



# 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 Week - May 1 - 7
- Property Tax Information - updated for 2011
- Community Calendar



This abandoned mine shaft (circa 1910) is located in central Highlands. The Heritage Task Force has been visiting various sites throughout the Highlands looking at their potential for inclusion in a Highlands Heritage Register.

*Photo credit: Daphne Allen*

**MAYOR'S MESSAGE** Highlands roads were inundated with rerouted traffic over the past couple of weeks, and this has residents talking! A cluster of incidents, all of which occurred outside of our district, caused unprecedented use of our roads. Highlands residents were certainly affected. With the Malahat detour, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is the agency responsible for the alternate route plans. The District is providing feedback to the Ministry with the goal to lessen impacts for Highlands residents should Finlayson Arm/Millstream Road be used as an alternate route in the future - improved communication and the ability to accommodate Highlands residents to bypass waiting traffic are two items being addressed. On a positive note, implementing one way traffic with guide vehicles was an improvement for Finlayson Arm Road residents in comparison to past practices. The alternate route prevented the development of situations that might have resulted from vehicles having to wait 22 hours on either side of the accident site, and drivers, passengers and emergency responders were appreciative.

Mayor Jane Mendum

**IMPORTANT REMINDER! TRAFFIC ADVISORY - TOUR DE VICTORIA TAKES PLACE ON SATURDAY, MAY 28**  
 Ryder Hesjedal leads this first ever bicycle race which will take place throughout the region. In Highlands, riders will be racing on:

- Munn Rd., (East to West) from 8:40am - 9:55am
- Millstream Lake/Ross Durrance Rds. (South to North) from 8:50am - 10:10am

Traffic delays will be in effect on these roads (and others throughout the region). Please plan your day accordingly! For information, visit: [tourdevictoria.com](http://tourdevictoria.com) or phone: 250-590-6325.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS** This month, fire department officials would like address two safety-related issues. The first concerns traffic interruptions. When fire fighters close roads to traffic during emergency response incidents, they do so to ensure the safety of both emergency responders and the public. Although inconvenient to drivers, officials strive to have traffic moving as soon as possible, once it is safe to do so. Please demonstrate understanding and support of our volunteer fire fighters when they are on the job!

The second message relates to burning permits. Once fire department officials issue a permit, their responsibility is to ensure that the terms of the permit are met. Issues such as neighbourhood disturbance are the jurisdiction of other regulatory bodies, (RCMP, bylaw enforcement, etc.). Officials are happy to answer questions related to burning permits, but remind us that their mandate is limited when it comes to other issues that might arise.

## HDCA ANNUAL COMMUNITY CLEAN UP OF HIGHLANDS PUBLIC LAND AND MAIN ROADSIDES

**Mission:** Cleanup of garbage, tossed metal, tires and miscellaneous items from main roadsides and municipal parks. Garbage bags provided. To reserve a section of road prior to Saturday or for more information, contact Marcie McLean at 250-474-4725. Everyone Welcome!

**When:** Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Potluck breakfast, 9-9:30 a.m. at the Pike House. Beverages provided. There you may select a section of main road, get some garbage bags and a pair of gloves, have breakfast and meet your neighbours and friends. If you cannot bring your collected garbage back to the Pike House, then please leave it on the side of a main road where items can be safely retrieved by 1 p.m., May 7. Thanks for your care!

**Where:** Caleb Pike House, 1589 Millstream Road

**Main Roads:** Millstream, Finlayson Arm, Munn, Millstream Lake, Ross-Durrance

*Organized by the Highland District Community Association*

# Community and Council News



**YOUR 2011 PROPERTY TAX NOTICE** will be mailed out at the end of May. Taxes are *due on Monday, July 4, 2011 at 4:00pm*. Please note the office will be closed Friday July 1 for Canada Day. After July 4, 2011, any outstanding 2011 (current) property tax amount is subject to a 5% penalty. An additional 5% penalty will be applied after 4:00pm on September 1, 2011. 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.

The Home Owner Grant (HOG) must be completed every year! If eligible, please claim your Home Owner Grant (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, or after hours please drop off HOG in mail slot. You can also mail it to District of Highlands, 1980 Millstream Rd, Victoria, BC, V9B 6H1. *Important:* if not claimed by July 4, 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 \$1,150,000 (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 \$1,264,000; and the *additional* grant (\$845 for owners 65+, veterans and persons with disability) is eliminated on properties assessed at \$1,319,000 and above. For more information on the Home Owner Grant (HOG) Program please go to: [www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/individuals/Property\\_Taxes/Home\\_Owner\\_Grant/hog.htm](http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/individuals/Property_Taxes/Home_Owner_Grant/hog.htm).

**Payment** The municipal office accepts debit card payments, however, please be aware of your debit transaction limit. Your debit transaction may be denied if you have not

contacted your bank to arrange for a sufficient amount to be debited from your account. We accept payment by cash, cheque, or postdated cheque (please include roll# on cheque for reference). Note: we *do not* accept credit cards or on-line payments. You may also pay your property taxes at your bank or credit union. Your financial institution will require the original bottom portion of your tax notice to process your payment and will accept Home Owner Grant applications only if accompanied by a payment.

New for 2011 and subsequent tax years, an owner of a Class 9 (farm land) property 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. For further info go to: [www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/infra/financial\\_circulars/cir1016.htm](http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/infra/financial_circulars/cir1016.htm)

Continuing for 2011 Property Tax Deferment Program for Families with Children The program which began in 2010 allowed eligible homeowners who are financially supporting a dependent child under age 18 the option to defer property taxes on their principal residence. This expansion of the Property Tax Deferment Program allows government to assist families with children, particularly during those years when household costs are typically the highest. As with the Property Tax Deferment Program for homeowners 55 & older, surviving spouse, and person with a disability, the Property Tax Deferment Program for Families with Children is a loan program that allows you to defer your annual property taxes on your home if you meet certain eligibility criteria. For more information on criteria and applications, please refer to: [www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/individuals/Property\\_Taxes/Property\\_Tax\\_Deferment/ptd.htm](http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/individuals/Property_Taxes/Property_Tax_Deferment/ptd.htm).

*Please note* the Financial Hardship Property Tax Deferment Program which was in place for the 2009 and 2010 tax years is no longer available.

## 2011 Council Meeting Schedule

May: 2 | 16  
June: 6 | 20  
July: 18  
August: 22  
September: 6 | 19  
October: 3 | 17  
November: 7 | 21  
December: 5 | 19



## LOCAL PARK EVENTS....

MAY 28 | 10-11pm Mount Work Out Guided Hike-Munn Road parking lot  
*For a complete listing of Nature Outings and Events call 250.478.3344 or visit: [crd.bc.ca/parks](http://crd.bc.ca/parks).*

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WEEK 2011 – May 1—May 7 **72 hours... Is your family prepared?** By Val Fletcher, Emergency Coordinator.

Natural disasters may be beyond our control, but there are ways to reduce the risk and the impact of whatever emergency we might face - whether natural or human-induced. Emergency Preparedness Week encourages Canadians to be prepared to cope on their own for at least the first 72 hours of an emergency while rescue workers help those in urgent need. This special week is a national effort of provincial and territorial emergency management organizations, and Public Safety Canada.

By taking a few simple steps, you can become better prepared to face a range of emergencies – anytime, anywhere. It is important to: Know the risks – Although the consequences of disasters can be similar, knowing the risks specific to our community and our region can help you better prepare; Make a plan – It will help you and your family know what to do; Get an emergency kit – During an emergency, we will all need some basic supplies. We may need to get by without power or tap water. Be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours in an emergency.

Visit [www.GetPrepared.ca](http://www.GetPrepared.ca) or [www.highlands.ca](http://www.highlands.ca) (look under Emergency Program) for more resources to help you and your family prepare for all types of emergencies. Printed materials are also available at the District Office.

This week, I encourage you to take concrete actions to be better prepared. Please do your part! Experience has shown that individual preparedness goes a long way to help people cope better - both during and after a major disaster. Prepare an emergency kit now - it can make a world of difference.

*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!*



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

# Council & District News

**REZONING APPLICATION RZ-01-11 (YORK)** At its April 18 meeting, Council considered reports related to this amenity rezoning application which proposes to create nine additional lots from two existing land parcels (with a combined area of just under seventy acres). Among the reports were recommendations from Highlands **advisory committees, information from the District's planner** on current density in the area located near Finlayson Arm/Millstream Roads, and three other professional assessments (traffic, groundwater and biophysical). There was also correspondence from Highlands residents and the results of consultation referrals to outside agencies.

After review, Council requested that staff draft bylaws for future consideration. Further, Council resolved to distribute the professional reports to its advisory committees.

To view all of the reports, please visit: [highlands.ca/agendas/council/2011/04\\_18\\_Council\\_Agenda.asp](http://highlands.ca/agendas/council/2011/04_18_Council_Agenda.asp), Item 7 a).

## **CRD REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY - UPDATE**

As reported in the last edition of the Highlands News, the **CRD requested Council's input to the nine policy papers** proposed to update the Regional Growth Strategy as it undergoes its five year review.

**At its April 4 meeting, Council forwarded the planner's report** ([www.highlands.ca/agendas/council/2011/documents/RSSfromCoTW2.pdf](http://www.highlands.ca/agendas/council/2011/documents/RSSfromCoTW2.pdf)) to CRD staff in response. Generally, Council supports the direction drafted in the policy papers, noting that some of the policies will require more discussion to find acceptance, including analysis of costs and benefits and clarification of the CRD role in future initiatives.

## **MILLSTREAM LK/MUNN RDS - CULVERT REPLACEMENT**

**UPDATE** At its regular meeting held April 18, Council approved that staff proceed with planning work to replace this failing culvert. The estimated cost of replacement, including biological consulting and Provincial approvals, is \$30,000. This amount is **included in 2011's draft budget.**

**BUDGET/FINANCIAL PLANNING 2011 - UPDATE** At a Committee of the Whole meeting held April 26, Council reviewed Draft 3 of the 2011-2015 Financial Plan. It proposes a zero percent increase in the municipal portion of property taxes, with capital expenditures directed primarily to road work located through out the district, including major work on south Millstream Road. Council directed staff to bring forward draft tax rate bylaws to the May 2 regular council meeting. The bylaws will be adopted at a special Council meeting to be held May 9.

Council discussed voluntary contributions toward both CRD Arts and CRD Regional Housing services. A recommendation that Highlands participate in both services (\$2600 and \$4200 respectively, collected by way of the CRD requisition on your tax bill) will be considered at both the May 2 and 9 meetings. Council members welcome your thoughts on these and any other budget item(s).

See: [www.highlands.ca/agendas/cotw/2011/04\\_26\\_CoTW\\_Agenda.asp](http://www.highlands.ca/agendas/cotw/2011/04_26_CoTW_Agenda.asp).

**UPDATE FROM STAFF - TRUCK TRAFFIC** Last month we noted that a property owner on Munn Road had obtained a soil deposit permit for agricultural purposes and that trucks were a frequent sight en route to the property. This Permit has been increased recently, so area residents will continue to see additional truck traffic over the next couple of weeks as they complete the depositing of soil under their Permit.

**The District's Strategic Plan includes a comprehensive revision of the Soil Deposit and Removal Bylaw that has been in place prior to Highlands' incorporation.** There has already been a lot of work undertaken on the legislative elements to date, but other staff commitments have prevented **the bylaw's completion. This issue is anticipated to include extensive public discussion.** In the interim, staff will be making recommendations to Council at the May 2, 2011 regular meeting for updating the permit fee structure.

## **AMERICAN BULLFROG CONTROL PROGRAM**

At its April 4 regular meeting, Council received a report from Highlands volunteers regarding **2010's American Bullfrog control program along with a request for funding.** Last year Council funded a small survey/eradication program for the first time, contracting Stan Orchard to augment the ongoing volunteer Activity in the District. Funding was also provided to the Highlands Stewardship Foundation to purchase equipment to aid the volunteers.

Council had previously received a report from Stan Orchard outlining his results. Council resolved to send both reports to the Minister of the Environment with a request for further consideration of the establishment of Provincial funding to address this regional issue, with a copy of the reports being sent to the CRD. Council forwarded the volunteer funding request to its ongoing budget deliberations.

## *3rd Annual Celebration of Arts and Music and Other Talents for YOUTH and CHILDREN - Saturday, May 28, 2011*

We will celebrate our annual Children and Youth Coffee House on Saturday, May 28. Please invite your friends and classmates if they too would like to perform. Categories for talents could include: sing a song / play a musical instrument / perform a dance / share a joke / recite a poem / show and tell about your art, science project, pictures you have taken, painting, statue, pottery, furniture or dress making / and other talents.

- ☺ Age limit for performers: 18 years old
- ☺ Please let your friends and classmates know: they, too, are welcome to perform.

Come and bring your family and friends for an enjoyable evening of being together, celebration and entertainment.

Contact Zhinoos at: 778-678-2409 ([zhinoos9@gmail.com](mailto:zhinoos9@gmail.com)) or Cathy 250-478-7317 ([mcreader@telus.net](mailto:mcreader@telus.net)) with a brief description of your artistic contribution and phone number or email address.

Date: May 28, 7pm (doors open at 6.30)

Place: Caleb Pike House, 1589 Millstream Road

Charges: FREE

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

### MARCH

- 16 - Unspecified Assistance - Finlayson Arm Rd
- 20 - Assault—Common or Trespass - Millstream
- 22 - Collision-Damage > \$1000 - Millstream rd/Industrial Breach of Peace - Caleb Pike
- 24 - Drive while Disq/Susp - Millstream Unspecified Assistance - Bear Mountain
- 28 - Unspecified Assistance - Millstream Lake /Munn
- 30 - Theft from MV < \$5000 - Millstream
- 31 - Unspecified Assistance - Southwood Unspecified Assistance - Millstream

### APRIL

- 01 - Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Millstream /Millstream Lake
- 04 - Breach of Peace - Red Cedar
- 07 - Property-Lost - Millstream
- 10 - Collision-Damage > \$1000 - Finlayson Arm /Rowntree Collision-Damage > \$1000 - Millstream
- 11 - Unspecified Assistance - Finlayson Arm /Rowntree

**MAY 28 IS CASINO NIGHT!** Join members of the Highlands Volunteer Fire Department for an entertaining and lively evening as they raise funds to aid Muscular Dystrophy Canada. On Saturday, May 28, plan to attend Casino Night at the West Highlands Fire Hall. A \$25 donation gets you \$1000 of Casino Money, good for various games of chance and skill.

Doors open at 7 p.m.. Come try your luck and support a worthwhile cause at this fun community event!



### VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

This month we recognize long time Highlands resident Daphne Allen, a local historian and avid volunteer. Among many other things, Daphne provides important contributions to our understanding of Highlands history, and is the author of the Highlands History column regularly featured in the Highlands News. Daphne currently serves on the executive of the Highlands Heritage Park Society, and is a member of the Highlands Heritage Task Force.

Always on the lookout for clues or remnants of Highlands history, Daphne spends time combing archives for mention of those that came before us. Daphne has also compiled newer memories, capturing numerous community events in photographs over the years, right up to the present.

Thank you, Daphne, for helping us to learn about our history!



## Contacts:

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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)

### MAY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MAY 2 & 16 - Regular Council Meeting, School House, 7pm  
MAY 4 - Fiscal and Environmental, Pike House, 7:30pm  
MAY 6 & 20 - CRD Recycling Blue Box pickup  
May 7 - HDCA Public Land and Roadside Clean up  
MAY 9 - Committee of the Whole, School House, 7pm  
MAY 11 - Community Centre Task Force, School House, 7:30pm  
MAY 12 - HHPS Annual General Meeting, Pike House, 7.30 pm  
MAY 23 - District Office Closed for Victoria Day  
MAY 25 - Community Infrastructure, School House, 7:30pm  
MAY 28 - VICTORIA TOUR DE ROCK, Ross Durrance/Millstream Lk/Munn, 8:40 - 10:10 am, see front page for details  
MAY 28 - HVFD Casino Night in support of Muscular Dystrophy, 7:00 pm, West Highlands Firehall, 1564 Millstream Rd. - Everyone welcome!

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

**TIPS FOR DRIVERS** The following tips have been provided by a helpful Highlander, in view of recent traffic disruptions:

- Always keep the fuel tank at least one quarter full in case you need to take an alternate route
- Listen to the radio for news of traffic delays; send news or updates to your neighbours via email (or your smart phone while stopped!)
- Visit [drivebc.ca](http://drivebc.ca) for traffic advisories and updates

**HIGHLANDS HISTORY** - Much has been written about the early pioneer families of the Highland District but there are others who have played their part without recognition. Many of Victoria's early settlers came from the Orient. In 1901 Henry Pike employed a 17-year-old farm hand named Iano who had come from Japan in 1899. When William Holmes owned the Pike ranch he had a "houseboy" by the name of Ting as well as one or two Chinese farm hands. Their log home was still standing on the property in the early 1980s. Mary Ross, a widow who lived at Pease Lake with her two daughters had help from her farmhand Louie Chow and greatly missed him when he quit his job, as she then had to milk the cow herself.

Herbert Merry, caretaker of the Aldermere property on lower Millstream, decided to go into the cordwood business supplying firewood to the furnaces of Victoria. He hired a crew of Chinese woodcutters who created a large pile of wood along the Millstream Road. Unfortunately a heavy rain and resulting flood washed away the wood and Merry's anticipated profits.



*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.