



Highlands News



Discovering unwelcome invasive plants in your yard this spring? Find out how to identify, control and discourage them by visiting <coastalinvasiveplants.com> online.

Living Locally, Living Sustainably.....

LIVING BUILDING CHALLENGE On April 23, Council and Committee members were joined by residents and proponents to enjoy an educational presentation by Ann and Gord Baird about the Living Building Challenge, a building philosophy described as "...a philosophy, advocacy tool and certification program that addresses development at all scales." Appreciation goes to the Bairds for an important presentation that fostered thinking and dialogue around sustainable building in Highlands. Visit <ilbi.org> to learn more.

NEW Starting May 1, 2012, polycoated cartons will be accepted in your Blue Box container bins. **"Polycoated Cartons"** means polycoated gable top and/or aseptic beverage cartons (milk and milk substitutes, juice), drink boxes and soup containers.

Visit <ord.bc.ca/waste/recycle/pilotprojects.htm> to learn about recycling spring cleanup items such as styrofoam, mattresses, plastic film and rigid plastic at the Hartland Landfill.

Visit <myrecyclopedia.ca> - Knowledge you can reuse!

HIGHLANDS MARKET RETURNS! SUNDAY, May 27th
 10am - 1pm, - Caleb Pike grounds, 1589 Millstream Road
 The market takes place on the last Sunday of each month from May to September. Vendors offer a variety of local food, wonderful homemade jams and jellies, baked goods, bedding plants for the garden or bouquets, and fine handmade crafts for sale. A great way to meet neighbours or new residents while stocking up! Buyers and sellers welcome, rain or shine!
Info: Leslie, 250-474-3453 **Next Market: June 24th**

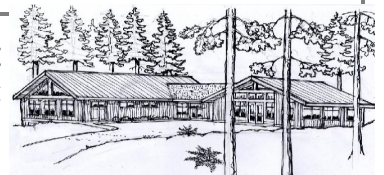
INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Children and Youth Talent Event—May 19
- Eagle’s Lake Park Draft Bylaw—Public Consultation
- Important Property Tax Information

EAGLES LAKE PARK DRAFT BYLAW At the April 16 regular meeting Council was presented with a draft bylaw pertaining to Eagle’s Lake Park. The draft includes many elements for consideration and can be viewed here: <http://www.highlands.bc.ca/documents/EaglesLake_ParkManagement-Bylaw.asp>. Council forwarded the draft to its select committees and the District’s Bylaw Enforcement Officer for comment and recommendations. Further, Council requested that the item be brought to the attention of both the adhoc Friends of Eagle’s Lake group and Highlands residents, and welcomes your feedback. Please email your views to :<tneurauter@highlands.ca>.

COMMUNITY HALL UPDATE

At the regular Council meeting held April 2, Council approved a contract for the community hall design and construction supervision services with Stantec Architecture Ltd., and further directed that Stantec be requested to report on the concept of including ‘Living Building Challenge’ elements into the design. The provincial Towns for Tomorrow grant funding requires that specific ‘green’ components be included in the structure. Stantec representatives attended the Living Building Challenge presentation held during the Committee of the Whole meeting of April 23. A memo and the agreement can be found online at <highlands.ca/agendas/council/2012/documents/documents/contractforCommunityHall_Design.pdf>



FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS An important reminder that all open burning in Highlands requires a permit as of **MAY 1**. Hazard ratings are kept up to date on the Fire Department’s signs located on the roadside at each entrance to the Highlands, and information is posted on the home page of the District web site, <highlands.ca>. Contact the Fire Chief or Deputy Chief to obtain a permit (see back page for contact information).

SAVE THE DATE! Highlands Volunteer Firefighter’s Association will hold their annual benefit for **Muscular Dystrophy** on Saturday, June 16. A Casino Night is being planned, complete with an auction and guaranteed fun. Please plan to attend and support this important cause! Watch for details online at <highlands.ca>.

Community News



YOUR 2012 PROPERTY

TAX NOTICE will be mailed out at the end of May. Taxes are **due on Tuesday, July 3,**

2012 at 4:00pm. Please note the office will be closed Monday July 2 for Canada Day. After July 3, 2012, any outstanding 2012 (current) property tax amount is subject to a 5% penalty. An additional 5% penalty will be applied after 4:00pm on September 1, 2012. Outstanding arrears and delinquent taxes accrue daily interest at a percent set by the province.

MAILING ADDRESS If you have moved or bought your property this year, please ensure that the District has your current mailing address before mid May by calling the Municipal Office at 250-474-1773.

PAYMENT We do not accept payment by credit card or on-line. We do accept cash, cheque, postdated cheque (please include the roll number for reference) and debit cards (please ensure you have checked with your financial institution to ensure your withdrawal limit is set high enough), or pay in person at your financial institution. Your financial institution will require the original bottom portion of your tax notice, however they will only accept Home Owner Grant (HOG) applications if accompanied by a payment.

THE HOME OWNER GRANT (HOG) MUST BE COMPLETED EVERY YEAR! If eligible, please claim your HOG by completing the reverse side of the property tax notice and dropping it off at the municipal office between 8:30am and 4:00pm. After hours you

may use the mail slot at the district office or you can mail it.

Important: if not claimed by the due date, the HOG portion becomes part of the outstanding taxes and is subject to penalties. *You do not need to make a payment to claim the HOG.*

HOG REDUCED OR ELIMINATED ON HIGHER-VALUED PROPERTIES For properties assessed at \$1,285,000 (threshold) and above, the HOG is reduced by \$5 for each \$1,000 of assessed value in excess of the threshold. The *basic* grant (\$570) is therefore eliminated on properties assessed greater than \$1,399,000; and the *additional* grant (\$845 for owners 65+, qualifying veterans and persons with disability) is eliminated on properties assessed at \$1,454,000.

HOG EXTENDED FOR INDIVIDUALS MOVING INTO A RESIDENTIAL FACILITY Effective 2012, the Act is amended to allow qualifying homeowners who have moved into a residential facility to apply for the Home Owner Grant for one additional year. The grant can only be claimed on the home that they continue to own and that qualified in the previous year. For further information on any of the (HOG) programs offered, please go to: http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/documents_library/bulletins/hog_001.pdf

NEW FOR 2012 Effective 2012, the *Home Owner Grant Act* is amended to create a veterans supplement for qualifying low-income veterans under the age of 65 who have served in the Canadian Forces as officers or non-commissioned members. The supplement is intended to provide low-

income veterans with the same HOG enhancements that already apply to seniors, some persons with disabilities and their families, and certain veterans and their spouses. The income threshold below which veterans may qualify for the full supplement is \$30,000 which is based on their previous year's income. A veteran is required to apply through the local property tax collector for the basic HOG of \$570. After this application is approved, a separate application for the supplement (\$275) must be made directly to the Home Owner Grant Administrator. Below is the link to the information sheet and application for the Veterans supplement: http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/documents_library/brochures/Info_Sheet_2012-01.pdf

CONTINUING FOR 2012 CLASS 09 (FARM LAND) ASSESSMENT CREDIT As of last year, an owner of a property assessed as Class 09 (farm land) is entitled to a credit that will reduce the provincial school tax payable on these properties by 50 percent. An extra line will be added to the tax notice to show that the credit has been applied to that account. Go to: http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/infra/financial_circulars/cir1016.htm

PROPERTY TAX DEFERMENT PROGRAM FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN As with the Property Tax Deferral Program for homeowners 55 & older, surviving spouse, and person with a disability, this portion of the Property Tax Deferral Program gives the option to defer property taxes on their principal residence to families who are supporting dependent children under the age of 18, particularly during those years when household costs are typically the highest. For more information on criteria and applications, please refer to: http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/individuals/Property_Taxes/Property_Tax_Deferral/ptd.htm



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.

New! Please report bullfrog tadpole sightings. Be aware that the tadpoles of the bullfrog and redlegged frogs are similar in size and appearance for part of the year. Therefore, please do not remove them from their habitat unless you can confirm identification as bullfrog tadpoles.

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!



Community & Council News

5 YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN /BUDGET 2012 At the March 12, April 9 and April 30 Committee of the Whole (COW) meetings, Council received presentations from Chris Coates, Chief Administrative and Financial Officer, outlining a draft 2012 budget. With final information from other jurisdictions such as CRD still due, council reviewed each item and noted that increases in requisitions are due to the District's increased population as well as assessed property values.

The draft budget proposes a small increase (1.56%) in municipal property taxes. The district has historically aimed at a 0% increase by keeping services and expenditures lean, and is dedicated to continue these practices. However, with the increased cost of every item purchased in order to do business it is proposed to consider sound financial management and planning practices during this year's budget process. Council must adopt the budget by May 15 of each year. Details can be found in the Committee of the Whole Agendas online at highlands.ca.



HEADS UP The second annual Tour de Victoria (bicycle race) will take place on Sunday, June 24th, and will potentially affect those travelling on Munn, Millstream Lake Road (north) and Ross Durrance Roads and the side roads during the earlier part of the day. Please visit tourdevictoria.com for details.

THE HDCA hosted guest speakers from the Coastal Invasive Plant Committee at their AGM held in April. Find out more about identifying, controlling and discouraging unwanted invasive plant species on your property by visiting coastalinvasiveplants.com online. While there, check out the details for their upcoming AGM/Forum scheduled for June 7 at Royal Roads.

GREATER VICTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY (GVPL) BUDGET At its March 19 meeting, Council unanimously approved the 2012 GVPL budget, which is up from 2011 by 7.16% for Highlands. Again, this is in part reflects our increased population. The library board and staff have worked hard to provide services with decreasing provincial funding over the years, and the challenges facing the library system are greater than ever. Although the cost of service delivery has become leaner through strategies applied by staff and the board, due to declining revenues the board has struck a Development Committee to focus new efforts on development and fundraising issues.

WEST SHORE PARKS AND RECREATION GRANT RECEIVED

Late last year Council approved sponsorship of a provincial government grant application (80/20%) on behalf of their Municipal partners of West Shore Parks and Recreation (Colwood, Langford, Metchosin and View Royal). The request was for funding to increase and improve the lighting for the three playing fields located at Juan de Fuca and to complete resurfacing of the 'chip trail' that encircles much of the recreation centre's site to allow accessibility for wheelchairs and strollers.



On March 21, at an event held at Henderson Centre in Oak Bay, the Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, Hon. Ida Chong, announced that the application was successful! The full amount of funds requested (\$201,896) were granted, and will benefit many users of the recreation facility. It is estimated that over 9000 people used the fields during the evenings in 2010, and that the lighting improvements will allow another 6000 people to participate in very popular sports activities. 2.8 kilometers of trail will be resurfaced, improving accessibility to the free-to-use fitness route, and completing a trial section that was previously resurfaced as part of the Measuring Up Program, an initiative brought forward by the Intermunicipal Advisory Committee on Disability Issues (IACDI).

ROAD MAINTENANCE CONTRACT Council approved a renewed road maintenance contract with Victoria Contracting and Municipal Maintenance Corporation at the regular council meeting held April 2. Highlights of the service agreement include the addition of items such as maintenance to the East and West Firehall properties, refuse collection at both Eagles Lake and Twinflower Parks, maintenance and inspection of fire hydrant ponds, tanks and dry hydrants and revision of the labour costs associated with signage replacement/maintenance. The contract runs five years and results in a 3% (\$2555.00) increase to the base cost. Details can be viewed online at highlands.ca/agendas/council/2012/documents/documents/RoadMaintenanceContract.pdf.

Highlands Coffee House is delighted to host TWO EVENTS in May.

THE FIRST EVENT WILL SHOWCASE THE BRILLIANT HOKUM STEAMERS BAND ON MAY 12TH

Mike Ballantyne and Rick Van Krugel - Together, as **The Hokum Steamers**, these seasoned entertainers deliver good-time, authentic 1920s & 1930s ragtime blues, hokum, jug band songs and gospel. They also give their songs historical place, time and context.

Time: 7:30pm | **Place:** Caleb Pike House, 1589 Millstream Road | **Charge:** \$5.00 /person - coffee, tea and goodies provided

THE SECOND EVENT WILL BE THE 4TH ANNUAL CHILDREN'S COFFEE HOUSE ON MAY 19TH!

Highlands children and neighbouring community members under the age of 18 are invited to join this celebration of arts, music and other talents. You are invited to share your talents, such as: sing a song; play a musical instrument; perform a dance; talk about your art or other projects, such as - pictures you have taken, painting, statue, pottery, furniture or dress making; share a joke; recite a poem...

Please contact **Zhinoos at 778 - 678 - 2409** or **Cathy at 250 - 478 - 7317** with a brief description of your artistic contribution

Time: 7:00pm (doors at 6.30pm) | **Place:** Caleb Pike House, 1589 Millstream Road | **Charge:** Free - coffee, tea and goodies

RCMP INCIDENTS REPORT

March 16 to April 15, 2012

MARCH

- 18 - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Woodridge /Lakeridge
- 20 - Breach of Peace - Millstream
- 24 - Theft-Other Under \$5000 - Emma Dixon
- 25 - Unspecified Assistance - Ross Durrance/Willis Point
- 26 - Break & Enter - Business - Industrial Way
- 27 - Theft from MV Under \$5000 - Mount Work
- 29 - Unspecified Assistance - Industrial Way
- 30 - Fraud-Other - Caleb Pike
Unspecified Assistance - Michael
- 31 - Suspicious Pers/Veh/Occurrence - Millstream

APRIL

- 01 - Theft from MV Under \$5000 - Millstream
- 02 - Unspecified Assistance - Finlayson Arm
Breach of Peace - Lorimer
- 03 - Theft from MV Under \$5000 - Mount Work
Mischief \$5000 or Under - Munn
- 04 - Suspicious Pers/Veh/Occurrence - Finlayson Arm
Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Millstream /Caleb Pike
- 05 - False Alarms - Caleb Pike
Unspecified Assistance - Southwood
- 07 - Theft from MV Under \$5000 - Millstream
Property-Lost - Millstream Lake
- 09 - Theft-Other Under \$5000 - Finlayson Arm
- 11 - Collision-Non-Fatal Injury - Munn
- 12 - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Millstream Lake

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

Appreciation and recognition go to Highlands resident Neville Grigg for the donation of lovely wood furniture to the district office. Several pieces of functional wooden office furnishings have now replaced aging items of lesser quality and have provided a real lift to the décor. Thank you very much, Neville, for generously donating such a practical and well-received gift to the community!



THUMBS UP TO ERIC BONHAM, for earning the Stanley S. Copp Award for outstanding service to the B.C. Water and Waste Association. Bonham is a founding member of the Convening for Action on Vancouver Island leadership team that is evolving a 50-year vision for water sustainability. He has been active for many years in water-sustainability and land-use issues on the Island.

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Read more: <http://www.timescolonist.com/news/Thumbs+Thumbs+down/6537415/>

Contacts:

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Councillor Allen Dobb— allendobb@telus.net /250-391-3998/
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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
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)

MAY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- May 7 & 22** - Council meeting, School House, 7pm
- May 11 & 25** - CRD Recycling Blue Box pickup
- May 12** - Highlands Coffee House, Pike House, 7.30pm
- May 14** - Committee of the Whole meeting, School House, 7pm
- May 14** - Special Council Meeting, School House, follows CoTW mtg.
- May 19** - 4th Annual Children's Coffee House, Pike House, 7pm
- May 23** - Community Infrastructure, School House, 7pm
- May 27** - Highlands Market, Caleb Pike grounds, 10am - 1pm

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

CRD have a variety of programs for the entire family. MAY 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.



Snatched From the Jaws of Death This story appeared in the Daily Colonist on July 23, 1887. Joseph Dixon was the husband of Caleb Pike's daughter Emma, Edward Simpson later married Caleb's daughter Annie and Charles Pike was Caleb's youngest son.

"Snatched from the Jaws of Death. A very exciting incident happened near Pike's limekiln, Esquimalt District (this was in the area of Lost Lake Road) on 21st. inst. when J. Dixon, E. Simpson and Charles Pike who work at the kiln, entered Millstream for the purpose of taking a bath. After bathing, Dixon and Pike left the water and proceeded to dress themselves. Simpson, remarking that he would take just one more dip, plunged in and started to swim across the stream. After making a few strokes he sank like a stone. He rose twice to the surface and just as he was sinking for the last time Pike managed to secure a rail which he placed within the drowning man's reach. Simpson grasped the rail convulsively and was hauled ashore in a state of insensibility. He was rolled on the grass until his stomach had rejected much of the water, when he was carried home. Some time elapsed before he regained his senses and the use of his limbs but at last accounts he was doing well."



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.