

# Highlands News

August 2008

The Official Newsletter of the District of Highlands Council

RURAL LIFE   NATURAL BEAUTY   STRONG COMMUNITY

---

## A message from Mayor Mark Cardinal

***Congratulations** to the **Community Center Task force** whose hard work and dedication has paid off with the Province giving a \$400,000 grant under the Towns for Tomorrow program towards the construction of a community center. This grant is significant in that it is an 80/20% split (province gives 80%; District 20%) meaning that the District is paying just 20 cents for every dollar spent on the center. The center must be completed by 2011 to meet the terms of the grant. **Thanks especially to residents Michael Bocking, Bob McMinn and Allen Dobb for the application preparation work.***

The most significant issue of concern to the community in August was the possibility of a resident keeping a tiger on their property, outside in a cage. Staff and council received numerous telephone calls and emails from residents voicing their concern for their own personal safety and concern for the tiger being kept in a relatively small cage. The tiger was formerly housed in a wildlife sanctuary in the Cowichan Valley area. Responding to concerns, Council held a Special Council Meeting Friday August 22<sup>nd</sup> and gave 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings to an Animal Regulation and Impounding Bylaw Amendment adding the following to the bylaw: A definition of “wild or exotic animal” – the list was very extensive; a new Section 30 which states that “No person shall keep a “wild or exotic animal” anywhere within the District; and by adding a Schedule G which lists the wild or exotic animals that would fall under this bylaw. At a meeting held August 25<sup>th</sup>, Council adopted the bylaw giving it 4<sup>th</sup> reading. The bylaw will be viewable on our website in the near future. ***Kudos to staff members Laura Beckett & Chris Leek for going above and beyond the call of duty to research this bylaw and to find viable options for the tiger.***

---

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

A reminder to all residents that we continue to be in a **NO BURNING SITUATION**. This means absolutely no campfires, brush fires, or any other open burning at anytime in our District.

***Kudos** to our fast reacting **Volunteer Firefighters** for responding to a fire in the west Highlands in early August. The fast response from our local volunteers with aid from View Royal, Willis Point and Langford fire fighters under our Mutual Aid agreement meant that the fire was contained with no loss to any structures nearby.*

---

### Council Meeting Schedule for September

Council Meetings: Monday September 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>      Committee of the Whole: September 22<sup>nd</sup> (as needed)

---

## 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](mailto:JCameron@highlands.ca).

---

### Contacts

Mayor Mark Cardinal	Ph. 474-8985 Cell 380-8828	mecardinal@shaw.ca	Councillor Michelle Mahovlich	Ph. 812-5768	michelle_mahovlich@shaw.ca
Councillor Ken Brotherston	Ph. 478-0372	kmbhighlands@shaw.ca	Councillor Jane Mendum	Ph. 478-9449	jmendum@telus.net
Councillor Andrew Fall	Ph. 391-4801	andrew@gowlland.ca	Councillor Ken Williams	Ph. 479-7497	kgwmaya@shaw.ca
Councillor Joe Kadar	Ph. 391-1409	kadardev@shaw.ca	Fire Chief Barry Ford	Ph. 479-5741	b.v.ford@shaw.ca

---

### **Celebration of Highlands Green Spaces and Heritage Sunday, September 21, 11-00 am--4-00 pm Caleb Pike House and School House**

Come join the Highlands Green Mapping Group on Sunday September 21<sup>st</sup>, 11-4 pm. For almost a year now a group of 15 dedicated volunteers, plus 3 UVIC geographers, and a team of artists, have been "mapping the spaces of the heart", bringing their knowledge, skills and experience of living in the Highlands to the compiling of a map, which would convey the unique beauty and identity of the Highlands. Come see the information, maps, historical documents, photographs and art work, that have gone into the compilation of the two sides of the map.

We welcome your comments, corrections, additions and suggestions that will help us to make the final draft before publication. This is your chance to contribute to the map. It is a community map. Please be there. Entertainment, food, and activities for all of the family, will be part of the celebration.

Many thanks to the District of Highlands Council, the Highlands District Community Association, for supporting our successful application for UBCM funding. The Common Ground Community Mapping and Life Cycles Project Society and the West Shore Arts Council have our thanks for financial assistance and advice.

### **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 21<sup>st</sup> council meeting, council voted to refer the application back to the applicant for reconsideration. At the August 18<sup>th</sup> council meeting the applicant came back to council with a revised application removing the tourist accommodation, providing a willingness to enter into a two-party covenant to protect the hilltop area, offering an amenity of \$8,769/each additional lot created and sold to non-family members, average lot size increased to 5 acres

and retention of an emergency-access only road at the south end.

Council referred the application back to the committees for feedback and to staff to get a legal opinion on the amenity.

### **Groundwater Monitoring Dataloggers**

Council received a request from the Groundwater Task Force to fund four automatic dataloggers for monitoring wells in the Highlands that will form part of the greater comprehensive groundwater study. The four wells would be monitored automatically and will record background water levels. The wells will not be wells used for existing potable or irrigation water. The funds for these dataloggers will come partially from Councillor Brotherston's forfeited salary and Gas Tax Money and amount to \$7,800.

### **Westshore Parks & Recreation Society**

At the August council meeting the motion to consider asking the referendum question was defeated.

In a letter dated August 25<sup>th</sup>, the West Shore Parks and Recreation Society has indicated that it is ***withdrawing its request to member municipalities to go forward with a November referendum for capital projects***. Citing a number of current issues the Board is dealing with, particularly redevelopment of the velodrome site, it does not "appear to be the ideal time to present our larger capital issues to the public."

### **CRD Park Dedication Ceremony**

The Barer/Kinghorn properties becoming part of Mt. Work at a Park Dedication Ceremony August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The celebration was held at the Ross Durrance entrance to Mt Work. Also on Aug 23rd the Second Lake TLC property was officially dedicated. Both of these events were well attended by Highlanders and officially represented the addition of approximately 500 acres of parkland to Highlands!

These important links to the regional trail system will help preserve the environmental integrity of the watershed for future generations.

---

## 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>

## **\*\* 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.**

## **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>

## **West Shore Studio Tour**

**Saturday and Sunday, October 4 & 5, 2008**

Please join us for the **Fifth Annual West Shore Studio Tour!** Building on our huge success in past years, 24 artists will open their homes and studios in Colwood, Langford, Highlands and View Royal to the public the first weekend of October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM to 5 PM. Maps for a self-guided tour of the studios will be available after September 1<sup>st</sup> at The Cloth Castle, Reflections Gallery, and other locations throughout the area, or on line at [www.westshorearts.org](http://www.westshorearts.org) – click on Arts Events. For more information, call Barb at 474-6717 or Marcela at 519-4729.

## HDVFD To Donate Surplus Fire Truck

The Highlands Volunteer fire department has graciously offered to donate our 1978 surplus fire truck to the Horsefly Volunteer Fire Department. The HDVFD noted that many years ago it was the recipient of donated apparatus and felt strongly that the most appropriate method of disposition of this vehicle would be to donate it. Highlands council voted in favour of this idea.

Photo: District of Highlands receiving our \$400,000 Towns for Tomorrow grant cheque. *Community Hall Task Force members (left to right) Bob Flitton, Marcie McLean, Elaine Limbrick, Chair Michael Bocking and Bob McMinn surrounding Mayor Cardinal and Minister Ida Chong (both holding the grant cheque).*



## Rezoning Application – Highlands Day Care Facility

On August 18<sup>th</sup>, Council gave zoning to a day care facility at 1931 Millstream Road

## HIGHLANDS YOUTH PROGRAM - FALL SCHEDULE

Friday evenings 6:30 – 8:30 pm  
October 3 to December 5, 2008  
Schoolhouse Basement, 1589 Millstream Rd.

Games. Swimming, movie night, skating and more. Come and join the fun Ages 6 to 12 + yrs. Highland Heritage Park Society and West Shore Parks and Recreation. **For more information:** Bob McMinn 478-4403 bobmcminn@shaw.ca

## Brotherston Family Rezoning Application

Council received a rezoning application from Marie Brotherston on behalf of land owners Ken and his mother Lorraine Brotherston. The application is to allow each dwelling unit and surrounding area on the family property (8.7 acres) located at 5247 Munn Road to have its own title, thus creating two additional legal lots but no extra dwellings. Council recommended that the application be sent to committees for comment and anticipates further deliberation at the October 6<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

### *The Highlands News*

Official publication of the District of Highlands Council  
1980 Millstream Road, Victoria, BC, V9B 6H1  
Telephone 250-474-1773 Fax 250-474-3677