



Highlands News

2011 COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

ACTING MAYOR

Acting Mayor January 2011 to June 2011 Councillor Johannesen
 Acting Mayor July 2011 to Nov. 30, 2011 Councillor McLean

COUNCILLOR ALLEN DOBB
 CRD Arts Committee
 CRD Solid Waste Advisory Committee, Alternate
 Community Infrastructure and Services, Alternate Liaison
 Treaty Advisory Committee, Alternate
 Heritage Task Force
 Sustainability Strategy Advisory Committee

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 WILLIAMS
 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
 Sustainability Strategy Advisory Committee

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Winter Weather Preparedness & Shakeout Information
- Volunteer Opportunities!
- Community Calendar



Millstream Creek as it passes under the Hanington Road bridge was notably high due to heavy rainfall on December 12th.

NEW! DUTY PHONE DURING EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

Following the staff article regarding winter road maintenance published in the December edition of the Highlands News, a duty phone line has been established. **Residents wishing to report incidents requiring assistance after hours and on holidays and weekends can call 250-893-1773 to leave a message.** Please continue to contact the office during regular hours (250-474-1773). Note that the duty phone line is monitored, not answered. For emergencies, call 9-1-1; power outages, call 1-888-POWERON.

HIGHLANDS IN THE NEWS

A group of Highlands residents continue to make headlines as they raise funds to purchase the property known as Mary Lake. Using a variety of online social media tools, the Mary Lake Conservancy is spreading the word in order to preserve an important East-West trail and wildlife corridor located on Millstream Road between Thetis Lake and Gowlland Tod Parks. Photos and videos highlighting the beauty of Highlands along with information about this initiative can be found online at www.savemarylake.com.

Retirement Celebration



HELP CELEBRATE JUNE'S RETIREMENT!

The District of Highland's Administrative Assistant June Cameron is retiring at the end of January.

We invite everyone who would like to wish June farewell to join us on Friday, January 28 from 2:30 – 4pm at the District Office.

If you would like to send June a farewell message you may do so by emailing: tneurauter@highlands.ca

HEADS UP - REGIONAL BICYCLE ROAD RACE PLANS Ryder Hesjedal is headlining the first ever Tour De Victoria, planned to take place on Saturday, May 28th, 2011. A route through Highlands (Ross Durrance/Millstream Lake/Munn Roads) requiring road closures will be considered by Council upon receipt of detailed traffic management plans. Visit www.tourdevictoria.com for race information.

Community News

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR WINTER IN THE HIGHLANDS? *Val Fletcher, District Emergency Coordinator*

Environment Canada has forecasted a winter with cooler temperatures and higher amounts of precipitation (snow, if cold enough) than normal. This condition is caused by a combination of the cooler "La Nina" atmospheric/ocean current circulation combined with a cool (ocean temperature) phase of the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO).

So far this year we have experienced a significant southwesterly windstorm on November 15/16 and a snowfall on November 19/20. Interestingly, David Jones, a meteorologist with Environment Canada, said the recent early cold snap was just a normal, random, weather pattern as we have not yet settled into the La Nina/PDO effects, not expected until January/February.

Given the expectations for the winter I'd like all Highlanders to get prepared for the wintry weather on the horizon. During windstorms we typically have power outages caused by falling trees and branches taking out hydro lines. For most people losing electricity means losing their water (electric well pump) and perhaps heat as well. Give some thought to installing a generator – to electrical code with a transfer switch to isolate it from the power grid. Also think about installing (to building code) some form of auxiliary heat such a wood stove or properly vented propane space heater.

You should also have an individual or family Emergency Preparedness Kit that would provide the necessities (food, water, other household items) for at least 3 days (7 is better) for yourself or family in case of extreme weather conditions or power outages. Contents for a kit and other winter preparedness tips are given on our website: www.highlands.ca, choose **Emergency Program** on the left hand menu, then scroll down to **Winter Storms**. Other websites with good information are:

Provincial Emergency Program:

http://www.pep.bc.ca/hazard_preparedness/personal_safety.html

Government of Canada:

<http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/index-eng.aspx>

Those who do not have internet access can drop by the District Office to pick up a hard copy of information on the above. You may also contact me at 250-479-1725, val.fletcher@shaw.ca for further information or if you have any questions or comments.

Note: Council has endorsed municipal staff participation in **The Great British Columbia ShakeOut** at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 26, 2011. Thousands of British Columbians will "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" as they take part in the largest earthquake drill in Canadian history! You can participate as an individual or family; check out the web site at www.shakeoutbc.ca



Members of the Highlands Volunteer Fire Department participated in the annual Westshore Chamber of Commerce Festival of Lights Fire Truck Parade which took place on December 19th in the City of Langford.

Volunteers did a fine job of representing Highlands at the popular event (left).

Photo credit: Gregg Fletcher



FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS Safety and prevention are always top of mind for our fire department volunteers. This month, we are reminded of the following:

- Chimney fires have risen in number this winter - please be sure to **clean chimneys regularly** or have a professional do it for you.
- Although we are encouraged to change the **batteries in smoke alarms** twice per year corresponding with Daylight Savings Time, the 9 volt batteries can be tempting for youngsters to power battery operated toys - check that batteries remain in place.
- Reduce the risk of electrical fires by **unplugging unnecessary items** when away from home, and don't leave recharging batteries and appliances unattended.
- Be sure to **prevent water pipes from freezing** during subzero winter temperatures - turn off water and wrap outside taps, ensure that your well pump is insulated and that water pipes are protected from freezing solid. Flooding can create an electrical hazard in structures.

If you would like an electronic copy of the Highlands News visit the District website's home-page: highlands.ca. Please consider passing this newsletter on to any tenants or other residents who are without a Highlands mailbox. Thank you!

CRD PARKS EVENTS

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

Sunday, January 30th
Francis King Regional Park
1 | 2.30pm all ages

Ha-bat-itat (Guided Walk)

This guided walk with a CRD Regional Park naturalist will help dispel fear and misinformation about these fascinating flying mammals. Where do bats live? What do they eat? How can you attract bats to your neck of the woods? Find out on this exploration of their weird and wonderful world.

Meet at the nature centre off Munn Road.

2011 Council Meeting Schedule

January: 10 | 24
February: 7 | 21
March: 7 | 21
April: 4 | 18
May: 2 | 16
June: 6 | 20
July: 18
August: 22
September: 6 | 19
October: 3 | 17
November: 7 | 21
December: 5 | 19

STAY INFORMED: visit the District website: highlands.ca

Council & District News

2011 GRANT IN AID APPLICATIONS The District of Highlands will be accepting grant in aid applications for the year 2011 up to and including January 31, 2011.

All organizations wishing to submit an application must complete the District of Highlands Grant in Aid application. Organizations may contact the District office for the Grant in Aid policy and application, alternatively this policy and application may be downloaded from the District's website at: www.highlands.ca.

Applications should be submitted to the following:

District of Highlands
1980 Millstream Road, Victoria, BC V9B 6H1
P: 250-474-1773 | F: 250-474-3677
tneurauteur@highlands.ca

REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING At its December 14 Committee of the Whole meeting, Ms. Misk-Evans, Senior Manager, CRD Planning and Protective Services, introduced Council to the CRD Regional Sustainability Strategy (RSS).

The Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) is a strategic planning document coordinated through the regional district that addresses issues which are regional in nature such as transportation, population growth and settlement patterns. **The RGS promotes the long term livability of the region and seeks to optimize social, economic and environmental performance;** it was adopted in 2003 and is now being updated as part of the 5-year review process. It will be revised as the region's **sustainability strategy**, using the RGS as a platform and increasing its scope to provide leadership and direction on climate action, social well-being and food security. Nine policy papers have been created on the topics of **affordable housing, resource management, climate change, ecological health, transportation, sustainable development, economic sustainability, social well being and food security**, each including a range of policy scenarios to set the stage for the new RSS.

The Capital Regional District invites everyone to join the conversation on the policy briefs and has designed a special **Sustainability portal**; feedback provided through this portal will be incorporated into the future plan for the region. This portal will continue to be used over the course of 2011 as the Region drafts the RSS and seeks further public input.

Council encourages you to visit <http://sustainability.crd.bc.ca> to learn more and to provide your input.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The District currently requires volunteers for:

Community Centre Task Force - this committee will continue to study the feasibility of establishing a community centre in the Highlands.

Community Infrastructure and Services Committee - this committee makes recommendations to Council on various topics including, but not limited to: provision and maintenance of trails, roads and parks; special events; leisure services; and public safety.

Fiscal and Environmental Committee - this committee makes recommendations to Council on various topics including, but not limited to: fiscal sustainability of the district; environmental consideration regarding proposed new developments; and Environmental sustainability.

Heritage Task Force - this task force's main criteria is to help establish a heritage vision for the Highlands and consider items for inclusion on a Heritage Register.

Sustainability Strategy Advisory Committee - this committee will assist in the development of the community's vision (including descriptions of success), provide input on current reality and indicators, develop recommended actions, provide insight on identified OCP issues and feedback on recommended OCP direction.

Board of Variance - A Board of Variance is established by bylaw in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act.

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 resume detailing their interest to serve on one of these committees.

All submissions should be forwarded to the District office or email to: tneurauteur@highlands.ca by January 31, 2010.

Note: *If you are interested in joining a committee or task force and would like to learn more, you are welcome to make inquiries of Council members, committee chairs or district staff. As always, everyone is welcome to attend committee or task force meetings - for a monthly meeting schedule and agendas, please visit the homepage at highlands.ca and scroll down to the calendar.*

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



HIGHLANDS FOLK MUSIC NIGHT

Formerly known as Highlands Coffee House, the Highlands Folk Music Night is scheduled to take place on the second Saturday of each month except during the summer months. Featuring a wide range of talented performing artists, the evening begins with an open stage segment. Everyone welcome!

For more information please call **(250) 474-5831** or email musicinhighlands@shaw.ca.

Time: 7:30pm

Place: Caleb Pike House, 1589 Millstream Road

Charges: \$5.00 /person - coffee, tea and goodies provided

RCMP INCIDENTS REPORT November 16 to December 15, 2010

NOVEMBER

17th - Theft from MV Under \$5000 - Millstream Rd
18th - False Alarms - Michael Rd
19th - False Alarms - Millstream Rd
20th - Breach of Peace - Millstream Rd
21st - False Alarms - Emma Dixon Rd
22th - Property-Lost - Bear Mountain Pkwy
Collision-Damage Under \$1000 - Millstream Rd
23rd - Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Ross Durrance Rd
25th - Mischief \$5000 or Under - Woodridge pl/Munn Rd
26th - Theft-Other Under \$5000 - Munn Rd

DECEMBER

1st - False Alarms - Stag Rd
False Alarms - White Pine Terrace
Impaired of MV - Bear Mountain Pkwy
3rd - Alcohol - Southwood Drive
7th - Mischief \$5000 or Under - Lone Tree Hill
9th - Unspecified Assistance - Highlands Park Terrace
10th - Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Millstream/Stewart Mountain Rd
14th - Unspecified Assistance - Finlayson Arm Rd
Theft of Auto Under \$5000 - Lorimer Rd
Abandoned Vehicles - Industrial Way
15th - Suspicious Pers/Veh/Occurrence - Lorimer Rd



Santa boards the skillfully decorated fire truck for the annual Santa Run.

Photo credit: Gregg Fletcher

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

This month's recognition goes to all those who helped with the annual Santa Run. December 18th was a very long day for members of the Highlands Volunteer Fire Department along with a few residents as they visited homes throughout the district, collecting donations for the Goldstream Food Bank. Planning, organizing and advertising the event, decorating the truck and trailer, driving, collecting and delivery of the donations: a tremendous effort was made by all involved.

Thank you for your generous donation of time - it is very much appreciated by your community and by the volunteers at the Goldstream Food Bank Society!

Beginning in February, and published online at the beginning of each month, a concise guide to events and important dates in Highlands. Visit highlands.ca to help plan your month!

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
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
CRD Animal Control (24 hrs) - 250-478-0624

YOUTH DROP-IN - JOIN THE FUN!

Location: Schoolhouse Basement (1589 Millstream Rd.)

Who: ages 5 and up / **When:** 6:30 to 8 pm

West Shore Recreation plans to continue offering the popular Highlands Youth Program in the basement of the Old Schoolhouse starting in January 2011. Dates and time will be advertised on the mail boxes. If you want to be added to the email notification list please email bobmcminn@shaw.ca or phone (250)478-4403.

JANUARY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

January 7 & 21 - CRD Recycling Blue Box pickup

January 10 - Regular Council Meeting**, School House, 7pm

January 17 - Committee of the Whole **, School House, 7pm

January 24 - Regular Council Meeting**, School House, 7pm

January 26 - The Great B.C. Shakeout*, everywhere, 10am

January 26 - HDCA Directors, Pike House, 7:30pm, everyone welcome

January 26 - Community Infrastructure, School House, 7:30pm

January 27 - Community Centre Task Force**, School 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 1892, a group of 23 Highland residents met to petition the Provincial Superintendent of Education requesting the establishment of a Highland School District. At that time there were 14 students available, including 3 Dixon children, 4 Scafes and 5 Wales including Arthur Wale who was 3 years old at the time. This petition was denied but the group was successful the following year. A 1.75 acre parcel of land for a school site subdivided from Section 31 was sold to the Government for \$10. The Highland School District School Board was granted \$800 to establish the School: survey of plot \$25, clearing school plot \$100, cost of school building \$585, fencing \$75 and stove and cartage \$15. School supplies had to be purchased including 10 cords of firewood for \$14, one 8-day clock for \$8, 2 boxes of chalk for 50 cents and blackboard brushes for 25 cents. Finally a teacher was hired. Miss Jennie Fraser took the position for a salary of \$50 per month.



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.