



Highlands News



Photos credit: Anne L'Hirondelle

Living Locally, Living Sustainably.....

Council recently approved *Sustainable Highlands* - a framework to help the Highlands reach its sustainability goals. It is the desire of Council to engage the community, seeking feedback and comments on the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP). Every month the newsletter will feature a sustainable idea or solution.

One of the objectives of the ICSP is:

"We will reduce our contribution to conditions that undermine people's ability to meet their basic needs. We will support and maintain socio-cultural and economic systems that promote a quality of life for people that include food security, affordable housing, and a living wage." pg. 13

The following is brought to the communities attention regarding a seed and plant exchange hosted by the Highlands food group:

3rd ANNUAL HIGHLAND SEED AND PLANT EXCHANGE

SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2012 - 3PM AT THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE

It's planting time. If you have extra seeds or plants that need a home, bring them to the exchange to share. If you don't have anything to bring, come and take home some plants and new seeds. This is a great opportunity to learn about planting times and techniques, try varieties that grow successfully in the Highlands and learn about seed saving.

The Highlands food group is branching out. We're proposing to hold gatherings aimed at building a sustainable, resilient community from the ground up. The purpose of the meetings is to inspire and support each other in changing the way we live by sharing skills, tools, seeds, experience, sources, books, labour, materials, recipes or anything else we might need or have to offer. All aspects of sustainable living are up for discussion and action. Meetings might include films, hands on activities (e.g. tree pruning workshop), info on energy reduction strategies, garden visits, etc. Our interest is in focusing on whatever inspires and motivates us toward a more resilient and sustainable way of living in the Highlands, while having a good time together. (Watch bulletin boards, website and this newsletter for upcoming meetings)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Community Calendar
- Volunteer Opportunities!
- Sustainable Highlands

March Council Meetings

March - 5 & 19

MAYOR'S MESSAGE Once again, I would like to both recognize and thank the many active, dedicated volunteers that aid council, the district, and the community. Their tremendous contributions are valued immensely. Our quality of life is enriched by the gifts of time and talent so generously provided by these amazing volunteers, and Council appreciates their efforts wholeheartedly. A reminder that as this new year begins, there are a few committee spaces available. Please contact the district office if you are considering a position on a task force or committee.

Council welcomes your questions and concerns. Council meetings are public, and everyone is always welcome. Staff members do an excellent job of posting agendas, minutes and information to the district website, and I encourage all residents with internet access to visit <highlands.ca> often in order to stay informed.

On behalf of Council, we look forward to the term ahead and continuing our service to Highlanders with enthusiasm. It is both a pleasure and an honour to work with my fellow Council members and to represent this uniquely special community.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS Recently, a newsletter from Highlands Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) was mailed to Highlands residents. It contained an annual report from the Fire Chief that reviewed both 2011's activities and a work plan for the year ahead. The main message was one of recruitment, as circumstances have caused membership numbers to drop slightly. Some of our younger volunteers have purchased homes outside of the district, and the past few years saw the retirement of some of our valued longtime members.

The department provides extremely valuable volunteer services to the community. With changes to ambulance service and increased population in other jurisdictions, which are both beyond the districts' control, it becomes more important to residents to have emergency responders close to home whenever possible. If you (or anyone in your neighbourhood) might have an interest in joining a terrific team of volunteers, please phone the Fire Chief in order to learn more (250-920-6970).

Note: If you missed the flyer, visit the homepage of at <highlands.ca> and click on the link to the HVFD Newsletter.

The Highlands News — MARCH 2012

District of Highlands Council Newsletter | 1980 Millstream Road, Highlands, BC V9B 6H1 | P: 250-474-1773 F: 250-474-3677

For Updates & Information, visit the District website: www.highlands.ca

Community & Council News

2012 COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

ACTING MAYOR

Acting Mayor January 2012 to June 2012 Councillor Johannesen
 Acting Mayor July 2012 to December 31, 2012 Councillor Dobb

MAYOR JANE MENDUM	CRD Board & Hospital Board CRD Environmental Sustainability Cttee. (V. Chr) CRD Parks Committee CRD & JDF Water Commission, ALT. CRD Solid Waste Advisory Committee, (Chair) The Mayor is also Ex Officio to ALL of the District of Highlands Committees
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COUNCILLOR ALLEN DOBB	CRD Arts Committee CRD Solid Waste Advisory Committee, Alternate Community Infrastructure and Services, ALT. Sustainability Strategy Advisory Committee Treaty Advisory Committee, Alternate
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COUNCILLOR DIANE GILL	Community Infrastructure and Services - Liaison CRD Solid Waste Advisory Committee District of Highlands Emergency Planning, ALT.
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COUNCILLOR SIGURD JOHANNESSEN	Community Centre Task Force Liaison CREST Alternate – non-voting District of Highland Emergency Planning Greater Victoria Family Court Regional Water Commission Western Communities Policing Advisory
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COUNCILLOR MARCIE MCLEAN	Fiscal and Environmental Liaison Greater Victoria Family Court, ALT. Intermunicipal Committee on Disability Issues Western Communities Policing Advisory, ALT.
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COUNCILLOR KAREL ROESSINGH	Advisory Planning Commission CRD Board, ALT. CRD Hospital Board, ALT. CREST Greater Victoria Library Board Ground Water Task Force
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COUNCILLOR KEN WILLIAMS	Advisory Planning Commission, ALT. Juan de Fuca Water Commission Community Centre Task Force, ALT. Fiscal and Environmental, ALT. Intermunicipal Committee on Disability Issues, ALT. Sustainability Strategy Advisory Committee, ALT. Treaty Advisory Committee West Shore Parks and Recreation Society
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CRD have a variety of programs for the entire family. March has many exciting adventures planned. For a complete listing of Nature Outings and Events call **250.478.3344** or visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks.

DOES volunteering an hour or two each month seem appealing to you? If so the District of Highlands is still inviting appointments to the following committees:



- **Community Infrastructure and Services (1 position) Committee**
- **Fiscal and Environmental Committee (4 positions)**

Full Terms of Reference for these committees are available on the District website: www.highlands.ca.

Anyone interested in serving is invited to submit a letter and / or a brief resume detailing their interest to serve on one of these committees.

All submissions should be forwarded to the office or email to: tneurauteur@highlands.ca.

Generally, committees meet once per month in the evening with the exception of July, August and December.

WEST SHORE PARKS AND RECREATION 2012 BUDGET

At the February 13 Committee of the Whole meeting, Council received a presentation from representatives of West Shore Parks and Recreation (WSPR). This year's requisition contains an increase of 7.5% for Highlands. The requisition is based on 50% population numbers and 50% converted 2011 assessment values, and the increase is partially due to our growing population. In dollar figures, this represents an increase of \$12,617 to the District. Council chose to forward the item to the February 20 regular council meeting, allowing time for questions to be answered by WSPR's financial officer. Council subsequently approved the budget, forwarding specific financial concerns to WSPR's board of directors.

PARKS VISITORS INCREASE Data provided by CRD Parks demonstrates a steady increase in visitors to spectacular Mount Work Regional Park – a total of about 42,000 visits were made to the park in 2011 from trails originating within the Highlands. The redesigned parking lot and accessible loop trail located on Munn Road have proven popular, too, as park staff note that the number of visitors has increased since the project was completed.



CYCLING RACE SCHEDULE APPROVED

Upon request from the 02 Cycling Club (formerly Schwalbe), Council has again approved a schedule of races to be held near Caleb Pike/Millstream Roads. As in the past, a condition that course marshals park on the west side of Caleb Pike Road was readily agreed to by the club's representative. Six races are scheduled between the dates of March 11 and August 15. The request, along with the 2012 race schedule, can be viewed at highlands.ca/agendas/council/2012/documents/02CyclingClub2012.pdf.

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



Community & Council News

CLIMATE ACTION REVENUE INCENTIVE (CARIP) PUBLIC REPORT FOR 2011 At the February 20 regular meeting, Council received this report; the following excerpt from the planner's memo explains:

The BC Climate Action Charter commits local governments to be on the path to becoming carbon neutral in their corporate operations starting in 2012 (for reporting publicly early 2013). The District is a signatory.

The purpose of this report is to provide Council and the public with Highlands' Climate Action Revenue Incentive (CARIP) Public Report for 2011 to fulfill the District's commitment of reporting publicly on progress or actions taken to:

- 1. measure all corporate energy and fuel use,*
- 2. reduce energy and associated emissions, and*
- 3. balance and/or offset remaining carbon emissions.*

The details of becoming carbon neutral were outlined in a report to Council in August 2011. The web link to that report is: <highlands.ca/agendas/council/2011/documents/L_Beckett_Report_Carbon_Aug12.pdf>.

The attached report is an optional template for all BC local governments to use. Staff includes the entire report for public education and incentive purposes, in order to generate discussion, conversation, and positive action for adapting to climate change and actions toward sustainability.

Staff expects to use this template in coming years, when certainly more actions will be included as the District implements its Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP). Referring to the report's last two pages, staff notes that all measurements have not yet been calculated, and thus the District's status for carbon neutrality is not yet finalized. Staff will provide this information to Council once ready. This will include options for Council regarding offsetting.

The report can be viewed at <highlands.ca/agendas/council/documents/CARIP.pdf>.

REPLACEMENT OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE

VEHICLE The District's 2011 budget included funds to purchase a new mini-pumper truck to replace one (of two) that has been prone to excessive repairs. At its February 6 regular meeting, Council received four quotes along with a recommendation from the Fire Chief, and approved purchase of the new vehicle from Suburban Motors. It is noted that the District's firefighting efforts have been well served by the mini-pumpers since their initial purchase in the 1990's.

SUSTAINABLE HIGHLANDS As previously reported in the Highlands News, Council has been working towards the creation of an Integrated Sustainability Community Plan (ISCP). Its purpose is to map ways in which the District can become and remain sustainable into the future, and it takes the form of high-level policy that guides the way in which we make decisions. Regularly measuring success is an important component of the plan. With the assistance and dedication of the former Sustainability Task Force and the current Sustainability Advisory Committee members, along with the expertise of consultants from the Whistler Centre for Sustainability and that of our Planner, Laura Beckett, Council adopted the plan at its February 20 regular meeting.

Next steps will include consideration of updating/aligning the District's Official Community Plan. Residents are encouraged to become familiar with the plan and to consider their important role in contributing towards a Sustainable Highlands.

Staff has created a very informative webpage with all of the facts along with additional helpful links – visit <highlands.ca/sustainability/> to view the plan, its history, timeline and much more.

NEW CELL TOWER (VIEW ROYAL) At the February 13



Committee of the Whole meeting, Council received a presentation from Telus with regard to a new cell tower to be constructed in View Royal next to the BC Hydro substation located off Munn Road (very near to the District's east boundary). The tower will be 60 meters in height, which is one third higher than the existing power line stanchions. The stated purpose of the tower is to increase cell service in areas such as the adjacent Thetis Lake Park. Industry Canada regulates the existence of cell towers. At the February 20 regular council meeting, Council approved comments be submitted concerning potential lights and a microwave antenna (this antenna was indicated by Telus to be both unusual and unlikely) on the tower. Both the report and presentation are available for viewing at <highlands.ca>.

NEW NOTICE BOARD - MUNN RD./BUKIN PLACE East Highlands residents who collect their mail at the community mailbox located on Munn Road near Bukin Place report that they are delighted with the new notice board that was recently installed alongside the mailboxes. Recognition and appreciation go to Mr. Bob McMinn who provided the cost of the materials and labour for this beautifully designed community notice board.

SAVE THE DATES!

HIGHLANDS FOLK MUSIC: (Second Saturday of each month, Pike House, 1589 Millstream Road)

April: Hokum Steamers Band | **May:** Quaaileedh Band and also the **Children and youth Coffee House** |

June: Jack, May and Zachary | **July:** Mufaro band returning

If you or someone you know would like to perform at Highlands Folk Music, or for information, please phone 778-678-2409 or email <zhinoos9@gmail.com>.

OTHER EVENTS: The **Highlands Blues Bash** will be held at the Pike House on June 23—watch for details!

RCMP INCIDENTS REPORT

January 16 to February 15, 2012

JANUARY

- 16 - Suspicious Pers/Veh/Occurrence - Old Mossy Rd
Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Millstream Rd
- 17 - 911-False/Abandoned Calls - Ross Durrance Rd
- 18 - False Alarms - Millstream Rd
Traffic-Other Municipal - Duggan Pl
- 19 - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Hanington Rd/Millstream Rd
- 21 - Unspecified Assistance - River Rd
- 22 - Theft from MV Under \$5000 - Millstream Rd
Query to Locate Individual - Ross Durrance Rd
- 24 - 911-False Abandoned Calls - Compton Rd
Abandoned Vehicles - Millstream Rd
Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Munn Rd
- 25 - Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Munn Rd/Millstream Lake Rd
Unspecified Assistance - Millstream Rd
Unspecified Assistance - Millington Pl
Property-Lost - Lakeridge Pl/Woodridge Pl
- 29 - False Alarms - Millstream Rd

FEBRUARY

- 01 - Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Woodridge Pl/Westridge Pl
- 02 - Unspecified Assistance - Talon Ridge
- 03 - Theft-Other Under \$5000 - Tammy Pl
Bylaw-Noise - Millstream Rd
- 04 - False Alarms - Millstream Rd
Unspecified Assistance - Mount Work
- 06 - Unspecified Assistance - Finlayson Arm Rd
Unspecified Assistance - Millstream Lake Rd
- 07 - False Alarms - Industrial Way
- 10 - Suspicious Pers/Veh/Occurrence - Woodridge Pl
False Alarms - Southwood Dr
- 13 - 911-False/Abandoned Calls - Industrial Way
- 14 - Bylaw-Noise - Millstream Rd

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

The Highlands Volunteer Fire Department wishes to recognize all residents who donated to the Food Bank during December's Santa Run. Three truck loads of food and items were delivered to provide for those in need, thanks to the generosity of Highlanders.

We recognize, too, the generosity of the Highlands volunteer fire fighters in undertaking this seasonal event. Much effort goes into planning, scheduling, decorating and advertising ahead of time, and volunteers put in a very long day visiting each household throughout the district.

CONSUMER AWARENESS Recently a resident advised of his dissatisfaction with some work done on his property by an out-of-province contractor. He was approached in person, and offered work at a reduced rate. Unfortunately the finished product left something to be desired. Residents are encouraged to ask for references and gain a clear understanding what is being offered when confronted with a door to door solicitation. Even in rural Highlands these solicitations occur and residents are encouraged to exercise due diligence.

Contacts:

Mayor Jane Mendum— jmendum@highlands.ca /250-478-9449, 250-893-9440
Councillor Allen Dobb— alendobb@telus.net /250-391-3998/
Website: alendobb.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
Fire Chief Guy Brisebois— Guy.Brisebois@forces.gc.ca / 250-920-6970
Deputy Fire Chief Dean Ford— hvfdtraining@shaw.ca
Emergency Coordinator Val Fletcher— vfletcher@highlands.ca / 250-479-1725
District of Highlands Office—250-474-1773
CRD Bylaw Enforcement—250-474-3351
CRD Animal Control (24 hrs) - 250-478-0624
CRD Parks—250-478-3344
Wildlife Violations—1-800-663-WILD (9453)

MARCH COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March 12 - Committee of the Whole , School House, 7pm

March 19 - Council meeting, School House, 7pm

March 16 & 30 - CRD Recycling Blue Box pickup

March 18 - Seed and Plant Exchange, School House, 3pm

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



HIGHLANDS HISTORY The School Trail - This is the story of the white sign on the wall in the cloak room of the Highland School House with the words "School Trail" painted on it. When the school was built in 1893 several of the children in that first class belonged to the Scafe family who lived at McKenzie Lake just north of Thetis Lake. Hazel Scafe, granddaughter of John H. Scafe, one of the first school trustees, wrote about this trail in her autobiography. " A trail was slashed through the woods by some of the parents, to facilitate the children's walk to and from school. Distance varied, but ranged up to three miles, morning and late afternoon. It was a hazardous walk, where bears, cougar, raccoons and wild cattle roamed. This fact created a threat every step of the way, and the older Scafe girls, or parents of other students often went to meet the youngsters along the trail to ensure their safety." When the school was reopened in 1937 a new family, the Burnhams, lived at McKenzie Lake and once again the school trail was cleared for use. After the school closed for good in 1941 the trail was abandoned and became overgrown. In the early 1950s Bob McMinn was clearing ground for BC Hydro at the back of his property on Section 34 when he came across the sign posted on a tree. Luckily he thought it was of some interest and kept it secure for the next 50 years. It is now proudly on display in our School House. Needless to say the sign painter would have benefited from a few spelling lessons.



Beautiful Rocks, a fascinating book about the history of Highlands, is available at the municipal office for \$29.95, or phone Daphne Allen at 250-478-7338.