



Highlands News

October 2008

The Official Newsletter of the District of Highlands Council
RURAL LIFE NATURAL BEAUTY STRONG COMMUNITY

A message from Mayor Mark Cardinal

Congratulations to the *Green Community Mapping Committee* on a great job preparing the Highlands Green Community Map. The map is in its final stages and printing is expected to be completed by December. Maps will be made available to the community. Information will follow on this. We are still getting lots of calls inquiring about the *tiger situation* in the West Highlands. The District filed a court injunction to remove the tiger from the property in late September. We are now awaiting a court date which had to wait for the appropriate serving and response periods to expire (week of October 20th). We will keep the community apprised of any updated information. Detailed information regarding Council's discussion on the *Urban Containment Boundary* pertaining to land use in the South Highlands is contained inside this newsletter.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

We encourage all residents new or established to attend one or both of our all candidate nights. The purpose of the all candidates nights is to allow residents to come and meet the candidates for Mayor and Council in the upcoming municipal election, to hear their platforms and to ask them questions. There are two candidates vying for the position of Mayor as well as ten council candidates vying for the six positions on council. All candidates nights are hosted by the Highlands District Community Association.

Tuesday November 4th – West Firehall – 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Thursday November 6th – East Firehall – 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm

The District of Highlands has one of the highest voter turnouts in the province and our elections are always very closely contested. Please make an effort to attend these evenings and to VOTE!

ADVANCED VOTING: ANY ELIGIBLE ELECTOR MAY NOW VOTE AT AN ADVANCE POLL
Wednesday, November 5 OR Wednesday, November 12, 2008 - 8am to 8pm District of Highlands Office

GENERAL VOTING: Saturday November 15th – West Firehall 8 am to 8pm

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. **NEW Website:** www.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
Councillor Andrew Fall	Ph. 391-4801	andrew@gowlland.ca	Councillor Ken Williams	Ph. 479-7497	kgwmaya@shaw.ca
Councillor Joe Kadar	Ph. 391-1409	kadardev@shaw.ca	Fire Chief Barry Ford	Ph. 479-5741	b.v.ford@shaw.ca

District of Highlands Urban Containment Boundary/Regional Growth Strategy Amendment Process

In September, the Ministry of Community Services invoked binding arbitration that saw legislated timelines imposed on the CRD and its member municipalities regarding participation in this process. All member municipalities and the CRD had to indicate by October 10th if they intended to participate in the binding arbitration process. Participation is defined as suggesting an option by way of a proposal submitted to the Arbitrator for the Highlands request to adjust the CRD's urban containment boundary and include additional development area in the south Highlands.

The District of Highlands must decide independent of the CRD Board if they wish to participate in the binding arbitration process. Council made the decision to participate at a council meeting October 6th. Council then held a Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday October 13th followed by a Council meeting on Monday October 20th to have detailed discussions pertaining to the District of Highland's proposal moving into the binding arbitration process that the province has enabled to address this matter.

Following a lengthy debate, the five remaining councillors (Councillor Brotherston being on a leave of absence) and the Mayor proposed several geographic areas for consideration within the urban containment boundary. The District staff are now in the process of assessing each geographic area on its own merits, and combined with other areas. Once the staff assessment is completed, a staff report will come forward to council for consideration. A special meeting of council may have to be called to meet the November 10th deadline for submission of all options from all participants (CRD and member municipalities opting into the process).

If the District of Highlands Council cannot come to a resolution and provide a map and rationale for the proposal to the binding arbitration process we will not have an option on the table for the arbitrator to consider. The arbitrator MUST choose one of the options presented (ie. from the CRD and any participating municipalities). The arbitrator MUST NOT combine options, he must choose from one already prepared. We are hopeful that if Highlands council can come to a resolution to support a made in Highlands resolution that

this option will be selected. However there are no guarantees.

The provincial arbitrator will make a final determination by December 1st, 2008. There is then a 60 day period following that during which time the participants could reach agreement on an alternative proposal. Following that 60 day response period, and failing any subsequent agreement amongst the participants, the decision of the arbitrator will become binding.

A staff report regarding this discussion will be posted on the Highlands website as soon as it is available.

Willner Rezoning Application 889 Finlayson Arm Road

At the October 20th council meeting, council directed staff to prepare bylaws for the Willner rezoning application. It is anticipated that the bylaws will return to council for consideration in November.

Brotherston Rezoning Application 5247 Munn Road

Council gave first and second reading to the Brotherston family rezoning. A **public hearing is scheduled for December 15th**, after the election, in order that the new council can hear from the community prior to giving further consideration to the rezoning application.

Council Meeting Schedule for November

Council Meetings: Monday November 3rd and 17th

Committee of the Whole: TBA

Volunteers for Highlands Committees Needed

The District requires volunteers to sit on the Fiscal & Environmental Committee and Community Infrastructure Committee. Details on how to apply are at the District office. Deadline to apply November 28th.

VOTER REGISTRATION

You must register to vote before you receive a ballot. The District of Highlands will use the Provincial Voters' List as the District's List of Electors for the 2008 Local General Election. If you are registered as a provincial voter, you should be on this list. To confirm that you are on the Provincial Voters' List please contact Tina Neurauter or June Cameron at the District office – 250-474-1773. **Or you can register in person at a voting place when you go vote.**

RESIDENT ELECTOR:

To be registered as a Resident Elector, you must meet the following requirements:

- Age 18 or older, or will be on the day of election;
- Canadian citizen;
- Resident of British Columbia for at least six months prior to election day (May 13, 2008);
- Resident of the District of Highlands for at least 30 days immediately prior to voting day (since October 15, 2008).
- Not disqualified by any enactment from voting in an election or otherwise disqualified by law.

PROPERTY ELECTOR:

To be registered as a Property Elector, you must meet the following requirements:

- Age 18 or older, or will be on the day of election;
- Canadian citizen;
- Resident of British Columbia for at least six months prior to election day (May 13/08);
- Registered owner of real property in the District of Highlands for at least 30 days immediately prior to Election Day (since Oct 15/08).
- Must not be entitled to register as a resident elector in the District of Highlands;
- Not disqualified by any enactment from voting in an election or otherwise disqualified by law.
- **If there is more than 1 registered owner of the property, only one of those individuals may, with the written consent of the majority of the owners, register as a non-resident property elector.**

ELECTOR IDENTITY DOCUMENTS

The following are valid identity documents for proving elector identity:

- a British Columbia Driver's License
 - a British Columbia Identification Card issued by the Motor Vehicle Branch
 - an Owner's Certificate of Insurance and Vehicle License issued by the Insurance Corporation of BC
 - a British Columbia CareCard or British Columbia Gold CareCard
 - a Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security Request for Continued Assistance Form DES8
 - a Social Insurance Card issued by Human Resources Development Canada
 - a Citizenship Card issued by Citizenship and Immigration Canada
 - a real property tax notice issued under section 369 of the Local Government Act or section 21 of the Taxation (Rural Area) Act
 - a credit card or debit card issued by a savings institution as defined in s.29 of the Interpretation Act, or
 - a utility bill issued for the supply of electricity, natural gas, water, telephone services or coaxial cable services by
 - a public utility as defined in section 1 of the Utilities Commission Act
 - a gas utility as defined in section 1 of the Gas Utility Act,
 - a water utility as defined in section 1 of the Water Act,
 - the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority, or
 - a corporation licensed by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission for the purposes of that supply.
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Conservation Tips 

Water Protection

Fall is a great time to:

Clean out your septic tank – *it should be pumped once every two to three years!*

Inspect your septic tank, pump and septic field. *The main source of groundwater contamination on individual residential lots is faulty septic tanks and fields. Be diligent in taking care of your systems!*

Test your well water – *it is always good to test your well water for quality in the Spring and Fall to ensure you do not have bacterial build up or other contaminants in your system.*

Highlands Firefighters Association Halloween Bonfire & Fireworks - Friday October 31st

Always a very fun and well attended evening hosted by our volunteer firefighters and the Highlands District Community Association. All community members are welcome Hot dogs and hot chocolate will be served. Fireworks are expected to start between 8:15 and 8:45. The event will be hosted at both the West and East Firehalls. ***Don't forget to thank our firefighters while you are there for all of their hours of volunteering!***



Halloween Kids' Party - HDCA

The Highlands District Community Association will host a kids' Halloween party at the Caleb Pike House 1589 Millstream Road from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

Highlands Youth Program – Fall Schedule

Friday evenings 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Nov 7, 21, 28 and Dec 5 and 12

Schoolhouse Basement, 1589 Millstream Rd. Games. Swimming, movie night, skating and more.

Come and join the fun Ages 6 to 12 + yrs. Highland Heritage Park Society and West Shore Parks and Recreation For more information: Bob McMinn 478-4403 bobmcminn@shaw.ca

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