



Highlands News



Our office will be closed at 2 p.m. December 23, 2011 for Winter Holidays and will reopen at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, January 3, 2012. Mayor and Council wish you a wonderful holiday season!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Volunteer Opportunities!
 - 2012 Grant-in-aid Application Information
 - Community Calendar



Photo credit: Joanne Weyler

SERVICE MEDAL RECIPIENT

On November 7, Council presented Richard (RJ) Weyler with a Highlands Service Medal in recognition of his many years of employment with the District.

Often accompanied by his dog Sparky, RJ has provided bi-weekly janitorial services to the district office since the mid 1990's.

RJ recently accepted a job with Thrifty Foods, and tendered his resignation to Council. Although we are sorry to lose him as an employee, we sincerely thank RJ for his many years of dedicated service and wish him every success in his new position!



A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT
Highlands Volunteer Fire Department is seeking new volunteers to join the department. Training begins mid

-January 2012; most courses take place within the District.

There are a limited number of spots available. If you are interested in learning more, please phone either the Fire Chief or Deputy Fire Chief (contact information on page 4).

Details on this year's Santa Run are below - we hope to see you on Saturday, December 17th. Members of Highlands Volunteer Fire Department wish Highlanders safe and happy holidays!

ANNUAL SANTA RUN The Highlands Volunteer Firefighters' Association will hold their annual Santa Run on **Saturday, December 17th**. Santa will be on board to visit with Highlands children, and his helpers welcome donations of cash or non-perishable food items to aid the **local food bank**. **Santa will start in the east Highlands first thing Saturday morning and finish his route in the west at approximately 6 p.m.**



WINTER ROAD MAINTENANCE During the winter season, Highlands roads are inspected and maintained according to the road maintenance contract 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This does not eliminate the presence of challenging or dangerous winter road conditions from time to time. Motorists should be aware of the potential for slippery conditions and should ensure their vehicles are appropriately equipped to drive under these conditions. Highlands has many weather patterns within the District that create different conditions in different areas. This impacts on the ability to plan ahead or react to the conditions.

The District's road maintenance contract has comprehensive provisions for winter maintenance to address icy and snowy conditions. It establishes both minimum and maximum response times as well as establishing priorities for main roads, hills and school bus routes so they receive a quicker response than that of other local roads due to traffic volumes or the more challenging terrain. The Contractor is responsible to adhere to the conditions of the road maintenance contract and generally exceeds the standards. They are supervised by District staff on a daily/weekly basis depending on winter conditions.

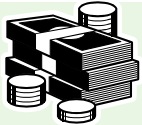
The District now maintains a duty phone during the winter season. This phone is monitored full time. Residents may report winter road conditions on this line. Action appropriate to the circumstances will be taken. The telephone number is 250-893-1773 and is posted on the District's web site at www.highlands.ca. Please keep in mind, though, that road conditions are carefully and extensively monitored.

It is also important to remind residents to not contact the District's Fire Chief or Emergency Coordinator to report road conditions or request winter maintenance. Neither of these officials have the authority to ask the roads contractor to respond, and these calls unnecessarily occupy their time.

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Community News

THE WEST SHORE CHRISTMAS HAMPER FUND is located at 761 Station Avenue (bsmt). Applications for the food bank are available at this address. Food and toy donations are always appreciated and donation of money is also most welcome. Cheques can be made out to the West Shore Christmas Hamper Fund and dropped off or mailed to the Station Avenue address. Please contact 250-391-9627 for more information. **The District office will gladly accept any food or gift donations and will ensure that they are delivered to the Christmas hamper.**



OUTSTANDING PROPERTY TAX REMINDER As of January 1, 2012, all outstanding 2011 property taxes will become taxes in arrears. Taxes already in arrears will become delinquent taxes. **Both delinquent taxes and taxes in arrears accrue DAILY interest at a rate set by the Province.**

Please note that in 2012, the delinquent taxes (2010 outstanding taxes) will be subject to tax sale on Monday, September 24, 2012.

To confirm today's outstanding amount of taxes due, please contact our office between the hours of 8:30am and 4:00pm at 250-474-1773.

So that we may promptly apply payments to outstanding accounts, late payments must be made at the Municipal Office located at 1980 Millstream Road. We accept cash, cheque or debit.

Please note our office will be closed Friday December 23, 2011 at 2pm for Winter Holidays and will reopen at 8:30am Tuesday January 3, 2012.

DECEMBER 17, 2011 VICTORIA BIRD COUNT: For the Highlands area, we are looking for people who would like to participate in this year's Christmas Bird Count. Participants will be asked to go out and count birds (we will try to match experienced birders with less experienced as much as possible). For those with bird feeders at home, we are also interested to hear what birds you see at your feeders, so you don't necessarily have to leave home to participate!

The organizer for the Highlands is Warren Lee wglee@telus.net. Please contact him for more information.

For a map of our area: <http://vicnhs.bc.ca/cbc/mapzone2.pdf>

Feeder watch form: <http://vicnhs.bc.ca/cbc/feederwatch.html>

More information also available at: <http://vicnhs.bc.ca/cbc/>

HOLIDAY RECYCLING If you are looking for ways to recycle this season, visit:

<http://crd.bc.ca/waste/recycle/holidayrecycling.htm> for guidelines on how to reduce waste this season. The page includes ideas for holiday gift-giving, clear instructions on preparing your bluebox materials for recycling and many other great tips. Check it out!

DISTRICT COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Community Infrastructure & Services Committee - makes recommendations to Council on various topics including, but limited to: provision and maintenance of trails, roads and parks; special events; leisure services; and public safety.

Fiscal and Environmental Committee - makes recommendations to Council on various topics including, but limited to: fiscal sustainability of the district; environmental consideration regarding proposed new developments; and Environmental sustainability.

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: tneuraute@highlands.ca by December 30.

GRANT IN AID The District of Highlands will be accepting grant in aid applications for the year 2012 up to and including January 31, 2012. 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: highlands.ca.

WINTER STORMS - The Highlanders' Essential Guide to Emergency Preparedness For Winter Storms containing advice from residents, experts, and local government authorities is available on the district's website highlands.ca or can be picked up from the District office during regular office hours. **Preparation for the winter storm season is strongly advised for homeowners and residents alike** - be sure to obtain your copy soon!

UPDATE—BYLAW 327 - SOIL DEPOSIT Final reading of an amendment to the District's Soil Deposit bylaw returned to Council on November 21. As previously reported, this amendment adds a fee schedule to the permit process, developed to assist in offsetting both staff time spent on soil deposit permits and wear and tear on Highlands roads.

The amendment required the statutory approval of the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development; Minister Ida Chong provided her approval on October 24.

Council approved the recommendation to adopt the amendment. Visit highlands.ca/bylaws/ to view Bylaw 327.

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!



Council & District News

FINLAYSON ARM ROAD REALIGNMENT At its November 7 regular meeting, Council considered a request to approve a realignment of Finlayson Arm Road proposed as a result of the York rezoning. The realignment would improve sight lines at a new intersection that will service part of the subdivision. Following discussion, Council voted to approve the realignment and that all associated costs be at the applicant's expense, that each affected landowner be consulted, and further that those landowners be asked as to their preference for surfacing the resulting extension to their driveway.

REZONING APPLICATION RZ-02-10 | OCP-03-10 (*Lot C, Sections 30 and 74, Rowntree and Gowlland Rds.*) Council had previously referred this 13 lot application to the select committees and the Advisory Planning Commission, seeking their recommendations on the proposal. A report from the planner outlined those recommendations. Following a presentation from the proponents, questions from the public and discussion at the table, Council recommended that the proponents be requested to outline the proposal's sustainability benefits via the newly established Sustainability Appraisal Form. The recommendation was endorsed by Council at the November 21 regular meeting.

The planner's report can be found online, <highlands.ca/agendas/council/2011/documents/CoTWNov14-RZ-02-10_000.pdf>

REZONING APPLICATION RZ-02-11 (*1150 Bear Mountain Parkway*) In October 2011 Council received a presentation from the proponents of this 52 lot rezoning application and referred a number of questions to the applicants. Meanwhile, Council and staff attended a visit on site. At the November 21 regular Council meeting, a planner's report containing the additional information was received along with a report concerning potential impacts of the proposal on the District's regional financial contributions. Following discussion and debate, Council referred the application to its advisory committees for recommendations. Council also approved a list of agencies that will be consulted, specifically the City of Langford's Volunteer Fire Department due to the location of the subject property high on Bear Mtn. Parkway. The reports can be read online at <highlands.ca/agendas/council/2011/11_21_Council_Agenda_001.htm>, item 7) b.



PRESENTATION: HIGHLAND QUILT
At the November 7th meeting, Council was delighted to be presented with the newest quilt created by the Highlands Quilters Group. Daphne Allen made the welcome presentation, gifting the quilt to the residents of Highlands.

A beautiful work of art and an educational piece, the Highland Leaf Quilt features the various tree leaves found in Highlands. It has been hung on a wall of the school house for all to enjoy, joining the School House Quilt and the Green Map in complementing the heritage building.

The quilt was designed and stitched by Daphne Allen, Mary Burcher, Sheila Cantwell, Bronwen Duncan, Sally Gose, Kimberly Grigg, Deanna Henry, Gail Hogarth, Sue Johnson, Diana McMinn, Libby McMinn, Leslie Wagner and Janet Williams.

EMERGENCY COORDINATOR VAL FLETCHER RETIRES It was with regret that Council received a letter of resignation from the District's Emergency Coordinator at the council meeting of November 21. Citing retirement plans, Val's resignation takes effect at year end. Val has served the Highlands in this capacity for a decade, and was instrumental in establishing the District's important and comprehensive Emergency Plan. In liaising with regional emergency coordination agencies, Highlands has been well represented by Val over the years.

We thank Val for his valued service to the community, and wish him all the best for the future. We will miss, but not forget, his positive encouragement to be well prepared for emergencies!

AMENDMENT TO BYLAW 200 - DEVELOPMENT PERMIT DELEGATION At the November 7 Council meeting, a staff memo recommended several amendments to Bylaw 200. This bylaw delegates approval of Development Permit applications to district staff. Along with housekeeping updates, staff proposed an amendment that would have any Development Permit (DP) application that involves the deposit of soil to come to Council for approval. Development Permits are required for land altering activities in riparian areas or those involving steep slopes or sensitive vegetation.

On November 7, Council gave the bylaw three readings, and at the November 21 Council meeting, the bylaw was adopted.

Highlands Folk Music is delighted to present the highly entertaining "Bowker Creek" band!

Bowker Creek band draws its influences from bluegrass, folk, country, rock and roll, old time, swing and jazz. This five piece band consists of **Duncan Sutherland** on guitar and vocals, **Bonnie Jean Duncan** on vocals and guitar, **Scott Durant** on bass and vocals, **Danny Ready** on mandolin, 6 and 12-string guitars and **Doug VanDine** on 5-string banjo.

**If you, or someone you know would like to put their names on the list to perform at the Highlands' Folk Music coffee house nights, please call: 778-678-2409, or email: zhinoos9@gmail.com*

The evening will begin with an open-stage segment.

Date: December 10, 7:30 pm

Place: Caleb Pike House, 1589 Millstream Road

Charges: minimum donation \$5 - coffee, tea and goodies included

RCMP INCIDENTS REPORT October 16 to November 15, 2011

OCTOBER

- 16 - Breach of Peace - Skyview /Highlands Park
- 18 - Collision-Damage > \$1000 - Bukin E/Munn
- 20 - Unspecified Assistance - Millstream
Collision-Damage > \$1000 - Millstream
- 21 - Property-Lost - Munn
Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Caleb Pike
- 22 - Unspecified Assistance - Millstream /Hanington
Mischief <\$5000 - Woodridge
Collision-Non-Fatal Injury - Millstream Lake /Millstream
- 24 - False Alarms - Woodridge
- 27 - False Alarms - Woodridge Pl
Unspecified Assistance - Westridge
Animal Calls - Millstream /Finlayson Arm
- 28 - Collision-Damage >\$1000 - Millstream/Lost Lake
Unspecified Assistance - Southwood
Bylaw-Noise - Jayhawk
- 29 - 911-False/Abandoned Calls - Industrial Way

NOVEMBER

- 03 - Unspecified Assistance - Jayhawk
- 04 - Unspecified Assistance - Finlayson Arm
911-False/Abandoned Calls - Rockridge
- 07 - Collision-Non-Fatal Injury - Munn/Compton
- 09 - Unspecified Assistance - Caleb Pike
- 11 - Breach of Peace - Millington
- 12 - 911-False/Abandoned Calls - Millstream
- 13 - 911-False/Abandoned Calls - Viart

CONSERVATION FIRST - ENERGY DIET CHALLENGE Highlands residents Gord and Ann Baird of Eco-Sense have been serving as mentors for six families competing in the Canada Energy Diet Challenge. They were hired by Shell Canada to work with Canadian Geographic in this national program to change the **conversation on conservation**.

The Energy Diet Challenge (EDC) Website profiles the six families and their personal journeys to reduce their ENERGY and WATER consumption. The six families are blogging on the EDC website, on facebook, and twitter. They are competing for a hybrid car and 30% of the contest points are based on votes from the public. The site contains videos on how to install low flow fixtures, shopping for local food, and video showing a family cooking local food, with the dad wearing a hard hat. These are real people sharing their experiences and challenges as they reduce their carbon footprints.

Gord and Ann have blogged along with the families and Eco-Sense has a weekly blog post on the Canadian Geographic website. The Eco-Sense home was also featured in the October issue of Canadian Geographic.

Contest website:

<http://energydiet.canadiangeographic.ca/home/followthehouseholds>

Eco-Sense blog on the EDC site:

<http://energydiet.canadiangeographic.ca/main/page/the-journey-begins-2011-09-08-15-09-45>

Eco-Sense blog: <http://ecosenseliving.wordpress.com/>

Twitter: @BairdEcoSense

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 Dean Ford - hvfdtraining@shaw.ca
Emergency Coordinator Val Fletcher - vfletcher@highlands.ca / 250-479-1725
District of Highlands Office - 250-474-1773
District of Highlands Winter Duty Phone - 250-893-1773
CRD Bylaw Enforcement - 250-474-3351
CRD Animal Control (24 hrs) - 250-478-0624
CRD Parks - 250-478-3344

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH This month we would like to recognize and thank all of the volunteers who served on advisory committees and task forces as well as those who served the District as citizen representatives during 2011. Your commitment of time, effort and provision of input toward decisions that affect Highlanders is greatly appreciated.

Thank you very much for the important service you provide to Highlands!



DECEMBER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

December 5 & 12 - Regular Council Meeting, School House, 7 pm

December 9 & 23 - CRD Recycling Blue Box pickup

December 10 - Highlands Folk Music, Pike House, 7:30 pm

December 17 - Santa Run, watch for details posted at mailboxes

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

TIP - Concerned residents note that unsecured thank you gifts for service providers left at the roadside do not always end up with the intended recipient. A suggestion is to contact the service provider to discuss arrangements that may be more secure for these tokens of appreciation.

HIGHLANDS HISTORY - LOGGING Nearly every acre growing trees in the District of Highlands was logged at one time or another. Many areas are now producing second-generation stands of Douglas fir ranging from fifty to 120 years of age. Evidence of early logging activity can be found in the large stumps still standing in our woods. On many of these stumps you can see notches that were cut into the tree to hold springboards. Before the advent of chainsaws in the 1940s, trees were felled by hand with axes, and later, with two-man crosscut saws. Considerable labour was expended to cut down large, old trees. To get above the massive butt flare and surface roots of these trees, notches were chopped into the trunk and a narrow board was inserted and used as a platform the fallers could stand on above the ground. These springboards were also sometimes used on smaller trees on steep slopes to gain better footing.



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.