



Highlands News

December 2007

The Official Newsletter of the District of Highlands Council

RURAL LIFE NATURAL BEAUTY STRONG COMMUNITY

A message from Mayor Mark Cardinal

The Millstream Meadows site continues to be a high priority with our District. On November 29th the CRD began delivering bottled water to residents within a 1km radius of the Millstream Meadows site after weathered diesel fuel was detected in three of six monitoring wells installed at the property line bordering Millstream Road. At a CRD Board Meeting on Wednesday December 5th, the Board authorized staff to spend up to \$275,000 from the septage capital reserve fund to monitor the site and prepare for remediation. An additional \$450,000 from the same reserve fund was authorized IF NECESSARY to install purge wells on the Millstream Meadows site. The purge wells would be installed between the lagoon area (source of contamination) and Millstream Road to try and pump the groundwater back away from the property line. The purge wells are only being proposed if the contamination reaches any residential properties in the area. To date over 25 of the nearby residents have opted to have their well water tested by the CRD in addition to receiving bottled water. The Board recommended that site remediation options, method and a remediation schedule be presented at the February 2008 CRD Environment Committee Meeting. The last authorization given by the CRD Board on December 5th was to establish a borrowing bylaw for remediation of the Millstream Meadows site. The CRD has \$1.5 million in reserve however the remediation is estimated to cost in excess of \$7 million, depending on the remedial option chosen, which means that the extra funds will have to be borrowed. Borrowing will require approval of all 13 member municipalities of the CRD. Councillor Mahovlich continues to represent the District as the Alternate Director at the CRD Environment Committee and will bring any additional information back to residents via future council meetings. If there are any questions Councillor Mahovlich or staff would be willing to address these from residents.

This is an appropriate time of year to recognize the hard work of our staff at the District Office. We are fortunate to have a great group of staff, especially given the difficulty in finding employees with the appropriate skill sets here on the island. Council extends holiday wishes to all staff and their families and we hope the community will join us in wishing them a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Annual Santa Run to Benefit the Goldstream Foodbank

The Santa Run on December 15th was another successful project of the Highlands Volunteer Fire Department. Despite the nasty rainy weather the volunteers drove around the Highlands for 8 hours collecting food and donations, all of which were delivered to the Goldstream Food Bank. Thanks to all those who helped in this worthy venture.

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.

Contacts

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Councillor Joe Kadar	Ph. 391-1409	kadardev@shaw.ca	Fire Chief Barry Ford	Ph. 479-5741	b.v.ford@shaw.ca

Winter/Spring Youth Program



The Youth Program in the Old Schoolhouse basement this fall was enjoyed by the pre-teens who came for fun and games Friday evenings

October to December. A well attended swim outing on December 7 was the last event for 2007.

Juan de Fuca will provide the staff to continue the winter/spring Program for 2008. First get-together is planned for Friday, January 25, 6:30 to 8:30 pm in the Old Schoolhouse basement, 1589 Millstream Road. The cost includes a \$10 registration for approximately 12 evenings until mid April. For more information call Bob McMinn, (478-4403, bobmcminn@shaw.ca) or Sarah Fleming (478-0987, kwenstob@telus.net).

Hartland Organic Waste Diversion

The CRD continues to work aggressively towards banning organic waste from the Hartland Landfill in 2010. In 2007, the diversion was estimated to reach 32% by weight, with an estimated 455kg/person diverted away from the landfill. The diversion is expected to peak in 2012 with 60% diversion. The sustainability fund, which has been established to recognize diversion efforts, will peak in 2010 at \$5 million. This fund will be distributed back to member municipalities, including the Highlands, through a rebate program to be established by the CRD.

Community Centre Task Force Update

Council ratified the Community Centre Task Force recommendation to move forward to draft a questionnaire to be distributed at an open house proposed to be held in the New Year. Details will follow in future council newsletters.

American Bullfrog Eradication

In 2007 the CRD removed funding for eradication of the American Bullfrog from the Parks budget. At budget discussions in late November the CRD Parks committee recommended reinstatement of the \$15,000 in funds. A further motion was made to work with the Province to establish a more concrete program to eradicate the American Bullfrog recognizing that this will take proactive measures to work successfully.

Don't Forget to Re-Fuel!

While we are not in a blizzard situation, now is the time to refuel your heating oil or propane tanks to ensure you have a proper supply of heating/cooking fuel in the event of an extended power outage.

It is important to keep your driveways clear in inclement weather so that fuel delivery vehicles have safe and clear access and do not end up stuck at your home while others await their deliveries.

Highlands Fiscal & Environment Committee

Council ratified a recommendation from the Fiscal & Environment Committee to approve establishment of a Community Sustainability Task Force to produce a report suggesting potential community sustainability initiatives and objectives. This is in direct relation to council's support of the provincial Climate Change Initiative.

Council Meeting Schedule for 2008

The 2008 Council, Committee of the Whole, Select Committees and other Meetings Schedule is now posted on the DOH website. Note that in January 2008, the first Council meeting is Monday January 21st. Provisions for Committee of the Whole meetings are allowed for on Monday January 14th. There is no council meeting Monday January 7th.

NOTE: The District office is open Monday, December 24th until noon and reopening Wednesday, January 2, 2008.

City of Langford Intermunicipal Servicing Bylaw

At a council meeting held Monday December 3rd, Council voted in favour of approving the City of Langford's request to construct a tight pipe sewer line along Millstream Road to service the Langford side of the Bear Mountain development. This request first came to council in 2002. The tight pipe does not allow residents of the Highlands to connect to it. Servicing for any Highlands properties would be a future consideration should the Regional Growth Strategy process result in an amendment to the Urban Containment Boundary to include a portion of the Highlands.

Conservation Tips



The holiday season can produce a great deal of waste with all of the extra gatherings and celebrations. Here are some suggestions for alternative wrappings for gift giving:

Fabric (if you are not a seamstress, just cut the edges with pinking shears/jagged scissors to prevent fraying)
 Bath towels
 Re-usable fabric bags
 Dish towels
 Remnants of wallpaper
 The comic section of the newspaper

Remember to recycle all wrappings where possible and compost any organic waste.

Highlands Council Project List

Council, with the help of the District staff, is keeping track of our pending projects through the help of our “pending projects list”. The list is updated monthly allowing council to move progressively towards completion of work while allowing us to set our priorities. Some of the projects on our current list include:

- Economic development in the south Highlands
- Groundwater monitoring program
- Roads and trails – council expects debate on an extensive road maintenance & repair program for the 2008 budget and 5 year plan
- Fire department – discussions on fire halls
- Climate change charter
- Sustainability checklist

Highlands Resident Warren Lee Recognized

Highlands resident and climate change researcher Warren Lee received some substantial accolades as part of the Nobel prize-winning team from the University of Victoria. Warren is a researcher with the Canadian Centre for Climate Modeling and Analysis, a branch of Environment Canada. The Highlands has benefited from Warren’s expertise as he is part of our Groundwater Task Force and has enabled the District to benefit from his team’s work on

climate change. Congratulations to Warren and his colleagues for their progressive studies!

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 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 December 31st, 2007.

The District of Highlands

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

Telephone: 250-474-1773

Fax: 250-474-3677

Email: tneurauter@highlands.ca

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Here are a few Power Smart tips to help you save energy at home.

Appliances

- When possible, use small appliances such as a microwave or toaster oven instead of a full-size oven.
- Avoid using the microwave oven to defrost food. Use the fridge instead.
- Keep oven pre-heating to a minimum and the door closed during use to avoid heat loss.
- Air-dry dishes in the dishwasher or use the economy setting.

Lighting

- Convert incandescent bulbs to energy-efficient compact fluorescents.
- Use task lighting for close work, rather than lighting the entire room.
- Turn off the lights when you leave the room.
- Keep light bulbs and fixtures clean.
- Control the intensity of light with dimmer switches.
- Turn lights on or off at preset times with timers, or motion sensors.

Thermostats

- Set the thermostat back when you are not home or overnight, and you can save 5 to 10% on your annual energy bill.
- Use programmable thermostats that automatically raise and lower temperatures to preset levels.
- Keep furnace filters clean, as dirty filters deliver less air.
- Avoid heating uninsulated spaces such as a garage, crawlspace, attic or storage shed.
- Recommended thermostat settings:
Sitting, reading or watching TV 21°C (70°F)
Working around the house 20°C (68°F)
Sleeping 10°C (61°F)
Away from home 16°C (61°F).

Water Saving Ideas

- Take short showers rather than baths. A five-minute shower uses about half as much water as a bath.
- Run your dishwasher and laundry appliances with full loads.
- Wash laundry with cold water whenever possible.
- Turn off taps completely and repair leaky faucets.

Office Equipment

- Turn equipment off when it is not in use.
- Enable ENERGY STAR® features on your computer. Look in the Windows control panel under display settings for this feature.
- If your computer must be left on when you are not using it, turn off the monitor. Up to 75% of the energy used by the computer goes to the monitor, and screen savers do not save energy.
- Unplug chargers, such as laptops and cell phones when they are not charging.



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HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

CLOSED

DECEMBER 24, 2007 (12:00 p.m.)

TO

JANUARY 1, 2008

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

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