



Highlands News

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

June was a busy month for the Highlands community, with dozens of volunteers and residents joining in the many opportunities to learn, celebrate, apply skills, and spend time together over common interests, (see details in this newsletter). Bravo, everyone, and thank you for participating!

With the sunny weather comes high to extreme risk of wild fire. Highlanders live within a wildfire interface, where human activities occur in and around forests. Precipitation this past winter was half the average, and there has been very little rain as of late, creating exceptionally dry conditions in Highlands. Council reminds all residents and visitors to exercise vigilance and caution this summer, and if in doubt, make a **phone call**. The district's Fire Chief is always happy to answer your questions.

Due to a number of volunteer fire fighters recently being hired professionally, retiring, (congratulations!), or moving out of the district, membership has dropped to a critical level. The Fire Department is actively seeking new members. The training is excellent, and the skills acquired are invaluable. There are few ways to serve your community that are more rewarding than being a fire fighter. To learn more or to make arrangements to attend a practice and find out if this is for you, please contact Barry Ford, Fire Chief (see back page).

Council wishes everyone a safe and happy summer!

Mayor Jane Mendum

Randy Chipps performs blessing at Pike House – June 21, 2009



VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

Council wishes to recognize all those volunteers who contributed their time, interest, dedication, and skills to the creation of the Highlands Community Green Map, a beautiful and important document that is already inspiring other communities to embark on their own mapping project.

Thank you, one and all!

Photo credit: Charles Burnett (both)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Millstream Meadows update
- Groundwater Task Force seeks wells for monitoring
- The Fling is Back!



Highlands Community Green Map Celebration—June 21, 2009

**MOUNT WORK REGIONAL PARK
MUNN ROAD PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS
PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE – ONSITE**

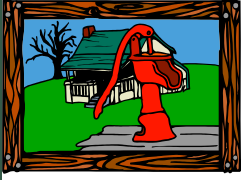
CRD Regional Parks is planning to improve the south entrance to Mount Work Regional Park at Munn Road. As a follow up to the June presentation to Highland Council, CRD invites the community to attend a Public Open House at the Munn Road location on Wednesday, July 8 between 6:30pm to 8:00pm. Regional Parks staff and consultants will be in attendance to receive input and answer questions. Information can be found online at highlands.ca and by contacting Richard Waterfield, Project Manager at 250-360-3354.



MARVIN THE BUS DRIVER RETIRING— One of School District 62's longest serving bus drivers, Marvin Guilbault, will retire this summer after more than 33 years of driving the school bus! Marvin has driven Bus #6 into the Highlands for many years - safely getting our kids to Millstream, Lakewood, Spencer and Belmont schools. Marvin will be dearly missed by all the kids who enjoy his smiling face every morning! Always great at remembering every parent's name with a morning greeting we all wish Marvin the best and hope he enjoys time on his new touring motorcycle. SD62 will host a retirement celebration for Marvin. If you would like to send along a retirement greeting you can forward it to the school district at: info@sd62.bc.ca



Community News



SEEKING WATER WELLS—

The District of Highlands and our consultant, Golder Associates Ltd., are currently working on Phase 2 of our three-year Groundwater Protection Study. As part of the study, Highlands is requesting interested residents to volunteer use of their water well for groundwater monitoring. For inclusion in the groundwater monitoring program, a well must be equipped with a pump, be in an accessible location and have a removable lid. The objective of the groundwater monitoring program is to collect water level and water quality data on a quarterly basis (*i.e.*, every 3 months) for a period of at least one year. Therefore, volunteer well owners are requested to permit access to their well for the duration of the program.

The district and Golder Associates will select wells for the monitoring program based on well locations and completion details (*i.e.*, depth). Following an evaluation of the wells available, volunteers will

be advised whether their well has been selected for the program.

The Highlands office will coordinate with the owners of selected wells to have a technician visit their properties on a quarterly basis to temporarily remove the well lid and measure the water level in the well. A water sample will also be collected. If the residence has a water treatment system, the sample will be collected at a location prior to the treatment system. The privacy of the volunteer well owners will be respected. Names and addresses of the well owners will not be published; rather, each volunteer well will be assigned a number (*e.g.* DoH-01) for reference purposes. Water level and water quality data will be presented in the Groundwater Protection Study report according to the monitoring well numbers and the locations of the monitoring wells will be shown on Figures. Each volunteer well owner will be provided with water level and water quality results for their well.

If you are interested in volunteering the use of your well for the ground-water monitoring program, please contact Laura Beckett at the District office at 474-1773 or by email at LBeckett@highlands.ca and provide the following information:

- your name and address
- is your well accessible?
- does your well have a removable lid?
- do you have a water treatment system and, if so, is it possible to get a water sample prior to passing through the treatment system?
- the depth of your well and water quality results from previous testing (if known)

The District appreciates those who have already offered their wells for this purpose. If those who have already volunteered their wells no longer wish to offer them, please advise the office. Otherwise, we have your contact information and will add it to the any new volunteers received.

If you have questions about the Groundwater Protection Study, please contact the District office at 474-1773.

THE HIGHLAND DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - The HDCA is pleased to announce that the Highland Fling will return to the Caleb Pike Homestead this year on September 13th from noon until 4:00pm. Put it on your calendar **now and plan to bring your family and friends out to “Celebrate the Highlands”!** The HDCA notes that it could use help in any of the following areas: food preparation and serving; site preparation and clean up; games; contests; and set up of stage and sound system. Please contact Scott Richardson at (250) 478-2526 if you are able to contribute any of your time to the planning, organizing or delivery of this traditional Highlands event.



HIGHLANDS WINTER CRAFT FAIR—The Highlands District Community Association is sponsoring the 2009 Highlands Winter Craft Fair, Sunday November 15, in the Old School House. If there are more vendors than the Schoolhouse can accommodate we will expand into the Pike House; the fair could also expand to Saturday November 14 if needed. Anyone wishing to sell or to help organize the fair can contact: Bob McMinn at (250) 478-4403 or bobmcminn@shaw.ca.

 **HAT** JUNE—NOV 2009: A unique opportunity for Highlanders to learn techniques that protect and enhance the value of their properties is provided courtesy of Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT). Watch for information in your mailbox soon, or preview online by visiting hat.bc.ca (Millstream Watershed Good Neighbours link). You are also invited to a Garden & Woodland Tour hosted by the Highlands Garden Club and HAT, July 14th, 7 pm. View online at highlands.ca for details, or phone 250-995-2428. Free.

2009 Council Meeting Schedule

July—13th
August—17th
September—8th and 28th
October—5th and 19th
November—2nd and 16th
December—7th and 21st

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.

visit the district website: highlands.ca

Council News

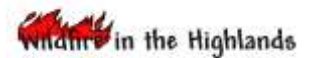
REZONING APPLICATION RZ-07-08 PUBLIC HEARING—Council has given 1st and 2nd reading to Bylaw 319, which would rezone the property at 3813 Munn Road to a new amenity zone, RR5, to add a residential lot to the approximately 41-acre property. A third lot of approximately 13 acres would be created and donated to CRD parks in future. The lot is adjacent to Thetis Lake Regional Park. Council has scheduled a public hearing to precede the next Council meeting on July 13th, at 7pm at the School House.

MILLSTREAM MEADOWS—On June 8th, Council hosted a public information session for the Millstream Meadows remediation project. Teams from CRD Environmental Department and Golder Associates presented an overview of the project to date, and answered questions from council and the public. The work plan for 2009 will see recovery wells installed and infilling completed in Lagoon 1, the area where hydrocarbon contaminate was removed in 2008. Characterization of the contents of the remainder of Lagoon 2 will be completed, with a report containing recommendations for 2010 expected to the CRD board this fall. Monitoring of ground and surface water will continue.

2009 LAND SUMMIT – WHISTLER, BC—A better future: adapting to change was the theme of the 2009 BC Land Summit held in Whistler, BC on May 20-22. Members of six professional organizations including the BC Planning Institute of BC, and the BC institute of Agrologists along with government officials and land management practitioners from across the Province, gathered to discuss issues related to sustainability and climate change. Councillor Dobb attended this conference with partial support from the District, and took in two full days of sessions on subjects ranging from sustainable consumption for local government, to future prospects for agricultural land in BC. A report on the conference was shared at the regular council meeting on June 15, and with the Sustainability Task Force on June 16. Residents with specific questions regarding the Land Summit or the Highlands Sustainability Task force are invited to contact Councillor Dobb.

CRD SERVICES—General Manager of CRD Corporate Services Diana Lokken attended Council on June 1st to give an overview of shared services provided by the CRD, to which Highlands contributed roughly \$156,000 this year through tax requisitions. One of the largest functions provided is solid waste disposal, which includes recycling, but this is entirely paid for through Hartland landfill tipping fees. Other major services in which Highlands participates include Regional Parks (about \$40,000/year), Millstream Meadows remediation (\$8,256 this year), fire dispatch (\$7697), CREST emergency communications (\$7,944), debts for both the Juan de Fuca swimming pool (\$25,386) and library building (\$7,796), and animal control (\$15,401).

WILDFIRE FORUMS



Two Wildfire Forums were held in early June, one at each fire hall. About 100 residents attended the forums, and were presented with important **information from the district's Emergency Plan** Coordinator, Val Fletcher, and representatives from both CRD Parks Operations and BC Forests Protection branch. Councillor Johannesen provided **an overview of the ongoing work of the district's Emergency Planning Committee**. Thank you to all who attended, and all those who helped to organize the forums. If you were unable to attend, but would like to obtain information on protecting your home and Highlands from the threat of wildfire, please contact Val Fletcher, (see back page).



TWINFLOWER PARK—Due to soil settlement on the Twinflower Park playing field, Council has authorized a short-term remediation project to be carried out by the Highlands Parks and Recreation Association, which manages the park. Work is expected to be completed for the annual community baseball game at the Highland Fling, on September 13th. Council will also engage a consultant to recommend long-term plans to address the problem.

COFFEE HOUSE NEWS



Make sure to come and bring all the family members and friends too for an enjoyable evening of entertainment.

Featuring Rhonda Lou and the Silver String band

Featuring lead singer Rhonda Broadfoot on guitar and harmonica, Mike Kraft on banjo, Barbara Pedrick on upright bass, and Michael Brooks on mandolin, **this band brings warmth and enthusiasm to their audience. The band's genre is described as 'bluegrass with a side of folk rock'.**

We will also have a brief open stage bringing to you further talented musicians.

Date: Saturday, July 11, 2009

Place: Caleb Pike House, 1589 Millstream Road

Time: **7:30 pm** (doors will open at 7:00 pm)

Charges: Minimum recommended donation \$5/ person (honorary system), 15 and under free, includes tea/coffee & goodies

Information: 250-727-9561 (Zhinoos Armstrong)

Please note: this is the last Coffee House for the summer; we will resume in October

RCMP INCIDENTS May 16 to June 15, 2009

MAY

16th - Suspicious Pers/Veh/Occur - Verona Cres
 16th - Roadside Prohibition - Millstream Lake Rd
 17th - Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Millstream Lake/Munns Rd
 17th - Missing Person - River Rd
 18th - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Millstream/Lost Lake Rd
 20th - Sexual Assault – South Highlands
 20th - Unspecified Assistance - Finlayson Arm Rd
 20th - Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Munns Rd
 21st - Income Tax Act - Lorimer PI
 22nd - Bylaw-Noise - Millington PI
 23rd - False Alarms - Millstream Rd
 24th - Traffic-Insurance Violation - Munns Rd
 24th - Mental Health Act - Millstream Rd
 25th - False Alarm - Lorimer Rd
 26th - Property-Lost - Lorimer PI
 27th - Break & Enter Residence – North Highlands
 27th - Break & Enter Residence - Jayhawk PI
 29th - Breach of Peace - Woodridge PI
 29th - Mental Health Act – West Highlands
 30th - Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Millstream Rd
 30th - Mental Health Act – West Highlands
 30th - Collision-Damage Under \$1000 - Millstream Lake/Ross Durr
 31st - Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Millstream Lake Rd

JUNE

03rd - Animal Calls - Millstream Rd/Lone Tree Hill
 03rd - Bylaw-Other - White Pine Terr
 03rd - False Alarms - Quail PI
 04th - Break & Enter Business - Lorimer PI
 06th - Break & Enter Residence - Caleb Pike Rd
 06th - Collision Damage Under \$1000 - Munns Rd
 07th - Bylaw-Noise - Skyview PI/Highlands Park
 08th - Unspecified Assistance - Millstream Rd
 11th - Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Lorimer Rd/Millstream Rd
 12th - Firearms Document-Admin – East Highlands
 13th - Suspicious Pers/Veh/Occur - Munns Rd/Millstream Lake
 13th - Firearms-Unsafe Storage - west Highlands
 13th - Breach of Peace - Caleb Pike Rd
 13th - Fraud-Other – North Highlands
 13th - Assault-Common or Trespass - Finlayson Arm Rd
 14th - False Alarms - Finlayson Arm Rd



Council wishes to express a special thank you to resident Joe Bryant who did a wonderful job of cleaning the 'Welcome to Highlands' sign on Millstream Road. It looks great!

Thank you to district staff for cheerfully assisting in the production of this newsletter. Your help and expertise is always very much appreciated.

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— randdgill@telus.net
 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 Barry Ford— b.v.ford@shaw.ca
 250-479-5741

Emergency Coordinator Val Fletcher— val.fletcher@shaw.ca
 250-479-1725

District of Highlands Office— 250-474-1773
 CRD Bylaw Enforcement— 250-474-3351
 Animal Control (24 hrs) - 250-478-0624
 CRD Parks— 250-474-2264
 Wildlife Violations— 1-800-663-WILD (9453)

SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM—The West Shore Parks and Recreation Society will hold the Roving Play Park, a youth program, in the Highlands this summer: Thursdays at Twin Flower Park: 10am to 11am for pre-school (parent participation required) and 11am to 3pm for school ages.

July— 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

August— 6, 13, 20, 27

For more information call (250) 474-5825.



JULY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JULY 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Roving Playpark, Twinflower Park*,
 - 10 - 11am (pre-school age), 11am - 3 pm (school ages)

JULY 8 CRD Parks Open House*,
 - Mount Work Munn Rd entrance, 6:30 - 8 pm

JULY 10 CRD Recycling bluebox pickup

JULY 11 Highlands Coffee House*, Pike House, 7:30 pm

JULY 13 Public Hearing**, School House, 7 pm

JULY 13 Regular Council Meeting**, School House, 7 pm

JULY 14 Highlands Garden Club*, with HAT, Garden & Woodland tour, 7 pm, visit <highlands.ca> or phone 250-995-2428 for details

JULY 24 CRD Recycling bluebox pickup

JULY 26 Highlands Market*, Pike House, 10 am - 1 pm

*details elsewhere in the Newsletter

**please visit the district website, highlands.ca for detailed agenda



'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