



# Highlands News



At the beginning of each month a concise guide to events and important dates in Highlands will be posted on <[www.highlands.ca](http://www.highlands.ca)>. Visit the website to help plan your month!

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

- Emergency Preparedness—Earthquakes, page 2
- Community Calendar
- New! Community Discussion on Local Food Security/Production

**MAYOR'S MESSAGE** The District's next financial planning meeting takes place on Monday, April 11 (Committee of the Whole) and Council invites you to join us.

Everyone is welcome to participate in the upcoming community discussion regarding food supply and security that has been organized by several community groups. Check the Community Calendar for this and so much more.  
*Mayor Jane Mendum*

**FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS** An important reminder that all open burning within the Highlands requires a permit as of **April 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](http://highlands.ca). Contact the Fire Chief or Deputy Chief to obtain a permit (see back page for contact information).

Fire Department officials advise that people hiking in local parks would be wise to carry a cell phone with them. In an emergency it has proven easier for responders to find those needing assistance if they have a cell phone with them. Of note: in locations with weak cell phone service, text messages can often still be sent, and many models have 911 GPS capability. Please share this advice with friends and family, too.



The HDCA's **Annual Easter Egg Hunt** will take place at **11:00 a.m. Sunday April 24<sup>th</sup> Caleb Pike Homestead, 1589 Millstream Road**. Please bring "nut-free" treats to hide or finger food to share. Beverages provided. Everyone welcome ! Rain or shine. For information contact Marcie @ 250-474-4725.



Long time Highlands resident Kerry Joy (1934 - 2011) pictured with his wife Lynne. Photo credit: Daphne Allen

**IN MEMORY OF KERRY JOY** It is with great sadness that we recognize the recent passing of long time Highlands resident Kerry Joy. Kerry and wife Lynne moved to Highlands in 1968 and raised a family in what was then a much smaller community. Kerry served on the very first Highlands Council (1993 - 1996), where he carried the Parks and Recreation portfolio. The Highlands benefited from Kerry's celebrated career as a forester with B.C. Parks as he possessed both an in depth knowledge of nature and a keen understanding of the importance of the people-in-parks experience.

Kerry was an avid Highlands volunteer. He served on the executive of the Highlands District Community Association, Highlands Heritage Park Society, and Highlands Parks and Recreation Association, and was a valued member of most of council's advisory committees and task forces over the years.

For four decades, Kerry volunteered as a Weather Observer with Environment Canada, keeping detailed meteorological records of the Highlands climatic environment. He could always be called upon to discuss any extreme weather event or annual summary, and readily offered up information if any local historical weather records had been challenged.

Kerry's passion for and observation of the natural world was always evident. He modeled proactive environmental stewardship with such actions as monitoring the health of Millstream Creek as it passed through his property, and sharing valuable information on nature and the Highlands with welcoming conversations beginning with "Did you know...?"

Kerry's many meaningful contributions to Highlands will continue to be appreciated and enjoyed by all. His wisdom, positive outlook and many kindnesses will be long remembered by Highlanders, and he will be genuinely missed.

**HDCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:**  
 Wednesday, April 20, 7.00pm Caleb Pike House,  
 1589 Millstream Road  
 Refreshments Provided. Everyone welcome!  
 Speaker: Darren Copley, President of the Victoria Natural History Society and Past Manager of the Goldstream Nature House will speak on "**Sharing our Back Yards with Highlands Wildlife from the Big to the Small**"

# Community and Council News

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR EARTHQUAKES** Given the recent tragic earthquakes in Chile (February 27, 2010), Christchurch New Zealand (September 4, 2010 and Feb 22, 2011) and Japan (March 11, 2011) we need to prepare for a major earthquake on British Columbia's west coast. The Chilean and Japanese earthquakes were so-called "subduction" earthquakes which generated tsunamis as well. The Christchurch earthquakes were "crustal" earthquakes of a more localized and shallow nature. All of these areas, **including us**, are geographically located on the "Pacific Ring of Fire", a juncture of tectonic plates that circle the Pacific Ocean basin that are prone to both types of earthquakes along with volcanic activity.

Please review the following information sources so you can take 3 basic steps to get prepared in advance for an earthquake:

1. Find out what to do **before, during** and **after** an earthquake by visiting the links listed below.
2. Develop a **family emergency plan**, so that all family members know what to do and where to go in an emergency.
3. Prepare an **Emergency Kit** so you and your family can be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours (3 days) – **7 days** is more realistic for isolated areas such as the Highlands.

Following are some good sources of information on the World Wide Web:

- **Highlands Emergency Program:** <http://www.Highlands.ca>, choose Emergency Program on the left hand menu, then scroll down to the Earthquake News and Information section.
- **Provincial Emergency Program:** [http://www.pep.bc.ca/hazard\\_preparedness/Earthquake\\_Information.html](http://www.pep.bc.ca/hazard_preparedness/Earthquake_Information.html)
- **Government of Canada:** General Information: <http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/index-eng.aspx>
- 72 Hour Emergency Preparedness Guide (includes contents of emergency kit): <http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/fl/pub/ep-gd-prprtn-eng.pdf>

Those of you who do not have access to the internet can drop by the District Office to pick up printed information on the above. You may also contact Val Fletcher, the District's Emergency Coordinator, at 250-479-1725 or [vfletcher@highlands.ca](mailto:vfletcher@highlands.ca) for further information or if you have any questions or comments.

PS: We are approaching **Wildfire Season starting April 1**. Visit [highlands.ca](http://highlands.ca) under "Emergency Program" then scroll down to "WILDFIRE" to learn how you can prepare for the threat of Wildfire - printed information is available at the District Office.

**GREATER VICTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY BUDGET** At its March 21st meeting, Council unanimously approved the 2011 GVPL budget, which is up from 2010 by 4.95% (a 1.5% drop from the provisional budget due to hard work by staff and the library board). The increase is due largely to higher usage, negotiated salary increases and decreased funding from the province. Highlands increase of 6.42% is due to new construction, assessment increases higher than average for the region, and a population increase. A top priority for the board was to reinstate Sunday openings, achieved in this budget.

**DISTRICT STAFF** have received several enquiries about work underway on land in the 3600 block of Munn Road. This work involves tree cutting, land clearing, soil deposit and a driveway access. The District has issued permits for all of the works requiring permits in accordance with the respective Bylaws. In addition, it is of note that while a watercourse is located on the property, the works are beyond 30 metres from it meaning that no riparian area assessment is required. The landowner advised staff that the clearing is being undertaken in order to construct a future agricultural or farm building on the property.

If you would like an electronic copy of the Highlands News visit the District website's homepage: [highlands.ca](http://highlands.ca). Please consider passing this newsletter on to any tenants or other residents who are without a Highlands mailbox. Thank you!



**ENJOY THE FLORA AND FAUNA OF HIGHLANDS?** Environment Canada welcomes volunteers to observe and report on such things as owls, plants, frogs, songbirds and worms. Visit [www.ec.gc.ca](http://www.ec.gc.ca) and look under Take Action for the Environment to find out ways in which your back yard observations can provide valuable information to researchers regarding both subtle and significant changes in our environment.



*The 2011 Census is staffing 35,000 jobs across Canada. These jobs are ideal for: recently retired persons, stay-at-home parents, students and those wanting to supplement their income. Rates of pay (\$14.72 to \$18.04 an hour) vary by assignment. The work period is early APRIL to the end of July 2011. Visit the 2011 Census website or call 1-866-773-2011. To download and submit an online application, visit the website at: [census2011.gc.ca](http://census2011.gc.ca)*

#### 2011 Council Meeting Schedule

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



#### PARK EVENTS

##### APRIL

**Apr 3 | 10-12pm or 1-3pm**

Wildflowers  
Mill Hill Regional Pk.

**Apr 9 | 12.30-2pm**  
Springtime heel and wheel: A

boardwalk  
ramble

Francis King Pk

**Apr 16 | 1-2.30pm**

A Taste of the Wild  
Francis King Park

For a complete listing of Nature Outings and Events call

**250.478.3344** or visit [www.crd.bc.ca/](http://www.crd.bc.ca/)



**STAY INFORMED: visit the District website: [highlands.ca](http://highlands.ca)**

# Council & District News

**REZONING APPLICATION RZ-01-11 UPDATE** As reported last issue, this rezoning application was referred to both the Fiscal and Environmental and Community Infrastructure and Services Select Committees as well as the Advisory Planning Commission for review. Committee and commission members were invited on two site tours of the subject land parcels.

Environmental, groundwater and traffic reports are being prepared and plan to be available by March 30, 2011.

Applicant Fred York invites public input regarding the proposed re-zoning. If you have any questions or comments for the applicant please contact Fred York @ ph: 250-857-0360 or email: [yorkexcavatingfy@shaw.ca](mailto:yorkexcavatingfy@shaw.ca).

Questions or comments regarding this proposal may be directed to the District's Planner, Laura Beckett or Mayor and Council. Visit [highlands.ca](http://highlands.ca) for contact information, or phone the District office 250-474-1773.

To view the staff report introducing the application, visit:

[www.highlands.ca/planning/documents/RZ-01-10\\_updated.pdf](http://www.highlands.ca/planning/documents/RZ-01-10_updated.pdf)

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING & GAS TAX PRIORITIES** At its March 7 regular meeting, Council received a letter from CRD Chair Geoff Young seeking Council input on the development of a transportation corridor plan for the region. The plan will "set priorities for a regional transportation system and as such will help optimize allocations of available resources from gas tax funds."

CRD staff have been invited to address Council at its April 4 regular meeting to present Phase 1 of the Transportation Corridor Plan which is now complete. They will also seek input on municipal transportation and community planning priorities to both inform Phase 2 and to prioritize transportation projects for regional gas tax funding purposes.

## FOOD PRODUCTION & SECURITY—COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

Ninety-five percent of all food consumed on Vancouver Island is imported. There has been much discussion lately on food security, leading to increased desire to buy/grow more local food. As Highland residents are thinking about starting or increasing the yield of their own vegetable gardens, many questions arise, such as:

- *Can I buy eggs, beef, vegetables etc. from Highland farmers to support local business?*
- *What grows well in the Highlands?*
- *I need some advice on how to start/improve my vegetable gardens and want to start raising chickens, could someone please offer me some advice?*
- *I have a typical Highland property, almost all rocks and little to no soil so how can I grow food?*

To answer these types of questions, discussions in the community have started about forming a local Highlands food group to help share information.

On **Saturday April 23, 2011** from **1 - 4 p.m.**, come to the **School House**, 1589 Millstream Road, to join the discussion and bring your questions, ideas (and coffee cup!). First, we'll begin with a movie (TBA) for the first hour or so and follow up with open discussion in a question and answer session.

This event is sponsored by: Highlands Sustainability Strategy Advisory Committee, Highlands Stewardship Foundation, Highlands District Community Association, Highlands Garden Group and Highlands Council. Contact: Warren Lee [wglee@telus.net](mailto:wglee@telus.net)

## REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY - 5 YEAR REVIEW - UPDATE

At the March 21 regular meeting, Council considered its response to the nine policy papers that have been developed for the five year review of the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS). An overview of those papers can be found in the January 2011 edition of the Highlands News. Council recommended "That staff provide a synthesis of Highlands Official Community Plan concepts at a high level and the "descriptions of success" from the draft Integrated Community Sustainability Plan compared against the Goals and Proposed Initiatives from the CRD's Regional Growth Strategy update process as stated in the Policy Directions Summaries." Council will consider the staff report at a Committee of the Whole meeting on March 28, with recommendations going to the April 4 regular Council meeting. To learn more, visit:

[highlands.ca/agendas/council/2011/documents/Sustainability\\_Strategy\\_CRD.pdf](http://highlands.ca/agendas/council/2011/documents/Sustainability_Strategy_CRD.pdf) and

[highlands.ca/agendas/cotw/2011/documents/RSS-RGS-Highlands.pdf](http://highlands.ca/agendas/cotw/2011/documents/RSS-RGS-Highlands.pdf)



## HIGHLANDS FOLK MUSIC NIGHT

*Highlands Folk Music presents Byron, Clayton, Thomas on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>  
One of Cowichan Valley's best loved groups!*

Byron, Clayton, Thomas is a trio that offers sweet, smooth harmonies in the best of the Bluegrass tradition. They blend their various musical talents to create a fun and enjoyable night of musical memories on guitar, mandolin, dobro and Bass mixed with ear turning three part harmonies that will keep your toes tapping and your smiles growing.

The evening begins with an open stage segment. Everyone welcome!

For more information please call (250) 474-5831 or email [musicinhighlands@shaw.ca](mailto:musicinhighlands@shaw.ca).



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

## RCMP INCIDENTS REPORT February 16 to March 15, 2011

### February

- 18 - Breach of Probation - Munn
  - 911-False/Abandoned Calls - Rowntree
- 23 - Collision-Non-Fatal Injury - Millstream/Industrial
  - False Alarms - Woodridge
- 26 - Unspecified Assistance - Millstream
- 27 - 911-False/Abandoned Calls - Millstream
- 28 - Traffic-Other Moving Prov. - Millstream/Millstream Lake
  - Suspicious Pers/Veh/Occurrence - Bukin W

### March

- 4 - Traffic-other Moving Prov. - Ross Durrance /Hazlitt Creek
- 7 - Traffic-other Mov. Prov. - Millstream/ Stewart Mountain
- 9 - Breach of Peace - Taylor
- 11 - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Millstream /Taylor
- 12 - Breach of Peace - Millstream Rd
  - Query to Locate Individual - Millstream/Millstream Lake
- 13 - Traffic-Insurance Violation - Millstream/Hanington



**HEADS UP! HDCA ANNUAL COMMUNITY CLEAN UP OF HIGHLANDS PUBLIC LAND AND ROADSIDES** This year's clean up will be held on Saturday, May 7. Watch for additional information in May's newsletter!

**DRAFT 2011-2015 FINANCIAL PLAN** At the March 14 Committee of the Whole meeting, CAO Chris Coates provided Council with a power point presentation detailing the first draft of the District's 2011-2015 financial plan. The Fire Department draft budget is anticipated to be received by Council in April. Information included in a staff memo regarding both the CRD Housing Trust Fund and CRD Arts Committee has been forwarded to April's budget agenda. A number of supplemental items have been identified, and of them, planning for the replacement of a disintegrated culvert located at the intersection of Millstream Lake and Munn Roads was approved by Council at its March 21 meeting.

To view the first draft of the financial plan, visit:  
[highlands.ca/documents/draft\\_1\\_2011\\_Financial\\_Plan.pdf](http://highlands.ca/documents/draft_1_2011_Financial_Plan.pdf)

**FIRE DEPARTMENT MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT WITH COLWOOD - AMENDMENT** At the March 21 regular meeting, Council considered an amendment to the District's Mutual Aid Agreement with the City of Colwood with regard to Fire Department response. The City requested that financial remuneration be added to the existing agreement. As noted in the staff report, Colwood's volunteer fire department has been requested once by Highlands during the past 10 years. The financial remuneration would be reciprocal. Council, upon recommendation by both staff and the Highlands Fire Chief, approved the amendment. The agenda item can be found here: [highlands.ca/agendas/council/2011/documents/MutualAid.pdf](http://highlands.ca/agendas/council/2011/documents/MutualAid.pdf)

## Contacts:

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Councillor Diane Gill— [didoll@live.ca](mailto:didoll@live.ca) / 250-391-8928  
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Councillor Karel Roessingh— [karel@roessong.com](mailto:karel@roessong.com) / 250-727-9808  
Councillor Ken Williams— [kgwmaya@shaw.ca](mailto:kgwmaya@shaw.ca) / 250-479-7497  
Fire Chief Guy Brisebois— [Guy.Brisebois@forces.gc.ca](mailto:Guy.Brisebois@forces.gc.ca) / 250-920-6970  
Deputy Fire Chief Peter Schuttinga— [hvfd.dc@gmail.com](mailto:hvfd.dc@gmail.com) / 250-514-8526  
Emergency Coordinator Val Fletcher— [vfletcher@highlands.ca](mailto: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— 250-474-2264  
Wildlife Violations— 1-800-663-WILD (9453)

### APRIL COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- APRIL 1 & 15** - CRD Recycling Blue Box pickup
- APRIL 4 & 18** - Regular Council Meeting, School House, 7pm
- APRIL 6** - Fiscal and Environmental, Pike House, 7:30pm
- APRIL 6** - Heritage Task Force, School House, 7pm
- APRIL 11** - Committee of the Whole, School House, 7pm
- APRIL 13** - Community Centre Task Force, School House, 7:30pm
- APRIL 20** - HDCA Annual General Meeting, Pike House, 7 pm
- APRIL 22 & 25** - District Office Closed for Good Friday and Easter Monday
- APRIL 23** - Community Discussion Re: Food, School House, 1-4pm (see pg. 3)
- APRIL 24** - HDCA Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Pike House, 11 am
- APRIL 27** - Community Infrastructure, School House, 7:30pm
- APRIL 27** - Heritage Task Force, Pike House, 7pm

*PLEASE visit the District website, [highlands.ca](http://highlands.ca) for detailed agenda information in advance of meetings*

**VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH** Eric Bonham is our recognized volunteer this month. Eric has enthusiastically volunteered in Highlands for many years, serving on innumerable committees and task forces and sharing his considerable professional expertise as well as his passion for working toward a sustainable future.

Currently a member of Council's Groundwater Task Force, Eric is a founding member of the Highlands Stewardship Foundation and is also a director of the Highlands District Community Association. Eric was recently appointed to serve on the CRD's Roundtable on the Environment. Additionally, he lends his talent and his time to a variety of initiatives that promote sustainability, stewardship and long term livability both within and outside of our region.

Thank you, Eric, for your many valued and generous contributions as a community volunteer - we appreciate and celebrate your efforts!

**HIGHLANDS HISTORY - WILD COWS?** Early Highland pioneers seldom fenced their land, allowing their livestock to wander freely in search of food. Sometimes cows would wander off or were abandoned by farmers unable to care for them. Eventually, in the early 1900's, there were a few herds running wild in the Highlands. Caleb Pike's granddaughter, Margaret Dixon, and her sister Mary ran into such a herd on their way home from the Highland School one day. Mary, even though she was older, was too frightened to try passing the animals but Margaret, ten or eleven at the time, was fearless. She ran at the bull, flapping her skirts and chased the herd away. The girls were then able to safely make their way to their home at the far end of Finlayson Arm Road.



*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.*