



Highlands News

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

I would like to congratulate Highlanders on the care they have taken to prevent wildfire this year. With the exception of the Millstream Lake roadside fire reported in the August edition, no wildfire incidents have occurred as of press time. As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, the burning ban is still on, and the provincial government anticipates that the extreme fire hazard may continue for some time. Please continue to practice vigilant prevention.

Over the past month, vandals damaged many district signs as well as private properties. If you have any information regarding these incidents, please contact the district office or the Westshore RCMP. Taxpayers pay for repairs to public property damaged by vandalism, while costs to residents whose property is damaged include distress as well as the expense of repair.

September will see the return of regularly scheduled meetings of both Council and its committees. We welcome your attendance and participation. Agendas are posted on the district website or you may contact the district office, a council member or a committee chair for details.

Plan to join fellow Highlanders on September 13th for the Highlands Fling, a fun-filled day celebrating Highlands. We hope to see you there!

Mayor Jane Mendum

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Community Calendar
- Lots of Fling information!
- Traffic Bulletin: Siphon Pipe route

BURNING BAN STILL IN EFFECT Due to continuing extremely dry conditions, a ban on all burning remains in effect until further notice. Our Highlands Volunteer Fire Department is following a "zero tolerance" policy, meaning that all fires will be investigated, and fines could be levied on anyone not adhering to the burning ban. When in doubt about what is or is not allowed, please phone the municipal office (250-474-1773) or Fire Chief Barry Ford (250-479-5741) for further information.

A big community thank-you to those who responded to the call for new firefighting volunteers. More volunteers are needed and will be heartily welcomed. Please phone Chief Ford for more information.



REMINDER Halloween fireworks will need a permit issued by the Fire Chief. In order to qualify for a permit a resident must have proper certification. A Fireworks Safety Course is required and will be available in October (watch for further information in early October in both the Highlands News and advertised in the Goldstream Gazette). Fireworks may only be set off between 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. on October 31st. Applications, found as **schedule "A" to Bylaw 254, can be obtained from the District's website.**

Sunday, September 13th!

Come Celebrate the Highlands at the Highlands Fling - Everyone Welcome!

10:30 am – 12:00 Pre- Fling Community Baseball Game at Twinflower Park (behind the West Fire Hall 1564 Millstream Road)

12:00 - 4:00 pm Highlands Fling at the *Pike House, 1589 Millstream Road*

- Musicians: Jim Brannigan, Holly Arntzen
- Clowns: Tickle and Yowza
- Talent Show, toddlers to teenagers: *Please contact Vivien (250) 391-3998 ahead of time if possible.*
- **All ages Art Show: Theme "The Highlands."** *Contact Marcie (250) 474-4725 prior to September 13th. One item displayed per person.*
- Games / Races; Face Painting
- Pottery making
- Craft table for kids
- **Tug O' War**
- Lots of Good Food at reasonable prices!
- Pot-luck dessert
- Free fresh Popcorn and Watermelon



Community News

SCHOOL'S IN! Public school classes begin again on September 8th, and school buses will once again be picking up students throughout the Highlands. Exercise extra caution, watch for children waiting for buses on the roadsides, and remember that school zone speed limits are once again in effect.

LUXTON FALL FAIR Organizers of this annual event are looking for volunteers to help staff the exhibit buildings and/or parking lots. A four hour daytime shift on September 19th or 20th gets you a fabulous home-grown and expertly prepared meal! For information, phone 250-478-4740.

Event details and exhibit entry forms are available at <<http://www.luxtonfair.ca/>>.

CRD HARTLAND LANDFILL OPEN HOUSE

The CRD hosts its 4th annual Open House at the Hartland Landfill, #1 Hartland Avenue, on Sunday, September 20th, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.. Featuring free guided tours, free food, and great entertainment (including a musical performance by Highlands Council members Karel, Allen, and Ken!), this popular public event is both informative and fun for the entire family. Attendance is highly recommended!

A shuttle bus schedule is available. Donations of non-perishable food items for Mustard Seed welcome.

For information, map, and details, visit <<http://www.crd.bc.ca/waste/hartland/hartland-openhouse.htm>> or phone the CRD Hotline, 250-360-3030.

CRD INFORMATION

MOUNT WORK REGIONAL PARK MUNN ROAD UPGRADE CRD Regional Parks is making improvements to the south entrance of Mount Work Regional Park at Munn Road this fall. The site development plan for the Munn Road parking lot upgrades was received by the District of Highlands Council on August 17th. Regional Parks would like to thank the council, staff and residents for their valuable input. Once the required permits are in place, construction will begin in October. The target for completion is December 2009. For more information and to see the site development plan, visit <http://www.crd.bc.ca/parks/munnroadupgrades.htm>.

REGIONAL PARKS NATURE EVENTS

Sunday, September 20 | 1pm—**3pm | Skull n' Bones (Drop in)** - Ages: 6 years and older
Francis/King Regional Park - Join CRD Regional Parks interpreters as we explore the other side of animals - their insides! Learn how to tell animals apart and to gather clues about their lifestyles and methods of survival by looking at their skulls and bones. Come to the Nature Centre off Munn Road anytime between 1 and 3pm.

Saturday, September 26th | 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.. Forest Tea Party — Ages: 14 years and older | Francis/King Regional Park **You don't have to take a trip to England to find a great cup of tea!** The forests around Victoria are full of plants that make delicious teas year - round. Join us for an interpretive tea tasting featuring some of these local plants. Sit back, relax, and enjoy some West Coast fare. We will go for a short walk in the park before the tea tasting to see some of the plants growing in their native habitat. No fee, though pre-registration is required due to limited space. Call 250-478-3344 to reserve a spot.



LANGFORD TRANSIT HUB BC Transit is moving their transit hub in Langford from West Shore Town Centre to Station Road as of Tuesday, September 8th. All commuter buses will leave from that location from that day onward. For more information, call 250.382.6161 or visit www.bctransit.com.

JDF SOCCER REGISTRATION Juan De Fuca Soccer will hold one last registration day on Sunday, September 13th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at West Shore Town Centre for the upcoming 2009/2010 season (details at: www.jdfsoccer.ca).



REMINDER The Habitat Acquisition Trust's Millstream Watershed Good Neighbours Project continues into the fall. The program offers free confidential consultations on ways to increase the value of your watershed property while reducing maintenance. For information visit <hat.bc.ca> or phone 250-995-2428.

ATTENTION: WATER WELL OWNERS Aquifer levels usually reach their lowest annual point during the fall, before recharge occurs. (Recharge can take all winter.) Residents may want to test their drinking water for quality and keep an eye on their well water levels so as not to unduly stress expensive pump equipment. This historically dry year is of particular concern, and remaining aware is key. As the water table drops, odour can be present in groundwater; shocking the well with chlorine may be helpful in addressing this issue.

Instructions and further information concerning water well maintenance can be found at <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/plan_protect_sustain/groundwater/wells/factsheets/PFRA_simple_chlorification.pdf> and at <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/plan_protect_sustain/groundwater/library/faq_grdwater.html>.

visit the district website: highlands.ca

Council & District News

TRAFFIC BULLETIN: MILLSTREAM/HANINGTON ROADS SIPHON PIPE WORK SCHEDULE Work has begun on the Langford Sewer pipe that will be located in the Millstream and Hanington Road right of ways. The district is working to minimize the impact on traffic during the construction period which will go into October.

Full details of the traffic impacts are still being finalized at this time, as discussions regarding simultaneous installation of water pipes to service the Business Park located on the east side of Millstream Road are currently underway.

Information pertaining to construction and potential traffic impacts will be posted online at <highlands.ca>, and will also be posted on signage near the construction area.

HIGHLANDS ROADSIDE PARKING The District Office has received numerous complaints about parked cars blocking the roadway, often near parks. This not only restricts use of the roadway for other travelers, it can cause a potentially dangerous situation by blocking access for emergency vehicles.



Our Highlands Roads and Traffic Bylaw prohibits the obstruction of traffic, and cars causing traffic obstruction may be ticketed or removed. If you see parked cars obstructing traffic please notify the district office or Westshore RCMP.

LET'S TALK: PERMIT INFORMATION From time to time, Council deals with decisions involving land alteration or construction that has been done without the necessary permits. This costs taxpayers in staff time and may result in penalties charged to the landowner. A reminder that district staff are friendly, fair, and eager to share information with **residents regarding current regulations. Please don't** hesitate to contact them before beginning new construction or alteration to your property.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

Thank you to the many Highlands residents who are working to organize or who have **signed up to volunteer at this year's** Highland Fling.

The Fling is organized by the Highland District Community Association. Community volunteers, both new and returning, have stepped forward to ensure that Highlands Fling 2009 is a huge success. Thank you, one and all!

Fling organizers are still looking for volunteers to assist with morning set-up, afternoon take-down and other tasks. Please contact Scott (250-478-2526) if you are available to help.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE HIGHLANDS FLING In 1985 Highlanders organized the first annual community event now known as The Highlands Fling. The Highlands Heritage Fair was organized as a Western Communities-wide event, and ran for at least four years. The community volunteers took a year off, and then held an annual Highlands Community Picnic on the grounds of the Caleb Pike Homestead for a few years. In the early 90s, the most popular highlights of the previous events were brought together under the banner of The Highlands Fling. **Last year was only the second "vacation" of the event;** a Highland Pioneer Reunion, including a dinner and dance celebration as well as the launch of *Beautiful Rocks* (see back page), took place at the School House instead.

Today, The Highlands Fling organizers strive to incorporate local talent and to get the entire community involved, whether as exhibitors, entertainers, volunteers, or residents who attend the event. The Fling is uniquely Highlands, and provides a wonderful opportunity for Highlanders to meet new neighbours and to spend the day together having good old-fashioned fun.

ONGOING ROAD MAINTENANCE You may have noticed the crack sealing program that has taken place on Millstream and Millstream Lake Roads during the summer. The crack sealing and road edge repairs have made significant, cost effective improvements to protect the integrity of the roads **and road base, as per the district's roads maintenance plan.** Additional road works are anticipated for this year which will include shouldering and drainage maintenance; details are being finalized.

The district is awaiting information regarding the infrastructure grant application previously submitted for the pavement rehabilitation project targeting a portion of south Millstream Road.

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.

Thank You!

2009 Council Meeting Schedule

September—8th and 21st
October—5th and 19th
November—2nd and 16th
December—7th and 21st



COFFEE HOUSE NEWS

Please note: The Coffee House will resume in October

RCMP INCIDENTS REPORT July 16 to August 15, 2009

JULY

16th - Theft-Other Under \$5000 - Hazlitt Creek Rd
16th - False Alarms - Highlands Park Ter
17th - False Alarms - Stewart Mountain Rd
18th - False Alarms - Munns Rd
18th - Animals Calls - Munns Rd
19th - Theft of Auto Under \$5000 - Finlayson Arm Rd
19th - Bylaw-Noise - Finlayson Arm Rd
19th - Traffic-Insurance Violation - Millstream Rd
19th - Abandoned Vehicles - Rowntree Rd
20th - 911-False/Abandoned Calls - Millstream Lake Rd
20th - Collision-Non-Fatal Injuries - Millstream Lake Rd
22nd - Collision-Damage Under \$1000 - Munns Rd
22nd - 911-False/Abandoned Calls - Rowntree Rd
23rd - Trespass at Night - Skyview PI/Highlands Park
24th - Bylaw-Noise - Munns Rd/Talon Ridge
25th - Impaired Op of Motor Vehicle - Millstream Rd
26th - False Alarms - Industrial Way
26th - Impaired OP of Motor Vehicle - Woodridge PI/Eagles Lake
27th - Property Lost - Mount Work
27th - Assault-Common or Trespass- Munns Rd
28th - Abandoned Vehicles - Ross Durrance Rd
28th - Theft from MV under \$5000 - Highlands Park Terr
28th - Assault - Stewart Mountain Rd
28th - Impaired Op of Motor Vehicle - Munns Rd
29th - Mischief \$5000 or Under - Munns Rd/Bukin Dr
29th - Assist-Municipal Agency - Davies Rd/Millstream Lake
29th - False Alarms - Munns Rd
29th - Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Woodridge PI
30th - Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Finlayson Arm/Millstream
31st - Possession-Cannabis - Woodridge PI
31st - Traffic-Insurance Violation - Woodridge PI/Verona Cres

AUGUST

01st - Impaired Op of Motor Vehicle - Millstream/Finlayson Arm
03rd - Break and Enter Residence - Old Mossy Rd
03rd - Impaired OP of Motor Vehicle - Industrial Way
04th - Theft Other Vehicle - Millstream Rd
09th - Firearms Act - Munns Rd
10th - Suspicious Pers/Veh/Occur - Munns Rd
10th - Collision Damage Over \$1000 - Millstream Rd
10th - Bylaw-Other - Millstream Rd
11th - Possession-Cannabis - Millstream Lake Rd
11th - Theft-Other Under \$5000 - Eagles Lake/Woodridge PI
12th - Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Finlayson Arm/Millstream
12th - Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Millstream Lake/Munns Rd
13th - Mischief \$5000 or Under - Millstream Rd
14th - False Alarm - Millstream Rd
15th - False Alarm - Millstream Rd
15th - Bylaw-Noise - Millstream Lake Rd

PROJECT CONNECT 2009 The Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness is organizing an Action Week which includes the Project Connect event on October 14th. 'Survival packs' are given to those participants in need. A wish list for donations is available at <highlands.ca> along with information for any who wish to volunteer to help with the event. Cash donations are welcome, and can be dropped off at the district office.

To learn more about the coalition, visit
<www.solvehomelessness.ca> or
call Jane at 250-478-9449

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)

LAST HIGHLANDS MARKET OF 2009! Sunday, September 27th will be this year's last chance to buy fresh Highlands fruit, flowers, baking, honey, crafts, bedding plants, vegetables and more at the Highlands Market, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Caleb Pike House, 1589 Millstream Rd.

For more information, contact Leslie at 250-474-3453.



DOES YOUR LAWN LOOK LIKE IT NEEDS LIFE SUPPORT?

The condition of our lawns this time of year can be a bit worrisome. Dry and golden brown, they may look as if they need a major overhaul. No worries! The grass is dormant and will come back to a lush green when the rains begin. In terms of water conservation, golden brown is the new green!

SEPTEMBER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

September 2nd - FESC Meeting, Pike House, 7:30 pm
September 3rd - Sustainability Task Force meeting, School House, 7 pm
September 4th - CRD Recycling Blue Box pickup
September 8th - Regular Council Meeting**, School House, 7 pm
September 8th - Highlands Garden Group, Pike House, 7 pm
September 13th - Community Baseball Game*, Twin Flower Park, 10:30 am - noon, everyone welcome!
September 13th - Highlands Fling*, Caleb Pike Homestead, noon to 4
September 14th - Committee of the Whole**, School House 7 pm
September 18th - CRD Recycling Blue Box pickup
September 20th - Hartland Open House*, 10:30 am to 3 pm
September 21st - Regular Council Meeting**, School House, 7 pm
September 23rd - CI&SC Meeting, School House, 7:30 pm
September 27th - Highlands Market*, Pike House, 10 am to 1 pm

*details elsewhere in the Newsletter

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



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.