



# Highlands News

November 2007

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

## A message from Mayor Mark Cardinal

*My message this month is on our Groundwater Study and is an update from the Groundwater Task Force:*

As part of Highlands' ongoing groundwater study, it is important for our consultant, Golder and Associates, to identify unused or abandoned wells in the District. If anyone knows of or has such a well, please contact Laura Beckett at the District office at 474-1773 or by email at [LBeckett@highlands.ca](mailto:LBeckett@highlands.ca).

Early next year, Golder Associates will identify areas where it will be useful to monitor the groundwater. It is expected that we will need to use some existing wells on private property. Further to this, the District will send letters advising residents in specific areas that their location is desirable for monitoring, and requesting the use of their well; further details will be included in the letter. Golder Associates will then follow up within a few weeks to ascertain who would be willing to volunteer their well for monitoring. Certainly, no one is required to allow the District to use their well. If you have any questions about the Groundwater Study, please feel free to contact Laura Beckett at the District office as above.

## Annual Santa Run to Benefit the Goldstream Foodbank

It is that time of year when the focus is on those less fortunate. For a number of years the Highlands Volunteer Fire Department has undertaken a Santa Run in our community. Fire trucks with community volunteers travel our roads on a Saturday morning and stop at as many residences as they can to collect bags of non perishable goods and any monetary donations residents would like to give. All items are delivered to the Goldstream Food Bank.

**This year our SANTA RUN will be SATURDAY December 15<sup>th</sup> and will start at the East Firehall at 9:00 am.** Details of other Highlands stops will be posted on community mailboxes. Come and ride the hay wagon and don't forget to leave your non perishable goods at the end of your driveway or on your porches for pick up.

## Litter Along Our Roads

Lately it seems that there is an inordinate amount of litter on our main roads and some side roads. We'd like to believe that no residents of the Highlands are blatantly throwing garbage out of their vehicles however it seems that perhaps visitors are. Please help the entire community to stay clean of debris by taking the time to monitor roads in front of your own homes and proactively (and safely) stopping to remove litter from our roads when you see it.

## 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](mailto:JCameron@highlands.ca).

### Contacts

Mayor Mark Cardinal	Ph. 474-8985 Cell 380-8828	<a href="mailto:mecardinal@shaw.ca">mecardinal@shaw.ca</a>	Councillor Michelle Mahovlich	Ph. 812-5768	<a href="mailto:michelle_mahovlich@shaw.ca">michelle_mahovlich@shaw.ca</a>
Councillor Ken Brotherston	Ph. 478-0372	<a href="mailto:kmbhighlands@shaw.ca">kmbhighlands@shaw.ca</a>	Councillor Jane Mendum	Ph. 478-9449	<a href="mailto:jmendum@telus.net">jmendum@telus.net</a>
Councillor Andrew Fall	Ph. 391-4801	<a href="mailto:andrew@gowlland.ca">andrew@gowlland.ca</a>	Councillor Ken Williams	Ph. 479-7497	<a href="mailto:kgwmaya@shaw.ca">kgwmaya@shaw.ca</a>
Councillor Joe Kadar	Ph. 391-1409	<a href="mailto:kadardev@shaw.ca">kadardev@shaw.ca</a>	Fire Chief Barry Ford	Ph. 479-5741	<a href="mailto:b.v.ford@shaw.ca">b.v.ford@shaw.ca</a>

## Fall/Winter Youth Program



A *Youth Evening Program* continues at the Old School House (1589 Millstream Road) this fall. Join West Shore Parks and Recreation staff for games, music, crafts, swimming, skating and movie outings, and much more in a fun and safe environment. Friday evenings, 7 to 9 pm. Registration \$10 for 12 evenings thru December 14<sup>th</sup>. Some evenings we may need a parent to help. Contact Bob McMinn 478-4403 or [bobmcminn@shaw.ca](mailto:bobmcminn@shaw.ca) for information and registration.

## Remembrance Day Ceremonies

The District of Highlands flag made its debut appearance at the recent Remembrance Day Ceremonies at Veteran's Memorial Park in Langford.

### *Lest We Forget*

*They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old;*

*Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn;  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning;  
We will remember them*



Special thanks to Frank Chevalier and the Royal Canadian Legion Prince Edward Branch #91 for their excellent hosting of the Remembrance Day 2007 Ceremony at the Westshore Cenotaph. The event was very well attended and our new Highlands flag was carried by the guard.

## School District 62 (Sooke) "Learning Spaces" Information

School District 62 staff recently brought forward the following recommendations to the School Board for consideration in the long term planning for Learning Spaces in this School District. Highlands children attend many of the schools in this District, including Millstream and Lakewood elementary, Spencer middle and Belmont high schools. The Board will consider the staff recommendation to dispose of the current Belmont secondary school property, close Glen Lake elementary school and move forward with the design and construction of two secondary schools simultaneously. The estimated schedule for these two new schools is currently:

**June '09** – Commence construction of new Belmont school on Glen Lake Road and Westshore school in the Royal Bay development site.

**September '11** – Open two new secondary schools for SD62

School District 62 is one of only 2 or 3 school districts in the entire province that is growing in school population. The struggle for all school districts is to locate schools in the location where growth is occurring, while still accommodating the best interests of the children. The public can receive more information directly from SD 62 by visiting their website at:

[http://www.sd62.bc.ca/Learning\\_Spaces](http://www.sd62.bc.ca/Learning_Spaces)

***A Board meeting will be held December 4<sup>th</sup> to adopt the 5-Year Capital Plan to match the Learning Spaces Plan.***

## A Reminder to Be Pro-Active for Hazard Tree Removal

At the annual Union of BC Municipalities convention in Vancouver this September, Highlands representatives had a chance to meet with Ted Olynyk of BC Hydro to express our concerns over response time to clearing downed trees from Highlands powerlines during last year's storms. We reiterated to BC Hydro that here in the Highlands when the power is out, so is our water. Mr. Olynyk has offered that anyone can proactively contact him at [ted.olynyk@bchydro.com](mailto:ted.olynyk@bchydro.com) and BC Hydro will come and clear any trees that could potentially cross hydro lines during snowfall or heavy winds.

### Conservation Tips

Pack lunches for work or school in re-usable containers.

Bring lunch waste home where it can be properly composted or recycle instead of depositing it into waste receptacles at work or school.

### Select Committee & Board of Variance Volunteers Needed

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

- Community Infrastructure and Services Select Committee, and
- Fiscal and Environmental Select Committee.

Select committees receive information from council for consideration and input and may also bring forward matters to council for consideration.

The District of Highlands also requires volunteers (3) to serve on the Board of Variance for a three year term.

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 November 30, 2007.

#### The District of Highlands

Chris Coates, CAO  
1980 Millstream Road  
Victoria, BC V9B 6H1

Telephone: 250-474-1773

Fax: 250-474-3677

Email: [tneurauteur@highlands.ca](mailto:tneurauteur@highlands.ca)

### Storm Forum

The Highlands District Community Association and Emergency Planning Committee held a forum October 16 to share information and ideas on personal preparedness during storms and other events that disrupt power, roads, etc. Representatives from the Provincial Emergency Preparedness program and BC Hydro made presentations along with our Emergency Coordinator, Val Fletcher, our Chief Administrative Officer, Chris Coates and Highlands HELP neighbour group coordinator, Sigurd Johanneson. Many thanks are due to all who helped make this a successful event, with special thanks to Sheila Taylor and Marcie MacLean for ensuring the audience had warm drinks and snacks. The collective wisdom shared by the community will be used to prepare a package for the entire community. Thanks to Mayor Cardinal and Councillor Fall for speaking at this event.

*Don't forget to get your emergency information fridge magnet at the District office!*

### Community Green Mapping Project Receives Funding/Highlands Heritage Park Society gets Remaining funds

The Community Green Mapping Project has received the \$15,000 in funds requested by endorsement from council. The balance of funds available from the Community Tourism Program has been allocated to the Highlands Heritage Park Society. The HHPS requested the remaining funds, approximately \$1350, to create permanent interpretive signs at the Caleb Pike homestead. Both of these projects not only involve our community but will benefit the community in the future.

### Outstanding Tax Reminder

**As of January 1, 2008, current outstanding taxes become arrears and outstanding arrears become delinquent. Both arrears and delinquent taxes are subject to daily interest charges at a rate set by the Province.**

If you are eligible for the Home Owner Grant and have not yet applied this year, please complete the application on the back of the TAX NOTICE mailed previously and return to us. Should you require another copy, we will be happy to print one for you.



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## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The District of Highlands now has Interac .  
Payments can now be made by Cash, Cheque or Interac.

### BC Hydro's "Turn it Off" Challenge

Council has passed a resolution to participate in BC Hydro's Phase 2 of the Turn if off Challenge. Phase 1 of this program saw 66 local governments participate in a three-month campaign to reduce energy consumption in their civic buildings, which resulted in average electricity reduction energy saving of 5.9%.

Phase 2 involves the community. Council encourages all house-holds in the Highlands to visit the website, <http://www.bchydro.com/> and join "Team Power Smart".

# JOIN TEAM POWER SMART

Sign up at [bchydro.com](http://bchydro.com) by December 15, 2007. You could help your community win a \$20,000 Power Smart makeover for a civic facility!

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
AND CONSERVE TODAY.  
SET YOUR GOAL AND  
WE'LL HELP YOU SUCCEED.**



BC Hydro  **powersmart**

[bchydro.com](http://bchydro.com)

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