



Highlands News



Members of the Highlands Volunteer Fire Department practice fire suppression skills.

Photo credit: Captain Dean Ford

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Acting Fire Chief Guy Brisebois reports that as of press time, the fire hazard rating in Highlands has been downgraded from extreme to high. Woodstoves and fireplaces are permitted to be used for heating. No outdoor burning, including campfires, incinerators or chimneys is permitted, and burning permits will not be issued until October 15th or until notice is issued by the A/Fire Chief. Residents can visit the homepage of the district website for updates: www.highlands.ca.

Highlands Volunteer Fire Department reminds residents to have their chimneys properly cleaned prior to use.

The department is still seeking members who reside east of approximately Mt. Work park on Munn Rd. and thanks those who have responded since the advertising campaign began. Please contact A/Chief Brisebois at 250-920-6970 if you are interested or to learn more.

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- *The Highlands Fling - Everyone Welcome!*
- *Community Calendar*

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

As this issue goes to print, the summer heat has been replaced with cooler and damper weather. The Fire Department advises that the forest is still very dry, and residents are urged to continue to be cautious in and around our forests and to report any sources of smoke not originating from an indoor chimney.

Council members have received numerous expressions of gratitude on behalf of our volunteer fire department as a result of a number of recent incidents involving fire (vehicle, structure, and brush); residents appreciate the department's professionalism and the skilled approach to emergency situations. Importantly, fires were contained in a timely manner, preventing flames from spreading into surrounding forest and brush. The firefighters' excellent training program and their 'can do' attitude truly serves this community well.

Volunteers have been working diligently to bring Highlands Fling 2010 to the community. It takes place on Saturday, September 11th (details – page 2). Everyone is welcome – we hope to see you there!

Mayor Jane Mendum



Eagles Lake features a 'postage stamp' beach that is suffering the effects of overcrowding.

Photo credit: Allen Dobb

EAGLES LAKE CONSULTATION—UPDATE Council members, representatives from the Highlands Park and Recreation Association and District CAO Chris Coates met with residents at Eagles Lake Park on the evening of August 19th. Several concerns were raised by neighbouring property owners including parking and road use conflicts, refuse left at the park and after hours disturbance.

Staff will draft options to address residents' concerns for Council's consideration at its next meeting. Look for a staff report (in the agenda) on the district website ahead of September 20th. Thank you to all who attended the consultation opportunity, and to those who have provided input. Council continues to collect information – please contact us if you would like to have your views considered.

Email or contact Councillor Roessingh if you would like to join the newly formed Friends of Eagles Lake group, (contact information - last page).

Community & Sustainability Page

FINDING OUR HERITAGE

The Highlands Heritage Task Force was appointed by Council to help establish a heritage vision for the Highlands. Their main task is to provide opportunities for **the community to determine what characterizes the Highland's heritage.** The task force has been exploring this question – of what defines heritage – and have had the opportunity to meet with a Heritage Planner with BC Heritage Branch and to look at what other BC communities have done. Through this process the task force has learned that heritage is about the importance of place, and of people being connected by a shared experience of place. Heritage can be anything the community has identified and would like to preserve for future generations. This can include natural features such as trees or landscapes, examples of economic history such as logging or mining, unique architecture or craft, or places of First Nations significance. Heritage can also include intangible features such as stories or songs.

But what aspects of the Highland's history are most important? This gets to the heart of what the task force will be asking the community. Why is this important or significant to you? What do Highland residents value that make it heritage? These values can include the historical, social, cultural, spiritual, scientific, aesthetic or educational significance of heritage for a community. For example, a historical value is connected to the importance of local history. Social, cultural or spiritual values are attached to places that symbolize a **community's identity or spiritual beliefs.** **Scientific values can encompass the uniqueness of a natural feature or of the engineering of a structure.** An aesthetic value explores the appreciation of beauty or artistry and an educational value depicts a place or experience where knowledge and skills have been acquired. A heritage feature may contain one or more of these values.

The task force has come up with ideas about how to connect with the community about Highlands heritage. Members of the task force will be at the Highland Fling on Saturday, September 11th, where there will be an area with information and displays. They hope to begin the process of having conversations with residents about heritage values and what holds heritage significance for you. They want to start collecting your ideas. The task force also plans to reach out to the community in other ways so we are able to get input from as many residents as possible. This will include contacting groups such as the Volunteer Fire Department and other community organizations. Methods for participating electronically have also been set up (see information below).



The task force is enthusiastic about exploring this encompassing and integrated vision of heritage, and they look forward to receiving your contributions. One of the goals at the end of this process is to establish an inventory that **represents the community's sense of heritage.**

For updates or to send feedback to the committee via email, please use the following links:

www.highlands.ca/boards_committees/heritage_task_force/
Email: heritage@highlands.ca

2010 Council Meeting Schedule

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!



THE HIGHLANDS FLING – “A COUNTRY FAIR”

Saturday September 11th, from 12:00 – 4:00 PM
at the Caleb Pike Homestead 1589 Millstream Rd.

Entertainment:

- Daniel Lapp with Karel Roessingh and the BC Fiddle Orchestra
- Jim Brannigan
- Games, races and crafts for kids
- BINGO for adults
- Heritage crafts
- Tug-O'War

We will have a 50/50 draw: proceeds from the BINGO and 50/50 will go towards the Highlands own Corrie Bland - riding in the Tour de Rock!

Great food at great prices: hot dogs, chili, vegetarian chili, and corn as well as free popcorn and watermelon.

This year some of our local vendors from the Highlands market may be present with a selection of items for sale.

Come and enjoy a good old fashioned Country Fair!

The Fling will be preceded by these activities:

Ball Game at Twin Flower Park from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Pre-Fling Hike from 10:30 – 12:00 noon from the Pike House to Gowlland Todd Loop and back

Bike Jump Park demo at Twin Flower Park from 11:30 – 12:00 noon

Everyone welcome!

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE – RAIN OR SHINE!

CRD PARKS EVENTS

For information call 250.478.3344
or visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks.

Saturday, September 11 | 11am-2pm
Art in the Park (Drop-in Event) All ages
Francis/King Regional Park
Drop by anytime between 11am and 2pm
at the Nature Centre off Munn Road.

Thursday, September 16, 23, 30 | 6-9pm
Saturday, September 18 | 1-4pm
An Introduction to Herbal Pharmacy
(4 session course)
Ages: 15 years and older
Francis/King Regional Park
You must pre-register: call 250.478.3344
by Sept. 10th.
Cost is \$30 + tax/person for the course.

Council & District News

GVPL APPOINTS NEW CEO The Greater Victoria Public Library Board has appointed a new Chief Executive Officer, Maureen Sawa, who will begin on October 12th. Ms. Sawa, current Director of Public Service and Community Development at the Hamilton Public Library, was the unanimous choice of the GVPL selection committee after a thorough selection process, and interviews with six top candidates for the position.

The GVPL board was provided with tremendous assistance in the search for the position by interim CEO Lee Teal, who not only served as CEO in the 1990s, but also is an experienced human resources consultant.

In Hamilton Ms. Sawa directed and managed a large Central Library renovation project involving multiple stakeholders, and a new multi-use facility which included a new library, YMCA recreation centre and Hamilton Police Services centre. She has developed programs for children and youth, has an extensive background in community development, marketing and communications, is a **long-time supporter of children's** and family literacy, and is also an author and musician.

A LOVELY GIFT At the August 16th meeting, Council was delighted to take part in receiving a gift of a beautiful oil painting depicting the Caleb Pike House. It was painted by Barb Blanshard, daughter-in-law of Violet Pike who was born in the house. Ms. Blanshard has donated the painting to the Highlands for the community to enjoy; it has been given to the Highlands Heritage Park Society for **safekeeping. The painting will be unveiled at this year's** Highlands Fling, and will remain on display in the Pike

HARTLAND HAPPENINGS Have you ever toured Hartland Landfill? Take advantage of this free annual event, including numerous displays and activities for children:

CRD Fifth Annual Hartland Open House

Sunday, September 19, 2010 | 10:30am - 3pm

Hartland Landfill, 1 Hartland Avenue (off West Saanich Rd)

For more information, visit

www.crd.bc.ca/waste/hartland/hartland-openhouse.htm

or phone the CRD Hotline at 250-360-3030.



**NEXT HIGHLANDS FOLK MUSIC NIGHT:
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 7:30PM**

Highlands' Folk Music will be featuring Rhonda Bradfoot and Mike Brooks - Saturday, October 16, 2010

Please note a date change as this event will take place on the third Saturday in October.

For more information you can call (250) 391-9987, (250) 474-5831, or (250) 727-9561.

Date: October 16, 7:30 pm

Place: Caleb Pike House, 1589 Millstream Road

Charges: minimum recommended donation \$5 - coffee, tea and goodies included

REZONING APPLICATIONS Former Highlands Planning Technician Kevin Key represented applicants for two rezoning proposals at the August 16th Council meeting.

The first application, from The Land Conservancy, proposed to rezone the Second Lake property, at 367-377 Millstream Lake Road, from Greenbelt 2 to a new Conservation Zone, permitting outdoor recreation, residential (proposed for property caretakers), agriculture, accessory uses, buildings and structures, and a minimum lot size of 148 acres (larger than half the property), rendering the property ineligible for subdivision without further rezoning. The property already has a conservation covenant restricting uses and subdivision, and Council did not see the advantage of the rezoning as presented, denying it in a unanimous vote.

The second application, presented by Mr. Key on behalf of Keyvan Shojania, concerned parts of sections 30 and 74, located between the ends of Rowntree Road, Gowlland Road and Southwood Drive. The proposal would rezone the property from Greenbelt 2 and Greenbelt 4 to a new amenity zone, Rural Residential 17, with 14 residential lots. Proposed amenities to the municipality included a 28-acre park on the property, conservation open space and \$10,000 per additional lot to be put into a community centre reserve fund.

A rezoning application on the same property, proposing 12 lots and a higher amount of amenity cash to Highlands, was rejected by Council in 2005. Council considered the new proposal unacceptable, and sent the application back to the applicant for revision.

Staff reports can be read online at highlands.ca under Agendas.

SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING UPDATE At its August 16th meeting, Council authorized staff to sole source a proposal from the Whistler Centre for Sustainability for a Highlands Sustainability Plan. Several recommendations contained within the Sustainability Task Force Final Report, received last winter, have the potential to require amendments to the Official Community Plan. These recommendations will be considered in the proposal with significant public consultation and participation components.

Staff will be bringing forward the proposal for Council's consideration in the near future. The staff report and recommendation can be found here (08-16, item 10b): <http://www.highlands.ca/agendas/council/2010/>.

LUXTON FALL FAIR 2010 Free admission! This annual regional fair takes place September 17, 18, and 19, 2010. For the centennial celebration, a 100th year Historical Display will be featured. For more information, visit: www.luxtonfair.ca/

Celebrating 100 years of Fall Fairs in the Western Communities!

STAY INFORMED: visit the District website: highlands.ca

RCMP INCIDENTS REPORT - July 15 - August 15, 2010

JULY

- 16 - Suspicious Pers/Veh/Occurrence - Millstream
- 17 - Unspecified Assistance - Millstream
- 18 - Breach of Peace - Southwood
- 20 - Traffic-Other Moving Provincial - Munn/Millstream Lake
Traffic-Other Moving Provincial - Millstream
- 21 - False Alarms - Southwood
- 22 - False Alarms - Skyview/Highlands Park
- 23 - False Alarms - Skyview /Highlands Park
- 24 - Traffic-Other Moving Provincial - Munn
Property-Lost - Rowntree
- 25 - Parking Violations - Eagles Lake
- 26 - Suspicious Pers/Veh/Occurrence - Millstream
- 27 - False Alarms - Raven Height
Abandoned Vehicles - Woodridge
- 28 - Traffic-Insurance Violation - Millstream /Lost Lake
Breach of Probation - Millstream
- 29 - False Alarms - Woodridge
- 31 - Abandoned Vehicles - Highlands Park

AUGUST

- 1 - Bylaw-Noise - Southwood
- 5 - Abandoned Vehicles - Lone Tree Hill Pkg Lot
Property-Lost - Munn
False Alarms - White Pine
- 7 - Impaired of Motor Vehicle (Alcohol) - Bear Mountain
Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Millstream/Caleb Pike
Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Munn
- 8 - Unspecified Assistance - Cheryl
- 9 - False Alarms - Michael
- 10 - False Alarms - Caleb Pike
Unspecified Assistance - Ross Durrance
- 12 - False Alarms - Taylor
- 14 - False Alarms - Stewart Mountain
Animal Calls - Millstream Rd/Stewart Mountain
False Alarms - Millington

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

Volunteers of the month are the members of the Highlands Volunteer Fire Department. Their prompt and professional response to the numerous incidents this summer is appreciated by the entire community.

Firefighters worked hard in the summer heat to suppress a number of fires that had the potential to spread into surrounding brush and forest.

We thank you for your dedicated commitment and many important contributions to the Highlands community!

HIGHLANDS ARTIST RECOGNIZED Kudos to Highlands resident Muriel Sibley, who won the top award in the ceramics category at the Sooke Fine Arts show this summer. **'Burden' consists of an elephant carrying civilization on its back, and proved popular with the jurors and public alike. Muriel's art is familiar to many Highlanders; her signature pieces, sculpted in the Winter Creek Pottery gallery and teaching studio, often incorporate wildlife sculptures with functional pottery pieces. Congratulations, Muriel!**

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—kgwmaya@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

NEW! ONE CLICK TO EMAIL COUNCIL Writing a letter to Mayor and Council just got easier - visit highlands.ca, navigate to the 'Council members' page from the menu on the left, and use the 'click here' button at the top to send an email to all council members at once.

HIGHLANDS MARKET The *LAST* 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, September 26 from 10am- 1pm.

Buyers and sellers welcome! Come Join Us!

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

SEPTEMBER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- SEPTEMBER 3rd & 17th—CRD Recycling Blue Box pickup
- SEPTEMBER 6 - Labour Day—District Office closed
- SEPTEMBER 7 & 20 - Regular Council Meeting**, School House, 7pm
- SEPTEMBER 11 - The Highlands Fling!*, Caleb Pike Homestead, noon to 4 pm
- SEPTEMBER 13 - Committee of the Whole**, School House, 7pm
- SEPTEMBER 22 - Community Infrastructure and Services**, School House, 7:30pm
- SEPTEMBER 26 - Highlands Market, Caleb Pike House, 10 am - 1 pm

*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? Emily Carr loved the silence, the wilderness, the wonderful bird life of the Highland Land District. As a child, in the 1870s, she visited with her family one of the first homesteaders, John H. Scafe, who built a large house on the shore of Long Lake (McKenzie Lake). Later on, probably in 1921, Emily escaped the demands of running a boarding house, the "House of All Sorts", by renting a hunter's log cabin in the Highlands for the month of June. Accompanied by a sheep dog and her Javanese monkey, Woo, Emily sketched away and watched over a family of towhees. Quail, pheasant, and grouse abounded there. Then, as now, humming birds whirred by, robins sang, and swallows darted. Every variety of sparrow was to be found. Her sketches of the Highlands have yet to be identified. Do you have one in your attic?



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.