



# Highlands News



Work continues at the Millstream Meadows site in south Highlands. Pictured is the portion of the excavation that is currently being filled. The pipe will be a recovery well, located at the deepest point, that will be used to capture any remaining hydrocarbon contaminants. A consultant's report, to be received by the CRD Environmental Sustainability Committee soon, is expected to provide recommendations for further remediation of the site.

*Photo credit: Mary Anne Fillipone, CRD*

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Community Calendar
- About Sustainability
- Volunteer Opportunities

**MAYOR'S MESSAGE** The District's new and improved website is up and running – check it out at <highlands.ca>. The site includes information on Council Committees as well as other pages of importance to the community. Check out the Forms & Applications page – everything you need to make an application can be found there. If there is content you would like council to consider for future inclusion, email your suggestions care of Tina - [tneurauter@highlands.ca](mailto:tneurauter@highlands.ca).

We extend a warm welcome to our interim planner, Jon Munn, who has joined district staff while Laura Beckett is on maternity leave. We look forward to working with Jon during this busy year.

**Thank you to all those who applied to serve on Council's Standing Committees.** Your involvement in community decision-making is very much appreciated!

Council will discuss its annual priority action list at a Committee of the Whole meeting on February 8, 2010. **Consideration of the district's 2010 budget will begin in March** - complete Council agendas can be **previewed on the district website's homepage and are available a few days before the meeting date.**

Everyone is always welcome to attend council and committee meetings; council invites you to join us in the near future.

Mayor Jane Mendum

**HIGHLANDS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS** Acting Fire Chief Guy Brisebois advises that 10 new recruits have recently joined the Fire Department. Welcome to all, and a sincere thank you to those who have come forward in service to our community! There remains a specific need for volunteers who reside in the East Highlands. Please contact Guy if you are interested in finding out more about joining this great team of volunteers, regardless of your location within Highlands.

The fire department has answered an increased number of first responder calls to traffic incidents recently, and would like to remind residents to reduce speed and drive safely, being mindful of the wet, slippery and sometimes icy conditions of the road.

## Volunteers!



**ARE YOU LOOKING TO VOLUNTEER SOME OF YOUR TIME?** CRD Regional Parks is seeking a volunteer gatekeeper for the security gate at the new Munn Road park entrance at Mount Work. The gatekeeper helps keep the park area safe and secure by opening and closing the parking lot gate daily at sunrise and sunset. There are many perks and benefits to being a CRD Regional Parks volunteer. In addition to spending time in one of the most beautiful parks on the island, volunteers receive a variety of discounts, free summer parking passes, parks updates, newsletters and reports, and recognition at our annual awards event. If you are interested in volunteering for this position, please contact Richard Waterfield, Project Manager, at 250.360.3354 or [rwaterfield@crd.bc.ca](mailto:rwaterfield@crd.bc.ca).

**BOARD OF VARIANCE VOLUNTEER NEEDED** One – 3 Year Term. The District of Highlands requires a volunteer to serve on the Board of Variance for a three year term. The Board of Variance Bylaw is available on the District website <[www.highlands.ca](http://www.highlands.ca)>. 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 care of Tina - [tneurauter@highlands.ca](mailto:tneurauter@highlands.ca)

# Community News



Winter water flows in Earsman Creek - a valuable Highlands resource and key part of Highlands sustainability.

*Photo credit: Allen Dobb*

## DISTRICT TAKES STEPS TOWARD SUSTAINABILITY

The District continues to chart a course toward **sustainability with Council's adoption of a sustainability road map** developed by the Sustainability Task Force. The road map, which lays out a series of recommendations for council in a clear sequence of steps, was originally presented to Council December 7 by Andrew Fall, task force Chair. More discussion on the report took place at a well attended Committee of Whole on January 18, where Council recommended adoption of the road map concept.

The task force report contains a total of 42 recommendations covering topics from transportation and building to climate change and water conservation. A key element of the road map concept is the classification of recommendations according to their potential impact and implementation requirements. The classification will give council important guidance as they incorporate recommendations into their annual strategic plan.

The acceptance of this plan for dealing with sustainability issues is well timed. Under its obligations to the Climate Action Charter, the District must incorporate Green House Gas reduction targets into the District's Official Community Plan by May 2010. This community engagement process will provide an opportunity for further discussion **on important issues around the District's long term sustainability**. The Sustainability Task Force recommendations regarding water conservation also fit well with the next phase of the Highlands Ground Water Protection Study.

*The Sustainability Task Force final report can be found at:*  
<[http://highlands.bc.ca/planning/documents/SustainabilityTaskForce\\_FinalReport.pdf](http://highlands.bc.ca/planning/documents/SustainabilityTaskForce_FinalReport.pdf)>

## CLIMATE ACTION AND SUSTAINABILITY IN THE REGION

Communities throughout the Capital Regional District, like the District of Highlands, are looking closely at energy, emissions and long term sustainability. The CRD has created a Climate Action Program to support these community efforts in the region. The CRD Climate Action office acts as hub linking communities with resources, information and programs.

Two different groups are being coordinated by the Climate Action Program to get the dialogue going. The Intermunicipal Climate Action Steering Committee is made up of councillors from the member municipalities, while staff members from the municipalities make up a Climate Action Working Group. Councillor Dobb is currently representing Highlands on the Steering Committee. The District's planner, Jon Munn will be taking over for Laura Beckett at the working group.

One effort of the office so far has been helping municipalities understand the Community Energy and Emissions Inventories (CEEI) produced by the province. This is of particular interest to the Highlands because the CEEI is a practical tool for small communities. Highlands must establish benchmarks to meet Climate Action Charter obligations, but is of a size where doing a complete community energy and emissions inventory on its own is impractical and cost prohibitive.

Sarah Webb, the CRD Climate Action Coordinator, is currently updating a web page that will list the sustainability activities of all CRD municipalities, so they can learn from each other's experiences. She was pleased to receive a copy of the Highlands Sustainability Task Force report, and commented on its high quality. It will be posted soon as a link on the Climate Action website to be shared around the region.

Visit <[www.crd.bc.ca/climatechange](http://www.crd.bc.ca/climatechange)> for more information.

## PROVINCIAL PILOT PROJECT MAY INCLUDE HIGHLANDS

Sarah Webb of the CRD, mentioned in the article above, has recommended the district as a potential participant for a new pilot project on Green House Gas target design and monitoring. The Ministry of Community Development is seeking 10 local governments from around the province who have strong foundations and are now moving forward with setting targets and monitoring plans.

Watch for updates!

## MILLSTREAM ROAD UPGRADE GRANT APPLICATION STATUS

At its January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, Council received a letter from Building Canada Fund – **Community Components** advising that the District's 2009 application for grant funding to upgrade lower Millstream Road had not been approved. Upgrading this section of road has been referred for consideration during upcoming budget discussions.

*If you would like an electronic copy of the Highlands News please visit the District website's homepage: <[highlands.ca](http://highlands.ca)>.*

*Please consider passing this newsletter on to any tenants or other residents who are without a Highlands mailbox.*



**STAY INFORMED:** visit the District website: [highlands.ca](http://highlands.ca)

# Council & District News

**GARBAGE BLUES** There is an ongoing problem with the illegal disposal of garbage on Highlands roadsides. It is unsightly and unwelcome, and affects all Highlands neighbourhoods from time to time. Staff would like residents to know that they work hard to address this issue when it arises, performing a full follow-up including clean up and attempting to track and contact those responsible.

**Currently, signs are posted at the district's** entrance roads indicating that a fine of up to \$10,000 could be imposed on those who leave their garbage on public property.

If you observe this type of activity, please contact the district office and be sure to pass on license numbers and other information to staff members, who will be pleased to provide assistance.

## LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENT

Congratulations to Councillor Karel Roessingh, who has been appointed to serve as Vice Chair of the Greater Victoria Public Library board. Karel has served as Highlands representative on the board for several years in total, and has previously served as vice chair as well.

*Karel welcomes your interest in library matters; see the back page for contact*

## CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT UPDATE

- At the CRD board meeting held January 13th, Highlands was reappointed to serve on both the Environmental Sustainability Committee (formerly known as the Environment Committee) and the Planning, Transportation, and Protective Services Committee.
- The proposed amendment to Highlands OCP that is required in order to bring our context statement into compliance with the provincially arbitrated decision to alter the Highlands Regional Urban Containment Servicing Boundary (RUCSPA) has been recommended for acceptance to the board, and will likely appear on the February CRD agenda. Once accepted by the board, the context statement will need to be adopted into Highlands OCP.
- The proposed bylaws recommended by a CRD subcommittee that dealt with Millstream Meadows Remediation Cost Sharing have been unanimously supported by councils throughout the region. The bylaws were created in order to increase fairness in the funding formula utilized to pay for the remediation, and would result in less cost to property owners on their tax bill, utilizing a portion of user fees from both septage disposal fees and tipping fees at the landfill. The bylaws will be voted on by the CRD board at an upcoming meeting.
- A CRD subcommittee struck to prepare for the upcoming (2012) Blue Box Recycling Program contract is examining, among other topics, methods for potential implementation of an organics component into the collection system. Diversion of food waste would reduce up to 30% of the garbage currently being land filled at Hartland, and is a potential candidate for future integration into a waste-to-energy program. Mayor Jane Mendum chairs the subcommittee and Councillor Diane Gill serves as the representative for the Western Communities.

*For more information on what is currently recyclable through the Blue Box program, visit <http://crd.bc.ca/waste/bluebox/documents/crd-recycling-2008-10.pdf> or call the CRD Hotline, 250-360-3030.*



CONGRATULATIONS to Laura and Bob Beckett on the recent birth of their daughter, Natasha Hamina Rose Beckett.

We send them best wishes for the coming year!



## COFFEE HOUSE NEWS FEBRUARY 13

### Highlands' Coffee House presents "Charlie, Mike & Joss"

Charlie Burton is a guitar picker, crooner, songwriter and recording artist along the styles of Bruce Cockburn and Paul Simon, by whom he was heavily influenced. He has recorded the album "Take My Picks" (1983), which included the tongue-in-cheek original songs "The Hardy Boys" and "Tale of Tahsis"; Paul Bennett, the Times-Colonist music reviewer at the time (1983), awarded three stars to the album. The album was re-released in 2009 renamed as "Something Old". In 2007 he released a CD entitled "Island Standard Time" with fellow UVic employee, Colin Newell, for which they were disguised as the group "Two Old Goats", and which was featured on CBC Radio's "North by Northwest" in December 2007.

Mike Stremel and Charlie, who have been friends for 30 years from the time they were living in Alberta, have been able to get together again here in Victoria pursuing their favourite passion—playing guitar. Mike and his wife moved to Victoria about 15 years ago and opened the Button Boutique in downtown Victoria. They have worked extremely hard to develop a world-renowned destination for knitting and needlework aficionados, which is now called the Needlework and Button Boutique, and moved their business to Trounce Alley a few years ago.

Jocelyn Burton, Charlie's youngest daughter, who was the last in Charlie's three children to take up guitar and singing, will be adding her singing talent to this inspired and ingenious group. You can also listen to this band on Feb 10, 5:30-7:30pm, at Ogden Point Cafe.

We will also have an open stage segment to present additional talented musicians.

Come and bring your family and friends too for an enjoyable evening of being together, of celebration and entertainment.

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

Date: Saturday, February 13, 2010 @ 7:30pm

Place: Caleb Pike House, 1589 Millstream Road

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



## RCMP INCIDENTS REPORT December 16 to January 15, 2010

### December

- 15 - Roadside Prohibition -215 - Millstream
- 16 - False Alarms - Millstream Lake
- 16 - 911-False/Abandoned Calls - Finlayson Arm
- 19 - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Ross Durrance
  - Break and enter residence - Emma Dixon Rd
- 23 - Theft from MV Under \$5000 - Ross Durrance
  - Theft-Other Under \$5000 - White Pine
- 24 - Theft from MV Under \$5000 - Caleb Pike
- 25 - Impaired op motor veh - Millstream/Stewart Mtn
- 27 - False Alarms - Martlett
- 28 - Theft from MV Under \$5000 - Millstream Lake Rd/Munn

### January

- 3 - Theft from MV Under \$5000 - Millstream
  - Fraud-Credit/Debit Card - Millstream
- 4 - Break & Enter-Residence - Stewart Mountain
  - Theft from MV Under \$5000 - Caleb Pike
- 7 - Property-Lost - Munn
- 8 - Abandoned Vehicles - Millstream
- 9 - Bylaw-Noise - Bear Mountain
- 15 - False Alarms - Westridge
  - Theft from MV Under \$5000 - Caleb Pike

### SEEKING HERITAGE TASK FORCE MEMBERS

The District is seeking up to 7 volunteers to serve on a Heritage Task Force. Primary tasks will focus on establishing heritage values and vision, eligibility criteria for community heritage register items, and creating a preliminary list of items to be placed on such a heritage register.

Council will organize a training session as an introduction to heritage planning once volunteers have been appointed.

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 care of Tina - [tneurauter@highlands.ca](mailto:tneurauter@highlands.ca) or phone 250-474-1773 for more information.

### 2010 Council Meeting Schedule

- February - 1 & 15
- March - 1 & 15
- April - 6 & 19
- May - 3 & 17
- June - 7 & 21
- July - 19
- August - 23
- September - 7 & 20
- October - 4 & 18
- November - 1 & 15

### YOUTH DROP-IN

Location: Schoolhouse Basement  
(1589 Millstream Road)  
Who: ages 5 and up / When: 6:30 to 8 pm  
Join the fun at Highlands Youth Drop in every other Friday in the basement of the Old Schoolhouse January through April 2010.

**February 12: Valentine's Crafts 6:30—8pm**  
February 26: Campfire (dress warmly)  
March 5: Beading

For more information call Bob at 250-478-4403

## Contacts:

Mayor Jane Mendum—[jmendum@highlands.ca](mailto:jmendum@highlands.ca) / 250-478-9449, 250-893-9440

Councillor Allen Dobb—[allendobb@telus.net](mailto:allendobb@telus.net) / 250-391-3998/ Website: [allendobb.ca](http://allendobb.ca)

Councillor Diane Gill—[didoll@live.ca](mailto:didoll@live.ca) / 250-391-8928

Councillor Sigurd Johannesen—[Sigurd.johannesen@shaw.ca](mailto:Sigurd.johannesen@shaw.ca) / 250-514-1880

Councillor Marcie McLean—[marciemclean@shaw.ca](mailto:marciemclean@shaw.ca) / 250-474-4725

Councillor Karel Roessingh—[karel@roessong.com](http://karel@roessong.com) / 250-727-9808

Councillor Ken Williams—[kwwmaya@shaw.ca](mailto:kwwmaya@shaw.ca) / 250-479-7497

Acting Fire Chief Guy Brisebois—[GuyBrisebois@Forces.gc.ca](mailto:GuyBrisebois@Forces.gc.ca) / 250-920-6970

Emergency Coordinator Val Fletcher—[vfletcher@highlands.ca](mailto:vfletcher@highlands.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

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH Volunteers of the Month for January are the members of the Sustainability Task Force - Ann Baird, Eric Bonham, Andrew Fall (chair), Bob Flitton, Warren Lee, Dave Mackas, Bob McMinn, and Greg Nuk, who, along with their council liaison, Councillor Allen Dobb, did a tremendous job of the Sustainability Report submitted to Council in December and considered in January. The Task Force met throughout 2009, and the completeness, reach, and clarity of the report speaks for itself.



Thank you all for a truly wonderful job!

### FEBRUARY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- February 1 & 15 - Regular Council Meeting\*\*, School House, 7pm
- February 4 - Community Centre Task Force, School House, 5:30 pm
- February 3 - Fiscal/Environment Cttee, Pike House, 7:30 pm
- February 8 - Committee of the Whole \*\*, School House, 7 pm
- February 9 - Highlands Garden Group, School House, 7 pm
- February 12 & 22- CRD Recycling Blue Box pickup
- February 13 - Coffee House\*, Pike House, 7:30 pm
- February 24 - Community Infrastructure and Services, School House, 7:30pm
- February 24- HDCA Directors Meeting - Pike House, 7:30pm

\*details elsewhere in the Newsletter

\*\*please visit the District website, [highlands.ca](http://highlands.ca) for detailed agenda information in advance of meetings

HIGHLANDS HISTORY - DID YOU KNOW? Stewart Mountain Road is named after John Stewart (1851-1930), one of the Highland District's earliest pioneers. John came to Fort Victoria in 1853 with his parents: his father, James, was employed as a Land Steward by Kenneth McKenzie, Manager of Craigflower Farm. In the 1860s John attended Craigflower School. In 1883 he pre-empted land in the south-eastern area of the Highland District and for the next forty years John with his wife Margaret and children raised sheep and cattle. He was a well known and respected member of Highland society.

*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.