



Highlands News

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Highlanders had a great time celebrating Hallowe'en this past weekend. Thank you to members of the Highlands Volunteer Fire Department and the HDCA for hosting the community events. It was terrific to see so many residents out enjoying the fun! Thanks, also, to local residents for the annual jack'o'lantern display along Millstream Lake/Ross Durrance roads - each year is unique and amazing!

After years of dedicated planning and work, Highwest Waste Recyclers (1943 Millstream Road) recently received its operational certificate from the Ministry of Environment as a waste management facility. Congratulations, Highwest!

Many of our volunteer firefighters recently spent two and a half days training and testing in order to recertify as First Responders. The time and effort they put forth preparing to provide assistance in emergency situations is deeply appreciated.

An unprecedented number of deer appear to have collided with vehicles over the past month, especially in the south Millstream Road area. With the shorter daylight hours and wet pavement, please drive cautiously so as to minimize risk and maximize safety.

The annual Remembrance Day parade and ceremony will take place in Langford beginning at 10:30 am on November 11th. The parade leaves from the Legion on Station Road, and the ceremony takes place at the Cenotaph in Veteran's Memorial Park just prior to 11 a.m.. Everyone is welcome to attend.

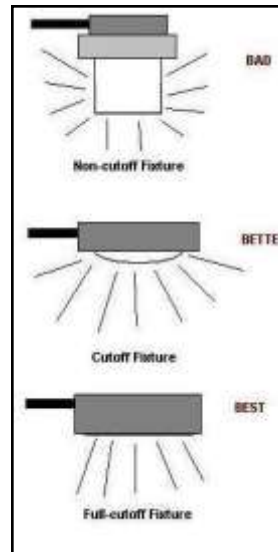
Mayor Jane Mendum

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Community Calendar
- Traffic Advisory Information
- Updating the Regional Context Statement

SUCCESS, NOT QUITE AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT...

In August, 2005, Highlands Council voted to install a streetlight on Millstream Road across from Stewart Mountain Road. The resolution included specification of a 'flat glass downcast luminary, a type recommended by Highlands resident and astronomer Sid Sidhu. The streetlight was installed, but was fitted with an older style lamp that cast light out as well as down. It took patience and perseverance, but last week, Hydro



replaced the fixture with a flat glass or full cutoff style. A Google search demonstrates that this type of fixture has become an increasingly common standard. As streetlights in Highlands require maintenance, the hardware will be updated. Next time you pass by Stewart Mountain Road, stop and take a look and then compare it to the older style lamps. For energy savings, reduced light pollution, preservation of our night sky and targeting light where it is wanted, this is a definite improvement.

Thank you to Sid, District staff, and the folks at Hydro for delivering this good news story!

H1N1 INFORMATION RESOURCES For the latest news and advice from the Vancouver Island Health Authority, visit www.viha.ca/h1n1/.

An H1N1 symptom checker is available online at: www.healthlinkbc.ca/tools/h1n1/symptom_checker/

Healthlink BC is available 24/7 - dial 811 to speak with a nurse.

Highlands Winter Craft Fair and Open House.

Old Schoolhouse and Pike House
1589 Millstream Road.

Crafts, goodies and displays
Sunday, November 15 from 11am to 4pm

If you have items to sell and would like to reserve a table

Contact Bob McMinn (250) 478-4403

Shoppers needed too!

IN MEMORY Long-time Highlands roads consultant (James) Bruce Robertson of JBR Consulting passed away on October 10th. Highlanders will remember Bruce from the many roads walks over the years with Council, staff and residents, to determine how Highlands roads should be upgraded. He always listened carefully to all ideas and concerns, and presented plans to the community that balanced residents' needs and wishes with safety.

Bruce provided practical and affordable solutions for Highlands roads, kept a detailed inventory of their specifications and condition, and prepared annual road capital and maintenance plans for the District. He will be sadly missed. Council sends its sincere condolences to his family.

Community News

FIREWORKS BYLAW AMENDMENT (Bylaw 320) In the spring of 2007 Council adopted a fireworks bylaw to coincide with bylaws passed by Colwood, Langford and View Royal. A key component of the bylaw was a requirement for a permit for the discharge of consumer fireworks. The applicant was required to complete either the Fireworks Supervisor Level 1 or Level 2 training conducted by the Explosives Regulatory Division of Natural Resources Canada, and show proof prior to obtaining a permit. Since NRC training is primarily designed for industry professions and is not easily or quickly obtained, Council has adopted an amendment to the bylaw allowing a permit to be issued to applicants who have completed a seminar or other instruction offered by a fire department within the CRD.

If you are considering setting off fireworks within the District, there are other restrictions within Bylaw 254 that you should know about. Please visit the District website or contact the office for details, 250-474-1773.

UPCOMING LANDFILL BANS The CRD is considering banning two additional materials, wood waste and product stewardship items, from Hartland Landfill commencing March 1st, 2010, in keeping with its waste diversion goals. The following materials are included in this program: beverage containers, solvents and flammable liquids, gasoline and pesticides, pharmaceuticals, tires, automotive batteries, paint, oil and oil containers and electronic products such as computers and televisions.



For background information and to view a list of product stewardship items, please visit <http://www.crd.bc.ca/waste/hartland/landfill-bans.htm> or call the CRD Hotline: 250-360-3030.

TRAFFIC ADVISORY: As of press time, drivers and other road users are advised of the following:

1. South Millstream Road* – water line installation to benefit Millstream Business Park – possible full closure for 1 day (alternate routes) OR long delays – likely on a single Sunday – watch for signage and/or other notification in the near future
2. South Millstream Road - see page 3 for Millstream Meadow-related truck traffic
3. Millstream Lake/Ross Durrance Roads – shoulder and drainage maintenance work from now until mid November – watch for equipment and workers, anticipate potential short delays

*Check the District website for updated information as it becomes available.



visit the District website: highlands.ca

GOLDSTREAM FOOD BANK The volunteers at the Goldstream Food Bank Society, (all are unpaid volunteers), report an increase in their clientele. Many families are experiencing difficult times this fall, and the Society is requesting assistance from those able to donate at this time. The Food Bank runs until the end of November, at which time it becomes the Christmas Hamper Fund for the month of December. To add to the challenge, the **Society's van needs immediate replacement. Donation bins can be found at many business locations throughout the West Shore; to donate much needed cash or to find how you can help, phone 250-474-4443.**

SEASONAL SAFETY REMINDERS As fall progresses, a reminder to residents to test all smoke alarms and change the batteries. The provincial government recently released a bulletin regarding fire safety that advises smoke alarms be replaced after 5-10 years. It can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/yja7vlr>

Check to see if your address sign is clearly legible and visible from the road, especially at night.

Lastly, members of the Highlands Volunteer Fire Department encourage residents to clean chimneys regularly, and advise us not to burn paper or refuse in our fireplaces or woodstoves as can increase the risk of a chimney fire. It is wise to avoid burning unseasoned wood, as it can contribute to creosote formation.

RECYCLING BIN NO LONGER AT RED BARN MARKET The CRD maintained a recycling bin at the Red Barn Market on West Saanich Road for many years. The bin was for the benefit of Ross-Durrance Road residents who did not have Blue Box pick up in the distant past. Roadside pick up has occurred in recent times, however the bin remained in place until a few weeks ago. Although used by residents throughout the region, due to some unfortunate incidents of non-recyclable materials being placed in the bin, it has been removed.

There is a flat-fee user pay recycling area located at Hartland Landfill that is open to all residents of the region. For information regarding its use, or to obtain information regarding any question related to recycling or household waste disposal, contact the CRD Hotline at 250-360-3030 or visit crd.bc.ca/waste/hartland/recyclingarea.htm

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.



**2009 Council Meeting
Schedule**

November—16th
December—7th and 21st

Council & District News

REGIONAL CONTEXT STATEMENT Each CRD municipality must include within their Official Community Plan (OCP) a Regional Context Statement (RCS) which states how the municipality will comply with the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS). The RGS was amended by arbitration in January 2009 to include portions of the Bear Mountain property within the Urban Containment Boundary in order to allow piped services in those portions. That amendment makes the current Highlands RCS inconsistent, and Council has taken steps to update this in the Highlands OCP.

Council has directed staff to submit the proposed RCS to the CRD board for acceptance, and to neighbouring municipal Councils, First Nations, school boards, and to the province's Intergovernmental Relations and Planning Division for consultation. If accepted by the board, Council will initiate an OCP amendment to include the new Regional Context State-

UBCM CONVENTION Four Highlands Council members attended this year's UBCM convention, held in Vancouver recently. Highlights of the convention included a session on HST, working with First Nations, and various topics related to sustainable planning and the provincial Climate Action Charter. These sessions provide a wealth of up-to-date information that will be helpful to Council in its future planning and decision-making. A list of this year's resolutions can be found here: <http://tiny.cc/b4uXR>.

The District attended meetings with the following Ministers and their senior staff: Minister Abbott, Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (regarding future land use of crown properties in the District); Minister Penner, Environment (requesting funds for bullfrog control and a follow up on groundwater protection), and Minister Thomson, Agriculture and Lands, (regarding future use of contaminated lands). Council looks forward to working with the various ministries on issues of importance to the District.

COMMUNITY HALL UPDATE Council and the Community Centre Task Force are working toward implementing public consultation regarding the topic of a community hall. At the October 13th Committee of the Whole meeting, Council and the task force discussed essential elements that would be beneficial to include in a community hall and the merits of hiring a consultant to perform cost estimates. Council is mindful that a decision on whether to proceed will need to be made early in 2010 in order to meet the requirements of the grant funding.

Watch for an upcoming opportunity to review the work to date and to express your views.

REQUEST FROM WSPRS At the October 19th meeting, Council considered a request from the Westshore Parks and Recreation Society (WSPRS) regarding approval in principle to explore the potential siting of a sewage treatment plant on the jointly-owned Juan de Fuca property.

Council provided *in principle* approval to explore options accompanied by conditions that included: all costs associated with exploration of options to be borne by Colwood and Langford (the main users of a potential utility); the proposed utility be of benefit to both the recreation facility and the neighbouring municipalities with regard to resource recovery; and that any reports and agreements be forwarded to the co-owners for review and approval.

Since Council's deliberations, it has been identified that a letter of approval may be needed to accompany a grant application being coordinated by the CRD; Council anticipates revisiting this topic in the near future.

MILLSTREAM MEADOWS UPDATE A contract to infill the previously excavated portion of Millstream Meadows has been awarded by the CRD to Aggressive Excavating. The work is scheduled to begin soon, so watch for additional truck traffic in the lower Millstream Road area. The remaining soil in the contaminated area has been characterized. A report based on the test results is expected at CRD Environment committee in the near future.



COFFEE HOUSE NEWS—NOVEMBER 14

'The Sweet Lowdown' Comes to Highlands

Rooted in traditional music, The Sweet Lowdown combines original songwriting with new takes on traditional bluegrass, old time, and blues songs.

In addition to The Sweet Lowdown, Shanti Bremer currently plays with Victoria bluegrass band Last Train. Amanda Blied brings a unique voice to old time music, plays bluegrass, keeps busy writing original songs, and is currently a member of an award-winning a capella vocal ensemble.

For The Sweet Lowdown's music, check out their myspace site: <http://www.myspace.com/thesweetlowdownstringband>

Come and bring the family and friends too for an enjoyable evening of entertainment. Come early - seats limited!

For more information you can call Zhinoos at: (250) 727-9561

Date: Saturday November 14th, 2009

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

Place: Caleb Pike House, 1589 Millstream Road

Charges: \$5.00 /person - under 15 free (honorary system—you may pay more, or as you can afford) coffee/tea/goodies included



RCMP INCIDENTS REPORT September 16 to October 15, 2009

September

Sept-16 - Property Lost - Industrial Way
Sept-16 - Traffic-Other Moving - Millstream/Finlayson Arm
Sept-17 - Mischief \$5000 or Under - Millstream/Caleb Pike
Sept-18 - Harass/Obscene Phone Call - Millstream
Sept-19 - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Millstream/River
Sept-20 - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Munn/Rolla
Sept-20 - Mischief Over \$5000 - Southwood
Sept-22 - Break and Enter - Millstream
Sept-24 - Suspicious Pers/Veh/Occurrence - Millstream
Sept-26 - Theft from MV Under \$1000 - Lone Tree Hill
Sept-28 - Mischief \$5000 or Under - Caleb Pike
Sept-28 - False Alarms - Davies
Sept-28 - False Alarms - Munn

October

Oct-04 - Roadside Prohib - 215 Alcohol - Millstream
Oct-04 - Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Millstream/Munn
Oct-09 - False Alarms - Caleb Pike
Oct-10 - Roadside Prohib - 215 Alcohol - Millstream
Oct-10 - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Millstream
Oct-10 - 911-False/Abandoned Calls - Ross Durrance
Oct-12 - Property Lost - Munn
Oct-14 - Theft from MV Under \$5000 - Lone Tree Hill
Oct-14 - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Millstream/Lost Lake
Oct-15 - Suspicious Pers/Veh/Occurrence - Emma Dixon



VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

Are all those (and there were many!) who helped to keep the Highlands bullfrog population under control throughout the summer season. The invasive American bullfrogs have been migrating throughout the Highlands and are seen as both a serious threat to native plant and animal species and as a risk to lake water quality, which many Highlanders use for their household water supply.

Several Highlanders attended bullfrog control demonstrations and went forth in pairs on many Highlands lakes late at night equipped with canoes, very strong flashlights, spears, and buckets, in order to find the invaders and catch them.



Thanks to you all for your determined efforts!

YOUTH DROP-IN

Location: Schoolhouse Basement (1589 Millstream Road)
Who: ages 5 and up
When: 6:30 to 8 pm Nov 6 & 20, Dec 4 & 18

Join the fun!

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—didoll@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)

HOMESTEAD CARETAKERS A warm welcome is extended to Kristen Dougan and Jarrett Provencher, the new resident caretakers at the Caleb Pike Homestead. Kristen was raised in Highlands, and has returned to reside at the Homestead. We hope you enjoy your home in our heritage park!

Note: One of the caretaker responsibilities is to manage facility bookings; if you would like to inquire about renting either the Pike House or Schoolhouse, phone 250-474-7601.

NOVEMBER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

November 2 & 16 - Regular Council Meeting**, School House, 7 pm
November 4 - Fiscal & Environ. Committee**, Pike House 7:30 pm
November 5 - Community Centre Task Force, School House, 7pm
November 6 - CRD Recycling Blue Box pickup
November 9 - Committee of the Whole **, School House, 7 pm
November 10 - Highlands Garden Group, School House, 7 pm
November 11 - Remembrance Day - office closed
November 14 - Coffee House*, Pike House, 7:30 pm
November 15—Winter Craft Fair*, 1589 Millstream Road, 11am-4pm
November 20 - CRD Recycling Blue Box pickup
November 25 - Community Infrastructure & Services Committee Meeting, School House, 7:30 pm

*details elsewhere in the Newsletter

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

HIGHLANDS HISTORY - DID YOU KNOW? In 1914, at the outbreak of World War One, there were only seventeen households in the Highland District. From those homes nine young men went overseas to fight in that war. Only six returned home.



This and many more historical facts about Highlands are contained in Beautiful Rocks - see below on how you can obtain a copy.



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.