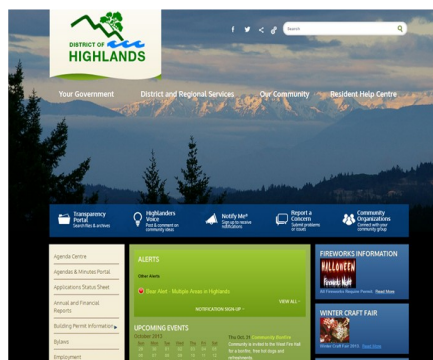




Highlands News



NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED The District is pleased to announce the release of our new website, designed with a fresh new look and user-friendly navigation.

The new design has many features including: online forms, answer to common questions, forums to engage users, alerts, calendars and agenda. The website allows the users to report community issues, discuss local projects with fellow citizens, respond to topics, use the mobile site, find community event details, and complete and submit forms. One of the best updated features is the site's search engine - locating information has never been easier!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Community Calendar and Events
- Council News
- Community Hall Update

Council Meetings

Nov - 4 & 18

You will not miss a meeting or Highlands event by using the "Notify Me" function. You simply sign up for items such as agendas and minutes, news alerts and events posted to the community calendar and an alert will be directed to either your cell phone or email account informing you of the new item. Please visit www.highlands.ca to view the much improved site.



BE BEAR AWARE !! Both the District Office and the area Conservation Officers have received numerous calls from Highlands residents regarding a Black bear sighted in the Highlands area. The area Conservation Officers would like to remind all residents that the number one attractant to bears is household garbage, and that it is the responsibility of the home owner to ensure that household garbage is securely stored until the morning of collection day. Other attractants include fruit trees, bird feeders and pet food. Fruit trees should be picked as the fruit ripens and ensure that windfalls do not accumulate. If you are unable to pick the fruit yourself consider a local organization like *Lifecycles* which offers a program called: *The Fruit Tree Project* - a team of volunteers will come and pick the fruit and share the harvest with the homeowner, volunteers and local organizations. Also, please consider only filling your bird feeders during the winter months and to feed and store pet your pet's food indoors.



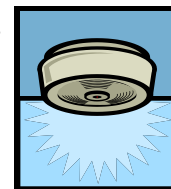
Some quick facts about bears: bears have an extremely good sense of smell and can smell food over a kilometer away; garbage is the number one bear attractant cited when reporting a call; bears that become highly food-conditioned and habituated to humans are often destroyed because of concerns for human safety; in BC it is an offence to leave out items that will attract wildlife - fines may be applied. Please visit the following websites for more information on bear safety:

www.wildsafebc.com | www.bearaware.bc.ca | www.env.gov.bc.ca/



SOIL DEPOSIT/ REMOVAL PROHIBITED AFTER OCTOBER 31 Bylaw No. 341, District of Highlands Soil Deposit and Soil Removal and Fees Bylaw regulates the deposit/ removal of soil in the District of Highlands. Section 13 f) states: every permittee holding a soil deposit or removal permit may only deliver or remove from the site that is subject to the permit between the dates of May 1 and October 31 of each year. Certain exemptions apply - please view the Bylaw No 341 section 5) for information at www.highlands.bc.ca/DocumentCenter/View/1262.

Remember to replace the batteries in any battery-operated smoke alarms on November 3rd when we turn the clocks back one hour for the end of Day Light Savings Time.



Highlands Winter Craft Fair - Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, November 17th - 10am - 4pm - Caleb Pike Heritage Park- 1589 Millstream Road

"Showcasing new vendors and ones you've grown to love. Additional tables featured in the Museum!"

For information please contact Bessie at highlandswintercraftfair@gmail.com

Community & Council News

FROM THE DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND EMERGENCY COORDINATOR—RYAN HOBBS Cellular phones are becoming a more integrated part of our way of living, yet have you ever thought about what to do with your phone in an emergency that results in a loss of power? These little technical wonders are impressive bits of technology and we have become more and more dependent. Whether it is watching a movie or surfing the web, they appear to always be on and in our hands waiting for our next whim. What happens when there is power outage for an extended period of time? We start to fear our phone's battery will drain to the point where we can't use it. Several years ago this would not have been an issue as the majority of people had powered land lines, but more and more people now rely solely on a cellular phone and if they do have a home phone, it is increasingly an internet or virtual phone (e.g. Shaw) that requires power for its modem to function.



What does this mean? I wanted to mention a few items that will help keep cellular phones in working order as long as possible in the case of an emergency.

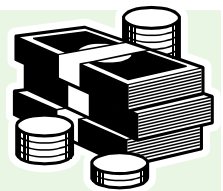
- **Turn the phone off.** This may sound simple but if you don't need to use it, turning the phone off is the best way to extend the battery life. Often people setup emergency contacts out of the area, but along with that it is also useful to have an agreed upon schedule as to when you will be contacting them, or are able to be contacted.
- **Switch off the vibrate function on your phone.** This takes more of the phone's battery to operate than the ringer. It is also advisable to turn down your ringer to its lowest level as that will use less power as well.
- **Turn your phone's screen brightness down.** The screens are perhaps the largest single point of battery usage on a modern phone and as such turning down the brightness can go a long way towards extending the battery life.
- **Turn your wireless off.** When the power is out, odds are good that your local wifi router is also out of power. Turning off your wifi as well as your bluetooth functionality will help reduce power consumption as it will stop searching for things to connect to.
- **Limit phone usage to activities that are important in an emergency.** As hard as it feels at times, checking your Facebook status or going onto Pinterest isn't something that needs to be done in an emergency situation and can use up your battery life.
- **Use text messages in place of talking on the phone if possible.** Text messages use far less power than a voice call.

Now that we have covered a few ways to make your battery last a bit longer, the next step is to charge it.

Many people have laptops at home and your cell phone is generally charging when connected to the laptop. Keep in mind that your laptop will not last very long, so turn down the screen brightness to help preserve your battery. Get a car charger. If you have a car available, they are great at charging your electronic devices. Cellular phones draw very little current while charging so there is little risk of running down a car battery while charging them. Keep a battery powered cellular phone charger in your emergency kit. There are several different battery powered electronic chargers (charge devices via USB) that are on the market.

It is important to remember that often the cellular phone is our only link to others in the case of an emergency, so keeping it operational is important.

OUTSTANDING PROPERTY TAX REMINDER As of January 1, 2014 all outstanding 2013 property taxes will become taxes in arrear and taxes in arrear will become delinquent taxes. Both arrear and delinquent taxes accrue *daily* interest at a percent (%) set by the Province. To confirm outstanding tax amounts, please contact our office between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:00 pm at 250-474-1773.



To ensure your payment or Home Owner Grant is applied to your account in a timely fashion, please drop off directly to the municipal office located at 1980 Millstream Road during hours of operation or after hours in the secure mail slot in the front door. We accept cash, cheque or debit (no credit cards).

For office closures during the winter break, please check the District's website www.highlands.ca or call the office.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS Fire Department Officials encourage residents to keep all exits in homes, shops and outbuildings clear in case of emergency. Have an escape plan and practice it with your family.

Additional seasonal reminders:

- Ensure that automobile tires are winter-worthy and drive with caution on slippery roads
- Change the batteries in your smoke alarms.

REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY. The Annual Remembrance Day Ceremony, organized by the Prince Edward Branch 91 Legion, will take place on Monday, November 11, at 11am at Veteran's Memorial Park (corner of Goldstream Ave and Veteran's Memorial Parkway). Everyone welcome.



FALL IS HERE and CRD Regional Parks has lined up a slate of nature outings and events for the season. Our naturalists lead guided walks, hikes, and drop-in events for all ages and abilities. Here is the link to the fall brochure: www.crd.bc.ca/parks/events/

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.



Community & Council News

ESQUIMALT GRAVING DOCK WATERLOT REMEDIATION PROJECT/ TERVITA HIGHWEST FACILITY – UPDATE

In September, members of Council accompanied by Chief Administrative Officer, Chris Coates met with the Honourable Mary Polak, Minister of Environment, in relation to Council's request for an independent review of provincial regulations concerning the landfilling of contaminated sediment relocated from Esquimalt Harbour to the Tervita Landfill facility at 1943 Millstream Road. Attendees took the opportunity to discuss Highlands' dependence on groundwater for domestic use, and also shared their observations concerning the desire for enhanced consultation and availability of information between provincial regulators and the community. Council's requests are currently under consideration by the Ministry.

Information documents are available on the District's website at <http://www.highlands.ca/327/Esquimalt-Graving-Dock-Sediment-Project>.

REPLACEMENT OF EAST FIRE HALL – UPDATE At the October 15 Committee of the Whole meeting, Council was presented with a pre-design review of the replacement Fire Hall. It is being designed as a post-disaster structure, and would be the first such public building in the district. The goal of this type of design is to try to ensure the stability of the building and access to rescue gear after an event such as a significant earthquake. The consultant's report can be viewed at <http://www.highlands.ca/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/749?fileID=1181>.

Subsequently, at the October 21 regular Council meeting, Council ratified the recommendation to direct staff to proceed with procuring the detailed design of the East Fire Hall. Construction of the new hall could occur in the summer of 2014.

HERITAGE PARK UPGRADES – UPDATE The upgrades to the septic system and water wells at the Caleb Pike Homestead are essentially complete, and are comprised of a new septic field, water treatment system, repairs to the well head and the installation of a water cistern. Additionally, new low flush toilets have been installed in the public washroom building, and renovations to the community kitchen located in the Dairy building are underway.



FIRE DEPARTMENT RECRUITMENT is underway for the 2014 training program. Positions are open for either firefighter or first responder positions, with particular need for people available during weekdays. The department also welcomes interest from residents of neighbouring municipalities (firefighter positions only) who work or live close to the district. All interested parties should contact Acting Fire Chief Dean Ford at 250-920-6970 before year end to learn more. Information can also be found here: www.highlands.ca.

COMMUNITY HALL – VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS

At the October 7 regular meeting, Council approved a staff recommendation to accept, with appreciation, the generous offer for stage construction and feature walls by volunteers using local wood and that staff coordinate with all involved to implement the work when appropriate. The stage will be designed with resident expertise and its presence will greatly enhance entertainment and other opportunities at the hall. If you are interested in joining the volunteers, please contact Pattie at 250-478-3319 or email: pattie@pacificcoast.net.

SEWER CONNECTION

At its September 17 regular meeting, Council considered both an Intermunicipal Servicing Agreement (ISA) between Langford, its sewer service provider and Highlands in order to extend sewage services to the property located at 1150 Bear Mountain Parkway, and a draft Sewer Regulations Bylaw. Following the 2008 provincially arbitrated amendment to the Regional Servicing Boundary (RUCSPA), a number of land parcels located near the south Millstream boundary can connect to piped services; this is the first property to receive the authority to do so. Future owners of the subject parcels will pay wholly for this service. Additionally, Council considered and endorsed a connection agreement and covenant prepared by legal counsel that provides protection to the District, including immunity from any claims for service disruption. Council approved the ISA, connection agreement and covenant; the Sewer Regulation Bylaw will return in future and include a fee structure applicable to the users of the service. To view the staff reports, visit <http://www.highlands.ca/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/09232013-134>, items 10 a. and b.



On Saturday November 9th Highlands Coffee House is delighted to present Los Gringos Locos

Los Gringos Locos is **Al Sabourin** and **Mike Sampson**. This acoustic guitar duo has been entertaining Victoria audiences with their unique **Latin/Jazz music** since 2000.

They have played numerous times in the annual Victoria International Jazz Festival, and at other Island festivals and venues. They have been featured on the A Channel morning show and have received favourable air play on local radio stations, have recorded three CDs and their music has been featured in a number of documentary videos. Known for their fiery fretwork and great melodies, this is acoustic guitar music at its finest.

Come for a night of coffee and listening to good music with your friends. Bring the kids, family and friends too. If you or someone you know would like to share your talents with us, please come early or call **778-678-2409**, to reserve a spot for the open stage segment.

Time: 7:30pm

Place: Caleb Pike House, 1589 Millstream Road

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



RCMP INCIDENTS REPORT SEPTEMBER, 2013

02 - Mischief - Millstream Lake /Munn
03 - Abandon 911 - Hanbury
06 - Assist - Lorimer Rd
07 - Noise bylaw - 600 block Millstream Lake
07 - Assist - Munn/ Woodridge
08 - Assist - Mount Work
13 - Traffic - Lakeridge
14 - Mischief - Munn/ Millstream Lake
14 - Traffic - Hazlitt Creek/ Old Mossy
15 - Traffic - Caleb Pike
17 - Assist -Millstream
17 - MVI - Ross Durance
18 - Abandon 911 - Viart
19 - Assist - Ross Durrance / Hazlitt Creek
20 - Assist - Millstream
22 - MVI - Finlayson Arm
23 - Assist MCFD—Crestwood
24 - Assault - Crestwood Crt
25 - Traffic - Millstream/ Stewart Mtn
25 - MVI - Millstream Lake/ Munn
29 - Assist - Munn/ Rolla



Another important feature of the Community Hall will be the provision of 50,000 litres of onsite water storage for fire protection purposes. This water is available for firefighting use within the surrounding area as well. In addition the building will be equipped with internal sprinklers for its own fire protection.

There is a significant local component to the construction of the Community Hall. Highlands based contractors are involved with site works, foundation, building envelope construction as well as other components of the project. The well that was drilled for the site was "witched" by a local volunteer and the yield estimated by the well driller was 75 (U.S.) gallons per minute which is a large volume of water for a well.

Construction will carry on through the winter with completion targeted for the Spring of 2014.

Additional details on the Community Hall can be seen here:
<http://bc-highlands.civicplus.com/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/>

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH Volunteers of the month are all those who brought the community together at this year's 'Highland Fling'. The community celebrated a beautiful sunny day together with excellent entertainment, vendor and community information booths.

A job well done by all the organizers and volunteers! We thank you for your dedicated commitment and many important contributions to the Highlands community!

A special thank you also goes to District residents Cathy and John Atkinson who spend many hours collecting and sorting garbage/ recycling dumped along the District's roadsides. Efforts such as these from residents really make a difference!

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
Acting Fire Chief Dean Ford—hvfdtraining@shaw.ca / 250-920-6970
Emergency Coordinator Ryan Hobbs—ccoates@highlands.ca / 250-474-1773

District of Highlands Office—250-474-1773
CRD Bylaw Enforcement—250-474-3351

CRD Animal Control (24 hrs) - 250-478-0624
CRD Parks—250-478-3344
Wildlife Violations—1-800-663-WILD (9453)

NOVEMBER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Nov 4 & 18 - Regular Council Meeting, School House, 7pm
Nov 8 & 22 - CRD Recycling Blue Box pickup
Nov 9 - Highlands Music Coffee House, Pike House, 7:30 pm
Nov 11 -Office Closure—Remembrance Day
Nov 12 - Committee of the Whole, School House, 7pm
Nov 17 - Highlands Winter Craft Fair 2013, Caleb Pike Grounds, 10am—4pm

CONSTRUCTION HAS BEGUN ON THE DISTRICT'S NEW COMMUNITY HALL facility at 729 Finlayson Arm Road. The planning process for the facility spans many years and has almost \$400,000 in funding from the Provincial Towns for Tomorrow Program. The Hall features a 1200 square foot assembly area with a sprung floor and a stage. Volunteers will be constructing the stage and will be using local wood to create feature walls in the entrance foyer. The Hall will also contain a small serving kitchen. Many green building technologies are included in the building design including living roof sections, solar thermal, heat pump and rain gardens.

HIGHLAND BRIDGES—PART TWO

Traveling north, when you turn left at the corner of Millstream and Millstream Lake Roads, you drive downhill and across a substantial structure that takes you across Millstream Creek. This is the Edwards Bridge. Harry Edwards married Caleb Pike's granddaughter, Martha Dixon, in 1907. At this time Martha's parents, Emma and Joseph Dixon, lived on Millstream Road just north of the Pike Ranch. Shortly after the wedding Joseph Dixon deserted his wife and family and moved to the San Juan Islands. Harry followed Joseph there and convinced him, with the help of a bottle of whiskey, to sign the upper Millstream property over to Harry who then, as the new owner, came back to the Dixon farm and promptly evicted Emma and her younger children. Emma then settled on property on Finlayson Arm Road. Harry and Martha Edwards, pictured above, continued to live at the Dixon farm until about 1920.



Beautiful Rocks, a fascinating book about the history of Highlands, is available at the municipal office for \$29.95, or phone Daphne Allen at 250-478-7338.