



Highlands News



MESSAGE BOARDS The Highlands District Community Association has erected a prototype bulletin board beside the mailboxes on Millstream Road across from Finlayson Arm Road. It features cedar boards (more thumb tack friendly than plywood), a generous roof overhang to keep notices dry and posts in saddles embedded in concrete to lengthen post life. The HDCA would like to know whether Highlanders like the design and would like this type of bulletin board next to their own community mail boxes. Please send your comments to HDCA c/o District of Highlands, 1980 Millstream Road, Victoria, B.C.V9B 6H1 or email tneurauter@highlands.ca.

CELEBRATING A LONG-SERVING VOLUNTEER

On June 4th, former fire chief Barry Ford was honoured by his colleagues at a retirement party. Appreciation for Barry's 32 years of service to the District Fire Department was demonstrated with speeches, gifts, entertainment and a historical slide show. Barry's career as both a visionary leader and exceptional fire-fighter will long be remembered with gratitude by the Highlands community. We wish you a very happy retirement!

SUSTAINABILITY BC Hydro Energy Conservation Assistance Program (ECAP) provides free home energy upgrades for people on limited budgets. Insulation, fridges, draft proofing and more. Call 1.877.431.9463 or apply [online](#).

Energy Grants for Homeowners / LiveSmart BC grants for home energy saving upgrades to insulation, windows, woodstoves, and more. Visit www.citygreen.ca or call 250.381.9995.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- More Fling News - Save the Date!
- Summer Activities and Community Calendar
- Volunteer Recognition Program, Council News and more...

MAYOR'S MESSAGE The District's 2009 Annual Report is available for public viewing and comment – find it on the district website homepage or at the office during business hours. Council welcomes your input, and will consider adoption of this report on July 19. Please email comments to tneurauter@highlands.ca or contact the office for more options.

A summer reminder to drivers to share District roads with other users including cyclists, horseback riders and pedestrians—please drive with caution and watch for children.

As the hazard ratings continue to increase, residents are encouraged to practice diligent fire prevention. Promptly report (911) any observation of fire throughout the district. A brochure from the 2009 Wildfire Forums pertaining to wildfire prevention and response has important information for both new and long time residents. Copies can be downloaded from the district website under Emergency Planning or obtained at the district office.

Council members wish Highlanders a wonderful summer!

Mayor Jane Mendum

A MESSAGE FROM THE HIGHLANDS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT (HVFD) The fire hazard rating is anticipated to reach HIGH early in July, and all burning is prohibited within the District. Please continue to check the hazard rating signs located near each entrance to Highlands, and phone the Deputy Chief if you have specific concerns or questions.

Seven new recruits are working at completing their basic training, and have received their First Responder certification. Thank you for your perseverance and commitment. To all the members of the fire department, Highlands is very appreciative of your ongoing volunteer efforts.

The department continues to seek volunteers from the East Highlands (from approximately 5500 block Munn Road through to the Saanich border). The HVFD has seen several members progress to professional careers over the years, and is a great organization to join if you or a family member are interested in a career in fire fighting. Please contact the A/Fire Chief or Deputy Chief for more information, (contact info: back page).

Community & Sustainability Page

DISTRICT OF HIGHLANDS 2009 VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PROGRAM At council's regular meeting on June 7th, Acting Mayor Allen Dobb presented awards to Brian and Zhinoos Armstrong, Eric Bonham, John Dlugos, Elaine Limbrick, and Sheila Taylor for their exemplary and outstanding service to the community. The recipients had been nominated by Highlands residents on a form mailed out with Highlands tax notices, and each received a framed certificate and a distinctive and unique silver pin designed especially for the occasion by Highlander Stuart Duncan.

Mayor Mendum and Council heartily wish to thank the recipients for their tremendous work and continued commitment to the community, and to congratulate them for having been nominated for the awards.

TWINFLOWER PARK WASHROOM Just in time for summer, this new municipal facility is now open from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. daily until September 30.

Special thanks to Bob McMinn for all of the effort he has applied to this project.

BYLAWS NO. 324 & 325 On June 14, Council held a public hearing for both Bylaw 324 (Greenhouse Gas Reduction) and Bylaw 325 (Regional Context Statement). Each of these bylaws amend the District's Official Community Plan. Bylaw 324 results from the provincial mandate to set targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while Bylaw 325 finalizes the 2008 provincial arbitrator's decision to alter the Regional Urban Containment Servicing Policy Area (RUCSPA) by amending Highlands Regional Context Statement. The report of the public hearing can be found here: highlands.ca/minutes/council/2010/. At its June 21st meeting, Council adopted both of the bylaws.

RECOMMENDED: NEW ACTIVITY WEBSITE A very useful website for parents and caregivers, childisplay101.com provides an interactive activity guide for ages 3 to 16 that allows users to easily search programs and activities throughout the region. It's a great way to find which programs are located closest to home as well as discover new things to do. Integrated with public recreation and community programs, the site also provides an opportunity for organizers to advertise upcoming activities and events for free. Bonus for those over 50 – the site includes Greyplay101 – check it out!

REMINDER: BULLFROG REPORTING Have you seen or heard a bullfrog? This invasive species is making its presence known. Not sure what they sound like? Want to distinguish between bullfrogs and the protected (blue listed) red legged frog? Visit highlands.ca for links to recordings and photos of the American bullfrog. Check your pond or wetland this month through to September. Bullfrogs may be present wherever there is year-round water.

If you see or hear a bullfrog, please report the details to Pattie—250-478-3319 or email pattie@pacificcoast.net. This information will help the District to track migration and to plan for control. Thank you to all those who have reported.

2010 Council Meeting Schedule

July - 19
August - 16
September - 7 & 20
October - 4 & 18
November - 1 & 15
December - 6 & 20



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. Thank you!

HERITAGE TASK FORCE Council has appointed Councillor Allen Dobb as liaison to the newly-formed Heritage Task Force, whose initial purpose will be to establish a heritage vision and identify heritage sites for inclusion on a Highlands Heritage Register.

Further work will consider heritage protection options, and how various levels of protection might be applied to various sites. The Task Force was provided with an education workshop, delivered by the Provincial Heritage Branch on June 10th.

THE HIGHLANDS FLING - A Country Fair Save the date! Saturday, September 11 at Caleb Pike Homestead, 1589 Millstream Road, noon to 4 p.m. Food, fun and entertainment – the perfect community celebration!

Organizers are looking for volunteers to assist in planning and for shift work on the day of the Fling. To find out more, please contact Sheila Taylor, 250-474-1685 or email stay@telus.net.

Note: A meeting for organizing will be held on Wednesday, July 28, 7:30 p.m. in the Pike House. Everyone welcome - for the Fling to be a great success, more volunteers are really needed.

CRD PARKS EVENTS

Saturday, July 10 | 10am-2pm
Park 2 Park: A Hiking Adventure (Guided Hike)
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

Thursday, July 15 | 6-9pm and
Thursday, July 22 | 6-9pm
An Introduction to Plants that Heal
(2 session course)

Ages: 15 years and older
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

Friday, July 23 | 1-3pm
Cougar Capers (Guided Walk)—Ages: All ages
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

AN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP CREATE HISTORY Quilters Wanted. If you are interested in participating in a project to create a new wall hanging for the Highland School House contact Daphne at 250-478-7338 or daffjim@telus.net for more info.

LUXTON FALL FAIR 2010 Celebrating 100 years of regional fairs in the Western Communities! Organizers are looking for volunteers - for information visit luxtonfair.ca/contact.htm

Council & District News

COUNCIL SUBMISSION TO THE PROVINCIAL WATER ACT MODERNIZATION PROCESS B.C. is the only province in Canada that does not have groundwater regulation, and the 2007 State of the Environment report indicated that 35% of observation wells in the province reflected a decline in aquifer levels.

At its regular meeting May 17th, Council endorsed a submission from Groundwater Task Force chair Eric Bonham to the provincial government providing input to the proposed new Water Act. The existing Water Act was written at a time when water was considered to be in plentiful supply; due to population increases and climate change, there is now need for new approaches to resolve competing demands on a finite resource. The Highlands, being almost entirely dependent on groundwater, has an interest in how it is protected, both in quality and quantity.

The Highlands submission supports four key components identified in the provincial review: to protect stream health and aquatic environments, to improve water governance arrangements, to introduce more flexibility and efficiency in the water allocation system, and to regulate groundwater use for large withdrawals and in priority areas. Highlands Council is particularly concerned about the fourth component, and supports licensing, measurement and reporting of high-production wells in priority areas. The submission also supports a number of other objectives, listed on the municipal website on the May 17th Council agenda package.

2010 BUDGET On May 10th at a special meeting, Council passed the tax rates and five-year plan bylaws for 2010. The five-year plan includes total expected revenue from each of the funding sources described in the Community Charter (taxation, sale of services, other revenue, and grants and contributions), as well as a list of expenses for general government, protective services, transportation, planning, recreation and culture, and amortization (a new requirement because of a change in required accounting standards - all municipal capital assets now must be amortized to show depreciation).

Fees charged for permits are generally low, with the exception of building and subdivision permits which are set so their administration costs are largely recovered from permit fees. The District is looking into other fees, such as soil deposit and removal permit fees, to determine if they might be cost-recovered as well. Residential taxes account for 86% of total property taxation, with business at 8% and recreation and non-profit at 4.6%. Utilities, light industrial, private managed forest, and farmland make up the remainder.

For the 13th consecutive year, Council has not increased the municipal portion of property taxes. New lots, new construction, and completion of the Bear Mountain golf course resulted in an increase in taxes collected. Your property taxes may have increased, but mainly because other outside agencies (schools, hospitals, and transit) have increased their requisitions. Council increased Highlands contributions to CRD Arts and CRD Housing because it was felt that our contributions in the past have been minimal and far below levels from other contributing municipalities.

More details can be found in the Five Year Financial Plan leaflet sent out with property tax notices during first part of June.



HIGHLANDS FOLK MUSIC

Highlands' Folk Music is pleased to again present the popular Mufaro Marimba Band—July 10, 2010

Mufaro...the name means "Joy" in Shona, the language spoken by the originators of this music in Zimbabwe.

Featuring mostly traditional mbira pieces rearranged for Marimba (as well as some contemporary tunes associated with the independence movement). The music is happy, fun to play poly-rhythmic parts that fit together like a puzzle, and really make you want to move!

The instruments are handmade wooden marimbas consisting of sopranos, tenors, baritone, and a big bass that you need to climb up on a platform to play, and "Hosho" shakers.

We received this note from the Marimba band: "We are honoured and thrilled to play at Caleb Pike again, one of our favourite indoor venues and audiences".

Make sure to come and bring all the family members and friends too for an enjoyable evening together!

We will also have a brief open stage bringing to you further talented musicians

****This will be our last Highlands' Folk Music night for the summer; we will return in October. Brian and Zhinoos will be spending a year in Zambia, and have arranged for other people to coordinate the Highlands' Folk music nights starting this coming October.**

For more information call: 250-727-9561

Date: July 10, 7:30 pm

Place: Caleb Pike House, 1589 Millstream Road

Charges: \$5.00/person - honour system - you can pay more, or as you can afford; coffee/tea/goodies included

STAY INFORMED: visit the District website: highlands.ca

RCMP INCIDENTS REPORT

May 15 to June 15, 2010

MAY

- 17 - Theft from MV Under \$5000 - Industrial Way
Theft of Auto Over \$5000 - Munn /Talon Ridge
- 20 - False Alarms - Westridge
- 21 - Property-Lost - Duggan
- 22 - False Alarms - Caleb Pike
Unspecified Assistance - Quail
- 25 - Collision-Damage Under \$1000 - Millstream/Lost Lake
- 26 - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Millstream /Millstream Lake
- 27 - Property-Lost - Talon Ridge
- 29 - 911-False/Abandoned Calls - Millstream
- 30 - Bylaw-Noise - Millstream /Millstream Lake
- 31 - Theft from MV Under \$5000 - Fork Lake

JUNE

- 2 - Bylaw-Litter - Southwood
Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Millstream
- 4 - Bylaw-Litter - Southwood
- 5 - False Alarms - Duggan
Mischief \$5000 or Under - Industrial Way
- 6 - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Millstream /Stewart Mountain
Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Millstream /Millstream Lake
- 7 - False Alarms - Lorimer
- 8 - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Lost Lake /Millstream
- 10 - False Alarms - Stewart Mountain
Bylaw-Litter - Millstream /Lost Lake
- 12 - Assault-Common or Trespass - Jayhawk
- 13 - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Hazlitt Creek /Old Mossy
Assault - Munn
- 14 - False Alarms - Westridge

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

Recognition this month goes to the participants of the Annual Clean Up event held in May, and to all those Highlanders who take the time to pick up litter throughout the district, an activity that likely doesn't go a day without occurrence. Highlands looked welcoming and lovely after the clean up.

Well done, all - your efforts are appreciated by the entire community!



THURSDAYS AT TWINFLOWER PARK WESTSHORE PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAMS

When: July 8 - August 26

Location: 1564 Millstream Road (beside Fire Hall)

Cost: Free!

DAYCARE IN THE PARK

Time: 10:00 a.m. —11:00 a.m.

Ages 3 - 5

WESTSHORE ROVING PLAYPARK

Time: 11:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Ages 6 - 12



For more information, check the Westshore Parks and Recreation Activity Guide, pages 63 and 69 (available online - visit westshorerecreation.ca) or phone Bobbi at 250-474-5825.

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@live.ca / 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—kwgmaya@shaw.ca / 250-479-7497

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

Deputy Fire Chief Peter Schuttinga—hvfd.dc@gmail.com / 250-514-8526

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

*We had a wonderful arts and music night for
children and youth in May.*

Thank you to all the young performers, their parents and the
volunteers who attended. We also appreciated the visit from our
Highlands' Ilama, Inka Warrior.

HIGHLANDS MARKET The next opportunity to replenish your
supply of wonderful homemade jams, jellies and canned goods,
baked goods, bedding plants for the garden or bouquets, and
to discover fine handmade crafts will take place on Sunday,
July 25 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.. Buyers and sellers welcome!

Come Join Us!



Info: Leslie at 250-474-3453 / Where: Caleb Pike House

JULY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JULY 9 & 26 - CRD Recycling Blue Box pickup

JULY 10 - Highlands Folk Music, Pike House, 7 pm

JULY 19 - Regular Council Meeting**, School House, 7pm

JULY 25 - Highlands Market, Caleb Pike House, 10 am - 1 pm

JULY 28 - Highlands Fling Organizing Meeting*, Pike House, 7:30 pm

**details elsewhere in the Newsletter*

***please visit the District website, highlands.ca for detailed agenda information in advance
of meetings*

HIGHLANDS HISTORY - Highlanders today have mixed feelings towards our abundant deer population especially when they eat our favourite tulips. Early Highland settlers had a different attitude. Often venison was their only source of red meat as cows were kept for milk to produce butter and cheese which was sold as a way of generating income. Jessie Bernard, who lived in the little brown house still standing on Millstream Lake Road near Munn Road, kept a diary of her daily activities. Her entry of November 11, 1903 "George (her husband) and Frank (Gregory, her brother-in-law) went hunting and got a young buck in two hours, home for dinner, jolly to have lots of meat." Settlers also sold their catch in town. October 19, 1903: "(William) Rountree got a buck weighting 141 pounds." Then October 22: " Frank and Rountree drove to town together taking the former's rig and latter's horse. Frank had a happy time as Rountree got drunk, he sold his buck, 135 pounds, for 6 1/2 cents (a pound)."



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.