



Highlands News



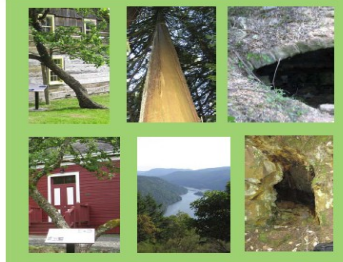
At the beginning of each month a concise guide to events and important dates in Highlands will be posted on <www.highlands.ca>. Visit the website to help plan your month!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Heritage Task Force, Phase 1 Report
- Volunteer Opportunities!
- Community Calendar

Community heritage values and a heritage vision for the District of Highlands

The Phase One report from the Heritage Task Force is a great read for Highlands residents. See page 3 for a summary and online link to this important document.



A report to Highlands Council
from the
Heritage Task Force

MAYOR'S MESSAGE During the third week in January, separate and unexpected emergencies touched Highland families. Both incidents brought innumerable phone calls and emails my way. In the days following those events, Highlanders demonstrated compassion with an outpouring of concern and support for those who were impacted by sudden change, and in doing so, highlighted one of the many great benefits about living in Highlands - we are a community connected by more than this place; we also connect through our core values.

Annual financial and budget preparation, which began with the 2011 strategic planning session held last fall, will continue with an introductory overview scheduled for this month's Committee of the Whole, (visit <highlands.ca> homepage calendar for agenda - posted on the Friday before). Join us - everyone is welcome to attend.

Mayor Jane Mendum

PROPOSED CHANGES TO HOURS OF OPERATION AT HARTLAND LANDFILL - FEEDBACK WANTED CRD staff welcome input on proposed changes to operating hours at the Hartland Landfill until **February 25**. Representatives from the District of Highlands have worked with CRD staff over the years to ensure that potential impacts to the District due to operational changes at the landfill (tipping fees, operating hours, bans, etc.) are carefully considered and if necessary, mitigated through existing Good Neighbour practices.

Visit crd.bc.ca/waste/hartland/2011-hour-adjustment.htm to fill out an online form or phone 250-474-9613 for more information.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS Fire Chief Guy Brisebois would like to remind residents a burning permit is required for any burn pile larger than 1 by 1 metre all year round. Burning permits are issued by the Highlands Volunteer Fire Department (contact information, page 4). **If you see a large fire in Highlands between October 15 and April 15, Fire Department officials advise residents to report it.** Between April 15 and October 15, fire hazard ratings increase due to dry conditions and burning is either restricted or prohibited; any visible smoke or fire of any size should be reported immediately. Burning restrictions are kept current and are posted at <highlands.ca>.

Sadly, a Highlands family suffered the total loss of their home last week due to fire. The speed with which the fire burned is thought to be a factor in the total loss. Thankfully, no one was injured. The Fire Chief confirms that a quick response was made by the department, and ample water was available nearby to fight the blaze; unfortunately, the house was fully engulfed by the time fire fighters were paged out.

Although this home was built in the 80's, a recent media article found here: www.ottawasun.com/news/ottawa/2011/01/23/17004151.html observes that modern homes may burn up to six times faster than thirty years ago due to materials used in both construction and furniture fabrication. The author suggests that consideration be given to the installation of a sprinkler system when constructing a new home.

The Highlands Fire Department recommends that residents consider stationing a fire extinguisher in their home (and workshop) with which to suppress small fires, (rated ABC - this is the multipurpose dry chemical extinguisher). Always, **maintain working smoke alarms, establish and practice a family escape plan and call 9-1-1 in an emergency.**

FEBRUARY WILL BRING STAFFING CHANGES TO THE DISTRICT

The District extends a warm welcome to Municipal Planner Laura Beckett as she returns to the office following maternity leave. Laura's hours of work will be Monday to Thursday, 8.30 a.m. - 4 p.m..

At the same time, the District's wishes to thank the interim planner Jon Munn for the important work he contributed to the District over the past year. We wish him well in his future endeavours.

The District also wishes to thank June Cameron for all she has contributed over the past eight years. June will be dearly missed. We wish June all the best in her retirement.

Community News

VOLUNTEERISM: *Performing an act of kindness, freely giving of your talent, time, and effort for the simple fulfillment of community expectations.....*



DOES volunteering an hour or two each month seem appealing to you? If so the District of Highlands is still inviting appointments to the following committees:

- **Community Infrastructure and Services Committee**
- **Fiscal and Environmental Committee**
- **Heritage Task Force**
- **Board of Variance**

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: tneurauteur@highlands.ca by February 15, 2011.

Generally, committees meet once per month in the evening with the exception of July, August and December.

UPDATE - COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS At its regular meeting held January 25, Council made the following appointments:

- Acting Mayor: Councillor Ken Williams (interim)
- Community Centre Task Force, Alternate Council Liaison: Councillor Ken Williams
- Sustainability Strategy Advisory Committee, Alternate Council Liaison: Councillor Ken Williams

Council endorsed the first two appointments in response to Councillor Johannesen's temporary absence due to an unexpected medical emergency. The third provides an alternate liaison role with regard to this recently created task force.

Note: Councillor Johannesen will return in due course. We wish him a speedy recovery!

VICTORIA FAMILY COURT AND YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE At its annual general meeting held January 26 at Victoria City Hall, Highlands Councillor Sigurd Johannesen was appointed as Chair for 2011. Councillor Cynthia Day from the City of Colwood was reappointed as Vice Chair, and will serve as Chair until Councillor Johannesen's return.

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!



GREATER VICTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS In 2011, all branches of the library will be open Sundays from 1 - 5 p.m.. Last fall the library board decided to make Sunday openings a priority, and savings were found in other areas to make it possible.

You can now chat online with a reference person to have your questions answered. Visit www.gvpl.ca

Kobo Ereaders will soon be available for checkout to library members. Ebooks can be checked out, (loaded onto the device) and will magically disappear on their due date!

The board is embarking on an update for the Strategic Plan, and opportunities for public input will be provided in the spring. The library will also begin implementing the Facilities Plan that was completed last fall.

Highlands Councillor Karel Roessingh has been elected board chair for 2011.

INTEGRATED COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING (ICSP) - UPDATE

The Sustainability Strategy Advisory Committee (SSAC) (a project-specific steering/working group) has been evaluating 42 recommendations listed in the Sustainability Task Force final report. Alongside the District planner and consultants from the Whistler Centre for Sustainability, members are working to rate specific actions to achieve sustainability goals for year 2030. A series of indicators will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of various actions and to monitor progress in reaching desired outcomes in nine strategy areas ranging from energy and transportation to water and land use.

The consultants are currently drafting a set of performance indicators along with proposed text for the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan.

For more information, visit highlands.ca/sustainability/.

2011 Council Meeting Schedule

February: 7 | 21
March: 7 | 21
April: 4 | 18
May: 2 | 16
June: 6 | 20
July: 18
August: 22
September: 6 | 19
October: 3 | 17
November: 7 | 21
December: 5 | 19



PARKS EVENTS FEBRUARY

Another exciting month at CRD Parks:

Feb 5 | 1-3.30pm

Moss Landscapes at Francis King Park

Feb 6 | 1-2.30pm

Ugh! A Slug! At Mill Hill Park

Feb 12 | 10.30-12pm

Birding Basics at Witty's Lagoon Park

Feb 12 | 7-9pm

Owl Prowl at Mill Hill Park

Feb 13 | 1-2.30pm

Rotten Luck at Francis King Park

Feb 19 | 10-12pm

Lone Tree Hill Ramble at Lone Tree Hill Park

Feb 20 | 1-2.30pm

Nature CSI at Elk Beaver Lake Park

Feb 27 | 1-3.30pm

The Other Side of Witty's at Witty's Lagoon Park

For information call **250.478.3344** or visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks.

STAY INFORMED: visit the District website: highlands.ca

Council & District News

HIGHLANDS HERITAGE VISION AND VALUES - UPDATE The Highlands Heritage Task force presented their phase one report to Council at its January 17th Committee of the Whole meeting. It is based on an extended consultation with Highlands residents to establish a Heritage Vision and Values for the community. Council enthusiastically endorsed the report and its recommendations.

A HERITAGE VISION STATEMENT FOR THE HIGHLANDS:

"The Highlands community's vision of heritage is rooted in people's shared experience of a sense of place. It is dynamic, representing the living and changing nature of heritage. It includes the tangible and intangible elements of both the past and the present. It contains ideas and memories. It is who we are and how we identify ourselves. It is our community's inheritance. The heritage vision recognizes examples of community history and the desire of residents to feel connected to nature, by supporting the idea of conservation. It celebrates the aesthetic and innovative; and honours the uniqueness of the Highlands community's social fabric."

Highlands community heritage values are reflected in the five following interrelated tangible and intangible elements:

1. Recognizing examples of community history such as:

- Historical structures or works (e.g. Caleb Pike house, the Old Schoolhouse, Corry Road)
- Landscape modified by human activity (e.g. lakes, fields)
- Items that represent past industry (e.g. mining, logging, old growth stumps)
- Records of the past (e.g. archives, museum artifacts)

3. Supporting the vision of environmental conservation such as:

- Ecosystems
- Old growth trees
- Animal habitat
- Natural phenomena (e.g. lightning struck trees)
- Glacial erratics

5. Honouring the uniqueness of the Highlands community's social fabric (past & present) such as:

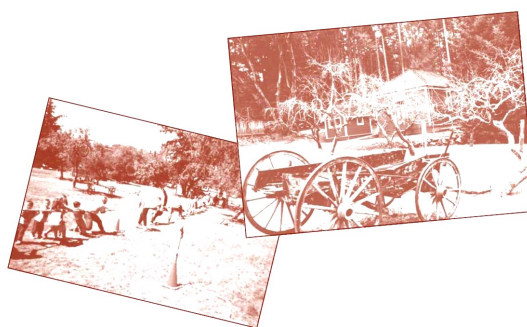
- Ways of life
- Stories
- First Nations traditions and activities
- Community interdependence
- Community events

2. Sustaining the ability for residents to feel connected to nature such as:

- Viewing the night sky
- Travelling on peaceful trails or roads
- Enjoying natural spaces

4. Celebrating the aesthetic & innovative (past & present) such as:

- Viewsapes
- Creative work of community (e.g. by artists/scientists/leaders)



In its next phase of work the Heritage Task force will use the vision statement and the expression of community values to establish a list of items for consideration in a community heritage register. The entire Heritage Task Force Phase 1 report can be viewed at: http://highlands.bc.ca/boards_committees/heritage_task_force/. Your comments are welcome. If you have ideas about items to include on the list please e-mail: heritage@highlands.ca



HIGHLANDS FOLK MUSIC NIGHT

Highlands Folk Music presents the Jugbandits on Saturday, February 12th - A fun and lively semi-traditional jug band!

The Jugbandits are a recently formed jug band made up of veteran local musicians who back up their vocals with traditional instruments, as well as kazoos, washboard and even a little percussive dancing.

Come join us for what's sure to be a crowd pleasing night of folk music.

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

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

Time: 7:30pm

Place: Caleb Pike House, 1589 Millstream Road

Charges: \$5.00 /person - coffee, tea and goodies provided

RCMP INCIDENTS REPORT

December 16, 2010 to January 15, 2011

DECEMBER

- 16 - Harass/Obscene Phone Call - Finlayson Arm
Unspecified Assistance - Munn
- 17 - Unspecified Assistance - Munn
Unspecified Assistance - Jayhawk
- 18 - Break & Enter-Residence - Finlayson Arm
- 19 - Possession-Cannabis 30G & Under - Millstream
- 20 - Mischief \$5000 or Under - Eagles Lake
- 21 - Unspecified Assistance - Westridge
- 22 - Suspicious Pers/Veh/Occurrence - Millstream /Millstream Lake
- 23 - Suspicious Pers/Veh/Occurrence - Robb
Impaired Operation Motor Vehicle (Alcohol) - Millstream /Millstream Lake
- 24 - Suspicious Pers/Veh/Occurrence - Finlayson Arm
Break & Enter-Residence - Cheryl Pl
- 25 - Suspicious Pers/Veh/Occurrence - Stewart Mountain / Millstream
- 26 - Abandoned Vehicles - Millstream /Stewart Mountain
- 29 - False Alarms - Lorimer
Property-Found - Millstream

JANUARY

- 1 - Driver Motor Vehicle Over 80mg - Millstream /Caleb Pike
Theft from MV Under \$5000 - Caleb Pike /Millstream
- 4 - Animal Calls - Millstream /Hanington
- 5 - Unspecified Assistance - Danby
- 14 - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Stag /Munn
Property-Lost - River Rd
- 15 - 911-False/Abandoned Calls - Millstream Lake

TRANSPORTATION TUNE UP The CRD hosts SustainableU, an online resource promoting sustainable living. Learn ways to maximize cost savings while minimizing environmental impacts by visiting:

www.sustainableu.ca/courses/transportation-tune-up.aspx

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

This month we recognize long time resident Val Fletcher. Val currently serves as the District's Emergency Coordinator, and has done for a number of years. Beyond this, he volunteers in a Emergency Social Services (ESS) role, prepared to provide emergency assistance to any resident and their family as required. This could include arranging emergency shelter or any number of other needs.

Coordinating the neighbourhood HELP groups, liaising with outside agencies, staying current with best practices, implementing ways in which Highlands can improve its resources and plans, and educating council, residents and staff are just some of the ways in which Val works to promote the value of emergency preparedness. Val also provides a valuable service to members of our volunteer Fire Department, ensuring that fire fighters are medically monitored, hydrated and nourished while attending calls.

Our community is very fortunate to have Val's considerable skill and knowledge at hand. Thank you, Val, for your generosity and for your many important contributions to Highlanders and our peace of mind!



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



THE HIGHLANDS HORSE AND TRAIL CLUB held a work bee on Saturday, January 15, 2011. Three volunteers cleared and re-routed the trail through Twinflower Park. It is a seasonal trail because of the water, but will be easily accessible when the footing is drier. Anyone wishing to join us please contact Marian - taylormandj@shaw.ca

FEBRUARY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

February 2 - Heritage Task Force**, School House, 7pm

February 4 & 18 - CRD Recycling Blue Box pickup

February 7 - Regular Council Meeting**, School House, 7pm

February 8 - Sustainability Strategy Committee, School House, 7pm

February 14 ♥ - Committee of the Whole **, School House, 7pm

February 21 - Regular Council Meeting**, School House, 7pm

February 23 - Community Infrastructure**, School House, 7.30pm

**details elsewhere in the Newsletter*

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

HIGHLANDS HISTORY - DID YOU KNOW? *Copper in the Highlands...*

Copper was the first metal mined on Vancouver Island, starting in 1863 with the discovery of copper ore in a shaft dug by Captain Jeremiah Nagle in what is now East Sooke. It was probably the fury of copper mining activity around Skirt Mountain from 1887-1902, however, that inspired some to try mining in the Highland District. A shaft roughly 40 feet in length was dug on Section 76 in the very centre of the Highlands, likely right after the parcel was pre-empted (Crown granted in 1907). Highland pioneers William Dixon (who was granted Section 69 in 1911) and William Rountree (Section 72, 1911) tried their hands at digging for copper ore on their properties. Though there was some copper ore found at Skirt Mountain and other locations on Vancouver Island, apparently none of the shafts sunk in the Highlands yielded any ore of value.

Note: It is known that during the early copper mining activity, hundreds of tons of ore were removed from around Skirt Mountain by way of aerial tramway. The ore was reportedly contaminated with magnetic iron oxide.



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.