



Highlands News

2010 COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

ACTING MAYOR

Acting Mayor January 2010 to June 2010 Councillor Allen Dobb
 Acting Mayor July 2010 to December 2010 Councillor Diane Gill

COUNCILLOR ALLEN DOBB	CRD Arts Committee CRD Solid Waste Advisory Committee, Alternate Community Infrastructure and Services, Alternate Liaison Treaty Advisory Committee, Alternate
COUNCILLOR DIANE GILL	Community Infrastructure and Services - Liaison CRD Solid Waste Advisory Committee District of Highlands Emergency Planning, Alternate
COUNCILLOR SIGURD JOHANNESSEN	Community Centre Task Force Liaison District of Highland Emergency Planning Greater Victoria Family Court Western Communities Policing Advisory CREST Alternate – non-voting
COUNCILLOR MARCIE MCLEAN	Fiscal and Environmental Liaison Intermunicipal Committee on Disability Issues Greater Victoria Family Court, Alternate Western Communities Policing Advisory, Alternate Community Centre Task Force, Alternate
COUNCILLOR KAREL ROESSINGH	Advisory Planning Commission Capital Regional District Board, Alternate Director Capital Regional Hospital Board, Alternate Director Capital Region Water Commission, Alt. Director CREST Greater Victoria Library Board Ground Water Task Force
COUNCILLOR KEN WIL-LIAMS	Advisory Planning Commission, Alternate Fiscal and Environmental, Alternate Liaison Intermunicipal Committee on Disability Issues, Alternate West Shore Parks and Recreation Society Juan de Fuca Water Commission, Alternate Director Treaty Advisory Committee

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Groundwater Protection Study Phase 2 Report
- Sustainability Task Force Final Report
- Community Calendar

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

It's a new year, and an opportune time for council to tackle a number of important decisions flowing from last year's priority list. We will provide opportunities for you to give us direction about items that are of importance in our community. We welcome your input.

Space is limited in the newsletter, and challenges us in our goal to keep you well informed. We encourage you to attend our meetings, and also to visit the district's website, <highlands.ca>. A newly improved and expanded version is expected to launch later this month. The website is offered as a community service, and provides you with an ideal way to stay up to date with council and district activities. In future issues of the Highlands News we will highlight some of the new features that will make the website your go-to Highlands resource.

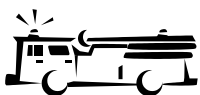
Your councillors continue to work to represent Highlands interests throughout the region, and they are doing a fine job. Council members welcome your interest in any of their duties.

We would like to recognize the Highlands Volunteer Fire Department members who answered a First Responder call to a head-on collision on Christmas Day, taking them away from their families for several hours. Thank you so very much for the important services you provide to our community.

Council members wish all Highlanders a happy and healthy 2010!

Mayor Jane Mendum

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH PROGRAM Last issue we included a police advisory due to an increase in robberies, and **reading this month's police incidents report illustrates why.** The Westshore RCMP has offered to present their Neighbourhood Watch program, which provides guidelines and tools on how neighbours can help one another to prevent property crime, to interested Highlands neighbourhoods. Speak with your neighbours, and if most are interested in participating, please contact either Councillor Johannesen or Mayor Mendum, and we will arrange for a presentation. *Please call if you would like more information - see back page for contact details.*



COUNCIL APPOINTS NEW HIGHLANDS FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS Council has appointed former Deputy Fire Chief Guy Brisebois as Acting Fire Chief, and Dean Ford as Acting Deputy Fire Chief. Both of these outstanding officers have demonstrated significant capabilities during past years. The interim appointments will remain in place until council has further studied consultant Doug MacAulay's Fire Department Review report received in December.

Community News

HERITAGE PLANNING Committee of the Whole received a suggested plan from Highlands Planner Laura Beckett for consideration, and has recommended Council adopt her suggestions, which include establishment of a Heritage Task Force of 5 - 7 people. A provincial training session is available to acquaint members with procedures and considerations. If the recommendations are adopted by Council, the task force would begin by assessing heritage issues and needs for Highlands, and establish heritage values and vision. Public consultation would be paramount in any steps taken.

Further, the task force could discuss and possibly set some broad goals and priorities for what they wish to accomplish. Once criteria has been set, the task force would make recommendations to Council for sites to be considered for inclusion on a Highlands community heritage register, along with a statement of significance for each site.

Finally, an action plan to determine the appropriate level of protection for each item on the register and how to achieve protection would be considered. Council will receive and discuss these recommendations in January.



Workers carefully shape the new parking lot at Mt. Work Park on Munn Road. A security gate is in place, but neighbourhood volunteers are needed to ensure it is locked at night. Contact Richard Waterfield, 250-360-3354 or rwaterfield@crd.bc.ca to find out more about this position.

2010 Council Meeting Schedule

January - 11 & 25
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
December - 6 & 20

The CRD is hosting a variety of winter park programs for all ages in January. All programs are 1 to 1 ½ hours long and free unless otherwise noted. Pre-registration is not required for free programs unless otherwise noted.

Sunday, January 10 | 1-2:30pm
Nuts about Squirrels (Guided Walk)
Francis King Regional Park (Saanich)

Saturday, January 30 | 1-3pm
Winter in the Woods—All ages
Francis King Regional Park (Saanich)

Sunday, January 31 | 1-2:30pm
Rotten Luck (Guided Walk)—Ages: 7 years & up
Francis King Regional Park (Saanich)

These are just a few ... please check out the CRD website for full details:
<www.crd.bc.ca/parks>

SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE FINAL REPORT At its meeting December 7, Council received the Sustainability Task Force's final report from chair Andrew Fall. The report contains 42 recommendations in 12 different areas, beginning with two general recommendations and continuing with categories including climate change mitigation and adaptation, transportation, sustainable building, energy and resource use and conservation, water management, ecological conservation and greenspace connectivity, local food production, affordable housing and demographics, a sustainability appraisal form, and social sustainability, communication and education. The report includes degrees of difficulty and potential impact of each recommendation (including a ranking system), and sets out a 'road map' for their implementation.

Members of the task force, representing council committees and community groups, were Ann Baird, Eric Bonham, Councillor Allen Dobb (council representative), Andrew Fall (chair), Bob Flitton, Warren Lee, Dave Mackas, Bob McMinn, and Greg Nuk. Council would like to thank them for their diligent efforts in formulating this excellent report. Council will consider the report at a committee-of-the-whole meeting early in the year.

WINTER ROAD MAINTENANCE Council met with roads maintenance contractor Mike Gibbons to review winter road maintenance and to discuss comments and complaints from residents. Recommendations included the establishment of areas for plowed pullouts on Millstream Lake/Ross Durrance Roads so that vehicles could safely pass without backing up, and continuation of plowing along Munn Road to Prospect Lake Road (in Saanich) during heavy snows to allow East Highlanders to leave the Highlands safely. Ironically, snow prevented many residents from attending. If you have suggestions, comments, or complaints, please contact the municipal office. *A tip from our contractor: when clearing snow from your driveway apron, be sure to place it to the right, so that the snowplow won't redistribute it back onto your driveway.*

WHAT'S THAT SIGN? On November 2 Council passed a new signage policy. To ensure that land owners and developers involve Highlands's residents in decisions at an early stage in the preparation of development designs and applications, the applicant of rezoning and subdivision applications will now be required to post an information sign on the street frontage which is subject to the application. This sign will state what type of application is being applied for and refer those interested to the office for more information.

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.

STAY INFORMED: visit the District website: highlands.ca

Council & District News

GROUNDWATER STUDY, PHASE II The Groundwater Task Force has finalized the report ending Phase II of the groundwater study carried out by consultants Golder and Associates. Phase I included development of a conceptual model of groundwater flow in the Highlands, compilation of an inventory of unused water wells, and development of recommendations for preliminary groundwater quality and level monitoring. Phase II included an inventory to identify potential contamination sources, preliminary recommendations for the conservation of groundwater quantity and protection of groundwater quality, recommendations for public education, and implementation of a groundwater monitoring program to obtain water-level data and characterize groundwater quality.

Golder collected data through online searches, phone inquiries and interviews, searches of zoning plans, business licences, government data, and consultants' reports, information from property owners and operators, and reconnaissance of selected sites. A list of potential contaminants was then formed. Golder recommends that potential contamination sources in commercial/ industrial should receive highest priority for groundwater protection efforts. Use, storage and disposal of chemicals and hazardous products, septic systems, fuel tanks, and wells in

disrepair on rural/rural residential properties should also be prioritized. On comprehensive development properties, the primary sources of contamination are application, improper storage and/or disposal of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides, as well as the introduction of pharmaceuticals in reclaimed water.

The study developed measures to support the protection and conservation of groundwater, including level and quality monitoring, public involvement initiatives, market approaches, technical assistance programs, hazardous waste collection programs, maintenance of a database of land uses, accidents and spills, and initiatives to support proper abandonment of unused wells where there could be potential contaminants.

In Phase II, monitoring wells were established at 2 locations, and a preliminary water level monitoring and groundwater quality testing program was initiated. By September 2009, the Program expanded to include eight additional wells.

Four more monitoring wells are recommended for Phase III.

Other recommendations in the report include:

1. implementation of measure to encourage conservation of quantity and protection of quality, by coordinating with existing programs,
2. initiation of a database of specific land uses and significant accidents, fires or spills that may have occurred in Highlands,
3. gathering of additional information to supplement the contaminant inventory and to assess the nature of onsite facilities and land use practices,
4. expansion of the water level monitoring program to include deployment of pressure transducers in monitoring wells throughout Highlands,
5. installation and monitoring of flow meters on specific communal/commercial wells to provide more detailed water-level and consumption data,
6. sharing of information with CRD and operators of commercial/industrial properties to coordinate groundwater monitoring efforts.

At the January 18 COW meeting representatives from Golder and Associates – Mark Bolton and Jill Sacre – will present the Final Report of Phase 2. The Final Reports of both Phase 1 and Phase 2 are on the District's web site.



COFFEE HOUSE NEWS JANUARY 9

The Highlands' Coffee House is excited to bring to the beautiful Highlands the return of our own brilliant KAREL ROESSINGH on piano and the outstanding JOEY SMITH on bass to **celebrate the arrival of the New Year and also the anniversary of the Highlands' Coffee House**. Karel and Joey will play songs of midwinter, and songs to welcome the lengthening days. Feel free to bring percussion instruments to play along!

Karel Roessingh is a composer, arranger, producer and musician who has written scores for over five hundred television episodes, and many award-winning films, documentaries, and promotional videos. As well as performing on countless recordings for other artists, he has produced more than fifteen of his own recordings, the last three of which were released in November, 2008. He has performed with symphony orchestras and rock, jazz, folk, show and country ensembles throughout the world, from small-town bars to concert halls and battleships to cruise ships.

Joey Smith came to Victoria from Tennessee via the Glenn Miller Orchestra, with whom he toured as bassist for more than two years. Earning his Masters Degree in music at the prestigious Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York in 1990, he and his wife returned to Victoria where he has played bass, guitar and tuba ever since. His arrangements for the Glenn Miller Orchestra and the Victoria Symphony are imbued with joy and passion. He has played bass for Cleo Laine and John Dankworth and worked on occasion with Herb Ellis and Charlie Byrd and plays regularly with the Marc Atkinson Trio. Joey has appeared at numerous jazz festivals in Canada and the United States.

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

Date: Saturday, January 9, 2010 @ 7:30pm

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 November 16 to December 15, 2009

NOVEMBER

- 16 - False Alarms - Talon Ridge
- 17 - False Alarms - Millstream
 - Theft of Auto - Hanington
 - Mischief \$5000 or Under - Skyview
 - Theft From Motor Vehicle - Deerfield
 - Theft From Motor Vehicle - Hanington
 - Theft From Motor Vehicle - Hanbury
 - 911-False/Abandoned Calls - Rowntree
- 19 - 911-False/Abandoned Calls - White Pine
 - Traffic-Other Non-Moving - Hannington /Millstream
- 20 - False Alarms - Skyview Pl
- 21 - Bylaw-Noise - Caleb Pike
 - Suspicious Pers/Veh/Occurrence - Caleb Pike
- 22 - Mischief \$5000 or Under - Caleb Pike
 - Theft from Motor Vehicle - Caleb Pike
- 23 - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Millstream
- 24 - False Alarms - Millstream
- 26 - Mischief \$5000 or Under - Millstream
 - Suspicious Pers/Veh/Occurrence - Durrance
- 28 - Mischief \$5000 or Under - Lorimer/Millstream
- 29 - Theft Under \$5000 - Hawkins /Hanbury
- 30 - Unspecified Assistance - White Pine
 - Break & Enter - Millington

DECEMBER

- 1 - 911-False/Abandoned Calls - Caleb Pike
- 2 - False Alarms - Stewart Mountain
 - Impaired Operation of Motor Vehicle - Rowntree
- 3 - Theft from Motor Vehicle - Ross Durrance /Willis Point
- 6 - Theft of Auto Under \$5000 - Timberglen
 - Theft of Auto Over \$5000 - Timberglen
 - Possession-Cannabis - Ross Durrance /Willis Point
- 7 - 911-False/Abandoned Calls - Quail
 - Mischief \$5000 or Under - Millstream Lake
- 9 - Theft Under \$5000 - Stewart Mountain
- 11 - Property-Lost - Millstream
 - Traffic-Other Moving - Munn Rd/Millstream Lake
- 13 - Fraud-Credit/Debit Card - Stewart Mountain
- 14 - Traffic-Other Moving - Rolla /Munn
 - Collision-Damage Under \$1000 - Millstream /Stewart Mnt.
- 15th - Roadside Prohib-215 Alcohol - Millstream



SEEN IN PASSING: *Just 6 days before retiring, Fire Chief Barry Ford sweeping glass off the roadway on Christmas Day...*

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.

January 15 - 6:30 to 8 pm. at Schoolhouse
January 29 - swimming at West Shore Parks and Recreation

*For more information call
Bob at 250 478-4403 or Amy at 250 474-2847*

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— kqwmaya@shaw.ca / 250-479-7497

Acting Fire Chief Guy Brisebois— GuyBrisebois@Forces.gc.ca / 250-920-6970

Emergency Coordinator Val Fletcher— 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
Wildlife Violations—1-800-663-WILD (9453)

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

Recognition goes to all the volunteers who organized and participated in the annual Santa Run, and all those residents who gave so generously to benefit the local food bank. Donations were up significantly, indicating an awareness of need during this economic challenging time. The event is hosted by the Highlands Volunteer Firefighters Association partnered with several resident volunteers. Special kudos to the guy in the red suit whose presence was enjoyed by all - he brought big smiles to lots of little faces.



Thank you, all, for the long, long day spent in support of a very worthy cause, and for your many donations. You make Highlands proud!

JANUARY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

January 7 - Community Centre Task Force, School House, 5:30 pm
January 8 - CRD Recycling Blue Box pickup
January 9 - Coffee House*, Pike House, 7:30 pm
January 11 - Regular Council Meeting**, School House, 7 pm
January 13 - Fiscal/Environment Cttee, Pike House, 7:30 pm
January 18 - Committee of the Whole **, School House, 7 pm
January 22 - CRD Recycling Blue Box pickup
January 25 - Regular Council Meeting**, School House, 7 pm
January 27- HDCA Directors Meeting - Pike House, 7:30pm
**details elsewhere in the Newsletter
**please visit the District website, highlands.ca for detailed agenda information in advance of meetings*

HIGHLANDS HISTORY - DID YOU KNOW? In 1909 Sam Matson, who owned the land where our current Municipal Office now stands, constructed a dam complete with valves and pipes across Millstream Creek. His plan was to provide drinking water for the growing City of Victoria. That plan fell through and instead he created Matson Lake, an idyllic fishing spot for early Highlanders.

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.