government, school district representatives and a literacy outreach coordinator have continued to build on the work of the Westshore Literacy Plan and further refine and implement the goals in collaboration with the greater community. Some recent collaborations include the support of a local *Books for Breakfast* program that introduces parents and young children to life-long learning through the cultivation of literacy skills. We have also partnered with Reading Tree (www.readingtree.ca) a program that distributes local donated books to non-profits on the Westshore. Stay tuned as well for the December launch of our interactive website *Your Literacy Connection Westshore*, a literacy 'hub' and one-stop shop for all things literacy in the Westshore and Sooke Region.

If you would like to learn more about the Westshore Literacy Plan, volunteer opportunities, or ways to donate, please contact the Westshore Literacy Coordinator Shantael Sleight @ smsleight@gmail.com

DISTRICT COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED The District requires volunteers for:

Community Centre Task Force - this committee will continue to study the feasibility of establishing a community centre in the Highlands.

Community Infrastructure & Services Committee - makes recommendations to Council on various topics including, but limited to: provision and maintenance of trails, roads and parks; special events; leisure services; and public safety.

Fiscal and Environmental Committee - makes recommendations to Council on various topics including, but limited to: fiscal sustainability of the district; environmental consideration regarding proposed new developments; and Environmental sustainability.

Heritage Task Force - formed to help establish a heritage vision for the Highlands and consider items for a Heritage Register.

Sustainability Strategy Advisory Committee - created to **help develop the community's Integrated Sustainability Plan (ICSP)**, provides input on current reality, future vision indicators, develop recommended actions, and facilitate the incorporation of the ICSP into the Official Community Plan.

Board of Variance - A Board of Variance is established by bylaw in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act.

Full Terms of Reference for these committees are available on the District website: www.highlands.ca.

Anyone interested in serving is invited to submit a letter and / or a resume detailing their interest to serve on one of these committees. All submissions should be forwarded to the District office or email to: tneurauteur@highlands.ca by December 15, 2010.

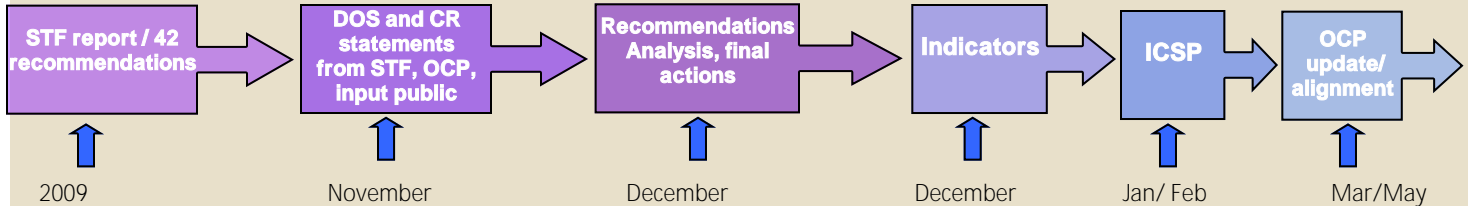
GRANT IN AID The District of Highlands will be accepting grant in aid applications for the year 2011 up to and including January 31, 2011. All organizations wishing to submit an application must complete the District of Highlands Grant in Aid application. Organization may contact the District office for the Grant in Aid policy and application, alternatively this policy and application may be **downloaded from the District's website: <highlands.ca>**.

WINTER STORMS - *The Highlanders' Essential Guide to Emergency Preparedness For Winter Storms* containing advice from residents, experts, and local government **authorities is available on the district's website <highlands.ca>** or can be picked up from the District office during regular office hours. Preparation for the winter storm season is strongly advised for homeowners and residents alike - be sure to obtain your copy soon!



Council & District News

A SUSTAINABLE HIGHLANDS BY 2030? What would it be like to live in a more sustainable community? Consultants Naomi Devine and CheeYing Ho, from the Whistler Centre for Sustainability, led Highlands community members through a detailed planning process November 19-20 at the old Schoolhouse. Labelled as a sustainability fair to develop a long term and sustainable vision for the Highlands, participants considered nine different strategy areas that ranged from local food and energy, to buildings and land use. Statements representing the Highlands current reality (CR) were developed in each strategy area. These were contrasted with a list of descriptions of success (DOS) representing the Highlands in the year 2030. The statements will be refined as the process evolves, and more public input is incorporated. The next step will provide recommendations for action that will lead the community forward to reach those descriptions of success. This planning and public consultation effort builds upon a report and series of recommendations provided by the Highlands 2009 Sustainability Task Force (STF). The Task force recommendations will be among those evaluated for moving the community toward a sustainable future.



The main project outcome will be an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP), which will be incorporated into the Official Community Plan (OCP) early next year. Highlands residents are encouraged to participate in this process by visiting the District's website at: www.highlands.ca/sustainability or by contacting the District's planner Jon Munn at jmunnn@highlands.ca.

In November 2010 Council established a Sustainability Strategy Advisory Committee (SSAC) to help guide the process. The eight members of the committee are: Ann Baird, Bob Flitton, Sally Gose, Warren Lee, Dave Mackas, Bob McMinn, Aniko Varga and Libby McMinn. SSAC members can be contacted through the Highlands office.

There is room for a few more members if you would like to help. Please submit your name by December 15, 2010; contact the District office for more information (250-474-1773).

COMMUNITY CENTRE TASK FORCE UPDATE

Following the Open House sessions held by the Community Centre Task Force on October 23 and 24, at the November 1 Council meeting the following motion was approved:

That Council receive the Community Centre Task Force recommendation on the preferred site, (Site B, Finlayson Arm Road, subject to rezoning) and that Council re-affirm that the Community Centre Task Force proceed with bringing forward recommendations concerning the procurement and budget for the possible construction of a Community Hall based on the recommendation of the Open House.

Detailed information can be found here:
http://www.highlands.ca/community_centre/

As previously reported in the Highlands News, the provincial grant funding for a community hall and museum has been extended until March 2013.

FORK LAKE/STAG ROADS - NEW CUL DE SACS At its November 1 meeting, Council authorized staff to proceed with the creation of cul de sacs on both Fork Lake and Stag Roads. Consultation was recently held with residents of both roads, and appropriate mitigations and restrictive parking signage are included in the work plan. The work will provide improved access for road maintenance and emergency response vehicles.

AMERICAN BULLFROG CONTROL PROGRAM - UPDATE At the November 15 Council meeting, a report was received from Stan Orchard detailing his 2010 American Bullfrog eradication and survey work for the District. It was referred to the 2011 financial planning process. 2010 was the first year the District budgeted for eradication, spending \$4400 on Mr. Orchard's professional services to thoroughly survey Highlands lakes and riparian areas more for bullfrog presence. The funding was recommended by resident volunteers who have been working to eradicate the invasive species for many years. Once a summary report has been received from the Highland Stewardship Foundation on the volunteer efforts, both reports will be forwarded to the Province along with a request for funding assistance.



**NEXT HIGHLANDS FOLK MUSIC NIGHT:
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 7:30PM**

Highlands Folk Music will be featuring Jim Moffett on Saturday December 11th (weather permitting).

Jim Moffett is a singer and songwriter who receives praise where ever he performs. He has been featured in L.A., and was a band member with groups Hero, Panic and The Bow River Lumber Company. He won the 1st Studio One/KeenCraft (Long and McQuade) music award in Calgary against such talent as Jan Arden. Jim's first CD, titled "Live at Crystal Gardens," was released in July.

There will also be an open-stage segment. For more information you can call (250) 391-9987

Date: December 11, 7:30 pm

Place: Caleb Pike House, 1589 Millstream Road

Charges: minimum donation \$5 - coffee, tea and goodies included

RCMP INCIDENTS REPORT October 16 to November 15, 2010

OCTOBER

- 16 - False Alarms-Millstream Rd
- 17 - False Alarms-Millstream Rd
- 18 - Unspecified Assistance-Munn Rd
- 19 - False Alarms-Michael Rd
- 20 - False Alarms-Rockridge Pl
- 21 - Collision-Damage Over \$1000-Millstream Lake Rd
False Alarms-Millstream Rd
- 23 - Theft Motorcycle Over \$5000-Caleb Pike Rd
Unspecified Assistance-Industrial Way
- 25 - Theft-Other Under \$5000-Davies Rd
- 26 - Abandoned Vehicles-Eagles Lake Rd
- 27 - Traffic-Other Moving Prov-Millstream Lk Rd/Munn Rd
- 28 - Unspecified Assistance
- 30 - Theft from MV under \$5000-Mount Work
- 31 - False Alarms-Millstream Rd

NOVEMBER

- 1 - Collision-Damage Over \$1000-Millstream Lk Rd/Munn Rd
- 2 - Trespass Act
- 3 - Collision-Damage Under \$1000-Munn Rd
- 4 - Animal Calls-Millstream Rd/Industrial Way
- 5 - Suspicious Pers/Veh/Occurrence-Hazlitt Creek Rd
215 Alcoh-24 Hr-Millstream Rd
- 6 - Traffic-Other Moving Provincial-Lost Lk Rd/Millstream Rd
Bylaw-Other-Crestwood Crt
Collision-Damage Under \$1000-Millstream Rd
- 7 - Theft Motorcycle Under \$5000-Caleb Pike Rd
- 9 - Traffic-Other Moving Prov-Millstream Lk Rd/Munn Rd
Bylaw-Litter-Millstream Rd
- 11 - Traffic-Other Moving Provincial-Millstream Lake Rd
- 12 - Collision-Damage Over \$1000-Munn Rd

HOLIDAY RECYCLING

Visit <http://crd.bc.ca/waste/recycle/holidayrecycling.htm> for guidelines on how to reduce waste this season. The page includes ideas for holiday gift-giving, along with clear instructions on preparing your bluebox materials for recycling and many other great tips. Check it out!



TWINFLOWER PARK TRAIL WALK will be rescheduled for January. Highlands Horse and Trails Club cancelled the walk on Saturday, November 20th because of the snowfall. IF the weather doesn't improve soon, the walk will be delayed until after Christmas. Interested hikers are invited to join us when an alternate date is scheduled.

YOUTH DROP-IN

Location: Schoolhouse Basement (1589 Millstream Road)
Who: ages 5 and up | When: Dec 17 - 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Christmas Party!

Bring some nut-free goodies. Games, movie and fun for all.

Enquiries: Bob (250) 478-4403

Council Meeting Schedule

December - 6 & 20

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

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH This month we would like to recognize and thank all of the volunteers who served on advisory committees and task forces as well as those who served the District as citizen representatives during 2010. Your commitment of time, effort and provision of input toward decisions that affect Highlanders is greatly appreciated.



Thank you very much for the important service you provide to Highlanders!

DECEMBER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

December 6 & 20 - Regular Council Meeting**, School House, 7 pm
December 10 & 24 - CRD Recycling Blue Box pickup
December 11 - Coffee House*, Pike House, 7:30 pm
December 13 - Committee of the Whole **, School House, 7 pm
December 14 - Highlands Garden Group, Wreath Class, must email tandtsmith@shaw.ca or call Terri 250-474-9905, School House, 7 pm
December 18 - Santa Run*, watch for details posted at mailboxes

*details elsewhere in the Newsletter

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

HIGHLANDS HISTORY - DID YOU KNOW? Early Highland pioneers enjoyed their Christmas dinners as much as we do today. This excerpt from Jessie Bernard's diary describes the party she had with her sister Sybil and family on December 25, 1903 at her home on Mitchell Lake.

"Xmas Day- bright and frosty in morning and very seasonable all day-busy getting everything prepared-iced Baby's cake. [Their son, Eric turned one year old that day]. Frank, Sybil and Robin [Gregory] came down about 4:30pm singing 'Christians awake'- sounded nice in the frosty air- we had a good dinner at 6:30 of barley soup; roast, stuffed willow grouse with sausage and cut lemon round dish; cabbage; potatoes; plum pudding (on fire) and sauce; mince pies; Baby's birthday cake; nuts; oranges and apples; tea and wine - drank health all round."



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.