



Highlands News

February 2008

The Official Newsletter of the District of Highlands Council

RURAL LIFE NATURAL BEAUTY STRONG COMMUNITY

A message from Mayor Mark Cardinal

We expect to hear more on our options for remediating the Millstream Meadows site later this month. Details of the current status of the groundwater contamination at Millstream Meadows are included in this month's newsletter. We also have an update from the Groundwater Task Force.

There has been a lot of correspondence lately regarding litter along our roads, in particular Millstream, Millstream Lake, and Munns Road. Our spring clean up will be in the next few months. Volunteers are always needed for this event. In the meantime if you see litter in your neighbourhood please make an effort to clean it up.

Council will be completing a strategic planning session later this month. This session will be held in camera however the results are expected to be reported at a council meeting shortly thereafter. Council works from an ongoing projects list and gets regular updates from staff regarding current and pending projects. This list helps council prioritize immediate needs in the community and enables proper budget planning.

Budget discussions will be held over the next four to six weeks in a series of Committee of the Whole and Council meetings. Meeting agendas are posted on the District website at www.highlands.bc.ca. All municipalities are required to prepare a yearly financial plan and approve that prior to May 15th.

March Meeting Schedule

All meetings at the Caleb Pike Schoolhouse or Home:

Council Meetings – Monday March 3rd & 17th
Committee of the Whole (as needed) – Monday March 10th and 24th

Area Planning Committee (APC) – As Needed
Fiscal & Environment Committee – March 5th
Infrastructure and Services Committee – March 26th

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.

Contacts

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Councillor Ken Brotherston	Ph. 478-0372	kmbhighlands@shaw.ca	Councillor Jane Mendum	Ph. 478-9449	jmendum@telus.net
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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

Winter/Spring Youth Program



Juan de Fuca will provide staff to continue a winter/spring program in 2008. Get-togethers are planned for Fridays 6:30 to 8:30 pm in the Old Schoolhouse basement, 1589 Millstream Road. The cost includes a \$10 registration for approximately 12 evenings until mid April. For more information call Bob McMinn, (478-4403, bobmcminn@shaw.ca) or Sarah Fleming (478-0987, kwenstob@telus.net).

Millstream Meadows Contaminated Site Update

Council received an update from the CRD staff regarding work at Millstream Meadows. The information was reported as part of the CRD Environment committee report given by Councillor Mahovlich at the February 18th council meeting. In summary, the update included the following information:

- In January the CRD sampled the groundwater on the Millstream Meadows site. Results of this testing were not available at print time.
- Groundwater well monitoring will continue at the Millstream Meadows site monthly until April and then the monitoring frequency will be reviewed.
- The CRD continues to provide bottled water as a precautionary measure to residents that request it and live within a 1 kilometer radius of the site. A second round of sampling of domestic wells within a 1 kilometer radius of the site was completed in January and the results will be reported to residents in the near future.
- CRD staff are completing the tasks outlined in the December 2007 Environment Committee report to be prepared for site remediation, including updating environmental investigation reports for submission to the Ministry of Environment and continuing negotiations with Ministry of Agriculture and Lands.



Spring Break Activities

There are lots of activities available for kids during spring break. Check out some of the options at the following websites:

CRD Parks - <http://www.crd.bc.ca/parks/>
 JDF Recreation Centre - <http://www.jdfrecreation.com/>
 Royal BC Museum - <http://www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/MainSite/default.aspx>
 Victoria Kids Activity websites at:
<http://tourismmall.victoria.bc.ca/child.htm>
<http://www.victoriabcguide.com/kidstuff.htm>

Fire Smart Your Home

This is the time of year to re-assess how “fire smart” your property is. Consider doing the following activities while we are still able to burn slash on our properties (before fire season):

- Prune tree branches to a height of 2 metres or more;
- Store fire wood 10 metres from your home
- Remove trees, long grass, shrubs, twigs and needles within 10 metres of your home
- Thin trees (with 3 to 6 metre crowns) for at least 30 meters from your home
- Clean out your eaves

Always: Make sure your address or lot number are clearly signed for quick identification by our fire department.

Highlands Heritage Park Society Grant

The Highlands Heritage Park Society was successful in receiving nearly \$1400 in grant money from the Province. This grant money will be used to have formal historical signs made for the Caleb Pike Homestead property. The timing of this grant is particularly suitable given the society’s plans to celebrate the history of the Pike House this August. More details on this community event will be forthcoming from the Highlands District Community Association.

Conservation Tips

Energy is the focus of our conservation tips this month:

Turn down your thermostat. Each one degree equals approximately a 3% annual saving, and an additional 1% if you lower it at night.

A thermostat run by a clock or timer automatically saves energy.

Make sure boilers or furnaces are serviced and cleaned by qualified professionals. Regularly change filters on furnaces and clean ducting in homes on a regular basis.

See BC Hydro's current power rebate incentives at:

<http://www.bchydro.com/powersmart/coupons/coupons53457.html>

Check out how our District is doing in the Power Smart Challenge at:

<https://www6.bchydro.com/profiler/CommunityStatsPageExternal.do>

Select Committee, APC & Board of Variance Volunteers Needed

The District of Highlands requires volunteers for each of the following select Committees to serve a two year term.

- Fiscal and Environmental Select Committee (one person, two year term)
- Advisory Planning Commission (APC) (3 people, two year term)
- Board of Variance (one person, three year term)

Select committees receive information from council for consideration and input and may also bring forward matters to council for consideration. Terms of Reference and Bylaw are available at the District Office for viewing.

Persons interested in serving are invited to submit a letter and a resume outlining details of residency, community activities, qualifications, experience or relevant background information. All submissions should be forwarded to the following no later than **February 28th, 2008.**

**Send Submissions to:
The District of Highlands**
Chris Coates, CAO
1980 Millstream Road
Victoria, BC V9B 6H1

Telephone: 250-474-1773

Fax: 250-474-3677

Email: tneurauter@highlands.ca

Groundwater Task Force Update

Golder & Associates are well underway with our Comprehensive Groundwater Study. Currently they are taking all of our background information regarding water well location and water levels and combining it with local information such as: surfacewater, topography, precipitation, soil and bedrock characteristics and forming a base conceptual computer model. Once they get this information in place they can then start to generate the numeric portion of the groundwater model. We are hoping to have staff from Golder come to a Committee of the Whole meeting in late Spring to present their information. Further details will be provided in the March council letter.

Highlands' Coffee House

Highlands' Coffee House nights are held in the charming Caleb Pike Homestead, where the acoustic sound is palpable, and where the lovely wood stove keeps everyone toasty.

The Highlands' Coffee House, organized by Brian and Zhinoos Armstrong since 1998, celebrated its 10th year anniversary this January 2008. This monthly arts and entertainment event is a community service, which strives to bring old and new residents, of young age and old, families, friends, and neighbours, together so they could meet, share good times, and allow kinship to grow.

The experience at these events is rich, from listening to folk music, marimba, and a brass quintet, to children singing and dancing, to poems, humorous stories and jokes, to celebrating UN Human Rights Day, to donations to Red Cross and UNICEF appeals, to contributions to The Land Conservancy (TLC) and the World Wildlife Fund, the Coffee House has experienced it all.

Recently the Highlands' Coffee House was filmed and one of the organizers was interviewed by CHEK TV's Gordie Tupper, and the interview was shown on TV, on February 15th, 2008.

Brian and Zhinoos, themselves volunteers, with the help of other wonderful volunteers have been making each of these music nights to be special for everyone. All the wonderful people who volunteer, help with the setting

up of the coffee house, decorating, putting the chairs back at the end of the program and washing the mugs and cups (we decided from the very first night not to use Styrofoam).

The organizers of the Highlands' Coffee House would like to take this time to thank all the amazing musicians and entertainers, the audience, and the volunteers, who have helped make these nights a memorable and enriching event for everyone.

Thanks to Zhinoos Armstrong for this write up.



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