



Highlands News

The Highlands Council Newsletter

Keeping you informed!

Mayor's Message

Welcome to this edition of the Highlands News. Residents who visit the district website - highlands.ca - will notice a recent addition to the home page - the council agendas are now 'live'. Look for the agenda button, which will take you to a current council agenda; there you can view the same information that council members receive. Thank you to district staff who have made this possible.

This month, council will work to identify its priorities, and then the annual process of setting the district's budget will commence. Highlanders are always welcome to attend council or committee meetings, and to ask questions and provide input. Agendas for council and Committee of the Whole meetings are published on Fridays ahead of the Monday meetings. Please visit the district's webpage for the annual meeting calendar, along with a wealth of information pertaining to Highlands.

The clean up and remediation of Millstream Meadows continues to be a priority for the District. Please read the article in this newsletter for further information.

On January 29th, the provincially appointed arbitrator's decision on the Regional Urban Containment Servicing Area in Highlands became binding upon the CRD's Regional Growth Strategy bylaw. To view a map outlining the subject area and for more information, please visit the district's website, or the district office.

This month, Council recognizes two residents who help to reduce roadside litter; we know there are many more unsung heroes in our midst, and our appreciation goes out to each of you for your community-mindedness. Thank you!

Mayor Jane Mendum

February 2009

Contents:

Community News.....	2
Police Report.....	2
Council News.....	3
Community Calendar.....	4
Contact List.....	4

In this issue:

- Council welcomes its 2009 committee members
- Millstream Meadows update
- New! Full council meeting agendas are available on the district website!

Comprehensive Groundwater Study Update

Finally, after snow-related delays, two of the three sets of groundwater monitoring equipment proposed for this phase of the study have been installed. Hurray! Installed were pressure transducers, to test the depth of the water in the well, and locking lids to protect both the pressure transducer and the well itself. The pressure transducer automatically takes periodic readings. Then, once every three or four months, a District representative will download the data for long term analysis. This is the start of the monitoring program that is integral to the Comprehensive Study and to long term groundwater protection and preservation.



Information provided by Laura Beckett, Planner, DoH

Photo provided by Dwayne Smith, Golder & Assoc.

Highlands Coffee House

submitted by Zhinoos Armstrong

Just the ticket for Valentines Day! Highlands' Coffee House is pleased to bring to you Jim Brannigan, a superb musician who lives right here in our Highlands' community will be performing for the featured segment of the Highlands' Coffee House.

Jim's musical entertainment consists of Celtic, Canadian, Australian & American folk songs as well as a steady flow of Brannigan humour along with some of his own musical compositions. Jim accompanies himself on Tenor Guitar, Tenor Banjo and Irish Bouzouki and draws from a huge repertoire of Irish and Scottish folk songs. His soft brogue and sweet singing voice make him a favourite wherever he goes.

We will also have an open stage with some very talented musicians. Come join us with your family members and friends, while enjoying the great music and entertainment of the evening.

Saturday, February 14th

Caleb Pike Homestead

1589 Millstream Rd.

7:30 pm (doors open at 7:00 pm)

Charges: Honour system, with a recommended minimum \$5.00/person. Includes tea/coffee & goodies. Under the age of 15: free.

If you have talent to share, let us know!

For information call Zhinoos at 727-9561

Highlands Youth Centre

The youth program meets at 6:30 to 8:30 pm Friday evenings in the Schoolhouse basement for a fun program. All youth welcome!

Specific activities aren't available at press time. For further information, contact Bob McMinn at 250-478-4403 or email to bobmcminn@shaw.ca or phone Amy at 250-474-2847.

RCMP INCIDENTS Dec 15th - Jan 15th

With thanks to Corporal Richard Boyle and Jennifer Brown of the West Shore RCMP

Dec

18th - Bylaw-Noise - Munns Rd

18th - False Alarms - Millington Pl

18th - Firearms Act - Finlayson Arm Rd

19th - False Alarms - Lorimer Pl

20th - Collision - Non-Fatal Injuries - Stewart Mountain Rd

22nd - Abandoned Vehicle - Millstream Rd/Industrial Way

23rd - Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Munns Rd

24th - Unspecified Assistance - Millstream Rd/Industrial Way

24th - Collision - Non-Fatal Injuries - Munns Rd/ Rolla Pl

25th - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Millstream Rd/Finlayson Arm

29th - Coroners Acts - Millstream Lake Rd

29th - Abandoned Vehicles - Millstream Rd

31st - Suspicious Pers/Veh/Occur - Verona Cres

31st - 911-False/Abandoned Calls - Millstream Rd

31st - Firearms Act - Caleb Pike Rd

Jan

01st - False Alarms - Industrial Way

01st - Collision-Damage Under \$1000 - Millstream Rd

01st - Theft from MV Under \$5000 - Willis Pt/Ross Durrance

04th - Unspecified Assistance - Finlayson Arm Rd

04th - Collision-Damage Under \$1000 - Millstream Rd./ Lost Lake Rd

06th - Suspicious Pers/Veh/Occur - Caleb Pike Rd

09th - Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Millstream Rd/ Finlayson Arm

If you would like an electronic copy of the Highlands News please visit the district website's homepage - highlands.ca

Council and Municipal News

Millstream Meadows Update

In January Mayor Mendum and members of Council, accompanied by District and CRD staff, visited the Millstream Meadows site to get a better idea of what progress had been made and what remains to be done. So far a major portion of the original septage ponds have been dug to bedrock, contaminated soil removed from the site for remediation, and clean soil stored on site for eventual backfill. The excavation budget has been used up, however. Funds have been allocated to backfill the site, but there is clearly more digging to do to clean up further contaminated areas, the extent of which is currently unknown. Water is collecting in the bottom of the excavation, and Council has expressed concern that it may be contaminated and may seep into the ground. Efforts are underway to prevent further surface water from flowing into the excavation. Monitoring of the 30 test wells on site has been increased from quarterly to monthly. Council held an extraordinary meeting on Monday, January 19th to discuss the situation and has endorsed Mayor Mendum's suggestion to appeal to the Provincial Ministry of Agriculture and Lands to complete remediation of the site to numeric (all contaminants removed) standards. The CRD will continue to provide bottled water to all interested parties within a one-kilometre radius of the site. A consultant's report that identifies options for completion of the remediation will be presented to the CRD in the near future. If you have questions about the clean-up, you can contact Mary Anne Phillipone at 250-360-3148 or email mfillipone@crd.bc.ca, or visit the CRD website

Suzy the Tiger

In December Council held an in camera meeting to discuss the status of Suzy the Tiger. Highlands resident Dave Bennett, Suzy's current owner, attended.

Following thoughtful discussion, Council instructed the District's legal counsel to present a proposal to Mr. Bennett, and an agreement was reached in the form of a consent order, filed in the court registry this past week. The terms include relocation of Suzy within 6 months, and payment of a portion of the District's legal costs in this matter.

CREST

CREST, the regional emergency communication system, has appointed Gordie Logan from Colwood as chair, and Nils Jensen from Oak Bay as vice-chair of the new board. The board also passed the 2009 budget, with an overall 23% increase due to improvements and borrowing approved by last year's board to upgrade the system. Highlands' increase will be 7%, due in part to a cost-sharing formula based on land area (60%), population (10%), number of radios (15%), and number of calls (15%). The board will review the formula early this year because of disparities in the increase ranging from a negative number (-8%) to a maximum of 64% for one of the participants.

Tests have shown that recent improvements resulted in the expected 97.5% success rate in system tests in urban areas. Further improvements are underway.

Committee Appointments

Council has recently made annual appointments to its committees, and membership is as follows:

Community Infrastructure and Services Select Committee – Bob Flitton, Rick Hughes, Bessie Nuk, Tara Parkinson (Vice Chair), Ellie Rayner, Paul Reynolds, Evelyn Samuel, Hans Waelti, Fred York (Chair), Council Liaison - Councillor Diane Gill

Fiscal and Environment Select Committee – Karen Burns, Patricia Cummins, Kenn Faris (Chair), Vicky Husband, Warren Lee (Vice Chair), Elaine Limbrick, Bob McMinn, Greg Nuk, Aniko Varga, Council Liaison - Councillor Marcie McLean

Sustainability Task Force – Ann Baird, Eric Bonham, Andrew Fall, Warren Lee, Dave Mackas, Bob McMinn, Council Liaison - Councillor Allen Dobb; *(Council still has 3 appointments pending)*

Committee terms are two years each, and are staggered so as to ensure continuity of membership. Council looks forward to working with its committees, and extends appreciation to all those individuals who come forward to serve the district in this capacity.

Contact Information

Mayor Jane Mendum
250-478-9449, (c) 250-893-9440
jmendum@highlands.ca

Councillor Allen Dobb
250-391-3998, allendobb@telus.net,
allendobb.ca

Councillor Diane Gill
250-391-8928, randdgill@telus.net

Councillor Sigurd Johannesen
250-514-1880, sigurd.johannesen@shaw.ca

Councillor Marcie McLean
250-474-4725, marciemclean@shaw.ca

Councillor Karel Roessingh
250-727-9808, karel@roessong.com

Councillor Ken Williams
250-479-7497, kgwmaya@shaw.ca

Fire Chief Barry Ford
250-479-5741, b.v.ford@shaw.ca

Emergency Coordinator Val Fletcher
250-479-1725, val.fletcher@shaw.ca

CRD Bylaw Enforcement - 250-474-3351
Animal Control (24 hrs) - 250-478-0624
CRD Parks – 250-478-3344

RCMP non-emergency – 250-474-2264

Wildlife Violations – 1-800-663-WILD (9453)

Victoria Highway Maintenance
8 – 4:30 Mon-Fri – 250-474-2688

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District of Highlands Council
Newsletter

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Victoria, B.C.
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Community Calendar

- Fridays, 6:30-8:30pm – **Youth Program*** – School House
- Mon 2nd, 7 pm – **Regular Council Meeting** – School House**
- Wed 4th, 7:30 pm, **Fiscal & Env Committee** (FESC), Pike House
- Fri 6th – **CRD Recycling Pickup**
- Mon 9th, 7 pm - **Council Committee Of the Whole Meeting** (COW) - School House**
- Wed 11th, 7 pm – **La Leche League** – call 478- 0073
- Mon 16th, 7 pm – **Regular Council Meeting** – School House**
- Sat 14th, 7 pm – **Highlands Coffee House*** - Pike House
- Fri 20th – **CRD Recycling Pickup**
- Wed 25th, 7:30 pm, **Community Infrastructure Committee** (CISCC), School House

*details elsewhere in this newsletter

**please visit the district website - highlands.ca - for detailed agenda information in advance of these meetings

Seeking All Residents

Help us circulate this newsletter! It is mailed via bulk mailout, and is delivered to the community mailboxes located throughout the district. As Canada Post permits only one mailbox per address (land parcel), many residents do not receive the Highland News. If you share your household or property with others, we encourage you to pass along this newsletter to them. Additionally, we encourage all residents with internet access to regularly visit the district's website, where the current issue of the newsletter can be found along with announcements, information, and updates important to Highlanders. Do you have an idea how the newsletter can be distributed more widely within the community? Please contact the district office, or a council member, and let us know.

Volunteers of the Month

Volunteers of the month are residents Norman Bucsis and John Sarginson, who regularly pick up litter along our roadways. Norman has been doing this for 5 entire years! Thank you to both of you for caring for the environment and helping keep Highlands beautiful.