

Highlands News

July 2008

The Official Newsletter of the District of Highlands Council

RURAL LIFE NATURAL BEAUTY STRONG COMMUNITY

A message from Mayor Mark Cardinal

At our July 21st council meeting, we received a letter from **Councillor Ken Brotherston** requesting an indefinite leave of absence retro-active to May 31st, 2008. Councillor Brotherston asked that his stipend that he would usually receive from the District during that same period not be paid and that council decides where best these funds might be used to benefit the community. By unanimous consent, council granted the leave of absence. Since there is still a quorum with existing council members and me at the table, this will not affect our ability to continue to hold meetings.

I am pleased to report that the CRD has awarded the contract to **remediate the Millstream Meadows** site. Work is expected to begin in early August. We can expect additional truck traffic coming to and from the Millstream Meadows site between August 1st and the end of October. The remediation of this site has been long awaited and will be especially welcomed by the residents who live near to the site. As more information comes forward, we will continue to provide updates in our newsletters.

A reminder that we are in a NO BURNING situation right now.

Summer Water Usage – Caution!

We are experiencing a very hot and dry period right now, which is great for summer holidays but can be hazardous to creating forest fires and keeping lawns green. The District of Highlands does not have water restriction bylaws in place for groundwater use. However we'd like to remind everyone that **groundwater is NOT unlimited in supply**. Watering pastures and yards unnecessarily and for prolonged periods during daylight hours is not encouraged. There is a possibility that your irrigation water use/over use can affect your own drinking water supply as well as that of your neighbours. You will not know exactly if it might affect others until it is too late (water supply drops). We strongly discourage Highlands residents from irrigating using sprinkler systems. If absolutely needed, hand watering or drip hoses in early morning or later evening hours is much more appropriate.

Council Meeting Schedule for August

Council Meetings: Monday August 18th

Committee of the Whole: Non Scheduled

Highlands News available on email

If you would like an electronic copy of the *Highlands News*, Official Newsletter of the District of Highlands Council, please email June Cameron at the Municipal Hall at JCameron@highlands.ca.

Contacts

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Councillor Joe Kadar	Ph. 391-1409	kadardev@shaw.ca	Fire Chief Barry Ford	Ph. 479-5741	b.v.ford@shaw.ca

**** OUTSTANDING 2008 PROPERTY TAXES ****

This is a reminder that as of **4:00pm September 2, 2008** an **additional 5% penalty will be added to any outstanding 2008 taxes.** Outstanding arrears and delinquent taxes will continue to accrue daily interest at a rate set by the province.

If you have any questions regarding your taxes, please contact our office at 250-474-1773. Please note our office hours 8:30am to 4:00pm. **Late Payments must be made at the Municipal Office located at 1980 Millstream Rd. We accept cash, cheque or debit.**

Willner Rezoning Application

An application has been made by Kent Willner to rezone property located at 889 Finlayson Arm Road. Current use is one residential dwelling on just under 30 acres of land. Proposed new use is 3 smaller lots and an additional 6 tourist accommodation units. Council received input from our three advisory committees and the fire department. At the July 21st council meeting, council voted to refer the application back to the applicant for reconsideration.

Cook Rezoning Application

A rezoning application has been submitted by Dale & Stephanie Cook for their family property located at 616 Taylor Way. The current zone is Greenbelt 2 and is approximately 22 acres in size, containing one residence and two water wells. The proposed rezoning would allow an additional two smaller lots to be added with a 2.6 acre minimum size, 7.3 acre average size. The new lots are proposed for use by their two (adult) children. Council referred the application to the Fiscal and Environment, Infrastructure and Area Planning committees as well as the fire department for comments.

2007 DOH Annual Report

A representative from KPMG was present at our July meeting to present the 2007 Annual Report. This is a report on the finances of the District. According to KPMG, staff and council have made a "dramatic improvement from the end of 2005" with regard to budgeting and savings. As a general guide the District

should have an operating surplus of 25 to 40% of our budget of \$1.5 Million, which is in the range of \$400,000 to \$600,000. Currently we have a surplus in the \$300,000 range. The 2007 Annual Report can be viewed in the District office or online at: http://www.highlands.bc.ca/documents/2007AnnualReport_000.pdf

2008 Municipal Elections - November

Municipal elections will take place in November. The District has appointed staff member Tina Neurauter as our Deputy Election Officer. Mr. Tom Moore of T. Moore and Associates will be retained as our Chief Election Officer. More details on the elections can be sourced at:

<http://www.highlands.bc.ca/documents/Election2008forwebsite.pdf>

Westshore Parks & Recreation Society

Council received a request from the WSPRS to consider having a referendum question on the election ballot in November. The referendum question would be an opinion question of whether the WSPRC should consider raising \$10 million to upgrade the aging and lacking facilities at the JDF Recreation Center.

Funds would be needed to update, repair and/or expand services in the following areas: aging infrastructure, fitness & wellness center updates, construct 3 multi purpose classrooms, build additional preschool and child minding space, construct a new youth center targeting 10 to 15 year olds, new lighting for two playing fields, and expand the seniors' center.

The question was deferred to the August council meeting pending receipt of additional information.

The referendum question is separate from the velodrome redevelopment. The velodrome redevelopment has already been approved by the WSPRS and will come from a combination of funding sources. Mayor Mark Cardinal chairs the WSPRS Board and welcomes any questions the community might have on these two aspects. Additional information is available at: http://www.jdfrecreation.com/about_new.htm or by contacting Linda Barnes, JDF Recreation Administrator at: 250-474-8607.

Conservation Tips



Water Conservation Measures for your Home

Your plants are thirsty, the kids want to play in the sprinkler and your lawn is brown.....Welcome to Summer!!

Here are some suggestions to conserve water use during our hot, dry weather:

Showering: Reduce your shower time. Shortening it from 10 minutes to 5 minutes or less while using 9.5 litres/minute showerhead will save 40 litres of water each time. Turn the water off while you lather.

Washing Machines: Use anywhere between 100 to 200 liters/load. Operate at full capacity and/or if your machine has a “sud-saver” feature be sure to use it, it reuses the clean rinse water in the next load.

Lawns: Lawns need only 25 millimetres (1 inch) of water per week, including rain. Longer, infrequent watering will help to develop deeper, healthier roots. Keep your grass two to two and half inches high and you will help the soil retain moisture and reduce evaporation from sunlight and wind.

Gardens: Mulching around plants reduces the number of weeds (which compete for water) and conserves soil moisture and moderates soil temperatures. The recommended depth for mulches is 2 to 4 inches (5 to 10 cm). Good mulches are straw, leaf, bark, gravel or wood chips.

Reference: <http://www.crd.bc.ca/water/conservation/index.htm>

Regional Growth Strategy/Highlands Urban Containment Boundary

Gordon Sloan, the facilitator appointed by the province to facilitate the regional growth strategy amendment that Highlands has requested to provide piped water for the Bear Mountain development area completed his report in June. It can be viewed at:

<http://www.highlands.bc.ca/documents/ReportoftheFacilitatorGordonSloanProposedCRDAmendmentBylawNo3443.pdf>

The report was provided to the CRD Planning & Protective Services committee in July. The Committee voted to advise the province that they have received the report and no resolution was determined. It now appears that the process is in the hands of the Ministry of Development Services (formerly Ministry of Community Services). Council is not aware of any timelines associated with the Minister’s decision. For the timebeing the golf course is permitted to open, however residences are not allowed to be constructed until the piped water aspect is sorted out.

Comprehensive Groundwater Study Update

The groundwater task force received an update from Golder & Associates in June regarding their study. The study is progressing well, with the computer model having been created with the necessary levels of calibration (checks & balances). The next step will be to run the computer model using some real time data and data related to rock stratigraphy, surface water presence, and locations of existing domestic water wells.

In order to determine the best results, additional monitoring wells, NOT currently in use for any water supply are required. Specifically the consultant would like another monitoring well in the Red Cedar/White Pine area of the west highlands and one more in the far area of the east Highlands. If you own a water well that is not currently in use and would be willing to allow the consultant to use it to measure static water levels please contact Laura Beckett at the District office: 250-474-1773.

Highlands Medal of Honour

Council was privileged to present Highlands Fire Chief Barry Ford with the **Highlands Medal of Honour** for his 30 years of volunteer service as a firefighter, 27 of which has been as Fire Chief. Chief Ford has served the community as Fire Chief through incorporation and the amalgamation of the East & West fire departments. Today we have a fire department that the community can be proud of thanks in large part to Barry's dedication and efforts over the years.

Barry, his wife Verna and their children were in attendance to recognize this outstanding service achievement.

Photo: Mayor Mark Cardinal congratulating Chief Barry Ford.



Rezoning Application – Highlands Day Care Facility

On July 21st, Council gave 1st and 2nd Reading to rezoning of property at 1931 Millstream Road for a daycare facility. A public hearing is scheduled for Monday August 18th, prior to our regularly scheduled council meeting. If successful "Little Bears" may be up and running before the Fall of 2008.

Youthspace.ca

<http://www.youthspace.ca/> was launched May 22nd, 2008. The locally based website provides youth services, specifically: *Youthspace.ca is a safe space to chat or post about anything on your mind - suicide, relationships, school, stress. No issue is too big or too small. Our Support Team is made up of trained helpers who are looking forward to hearing about anything that's bugging you. You can chat, post on the support forum, or even e-mail a youth counsellor. Youthspace.ca is always anonymous and free.*

Langford Sewer Pipe Installation

The City of Langford will begin installation of a sewer and water line on Millstream Road. There is a possibility of delays. Information can be accessed at: <http://www.cityoflangford.ca/>.

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