



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. Visit the website to help plan your month!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Wildfire Prevention Information
- New—Rezoning Application RZ-02-11
- Community Calendar



Participants in the Tour de Victoria, held May 28, cruise down Ross Durrance Road. Many Highlands residents watched and cheered along the route, and were rewarded with sightings of celebrities and appreciative remarks for the scenic rural roads.

Photo credit: Janet Hughes

'CUT THE BLOOMIN' BROOM'!

2010 saw a notable increase in broom infestations throughout parts of Highlands. Scotch Broom, an invasive species, adds to wildfire hazard by increasing fuel load. An organization located on Vancouver Island promotes broom removal by cutting, (their slogan is the title of this article) and they have a very informative website that provides both information and motivation.

Visit broombusters.org to learn more.

Due to our cool spring temperatures, seed pods have not yet formed. This is an ideal time to cut broom, and since much of it is in bloom, it's easy to find - get instructions on the best way to cut and dispose of broom here:

broombusters.org/docs/broom_whattodo2010.pdf



MAYOR'S MESSAGE Another year's budgeting work has wrapped up, and Council is very pleased to report that municipal tax levies have remained at 0% increase (for the 14th year!). This is a result of careful spending coupled with a modest amount of growth. Details can be found in the five year plan leaflet that was distributed with the 2011 tax notices and posted at highlands.ca. Financial reserves have been boosted enough to get a nod from the district's auditors, and various projects such as needed equipment for the Fire Department and road repair have been adequately funded.

Much of Highlands population were affected by either the nearly twelve hour Millstream Road closure or the accompanying widespread power outage that occurred after an overheight truck took down a utility line and two power poles on May 20. During the same time frame, Shaw telephone service was not working, compounding the effect of the road closure by interrupting communications. The road closure was very lengthy and became a major inconvenience for people with long weekend travel plans. A detour was eventually opened up for use by affected residents. These alternate routes are emergency accesses and are not always suitable for use by regular traffic in non-emergency situations. Staff will be bringing forward information on maintenance and upgrading these access routes in the near future. District Officials are working to resolve a number of internal and external issues with the other agencies to improve options for residents in future situations. Council thanks Fire Department volunteers, the RCMP and staff (two of whom stayed late to ensure residents concerns were addressed as much as possible) for their assistance.

The District's 2010 Annual Report is available online at highlands.ca.

Mayor Jane Mendum

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS On May 20th Fire Department volunteers met many drivers while on duty attending a truck accident that brought down two power poles near the intersection of Blacktail and Millstream Roads. In the interest of public safety, Fire Department officials would like to remind residents not to drink and drive. Even minor amounts of alcohol can interfere with the safe operation of a motor vehicle.

Highlanders are advised that with anticipated warmer weather, burning restrictions are subject to change. Please check the fire hazard signs located at each entrance to the Highlands or the homepage of highlands.ca. If in doubt, please phone the Fire Chief before you light anything (contact information is on page 4).

Community and Council News



BY NOW YOU SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED YOUR 2011 PROPERTY TAX NOTICE BY MAIL. If not, please contact the municipal office at 250-474-1773 and we will be happy to reprint one for you. Remember **Friday July 1 is a statutory holiday and our office will be closed** for Canada Day.

Payment Options

- Cash, Cheque, or Interac - check your transaction limits with your bank.
- Mail us a post-dated cheque to avoid a line up (please include roll # on cheque for reference).
- Drop off your Home Owner Grant (HOG) and/or payment at the Municipal Office at 1980 Millstream Road, Victoria BC V9B 6H1 between 8:30am & 4:00pm or use the front door mail slot after hours. Remember, claim your HOG **every year** before the due date to avoid a 5% penalty on the \$570 or \$875 HOG amount.
- Bank or Credit Union— to pay your property tax bill at your bank or credit union, you must have your original tax notice remittance slip along with completed & signed Home Owner Grant (HOG) application (if eligible). *If over 65 please make sure to include your date of birth in section 2a) on HOG remittance.* Your HOG application will then be forwarded to our office for processing. However, if your property taxes are paid through your mortgage company, you cannot claim your HOG through your bank; applications should be mailed or dropped off at our office.
- Unfortunately we do not accept credit card or online payment.

SOIL DEPOSIT REGULATION AMENDMENT BYLAW

NO. 327 At its May 2 regular meeting, Council gave three readings to this amending bylaw and forwarded it, as required, to the provincial government for its approval. The bylaw sets out an updated fee schedule that will include a \$100.00 non-refundable application and permits a financial charge based on volume (\$0.50 per cubic metre of soil). Staff brought this bylaw forward in response to the fact that dump trucks impact the condition of District roads; fees collected would be used to help offset the cost of staff time to monitor soil deposit permits and/or future road repair.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR WILDFIRES By Val Fletcher, Emergency Coordinator.

We are now in **Wildfire Season** and **Burning Restrictions** are in effect. Environment Canada indicates the weather outlook for Southern Vancouver Island, in the upcoming months, will “probably” continue to be cooler and wetter than usual under the cooler “La Nina” ocean temperature effects. Normal summer temperatures and (lack of) rainfall patterns are expected to return in later July and August. To learn how you can prepare for the threat of Wildfire to your home check our website at: <http://www.highlands.ca>, click on **Emergency Program** on the left hand menu, then scroll down to “**WILDFIRE**”.

Those of you who do not have access to the Internet/World Wide Web can drop by the District Office to pick up printed information as displayed on our website. You may also contact me at 250-479-1725, or vfletcher@highlands.ca for further information or if you have any questions or comments.

IN CASE OF MAIL SERVICE INTERRUPTION...

As this edition goes to press, a potential Canada Post strike is being reported in other media. In the event that this disrupts the delivery of future newsletters or other notification to residents from the District, be sure to visit highlands.ca to view current news and information. The district’s website is kept up to date by district staff, who do a fine job of ensuring that most everything you need to know concerning Highlands is available online.

MAIL SERVICE INTERRUPTION AND YOUR PROPERTY TAXES/ HOG APPLICATIONS ...

In the event of a postal strike before July 4, 2011, please be advised that home owner grants and property taxes **must still be received in our office by the July 4th deadline to avoid a 5% penalty.**

Payment and Home Owner Grant applications can be made in person or dropped off at our office, or at your financial institution (please refer to article on this page). Please call our office with any questions:

REMINDER: BULLFROG REPORTING 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. For assistance in identifying the American Bullfrog, please visit the district website and follow the link located on the home page.

2011 Council Meeting Schedule

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



LOCAL PARK EVENTS...

JUNE 11 | 10-3pm

Take a Hike!

Gowlland Tod Provincial Park and Mount Work Regional Park

Join CRD and BC Parks in celebrating their **45th and 100th** anniversaries.

Stations will be set up at locations throughout the parks with information, community booths, roving naturalists, refreshments, prizes and more!

For a complete listing of Nature Outings and Events call **250.478.3344** or visit: crd.bc.ca/parks.

If you would like an electronic copy of the Highlands News 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!



STAY INFORMED: visit the District website: highlands.ca

Council & District News

REZONING APPLICATION RZ-02-11 (1150 Bear Mountain Parkway) At its May 9 committee of the whole meeting, Council discussed an application to rezone a portion of what was known as the Kingco property. The subject parcel is located at the far southwest of the District, near the Bear Mountain village, and access is from Bear Mountain Parkway. The application proposes 49 single family residential lots on 4 hectares (10 acres) with varying lot sizes ranging from 318m² to 2,004m². The property is currently zoned Community Institutional 1 and is located within the Regional Urban Containment and Servicing Policy Area; thus, water and sewer would be available to the site. The applicant, in attendance, explained that the lots are small to make them more affordable.

After considerable discussion on various aspects of the proposal, Council recommended to refer the application back to the applicant to respond to several points, including the following:

- What does the community think? What changes would they like to see on that property?
- Would the residential use contribute to greater long term costs for the district? If so, how could this be completely mitigated?
- Can the District realistically provide fire protection to this property under this proposal or something similar?
- Density—should be appropriate for the terrain
- Ensure adequate parking
- Amenity—thought could be given to this, and to how the community will benefit with this proposal
- Mixed use—consider uses other than residential to diversify property tax
- Update the environmental assessment report
- How does this proposal fit into the surrounding area?

Council endorsed the recommendation at the following regular council meeting. Both the Planner's report and the application can be viewed at:

<highlands.ca/agendas/Cotw/2011/05_09_CoTW_Agenda.htm> (item 3b).

EAGLES LAKE PARKING RESTRICTIONS

Residents who frequent Eagles Lake will notice a very recent change. In response to public consultation held in 2010, seasonal **No Parking signs** have been erected along the entire length of this narrow neighbourhood road. There is a designated loading zone with a maximum time limit located near the beach.

The District will monitor parking patterns this summer.

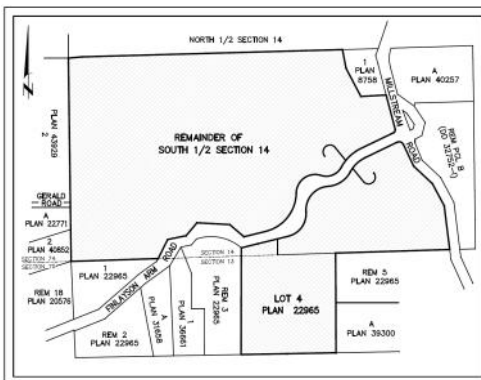


Obstructing the travelled (paved) portion contravenes the Motor Vehicle Act, so drivers are reminded that parked vehicles must be completely off the road.



REGIONAL HOUSING TRUST FUND

An article that appeared in the May 23 edition of the Times Colonist, entitled *North Saanich fattens coffers for subsidized housing* erred in listing Highlands as a non-contributor to the Regional Housing Trust Fund. Highlanders have contributed toward the trust fund since its inception in 2005, and this year Council increased the contribution to \$4200, the equivalent of full participation in the service. Council acknowledges that Highlands, like other rural municipalities, is an unlikely candidate for subsidized housing, and therefore provides funds (which are very efficiently leveraged) that are used for housing in more appropriate locations in the region. The Times Colonist published a correction the following day.



REZONING APPLICATION RZ-01-11 (Finlayson Arm/Millstream Roads)

At the May 16 regular meeting, Council received both a set of recommendations from the Fiscal Environmental Select Committee (FESC) and an updated Traffic Report. The FESC recommendations

suggested Council consider a maximum house size, conservation covenants and rainwater catchment systems. Council requested that staff discuss the committee recommendations with the applicant.

The updated Traffic Report can be viewed at:

<highlands.ca/agendas/council/2011/05_16_Council.htm> (items 5a,i and 6b).

Highlands Folk Music presents "Mufaro Marimba" Saturday, June 11, 2011 - 7:30pm

Highlands Folk Music presents Mufaro Marimba, a fun and lively poly-rhythmic ensemble. Mufaro was a great hit last year and shouldn't be missed; come let the rhythm move you! We're hoping for good weather so we'll be able to have Mufaro set up their Marimbas outdoors.

Mufaro will perform following our Open Stage segment.

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

Date: June 11, 7:30pm **Place:** Caleb Pike House, 1589 Millstream Road **Charge:** \$5.00/person—Coffee, tea, and goodies provided

RCMP INCIDENTS REPORT April 16 to May 15, 2011

APRIL

- 17 - Abandoned Vehicles - Finlayson Arm /Millstream
- 20 - Property Lost - Duggan
- 21 - 911-False/Abandoned Calls - Danby
- 24 - False Alarms - Millstream
 - Unspecified Assistance - Munn
- 25 - Collision Damage <\$1000 - Millstream
 - Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Millstream/Lone Tree Hill
- 26 - Fraud-Other - Southwood
- 27 - Suspicious Pers/Veh/Occurrence - Lost Lake
- 28 - Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Millstream
- 29 - False Alarms -Stewart Mountain
 - Breach of Peace - Millstream

MAY

- 01 - Unspecified Assistance - Munn
- 02 - Trespass Act - Millstream
- 04 - Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Munn
 - Bylaw-Other - Millstream Rd/Millstream Lake
- 08 - Mischief <\$5000 - Westridge
- 09 - Theft-Other >\$5000 - Industrial Way
 - 911-False/Abandoned Calls - Rowntree
- 11 - Mischief <\$5000 - Munn
 - Collision-Damage >\$1000 - Millstream
 - Unspecified Assistance - Munn
- 13 - Unspecified Assistance - Millstream /Finlayson Arm
- 14 - Collision-Damage <\$1000 - Millstream
 - Unspecified Assistance - Woodridge

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH Council wishes to recognize long-time Highlands Market coordinator Leslie Wagner as our volunteer of the month. Organizing the market for five months of the year, Leslie ensures that the needs of vendors are met so that everything runs smoothly at this monthly event. From advertising to reminders to managing and supervising, Leslie makes certain that the market is open for business!

Thank you, Leslie, for your many years of service to the community – it is very much appreciated!

HIGHLANDS MARKET Sunday, May 29th (10am – 1pm, Caleb Pike House, 1589 Millstream Road) marked the date of the first Highlands Market of 2011. One of the longest running local markets in the region, the event 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 26

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— Guy.Brisebois@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
CRD Parks—250-474-2264
Wildlife Violations—1-800-663-WILD (9453)

JUNE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- JUNE 6 & 20** - Regular Council Meeting, School House, 7pm
- JUNE 3 & 17** - CRD Recycling Blue Box pickup
- JUNE 13** - Committee of the Whole, School House, 7pm
- JUNE 22** - Community Infrastructure, School House, 7:30pm
- JUNE 26 - Highlands Market, Pike House, 10am | 1pm**

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

POTENTIAL MEETING SCHEDULE CHANGE The date of this month's Committee of the Whole meeting (**normally would be held on June 13th**) is subject to change—please check the homepage at highlands.ca to confirm meeting details.



THANK YOU! On behalf of the organizers, an enthusiastic thank you goes to all who participated in the Highlands District Community Association's annual clean up, held May 7th.

Highlands roadsides looked lovely after the spring cleaning!

HIGHLANDS HISTORY - The small square log building that sits behind the Pike House is known as the Dairy. Now used as a kitchen, it was originally used as a place to process the milk from the Pike and then the Holmes family cows. Dairy products were a main source of income for early Highland pioneers. In the early 1900s Jessie Bernard at Mitchell Lake as well as her sister Sybil Gregory on Munn Road spent much of their time churning butter and making cream cheeses. These families would then drive their wagons to Victoria and sell their weekly production to Mowat's Grocers at Yates and Douglas. Butter made them 22 cents a pound, cream cheese brought in 15 cents a pint and their eggs made them 25 cents a dozen. They could then afford to purchase flour, sugar, tea and other necessities. It was important to have a designated building to deal with the gallons of milk from their cows as the Government kept an eye on the farmer's production. Jessie wrote in her diary on December 29th, 1903 "Dairy Inspector came and examined cows and milk utensils, says he'll send us a certificate."



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.