



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:

- Highlands Fling—September 10
- Community Calendar
- New! Neighbourhood Block Watch Program



The Second Lake dam is likely the oldest site of its kind in the district, with records dating back to 1889. The Heritage Task Force is identifying historic places such as this, and will be presenting their next report to Council in the near future. Photo credit: Diana McMinn

MAYOR'S MESSAGE Join the fun in celebrating Highlands special day - the 2011 Highlands Fling takes place on Saturday, September 10 - see page two for details. A wonderful event has been planned by community members, with something for everyone. Bring your family, friends and neighbours along for a unique and enjoyable afternoon.

Be sure to visit highlands.ca often to stay up-to-date and informed. Information of interest and importance to Highlanders is added frequently. If you have internet access, accept our invitation to drop by!

Mayor Jane Mendum



2011 PROPERTY TAXES REMINDER

This is a reminder that as of 4:00pm September 1, 2011 an additional 5% penalty will be added to any outstanding 2011 property taxes. Outstanding taxes that are in arrears (1 year overdue) and delinquent (2 years overdue) will continue to accrue daily interest at a rate set by the province.

URGENT

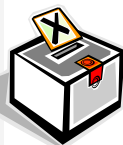
Properties with delinquent taxes will be sold in a tax sale at 10:00am on Monday September 26, 2011 unless the delinquent taxes with interest are paid in full.

If you have any questions regarding your taxes, please contact our office at 250-474-1773. Please note our office hours are 8:30am to 4:00pm.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS Highlands Volunteer Fire Department would like to remind residents to examine their address signs for visibility, including **after dark**. The District's fire fighters are trained as first responders. In the case of fire and medical or other 911 emergencies response time can become critically important.

Address signs should have numerals that are about four inches in height in contrast colour to the background. It is critical that numbers be readily visible from the road from all approaches as on many District roads emergency services will arrive from different directions. Check yours the next time you access your driveway; should there ever be an emergency at your address, both the emergency responders and your family will be glad you did.

A reminder that the Fire Hazard Rating is currently at Extreme – no burning, indoors or out, is permitted at this time. Check the signs located near each entrance to Highlands or visit the home page at highlands.ca for current information.



2011 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS - NOVEMBER 19, 2011

Municipal elections will take place on November 19, 2011.

The District has appointed staff member Tina Neurauter as our Deputy Chief Election Officer and Mr. Thomas Moore of T. Moore and Associates will be retained as our Chief Election Officer. Watch the website in the coming weeks for details regarding the 2011 Municipal General Elections.

Community and Council News

BC HYDRO'S SMART METER PROGRAM At the July 18 regular Council meeting, the issue of Smart Meter installation and concerns related to health and safety **was brought to Council's attention by residents.** The District had not been consulted or notified of this program at that time. After discussion, Council endorsed the following motion: *That Council send correspondence to BC Hydro and the Minister of Energy and Mines, with a copy to Premier Clark requesting a moratorium on the installation of Smart Meters in the District of Highlands and that consultation with the District of Highlands occur before any installations are made within the District.*

Further that Council prepare a resolution to the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) on this issue.

Subsequently, it was discovered that the City of Colwood had forwarded a resolution to UBCM, and Mayor Mendum has met with representatives from B.C. Hydro. **Residents' concerns have not yet been addressed, and it is understood that the topic will be the subject of a session at this year's UBCM Annual Convention later this month.**

B.C. Hydro has indicated that customers who receive notification of pending installation of the Smart Meters are to contact the corporation if they have concerns. Customers can reportedly request a delay in installation in order to explore any options for preferred location of the meters. In the meantime, Council will continue to seek answers to questions raised by Highlanders.

2011 Council Meeting Schedule

September: 6 | 19
October: 3 | 17
November: 7 | 21
December: 5 | 19

THE HIGHLANDS FLING 2011!

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, September 10, 1 to 5:00 pm
Caleb Pike Heritage Park, 1589 Millstream Road
Music, Games, Crafts, Entertainment and Food!

THE FOCUS THIS YEAR IS ON HEALTHY LIVING.

Organizers are seeking volunteers for shift work on the day of the Fling. To find out more, please contact Sheila Taylor, 250-474-1685 or email stay@telus.net.

NEW - BLOCK WATCH PROGRAM The Community Policing section of the Westshore RCMP Detachment has recently established a local Block Watch Program. The program is available to any neighbourhood in which over half of property owners have an interest in preventing and reducing property theft, vandalism and other property crimes. Training is provided by auxiliary RCMP members, with one volunteer captain from each neighbourhood maintaining a current list of participants. Signs are posted, and an added benefit is a reported ten percent reduction on house insurance premiums for participants. Speak with your neighbours and gather a list of participants in order to establish Block Watch in your area.



To learn more, call the Westshore RCMP detachment (non-emergency line – 250-474-2264) and indicate your interest in the Block Watch Program.

COMMUNITY CENTRE TASK FORCE – FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS The task force provided Council with a list of nineteen final recommendations pertaining to a potential design/build call-for-proposals for a Community Hall at the July 18 regular Council meeting (link: highlands.bc.ca/agendas/council/2011/documents/CCTF-FinalRecommendations.pdf). The task force has studied and consulted on the topic, gathering valuable information from many sources over the past few years since the District was awarded a \$400,000 (80/20%) grant from the Province for the construction of a Community Hall and Museum. The funding opportunity was extended in 2010, with a final completion date of March 31, 2013. Council forwarded the recommendations to staff to draft options for next steps.

Highlands Winter Craft Fair

The Winter Craft Fair is coming!! We would like to invite you to join us either by having a table at the fair or volunteering to make it a wonderful experience (or both) for the community.

Anyone interested in joining us please contact Bob at Bobmcminn@shaw.ca
Please put craft Fair in the subject line so I don't miss you - thanks for your attention!

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!

STAY INFORMED: visit the District website: highlands.ca



Council & District News

RZ-01-11-MILLSTREAM/FINLAYSON ARM RDS (YORK) A Public Hearing was held on July 18 for Bylaws 330 and 331. At the following regular Council meeting, council members discussed the outcome of the hearing, which indicated strong support for the proposed rezoning. After discussing several aspects of the proposal, Council gave third and final readings to the bylaws and adopted two covenants respecting invasive species. As the amenities include donations of both land and heritage buildings, Council will consider next steps in the near future.

Submitted by Fred York and family: We wish to thank Highlands residents for their overwhelming support of the amenity rezoning application RZ-01-11. Thank you also to the Highlands Mayor, Council, Staff and the Community Centre Task Force for all their hard work. We look forward to working together to see the vision of a Highlands Community Centre come to fruition.

REZONING APPLICATION RZ-02-10 /

SECTIONS 30 & 74, ROWNTREE & GOWLLAND RDS

This application seeks to increase density from two to thirteen parcels from an existing 32.2 hectare (79.6 acre) parcel. Originally considered by Council in 2010, the application has been amended and now includes, among several updates, increased land for park dedication, a new proposed lot layout, improved riparian area protection and the potential for some secondary suites and two duplexes. Council has referred the application to its Standing Committees and Advisory Planning Commission for review and comment; it is anticipated that these groups will consider the item during the month of September. Please check the calendar on the homepage at <highlands.ca> for up-to-date meeting schedules and agendas.

The planner's report can be viewed here: < highlands.ca/agendas/council/2011/07_18_Council_Agenda.htm>, item 7a).

NOTICE OF ADDITION TO RESERVE LAND At its July 18 regular meeting, Council acknowledged receipt of correspondence from the Tsartlip First Nation that provided notification of application to include their fee simple lot, located near the south west corner of the District, in the 'Additions to Reserve' process. **This is a legislated, formal process that will include consideration of the District's interests such as land use and potential loss of tax revenue.**

FOLLOW UP: B.C. AMBULANCE SERVICE As reported in the July edition, Council invited a response to correspondence sent from Highlands outlining serious concerns about the ongoing trial which reduced two ambulances stationed in the West Shore area to one. A reply from the Emergency and Health Services Commission was received at the August 22 Council meeting, which can be found here: <highlands.ca/agendas/council/2011/documents/EHSC_WS_Ambulance.pdf>.

The letter explains that this is a business exercise and it is not expected to lengthen response times. Council anticipates being apprised of **feedback from the District's Emergency Responders during and after the trial.**

CARBON NEUTRAL BY 2012 At the August 22 regular meeting, **Council received a staff report outlining a process for the District's corporate operations to become carbon neutral in 2012.** This goal is important as the District is a signatory to the BC Climate Action Charter. Reporting, and actually achieving carbon neutrality would **occur in the first quarter of 2013.** The CRD's Climate Action Program Coordinator, Sarah Webb, attended the meeting and assisted in discussion of the report.

The four annual steps, established by the Province and UBCM, include Measure, Reduce, Balance and/or Offset and Report. Measurement will include corporate energy and fuel use consumed in contracted services such as the West Shore Recreation Centre, the Juan de Fuca Library Branch, and road maintenance services. Staff advises that **overall, the District's carbon footprint is relatively small at this time.** It is important to note that the goal only targets corporate operations.

The entire report can be found at: <highlands.ca/agendas/council/2011/documents/L_Beckett_Report_Carbon_Aug12.pdf>.

ROAD WORKS 2011 Most of the District's planned road work projects are either complete or near complete as this issue goes to press. Crack sealing, major patching on Millstream Road, a culvert replacement at the Munn/Millstream Lake intersection and chipsealing the length of Blue Valley were identified as capital works priorities during this year's financial planning process.

We are delighted to resume the 14th year of the Highlands' Folk Music night, bringing live music to the beautiful Highlands

On October 8th, Highlands' Folk Music is presenting the highly entertaining Rig-A-Jig band

Rig-A-Jig is a band with so much talent. Their vocals are backed up by fiddle, banjo, guitar, bass and washboard rhythms making it the perfect band for an upbeat, fun time for everyone! They perform jigs, reels, waltzes, polkas and combine songs from the traditional past with contemporary Canadian songwriters.

After sixteen years, the band is still going strong with a mixture of long-time members and relative newcomers: founder Molly Raher-Newman (percussion, mandolin, lap dulcimer, voice) and veterans Ian Johnston (guitars, voice) and Dave Klassen (bass, voice) have been joined over the years by Dick Pollard (fiddle, voice) and Karen Gilmore (flutes, banjo, voice).

Bring the family and friends too for this enjoyable evening filled with great time together.

For more information please call: 778-678-2409 or email: zhinoos9@gmail.com

Date: Oct. 8, 7pm (doors open at 6.30) | Place: Caleb Pike House, 1589 Millstream Road | Charges: \$5.00 /person - coffee, tea and goodies

RCMP INCIDENTS REPORT July 15 to August 15, 2011

JULY

15 - False Alarms - Highlands Park
Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Millstream
16 - Unspecified Assistance - Compton
20 - Unspecified Assistance - Munn
23 - Bylaw-Noise - Millstream
24 - False Alarms - Millstream
25 - Unspecified Assistance - Finlayson Arm
26 - Bylaw-Other - Hanington/Millstream
Unspecified Assistance - Millstream Rd
27 - Theft-Other Under \$5000 - Lorimer
Bylaw-Noise - Finlayson Arm Rd
28 - Property-Lost - Munn Rd
911-False/Abandoned Calls - Rowntree Rd
30 - suspicious Pers/Veh/Occurrence - Ross Durrance/
Willis Point
31 - Bylaw-Noise - Millstream

AUGUST

1 - Liquor-Consume in Public Place - Eagles Lake/Woodridge
Fail Stop/Remain-CCC - Millstream/Lost Lake
2 - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Millstream
3 - Unspecified Assistance - Millstream
Collision-Damage Over >\$1000 - Munn/Millstream Lake
Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Ross Durrance Rd
4 - Cause a Disturbance - Stag
5 - Unspecified Assistance - Hawkins
6 - Cause a Disturbance - Finlayson Arm /Millstream
Mischief \$5000 or Under - Finlayson Arm
7 - False Alarms - Stewart Mountain
False Alarms - Hawkins
Animal Calls - Millstream Rd/Industrial Way
8 - False Alarms - Blue Valley
10 - Theft-Other Under \$5000 - Finlayson Arm
Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Munn
Bylaw-Noise - Fork Lake
14 - Impaired Motor Veh - Munn/Millstream Lake
15 - Unspecified Assistance - Millstream
911-False/Abandoned Calls - Red Cedar Cr



VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

The Highlands Emergency Program would like to acknowledge support provided by Highlander Alan Gilmour of RadioWorks Communications Inc. Over the last several years Alan has provided both technical support and equipment to our Ham Radio Emergency Communications Group. Equipment donations included two VHF antennas, six spare NiCad battery packs and chargers for our hand-held radios, two VHF base station radios and four gel cell batteries for use during power outages. Thank you Alan, for your generous assistance to our program and ultimately the safety of Highlands residents.

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 Dean Ford—hvfdtraining@shaw.com
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
CRD Parks—250-478-3344
Wildlife Violations—1-800-663-WILD (9453)

SEPTEMBER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 1 & 15 - CRD Recycling Blue Box pickup
SEPTEMBER 6 - Council Meeting, School House, 7pm (NB: Tuesday)
SEPTEMBER 7 - Fiscal and Environmental, Pike House, 7:30pm
SEPTEMBER 10 - Highlands Fling, Caleb Pike Grounds, 1-5pm
SEPTEMBER 12 - Committee of the Whole, School House, 7pm
SEPTEMBER 19 - Council Meeting, School House, 7pm
SEPTEMBER 21 - Advisory Planning Commission, School House, 7pm
SEPTEMBER 28 - Community Infrastructure, 7pm

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

Thank you to all those Highlanders who spent time and effort cutting and clearing broom over the past few months - the improvements are both noticed and truly appreciated!

HIGHLANDS HISTORY The Highland Heritage Park Society is pleased to announce the receipt of several donations from members of Caleb Pike's family. Violet Pike, Caleb's grand-daughter was born in the Pike houses in 1904. Scott McLean who lives in Castlegar is Violet's grandson. He has kindly donated family pictures, some personal items including hymnbooks and a magnificent family Bible dated from the 1880s. The most interesting of the donations from Scott are the framed World War One service medals of Harold Pike, Violet's brother. Harold served as an army driver in France during the war and was a victim of a poison gas attack. He suffered severe lung damage and passed away in 1920 at the age of 25.

Violet's daughter-in-law, Barbara Blanchard has kindly donated several family articles including a beautiful washbasin belonging to Violet (part of a set that would have included a water jug and a chamber pot) and a Book of Common Prayer that belonged originally to Elizabeth Lidgate who was Caleb's wife. The little book was printed in 1841 and most likely came to Fort Victoria with the young Elizabeth when she arrived here with her parents in 1853. Barbara also gave us a lovely picture of the Pike House she had painted in 1979 as a gift for her mother-in-law. This painting is of historic interest as it shows the house and property as it was before the development in that area in the 1980s. This picture and Harold's war medals were displayed in the Pike House during last year's Highland Fling. These donations are much appreciated and serve as a start to our collection for our planned Highland Museum.



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.