District of Highlands 2013 Strategic Priorities



The Highlands is a primarily residential community, rural in nature, and blessed with an exceptional abundance of scenic beauty, native plant and animal life, and public parkland.











Highlands was incorporated as a District Municipality in 1993. Highlanders are united by the landscape - rocky uplands and dense coastal forest. This shared terrain is not easy to traverse; nor is it easy to develop or farm. The topography has shaped a pattern of roads and land use; it has also shaped a unique rural lifestyle. Homes and buildings, while scattered, have a relatively small footprint on the land. This is unusual in an area so close to a big city.

Highlanders are united by the landscape - rocky uplands and dense coastal forest District of Highlands Council 2011-2014: (from left)

Councillor Karel Roessingh | Councillor Marcie McLean | Councillor Allen Dobb

Mayor Jane Mendum

Councillor Sigurd Johannesen | Councillor Diane Gill | Councillor Ken Williams



INTRODUCTION Page 3

Message from the Mayor

This term, council will continue to work on strengthening shared community values. In 2013

the Integrated Community Sustainability plan will be integrated with the Official Community Plan. The path to sustainability can then be measured annually. Council and staff to work with the community on continuing to build resiliency throughout the community. The plan will belong to you, and every resident will have a role in its success.

Council will continue to exercise careful financial prudence. Plans to complete rehabilitation of lower Millstream Road, replace the fire hall located in the east, and continue with the important ground water study are within our means and on the list of goals for this term. The opportunity to construct a community hall with provincial grant funding is currently being addressed and remains a priority.

Once again, I would like to both recognize and thank the many active, dedicated volunteers that aid council, the district, and the community Their tremendous contributions are valued immensely. Our quality of life is enriched by the gifts of time and talent so generously provided by these amazing volunteers, and Council appreciates their efforts wholeheartedly.

Council welcomes your questions and concerns. Council meetings are public, and everyone is always welcome. I encourage all residents with internet access to visit highlands.ca often in order to stay informed.

VISION STATEMENT

The Highlands is a primarily residential community, rural in nature, and blessed with an exceptional abundance of scenic beauty, native plant and animal life, and public parkland. Those of us who live here place high value on the natural environment

and our rural lifestyle. Highlanders are actively involved in the community, which fosters a spirit that is both self-reliant and cooperative.

The Highlands will strive to diversify its economy while preserving our natural systems, including the aquifers on which we depend so heavily. Land use decisions will be guided by a community plan, with the ongoing involvement of residents.

As stewards of our unique natural environment, we will protect its integrity. We will retain sufficient lands in their natural state to permit a diversity of plant and animal life to flourish and to ensure that the rural lifestyle we enjoy

today can be experienced by future generations. We believe in the value of open and green space, trail systems, and outdoor recreational opportunities, both to enhance life in the Highlands and to contribute to the well-being of southern Vancouver Island as a whole.

We will provide for an adequate tax base, including light industrial, related commercial and nature-related recreational uses in some areas of the Highlands, in order to support basic, affordable municipal services and facilities. We will encourage alternative transportation choices, housing choices, and a community hall.

New development in the Highlands will be in keeping with the rural character of the community and carefully designed to protect sensitive environmental conditions. The pace of change should be gradual and the type of development should leave a small footprint on the land.



2013 Strategic Priorities Summary











Priorities of Strategic Plan

- Economic Development South Highlands
- Infrastructure
- Public Health and Safety
- Administrative/Governance
- Land Use
- Social Sustainability

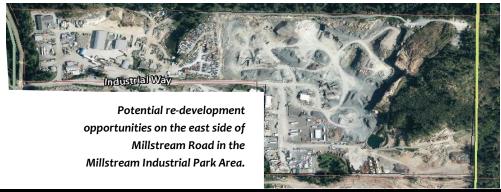
5 u	mmary of Priorities	
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	INFRASTRUCTURE	PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY
PRIORITIES	PRIORITIES	PRIORITIES
 West side Millstream East side Millstream 	 Water Groundwater monitoring Program Transportation Annual Road Assessments Transit/ Transportation Physical Assets JDF Recreation Facility Park Management Plan Community Hall Parks and Trails 	 Emergency Coordinator Fire Hall (s) Day Crew Neighborhood HELP Groups
ADMINISTRATIVE/	LAND USE	SOCIAL
COMEDNIANCE		G. 16T A 111 A D. 1 1TV
GOVERNANCE		SUSTAINABILITY
GOVERNANCE PRIORITIES	PRIORITIES	SUSTAINABILITY PRIORITIES



Over time, the area should be redeveloped as a range of light industrial and service commercial uses in conformance with Development Permit Area 4 -Highlands Commercial/ Industrial Gateway Area, and any agreements that are in place. These uses might include manufacturing and assembly, warehousing and storage, service industries, sales and service operations and office uses that are ancillary to these uses. Industrial uses that have appreciable negative impacts on surrounding areas, groundwater resources and air quality are discouraged.

Economic Development

At the present time, there is no traditional retail commercial or office commercial in the Highlands. The topography of much of the District is not suitable for traditional commercial and office uses. The major area of industrial / Commercial activity is located east of Millstream Road, immediately north of Highlands' boundary with Langford. There are several property owners. The land base has been heavily disturbed and there are relatively few environmental preservation issues. Uses comprise a quarry operation, asphalt plant, auto wrecker and transportation depot. The ground water in this area has been contaminated by its former use as a sewage lagoon and landfill. A light industrial/business park in this location would require piped water and other services (storm and sanitary sewers, street lighting, utilities, landscaping, transit) might be considered. This area falls inside the Regional Urban Containment Boundary of the Capital Regional District's (CRD) Regional Growth Strategy.



ISSUE	PRIORITY	STATUS	NEXT STEPS
Economic Develo	pment South	n Highlands:	
East side Millstream Road	HIGH	Awaiting water main installation	Potential re-development at the discretion of property owners. Bylaw in place for CRD Water. Servicing underway.
West side of Millstream Road	HIGH	CRD RGS Amendment Process complete	Development at landowners discretion

Area defined as the Regional Urban Containment and Servicing Policy Area in the CRD Regional Growth Strategy



Infrastructure

ISSUE	PRIORITY	STATUS	NEXT STEPS
Water			
Groundwater Monitoring Program	HIGH	Phase 1 - Complete Phase 2 - Complete Phase 3 Report Complete	Public Awareness opportunities and ongoing annual data collection

In 2007, the District of Highlands initiated a three-Phase Groundwater Protection Study to assess groundwater conditions across the Highlands, to guide future land-use decisions and to develop groundwater protection measures to

support

stewardship

conservation.

and water

Phase 3: Groundwater Protection Study District of Highlands

District of Highlands
Victoria, BC



Submitted to

Victoria, BC V9B 6H1

07-1414-0014

District of Highlands 1980 Millstream Road



Phase 1 Groundwater Protection Study

- reviewed available information, including water well records, geological mapping, climate and precipitation data to develop a conceptual model of groundwater flow in the Highlands. Information included:
 - ⇒ stream flow monitoring to assess baseflow at the end of the dry season this supplements the available background information
- assigned Hydrogeologic parameters to the bedrock units and developed and calibrated a District-wide numerical hydrogeological model to steady-state (i.e., average annual) conditions
- model used to conduct water balance analyses to assess the sustainability of current and future groundwater withdrawals, together with the potential impacts of climate change
- a preliminary groundwater quality and water-level monitoring program was implemented to collect the data needed to assess baseline conditions and seasonal patterns.

Phase 2 Groundwater Protection Study

- compiled a regional contaminant inventory to identify potential sources of contamination in the Highlands. The Highlands was categorized into three types of land use activities: Park and Rural Residential (P/RR); Commercial/Industrial (C/I); and Comprehensive Development (CD).
- In each land use category, existing and potential hazards to groundwater quality were identified and relative rankings were assigned to the identified hazards to provide the District with guidance on prioritizing groundwater protection efforts.
- preliminary groundwater protection measures were developed to establish the framework for the groundwater protection measures that were developed during Phase 3 of the Study.
- the groundwater quality and water-level monitoring program was expanded based on the results of both the contaminant inventory and the water balance analyses (Phase 1).

Phase 3 Groundwater Protection Study

- Results from monitoring programs were used to calibrate the numerical model that was developed during Phase 1 of the Study to assess seasonal variability.
- refined model used to refine the predicted groundwater water balance for the Highlands and the potential impacts associated with future development and climate change.
- results from the numerical model formed the basis for the development of groundwater protection measures that support groundwater conservation and protection in the Highlands.



Strategic Priority Area

Excerpt from the Sustainability Task Force -Final Report

Transportation

Motorized transportation is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Highlands, and Highlands has one of the highest road lengths per capita in the province (at 23m). As transport hits the core of our lifestyles, and the geographic and infrastructure layout of Highlands, it is a complex issue with no simple solutions. We believe that Highlands can reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation by improving policies and practices regarding motorized and nonmotorized transportation that reduce energy consumption (fewer, shorter trips using more efficient modes of transport), deliver appropriate levels of service, and assure an emphasis on public policy and spending that reflects the values of respect for the environment and prudent use of natural resources. These will in turn positively affect the health of the Highlands population.

Sustainable transportation refers to human behaviour, as well as use of appropriate technology. The objective is to consider not only non-polluting and greener transport choices, regardless of means and technology used, but also individual and social emphasis to promote these choices.

Recommendation 7

 Initiate ongoing dialog on transportation

Recommendation 8

 Improved pedestrian and non-motorized corridors

Recommendation 9

Improved public transportation, park & ride and carpooling

Recommendation 10

Adopt the Near Zero
 Emission Vehicle (NZEV)

Delice

Infrastructure

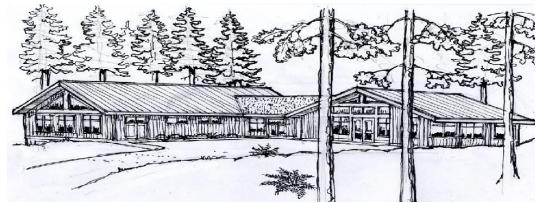
ISSUE	PRIORITY	STATUS	NEXT STEPS
Roads			
Annual Road Structure and surface Assessments	ONGOING		Adequate budget being allocated for ongoing road maintenance
Transit/ Transportation	нісн	Council Transit Liaison appointed.	Participate in as many opportunities regionally to enhance local transportation opportunities. STF







ISSUE	PRIORITY	STATUS	NEXT STEPS
Physical Assets			
Juan de Fuca Recreation Facility	HIGH	Ongoing process	To support the management of the WSPR facilities for the benefit of all residents and users
Park Management Plan	HIGH	Eagles Lake Bylaw Adopted	Establish Management Plans for Twinflower and Caleb Pike Heritage Park
Community Hall	HIGH	Preliminary Design complete	Construction



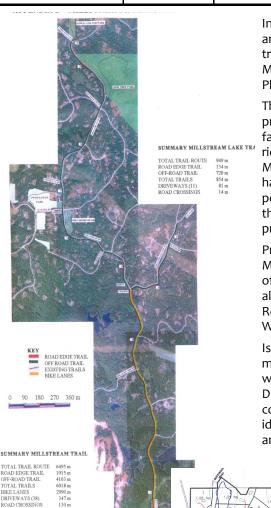


Strategic Priority Area

Infrastructure

Highlanders are proud of the system of parks and trails in our community. There are trails within provincial and regional parks, and some designated trails in road rightsof-way and municipal parks. On routes without roadside trails, **Highlands** roads are often used as trails.

ISSUE	PRIORITY	STATUS	NEXT STEPS
Trails			
Roadside Trail and Cycle Network	HIGH	Report Complete	Staff recommendations on implementation



In April, 2010 residents attended an open-house and were invited to view plans of the proposed trail system along Millstream Road, lower Millstream Lake Road, Munn Road and Woodridge Place, and to complete a survey.

Those attending expressed their support for the proposed trail plans and standards, and were in favour of trail sharing by pedestrians and horse riders, and designated bike lanes along lower Millstream Road. They was particular interested in having trails located off the road edge as much as possible. Almost all respondents indicated that they or members of their family would use the proposed trails if they were built.

Priority items identified was a trail along the Millstream Road corridor and for bike lanes south of the Millstream Lake Road junction. There was also support for trails along lower Millstream Lake Road and Munn Road, and, to a lesser extent, Woodridge Place.

Issues that arose by residents were the need for more loop trails and east-west connector trails within the municipality, and the value of the District working with landowners to acquire trail corridors or easements. Those attending also identified a need to integrate municipal, regional and provincial trail planning .



Parkland and Trails Update 2012

Under Rezoning Application RZ-02-10 - The applicant is required to transfer to the Capital Regional District approximately 16.4 hectares

of land to be used for regional park and trail purposes.



The **HELP** program operates at two levels:

- 1. At one level, it is designed to teach individuals and their families to become personally prepared. Using the Individual & Neighbourhood ALL-HAZARD Emergency Preparedness Workbook, they will learn to:
- minimize existing hazards around the home
- store emergency supplies
- act quickly and appropriately when any emergency strikes
- be prepared to evacuate the home or neighbourhood
- feel more confident because they are prepared and self sufficient
- 2. At another level, the program will also teach neighbours how to organize themselves into a HELP neighbourhood emergency preparedness group. Some of the training that may be offered could include:
- team leadership
- · first aid
- utilities and fire suppression
- light urban search and res-
- communications and transportation
- shelter and care giving
- damage assessment

Public Health and Safety

ISSUE	PRIORITY	STATUS	NEXT STEPS
Emergency Coordinator	MEDIUM	Interim appointment made	Recruit new coordinator - In Process
Neighbourhood HELP Groups	ONGOING	Ongoing Process	Council will support the recruitment of volunteers through newsletter and web site advertisement

Highlands
Emergency
Local
Preparedness
(HELP)

HELP proposes to establish local neighbourhood groups to help neighbours help neighbours during the initial periods in and following an emergency such as wildfire, earthquake, and snowstorm, with possible safety alerts. Neighbourhood groups will be relatively small (15-25 homes) to facilitate emergency communication, and within reasonable walking distance of each other, when public services may have failed.

ISSUE	PRIORITY	STATUS	NEXT STEPS
Fire Halls	HIGH	Detailed Design in Process - East Hall	Design Approval
Day Crew	HIGH	Ongoing process	Continue to advertise and recruit
Communication and Utility Transmission	ONGOING	Highlight local roles or other authority having jurisdiction	
Pesticides and Point source contamination	ONGOING	Highlight local role or other authority having jurisdiction	

East Fire Hall will be replaced in 2013. Consultant currently preparing work plan for detailed design work and tendering.





Day Crew busy putting out a local bush fire.

Do you have an interest in volunteering?

Contact the Fire Chief at 250-474-2633.

FIRE FIGHTER RECRUITMENT

Practices are held Thursday nights from 7:00- 9:00 pm.

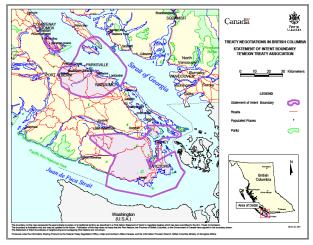
Day practices are also held once each week and additional practices from time to time usually on Saturday or Sunday.

As a probationary member you are expected to attend at least one regular practice each week and as many extra practices as possible for a period of 6 months. Does this sound like something you can committee to?



Administrative/ Governance

ISSUE	PRIORITY	STATUS	NEXT STEPS
Treaty Process/ First Nations Relations	ONGOING	Participate in the Te'Mexw Treaty Advisory Committee	Continue participation in the Treaty Process to the fullest extent possible. Develop and enhance relations with local First Nations governments.



Monitoring Results

Onsite monitoring of groundwater indicates that contamination associated with the lagoons is contained within the site boundaries and predominantly around the historic lagoon area.

History:

- Prior to 1974, the Millstream Meadows site was privately owned and operated as a septage disposal facility.
- At that time, the disposal of waste was largely unregulated. Waste received at the site included septage and other trucked liquid wastes, which also contained oily wastes.
- Beginning in 1974, the provincial government assumed ownership of the site. The CRD assumed operational responsibility for the site in 1974.
- The CRD took ownership of the site in
- Capping and closure of the Millstream Meadows site occurred between 1984 and 1990.

Environmental Monitoring:

- Environmental monitoring at the site began in 1995.
- A detailed site investigation was conducted in 1999/2000 to identify the extent of on-site contamination and the potential for off-site movement. The results identified hydrocarboncontaminated soil and groundwater confined to the former septage lagoons. No off-site movement of contamination was identified.

The Governments of Canada and British Columbia are in negotiations on the Te'mexw Treaty with five Coast Salish First Nations on Lower Vancouver Island. The local governments who may be impacted by this treaty (Colwood, Esquimalt, Highlands, Langford, Metchosin, Saanich, Sooke and View Royal) have come together to identify and share their interests and concerns.

ISSUE	PRIORITY
Millstream Meadows Remediation	ONGOING
STATUS	NEXT STEPS

- Based on the results of the investigation, a monitoring program was developed and the site has been monitored twice per year since 2000.
- In late 2007, contamination was identified on the property outside the boundary of the lagoon area.
- The CRD responded quickly by increasing site monitoring and developing plans for remediation of the site. As a precautionary measure, bottled water and well testing was offered to nearby residents.

Site Remediation:

- The site will be remediated beginning in the summer of 2008.
- This work will involve the excavation of the contaminated soil from the former lagoons. The contaminated soil will be trucked off-site and disposed at a permitted facility.
- The remediation will remove the source of the contamination to protect local groundwater quality.
- It is expected to take up to four





months to fully excavate the lagoons and complete the remediation. The goal is to complete all work in the dry season.

- All work will be completed under the direction of a qualified professional.
- The site will continue to be monitored a minimum period of three years after the remediation is complete.

Source: http://www.crd.bc.ca/remediation/documents/ Backgrounder.pdf



"Our residents have had the opportunity to gain employment skills, volunteer in the community, develop financial literacy,... while living in a safe, affordable home." "The building has been positively embraced by the neighbourhood." "The project has been accepted and there has been incredible support for the housing from the

community."

- Regional Housing Trust Fund

Survey Comments 2009

CRD Housing Fund Regional Success

Administrative/ Governance

ISSUE	PRIORITY	STATUS	NEXT STEPS
Wildlife Interface	MEDIUM	Report under preparation	Bring forward report to
Regulations			Committee of the Whole

Wildfire Causes	Number
Arson	11
Equipment use	3
Open Burning	12
Campfire	10
Juvenile fire starter	6
Lightning	12
Miscellaneous	25
Smoker	28
Total	107

Wildfire in the Highlands

The B.C. Wildfire Management Branch provided the following summary of wildfires from their fire reporting system that occurred in the District of Highlands boundaries from 1950 - 2008

Additional Information on wildfires can be found on The District's website at: http://www.highlands.ca/emergency program/

ISSUE	PRIORITY	STATUS	NEXT STEPS
Regional Cooperation	HIGH	Examine appropriate ways to participate in regional services	CRD Housing Trust Full Membership under consideration pending consultation

Examples of Regional Issues:

Opinion poll in October 2012 Newsletter: CRD Housing Trust Fund

Highlands is one of three municipalities that do not currently take part in this service, although financial contributions to the trust fund have been voluntarily made annually since its inception in 2005. A formal request has been made to have the District become a full member in the service. The cost is shared among participating municipalities based on 50% each of converted assessed property values and population. The 2012 cost for the District totals \$6,134.00. Council is currently weighing the regional benefit, which has been demonstrated to be very positive, with becoming a full financial participant in a service that may be challenging to opt out of in future, and welcomes your views.









Deer Management **CRD Board Decision**

On December 12, 2012, the CRD Board supported the recommendations in staff report PPS/RP 2012-37. The recommendation is as follows:

- a. Adopt the framework for a Regional Deer Management Strategy set out in the attachments to Report No PPS/RP 2012-37
- b. Authorize staff to share the report with municipalities to gain concurrence as well as cooperation to implement the management measures within their jurisdiction; and
- c. Approve the additional budget necessary to support the proposed CRD role in implementing a regional deer management strategy in 2013.

Staff level meetings will be held with the Peninsula Municipalities (including Saanich) first regarding the report information. Presentations to Councils will follow to outline the potential implementation of management measures at the local level.



Strategic Priority Area

Administrative/ Governance

Citizen involvement is an important element of maintaining a successful community as no community can succeed without the active participation of its volunteers. Many of the District's functions would not be possible without the

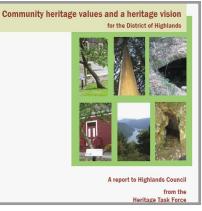
collective efforts

of the District,

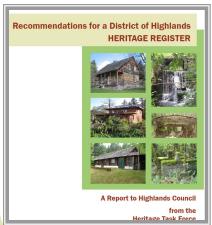
volunteers and

residents.

ISSUE	PRIORITY	STATUS	NEXT STEPS
George Cuff Corporate Review Recommendations	LOW	Under Consideration	Bring forward to a Committee of the Whole meeting
Committee Structure	HIGH	Examine current Committee structure in the context of low number of referral and lack of volunteers	Provide an analysis of the current situation.
Soil Deposit and Removal Regulations Review	MEDIUM	Comprehensive Regulatory Scheme Enacted	One year review
Integrated Pest Management Planning	LOW	Council Direction	Committee of the Whole Discussion
Heritage Property Recognition	HIGH	Task Force Recommendations made	Staff report to move forward to create a Heritage Register



This report fulfills the first phase of work outlined by the District of Highlands Council for the Heritage Task Force. The purpose of the report is to identify heritage values and establish a heritage vision for the Highlands. The report is divided into two main sections. The first summarizes the Task Force findings, while the second describes the planning and community consultation process undertaken by the Task Force on which the findings are based. In this process, the community was provided with a definition of heritage and then asked to provide input on heritage values in the Highlands. The value statements from the community were then used to develop the heritage vision statement for the Highlands.



This report fulfills the second phase of work. Its purpose is to make recommendations to Council for property, buildings or other areas of the municipality to be included on a Community Heritage Register. The Task Force developed an inventory of heritage sites for consideration by reviewing the list of heritage resources generated by the community consultation. Each site was examined in relation to the community heritage values, and a list of places was developed for further research and potential site visits. The Task Force identified twenty sites to be considered for the Community Heritage Register, and nineteen are being recommended to Council for registration. This report provides specific recommendations regarding the heritage sites being put forward for the register, as well as a number of general recommendations for the ongoing recognition, conservation and celebration of the

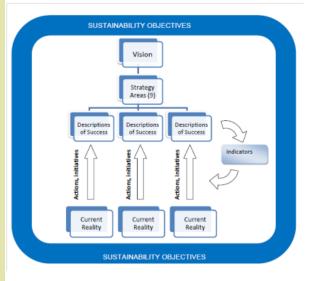


The Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) is a framework to help the Highlands reach its sustainability goals. It was informed by the final report of the Highlands Sustainability Task Force (STF), and developed by the Whistler Centre for Sustainability, the Sustainability Strategy Advisory Committee (SSAC), and staff. The ICSP is the community's highest level policy and will guide all future planning and decision-making. The Highlands' Official Community Plan (OCP) will be updated to align with the vision and

Land Use

ISSUE	PRIORITY	STATUS	NEXT STEPS
Sustainability Task Force (STF) OCP Level Policy Issues	HIGH	ICSP Complete - OCP Policies prepared by Consultant	Staff to bring forward report with DRAFT OCP Policies for consultation in early 2013

The purpose of the Highlands Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) is to provide a framework to identify what kind of community the Highlands residents want in the year 2030 and what needs to happen now in order to get there. Based on sustainability objectives, it contains the community's vision statement, nine strategy areas and descriptions of success. A set of indicators was also developed to measure the Highlands' progress as it works to become more sustainable. Each year, the indicators will be measured and reported, and performance will inform future action planning with the engagement of the community. By undertaking this planning process on an ongoing basis, the Highlands will continue to move toward a sustainable future.



The District of Highlands' ICSP process is called Sustainable Highlands. The main components of the Highlands ICSP are:

Strategy Areas

Building and Sites

Economy and Work

Transportation and Mobility

Sustainable Highlands

Land Use and Natural Area

Healthy Community

Food

The Sustainability Task Force had diverse backgrounds including scientific research, business, and government (provincial and local). The sustainability models they explored included:

- The Natural Step and
- Five Capitals

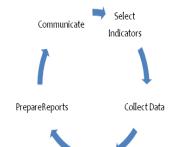
The latter model particularly influenced how the STF thought of the challenges facing the Highlands. The model nest manufactured and financial capital within social and human capital and all within natural capital.



the NATURAL STEP

An ongoing monitoring and reporting system is an essential component of a community sustainability plan for measuring sustainability performance as well as communicating results and progress.

The process for ongoing monitoring and reporting follows these steps>



Analyze



goals of the ICSP.

Strategic Priority Area

There are several references in the Official Community Plan regarding secondary suites: Section 2.2 Land Use

- General Many community members also wish to provide housing for family members through suites or through subdivision. While there is a desire to accommodate these needs within the community, there is also a responsibility to protect the water supply for current residents. Consideration should be given to the impact of secondary suites and tourist accommodation units. Policy 17

To limit policy 20 below,
Council will develop a
strategy with an objective to
"legalize" where possible and
regulate all existing
secondary suites and
secondary residences before
considering allowing suites

Policy 18
To limit policy 20 below, the
District will not permit such
secondary residences until a
reasonable understanding of
the groundwater supply for
the Highlands has been
undertaken
Policy 20

Policy 20
Notwithstanding minimum lot sizes and in accordance with above policies 17 and 18,
Council may make considerations for secondary residences, either through secondary suites or rezonings. This should be addressed through the zoning bylaw.

Land Use

ISSUE	PRIORITY	STATUS	NEXT STEPS
Secondary Suites	HIGH	Initial work in ICSP OCP Policies	Staff to draft Terms of Reference for Consultant services
Subdivision Servicing Bylaw	MEDIUM	Revisions under preparation	Bring Draft forward for review

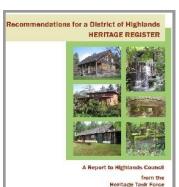
Strategic Priority Area - Social Sustainability

ISSUE	PRIORITY	STATUS	NEXT STEPS
Volunteer Recognition	HIGH	Ongoing - next event scheduled for the summer of 2014	Plan and Deliver
Highlands Community Market	ONGOING	Council to continue to support	

Citizen involvement is an important element of maintaining a successful community as no community can succeed without the active participation of its volunteers. Many of the District's functions would not be possible without the collective efforts of the District, volunteers and residents.



Pike House - Easter Egg Hunt







Summer Market

