



Highlands News



Stella (L) and Maulie (above) are missing in Highlands. Their owners search for them daily, aided by FLED, a local agency formed to help reunite lost or escaped dogs with their owners.

If you have seen either of these dogs, please contact **FLED**, <fledsearch.wordpress.com>. Bookmark this page, visit often, and use it to contact the volunteer members of the organization should you ever find or lose a dog. Volunteers to help search are welcome - details can be found on the website.

COMMUNITY HALL UPDATE The amenity parcel zoned for the community hall site, located at the corner of Finlayson Arm and Millstream Roads, transferred to the District in March. At the same time, the provincial government granted the District an extension to the funding under the Towns for Tomorrow grant program, with a completion date of March 31, 2014.

To recap, Highlands Chief Administrative Officer is the designated project manager and Stantec is providing architectural services. Council has contracted Durwest to provide construction management in a design-bid-build process. On April 29, at a Committee of the Whole meeting, Council and the Community Centre Task Force met with Stantec for the second consultation on design options. Several aspects of the building were discussed, and at the regular meeting held May 21, Council approved a list of design options. The list can be viewed here:

<highlands.ca/agendas/council/2013/documents/CoTWCommunityHallDesginRec.pdf>.

Next steps will include the completion of design drawings, followed by a bid process.

Meanwhile, site preparation has begun. Under the supervision of a registered professional biologist, some trees have been removed in preparation for constructing an entrance on Finlayson Arm Road. Design drawings are anticipated to be presented to Council in June.

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- Public Meeting - Soil Deposit Regulations

**JUNE
Council Meetings**
June - 3 & 17

PUBLIC MEETING - SOIL DEPOSIT/REMOVAL

Council and staff have received questions over the past few years concerning soil deposit and removal, as well as concerns about contaminated site clean up in the region and whether or not the soils from these sites could be deposited in Highlands. The District adopted Bylaw 341 to regulate soil deposit/removal activities in December 2012. However, local government is limited in what it can regulate - many aspects of soil deposit and removal are the jurisdiction of the provincial government, including soils designated contaminated or hazardous. Join Council on **June 10, 7 pm, at the School House** when we invite a representative from the Province to speak about current laws and regulations concerning the movement of soils in and out of the Highlands and their relation to Bylaw 341. A question and answer period will follow the presentation. Everyone welcome.



AWARD RECIPIENTS Congratulations to recipients of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Award! The significant volunteer contributions of Highlands residents **Elaine Limbrick, Bob McMinn** and **Eric Bonham** were recognized by the Governor General of Canada. Council had the honour of presenting the medals and for thanking each of the recipients for their outstanding volunteer service to Highlands, the region and beyond.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS A reminder that Highlands is entering the annual fire hazard season and therefore **burning restrictions** are in place; at the time of publishing, the hazard level is at medium, and all outdoor burning requires a permit with the exception of incinerator burning using a screen. **This is subject to change** - please visit the home page of <highlands.ca> for details, watch the roadside fire hazard signs at all Highlands entrances and contact the Fire Department to inquire about permits (see page 4).



Casino Night! On **Saturday, June 1**, plan to attend the Annual Casino Night, a fundraiser to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Canada. Bring your family, friends and neighbours and join your hosts, members of the Highlands Fire Fighters Association, for a fun event in aid of this deserving charity. The action starts at **7 p.m. at the West Fire Hall, 1564 Millstream Rd.** Entrance fee: \$20, cash bar. Lots of prizes to be won! Must be 19+ to attend.

Donations of prize items are welcome - please contact Dan Haase at: dan@seasmokepr.com to arrange pick up/drop off.

The Highlands News — JUNE 2013

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 & Council News

FROM THE FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT—TAXES ARE DUE July 2 by 4 pm. BY NOW YOU SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED YOUR 2013 PROPERTY TAX NOTICE BY MAIL. If not, please contact the municipal office at 250-474-1773 and we will be happy to reprint one for you. Remember Monday, July 1 is a statutory holiday and our office will be closed for Canada Day.

Payment Options:

Cash, Cheque, or Interac - check your transaction limits with your bank.

- Mail us a post-dated cheque to avoid a line up (please include roll # on cheque for reference).
- Drop off your completed Home Owner Grant (HOG) form and/or payment at the Municipal Office at 1980 Millstream Road, Victoria BC V9B 6H1 between 8:30am & 4:00pm or in the front door mail slot after hours. Remember, claim your HOG **every year** before the due date to avoid a 5% penalty on the \$570 or \$875 HOG amount.

Bank or Credit Union— to pay your property tax bill at your bank or credit union, you must have your original tax notice remittance slip along with completed & signed Home Owner Grant (HOG) application (if eligible). *If over 65 please make sure to include your date of birth in section 2a) on the HOG remittance.* Your HOG application will then be forwarded to our office for processing. **However, if your property taxes are paid through your mortgage company, you cannot claim your HOG through your bank, applications should be mailed or dropped off at our office.**

Unfortunately we do not accept credit card or online payment.

More information is available on the District's website, www.highlands.ca regarding Home Owner Grants, Property Tax Deferment Programs and Class 9 (farm) Assessment Credit.

EMERGENCY COORDINATOR The District has been seeking a volunteer Emergency Coordinator since Val Fletcher retired from the position. At its regular meeting of May 21, Council was pleased to appoint Highlands resident Ryan Hobbs as the new coordinator. Ryan's role will include fulfilling duties pursuant to both the Emergency Measures Bylaw and the Emergency Act, in addition to responsibilities for outreach activities related to Emergency Preparedness. Council and staff look forward to working with Ryan.

GROUNDWATER PROTECTION STUDY - PHASE 3 - FINAL

At the January Committee of the Whole meeting representatives from Golder Associates Ltd. presented Council with this project's Phase 3 report. The study commenced in 2007 and its three phases have examined **quantity, quality** and **protection** of the District's groundwater supply. The study has utilized monitoring and a numerical model has been created to aid in both increasing understanding about our groundwater and in the development of sustainable policies for conservation and protection of groundwater. The Phase 3 Report contains a number of recommendations to implement groundwater protection measures and to support long term management of groundwater resources within Highlands.

All three reports are available online at <highlands.ca/planning> (scroll to bottom); Council encourages residents to review them as this information will help guide future land use decisions. Council thanks the members of the Groundwater Task Force for steering the project, and Highlands staff and the consultant for their valuable contributions.

FOOD DIGESTER EVENT In 2015, kitchen scraps will be banned from Hartland Landfill. The CRD is providing an opportunity to purchase a backyard food digester at the reduced cost of \$95 inc. tax (retail \$165). First come, first serve; one per customer. **Date: Saturday, June 15, 2013, 10am - 3pm, Westshore Parks and Recreation** (parking lot off Ocean Blvd), 1767 Old Island Highway. Visit: <crd.bc.ca/waste/organics/compostingathome.htm> for details.



REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING If you discover abandoned waste in Highlands and report it, staff will investigate and follow up. It is important not to remove any evidence that might identify those responsible. In many cases, offenders can be identified and encouraged to pick up after themselves. Please report incidents of this type to the District office during regular hours or by email at <lcondon@highlands.ca>.

The CRD has a program to encourage people to properly dispose of items <crd.bc.ca/waste/dumping.htm> or 250-360-3030 for information; also visit <myrecyclopedia.ca>.

CUT THE BROOM IN BLOOM! This is a great time of year to eliminate broom. The bright yellow blossoms make it easy to identify, and it is best to remove this invasive species before its prolific seeds mature. This spring's damp weather allows small plants to be readily pulled up; larger plants should be **cut rather than pulled** in order to avoid soil disturbance and discourage regrowth. Visit <broombusters.org> for techniques and information. Those wishing to plan a larger scale neighbourhood broom removal are invited to contact the district



REMINDER: BULLFROG REPORTING Have you seen or heard a bullfrog? This invasive species is making its presence known. Not sure what they sound like? Want to distinguish between bullfrogs and the **protected** (blue listed) **red legged frog**? Visit <highlands.ca> for links to recordings and photos of the American bullfrog. **Check your pond or wetland this month through to September**, as bullfrogs may be present wherever there is year-round water. 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.



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.



Community & Council News

BUDGET 2013/FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN At a special meeting held May 13, Council approved the Annual Budget and Five Year Plan. The budget includes a 2% increase across all property classes, in keeping with sound financial management (balancing maintenance of assets with increased inflation) in order to avoid steep cost increases in future. The actual impact on individual properties will vary based on the change to your property assessment as it relates to the average change.

Council is pleased to report that the district has no long term debt with the exception of its share of the Facilities debt with the West Shore Parks and Recreation (retires by 2024). At the regular meeting held May 21, the District's auditors reported that, in their opinion, Highlands had a clean audit for 2012, and that Highlands financial situation is strong.

Highlights of the budget include continuing maintenance of district roads, upgrading the playground at Twinflower Park, construction of the Community Hall, replacement of the East Highlands Fire Hall, water and septic improvements to the Heritage Park and the continuance of groundwater monitoring, dry hydrant maintenance and a snow clearing contingency. A leaflet containing details will be mailed out to property owners in June.


ROAD IMPROVEMENTS A location on **Millstream Road** in south Highlands has seen a high number of vehicle incidents over the years. According to police and insurance reports, the incidents are usually attributed to excessive speed. The district's maintenance contractor identified an area of pavement that was becoming worn, exposing round aggregate. To prevent any further deterioration of the asphalt, at its March 4 regular meeting, Council approved an overlay of new asphalt in order to improve the road surface. Reflectors and new signs were also installed at the location, encouraging drivers to negotiate the curves at a safe speed.

As a result of rezoning approved in 2012, the developer of Phase 3 of Highlands Estates is reconstructing **Rowntree Road**. At the regular meeting held May 21, Council approved a consultation plan for those residents and property owners likely to be affected by the upgrade. Rowntree Road is one of the few Highlands roads that has not been reconstructed since incorporation. It is anticipated that the work will be completed this year.

INTEGRATED COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY PLAN & OCP

ALIGNMENT In 2010 the District began work on an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP). The Highlands ICSP integrated recommendations from the Sustainability Task report (2009), and was adopted by council in February 2012. The ICSP looks at 9 different areas of community sustainability, including transportation, buildings, energy, food, health, land use, water and waste, economy and education. It describes the current state of these areas for the Highlands, and offers a vision of how the District can become more sustainable into the future. A key part of the plan is the monitoring of indicators of success in each of the areas, and the on-going development of actions that will help lead the community toward its sustainability goals. To be effective, parts of the ICSP need to be incorporated into the Official Community Plan (OCP). The Sustainability Strategy Advisory Committee (SSAC) is now reviewing those sections of the OCP that have been aligned with the ICSP, in advance of a broader community consultation. The committee, made up of community members and guided by Laura Beckett the District's Planner, will continue to meet through the summer, and opportunities for more public consultation and input are expected this fall.

UPGRADES AT HERITAGE PARK As a result of registration and testing required by the Province for all public water supplies, it came to the District's attention that one of the two wells located at the Caleb Pike Homestead did not meet the minimum standard for drinking water quality. Further investigation by professionals recommended that improvements be made to address the issue, including one well head upgrade, relocation of an existing drainage pipe, provision of water treatment and septic field upgrade. At the regular meeting held March 18, Council approved the recommendations along with the installation of a cistern to store water from the low-producing wells. Further, Council requested that staff investigate the costs of low flush toilets for the washroom facility; all of these items were referred to the Heritage Park Society for their recommendations regarding location of new or upgraded utility services within the Heritage Park. The cost of the UV treatment systems and the storage tank is \$6850. More information about the provincial drinking water program can be found at <health.gov.bc.ca/protect/dw_index.html>.

PLANNING AND PERMIT INFORMATION Want to keep up with current planning and permit activities within the District? Staff publishes a summary online; visit highlands.ca/planning/ and scroll down to 'Current Planning Applications' to view rezoning applications and active permits. 

Annual Highlands Summer Solstice Blues Bash - 'Just Jammin' and Having Fun!'

Join these amazing artists: Dave Campbell (vocals, guitar); Dallas Harlan (blues guitar); Karel Roessingh (keyboard); Sherry Clayton (drums); Derek Walsh (blues harp, vocals); Roy Rhymer (blues guitarist); Angel Hehr (vocals); and your host, Ken Williams (bass guitar) for an evening of top-notch entertainment that you will enjoy immensely!

Time: 7:30pm

Place: Caleb Pike House, 1589 Millstream Road

Date: FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2013

Cost: \$5.00 /person - coffee, tea and goodies provided

For more information or if you would like to recommend a band or a musician to play music at the Highlands Coffee House

Call Zhinoos at: [778-678-2409](tel:778-678-2409) or email: zhinoos9@gmail.com

RCMP INCIDENTS REPORT APRIL 16 to MAY 15, 2013

APRIL, 2013

- 16 - False Alarm - Millington
- 19 - Unspecified Assistance - Millstream
- 20 - Disturbance - Finlayson Arm
- 23 - Abandoned 911 - Rowntree
- 26 - Collision - Blacktail / Jayhawk
- 30 - Suspicious Vehicle - Millstream

MAY

- 03 - Animal Call - White Pine Terrace
- 04 - False Alarm - Millstream Lake
- 06 - Breach of Peace - Woodridge
- 09 - False Alarm - Millington Place
- 09 - Unspecified Assistance - 1800 blk Millstream
- 10 - Abandoned 911 - Rowntree
- 11 - Noise bylaw - Industrial Way / Millstream
- 14 - Street sign down - Millstream / Finlayson Arm
- 14 - Suspicious vehicle - 1900 Block Millstream
- 15 - Theft - 4700 blk Talon Ridge

HIGHLAND FLING - Save the Date

This year the Fling will be held on **Sunday, September 8**. Further details will be posted in the Highlands Newsletter, The Monthly Events and Happenings and the District's website. Interested in volunteering - contact Sheila: stay@telus.net or Scott: scott.richarson@shaw.ca.



NEW WEBSITE SOON... The District recently won a 'complete website makeover' contest, and a new website is currently under development. It will feature cutting-edge capabilities such as a mobile app and the ability to push out the information you choose, keeping you up to date. Watch for more information coming soon!



HIGHLANDS MARKET - SUNDAY, June 30th

 10am - 1pm, - Caleb Pike grounds, 1589 Millstream Road.

 The market takes place on the last Sunday of each month from May to September. Buyers and sellers welcome, rain or shine!

 Come join us!

Info: Leslie, 250-474-3453 **Next Market: June**



VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

Recognition goes to outgoing Chair of the Highlands Heritage Park Society, Eric Herbert. Eric has served as the chair for approximately 20 years, providing leadership and coordinating the activities of this citizen group that manages and operates the Caleb Pike Homestead. Many thanks for your valued volunteer work, Eric!



Recognition also goes to all those who participated in the Annual Highlands Roadside Cleanup, sponsored by the HDCA. Thank you very much for your efforts - it made a difference!

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— Guy.Brisebois@forces.gc.ca / 250-920-6970
 Deputy Fire Chief Dean Ford— hvfdtraining@shaw.ca
 A/ Emergency Coordinator C.D. Coates - ccoates@highlands.ca / 250-474-1773
 District of Highlands Office— 250-474-1773
 CRD Bylaw Enforcement— 250-474-3351
 CRD Animal Control (24 hrs) - 250-478-0624
 CRD Parks— 250-478-3344
 Wildlife Violations— 1-800-663-WILD (9453)

JUNE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- June 1 & 2** - Community Garage Sale, Pike Grounds, 10am - 4pm
 - June 3 & 17** - Regular Council Meeting, School House, 7 pm
 - June 10** - Committee of the Whole Meeting, School House, 7pm
 - June 7 & 21** - CRD Recycling Blue Box pickup
 - June 21** - Annual Blues Bash, Pike House, 7:30 pm
 - June 30** - Highlands Market, Pike House, 10 am - 1 pm
- please visit the District website, highlands.ca for detailed agenda information in advance of meetings*

HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY GREEN MAP ON DISPLAY AT UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

The highly acclaimed Highlands Community Green Map, which was produced in 2008, will be displayed in the main lobby of the University of Victoria Main Library from June 1-8, 2013. The Highlands Map, and other maps from the area, have been reproduced in poster-size biodegradable vinyl to display for **Congress 2013** which is being held at the University. The Congress is organized by the Federation for Humanities and Social Sciences and will be attended by as many as 10,000 delegates coming from all over Canada.



HIGHLANDS HISTORY

At 10:00 AM on June 23, 1946, a magnitude 7.3 earthquake rocked Vancouver Island. It was the most powerful onshore earthquake ever recorded in Canada. Originating in the Forbidden Plateau area, the quake was felt as far away as Portland, Oregon and Prince Rupert, B.C.

Birdie Ross, owner of the property surrounding Pease Lake reported that during the quake there was a huge wave in the lake, with the water surging from one end to the other. The earthquake also interrupted the flow of a fresh water spring that the Ross family had relied on for drinking water. This spring was a beautiful spot, with deep pools surrounded by large cedars and lush maidenhair and sword ferns growing in black soil. After the earthquake the spring never flowed again. Much of the Ross property is now part of Mt. Work Park and their family name is remembered in the road that runs through the parkland, Ross-Durrance Road.