



# Highlands News

Each month a concise guide to events and important dates in Highlands will be posted on [www.highlands.ca](http://www.highlands.ca). Visit the website to help plan your month!

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Earthquake Preparedness
- Update: Soil Deposit/Development Permit Policy
- Community Calendar

**MAYOR'S MESSAGE** With autumn comes two important reminders to residents from the District's Fire Department and First Responders:

- Be sure to have your chimneys cleaned and inspected prior to use
- Drive with increased caution due to wet and/or slippery road conditions

Council encourages residents to read the two Heritage Task Force reports. Both contain fascinating descriptions of historical Highlands places. Visit [highlands.ca](http://highlands.ca) to view both Phase 1 and Final Reports (see page 3 of this newsletter) along with current information of importance to Highlanders.

Mayor Jane Mendum



**FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS REMINDER:** Halloween fireworks will need a permit issued by the Fire Chief. Watch for the advertisements in the Goldstream Gazette starting on September 30 and running throughout October for information on how to become qualified for a permit. **Bylaw No. 254, Highland's Fireworks bylaw, can be found on the district's homepage <[www.highlands.ca](http://www.highlands.ca)>.** Fireworks may only be set off between 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. on October 31st..

Residents are reminded that there is no open burning until at least October 15, but watch the website for updates - if the weather warms up again there may be a possible extension of the closure.

The recruit training program starts on January 5, 2012 and all interested parties should contact either the Fire Chief, Guy Brisebois or Deputy Fire Chief, Dean Ford prior to that date to get the appropriate paperwork submitted. Please contact Deputy Chief Ford at 250-920-6970 if you are interested or to learn more.



## PRESENTATION TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

At Council's September 19th meeting, Highlands resident Lady Regina d'Albert Schaerer, on behalf of the Charitable Order of St. Constantine the Great and of St. Helen, founded in 312 A.D. [http://quiroszworld.com/constantine/constantine\\_home.htm](http://quiroszworld.com/constantine/constantine_home.htm) presented Highlands Fire Chief Guy Brisebois with a plaque, medal, and cheque for \$1000 to honour the Highlands Volunteer Fire Department. The international award is given to outstanding individuals and groups who are dedicated to serving their community.

## Hallowe'en Events

**Highlands Kids' Hallowe'en Gathering at: Pike House, 1589 Millstream Road, Monday, October 31, 7 - 9 pm.**

We invite you and your children to put on your scariest or funniest costume and join us for a spooky fun time. Especially fun for younger children. Please bring nut-free treats to share. Beverages provided, including our famously tasty Witch's Brew.

For more information phone Marcie @ 474-4725. Organized by the Highlands District Community Association (HDCA)

**West Fire Hall Bonfire - 7 pm**

All are welcome at **7:00 pm Hallowe'en night** at the West Fire Hall (watch for signs with details) for a bonfire, free hot dogs and refreshments/coffee. At the end of the evening we'll set off some fireworks. Please bring treats for the kids, and some fireworks to add to our small pile. The donation of a non-perishable food item for the local food bank would be welcome. We'll have a spectacular show!

*Come one, come all, Come in costume, let's have a ball!*

**The Highlands News — OCTOBER 2011**

District of Highlands Council Newsletter  
1980 Millstream Road, Victoria, BC V9B 6H1  
Phone: 250-474-1773/ Fax: 250-474-3677

# Community and Council News

## Get Ready to ShakeOut.

October 20, 2011 Register Now at [www.shakeoutbc.ca](http://www.shakeoutbc.ca)



At 10:20 a.m. on October 20, 2011, British Columbians will "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" in The Great British Columbia ShakeOut, the largest earthquake drill in Canadian history!

Register to participate as an individual or family and be counted! Register at [www.shakeoutbc.ca](http://www.shakeoutbc.ca) and also check out the General Preparedness Information available on the web site – click on "Resources" on the left-hand menu. Printed Earthquake Preparedness material is also available at the District Office.

Earlier this year, more than 470,000 people participated in the first BC ShakeOut. The drill will be on the third Thursday of October annually.

Why October?...the inaugural Great British Columbia ShakeOut drill conducted on January 26th, 2011 was a great achievement, with more than 470,000 registered participants and very positive province-wide media coverage on the importance of earthquake awareness and emergency preparedness. Although highly successful, the January 26th date (chosen because it was the 311th anniversary of the Great Cascadia earthquake that struck the Pacific Northwest) conflicted with Secondary Schools provincial exams.



After consulting with School Districts, the Ministry of Education, and through a survey that involved emergency management stakeholders from across the province, it was decided to align the Great BC ShakeOut with Shakeout drills in California, Guam, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon and the Yukon for a mass earthquake drill at the same time on the same day - October 20th, 2011 at 10:20 a.m. Washington and potentially New Zealand have also expressed interest in joining the mass drill campaign in 2012.



### LOCAL PARK EVENTS

October 8 | 10.30-12.30pm October 9 | 1-3pm

*Fabulous Fungi (Guided Adult Walk) Francis King - Mushroom identification with guest naturalist | \$7 per person*

October 16 | 1-2.30pm

*Marvelous Mushrooms (Guided Adult Walk) Francis King - discover more about fungi—no fee but have to pre-register*

October 30 | 1-2.30pm

**Who's Hooting (Guided Walk) Mill Hill Regional Park**

For a complete listing of Nature Outings and Events call 250.478.3344 or visit: [crd.bc.ca/parks](http://crd.bc.ca/parks).

### 2011 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS



Municipal elections will take place on November 19, 2011. The voting place will be the West Fire Hall located at 1564 Millstream Road from 8am - 8 pm. Advance Voting Opportunities will be held on November 9 and November 16 at the District Office, 1980 Millstream Road from 8am - 8pm.

Residents are reminded that *anyone* may vote at an advance poll.

Information can be found on the District's website under: [www.highlands.bc.ca/Elections/2011-Local-Election-information.asp](http://www.highlands.bc.ca/Elections/2011-Local-Election-information.asp)

### Highlands Winter Craft Fair

20th Highlands Winter Craft Fair!! Sunday November 20th, 10am to 4pm

Caleb Pike Heritage Park, 1589 Millstream Road—Free Admission

Enjoy hot apple cider and fresh baking while browsing through a great selection of work from local artisans: pottery, jewellery, homemade edibles, handcrafted gifts, clothing and more!

Join in the celebration!

For more information please contact Bessie [highlandswintercraftfair@gmail.com](mailto:highlandswintercraftfair@gmail.com) 250.588.9866

If you would like an electronic copy of the Highlands News visit the District website's homepage: [highlands.ca](http://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](http://highlands.ca)

# Council & District News

THE DISTRICT'S 2011 ROAD REPAIR PROGRAM is now essentially complete. Our apologies to the residents of Blue Valley Road that while the base repairs were undertaken, problems with the contractor to place the new chip seal surface have caused an unfortunate postponement to this work until the warmer weather in the spring next year. Staff will recommend the allocated funding be carried forward into next year's budget to have this work completed.

As a reminder, the District annually examines the road conditions throughout the District to determine the larger scale projects for the year. The emphasis has been to protect the asset before damage occurs and more costly repairs are necessary. Residents will have noticed an aggressive crack sealing program over the last three years with more to continue in the coming years. This is proving to be a very cost effective way to preserve the integrity of the District's road network.

THE HERITAGE TASK FORCE met with Council at a Committee of Whole meeting September 5th to present their final report. The task force had been asked by Council to consider and recommend a list of Highlands heritage places for inclusion in a Community Heritage Register. The group had presented a Phase One report last January, which included consultation with residents to develop a set of community heritage values, and a vision statement. A large part of the work for the Final Report involved drafting "Statements of Significance" for each heritage resource. This required site visits, gathering documents, and in some cases doing land title and archival research. The information gathered through this process was used to establish which heritage values recognized by the community were being represented by each site. Final drafts of the statements were shared with staff from the Provincial Heritage Branch for comment before their incorporation into the report.

A total of 20 sites were examined, and 19 are being recommended for registration, although some sites will require additional consultation work before registration. The task force also made a series of recommendations related to continued heritage conservation in the community. Council has referred the task force report to staff to outline steps for moving forward with the register. The entire report can be viewed from the link on our homepage <highlands.ca> - look under 'District News for October, 2011'.



**DEVELOPMENT PERMIT POLICY** Much concern has been raised by Highlanders about recent large soil deposits in Highlands, and staff has brought the issue to the attention of Council, since it takes up considerable staff time. Soil deposits require a soil deposit permit, and for requests to deposit soil on steep slopes, on or near sensitive vegetation, or in riparian areas, development permits are also required.

Council has given readings to amendments to the soil deposit bylaw (Bylaw 1473) which require provincial approval. Staff were advised at the recent Union of BC Municipalities Convention that the Bylaw Amendment is now being processed. The amendments include soil deposit permit fee increases to reflect both staff time involved to process and to compensate for wear and tear on Highlands roads from truck traffic. In the meantime, Council approved a staff recommendation that any development permits that will involve soil deposits should require Council approval in order to increase Council and public awareness of soil deposits, and to reduce staff time in responding to complaints and inquiries.

**SMART METERS: BC HYDRO'S RESPONSE** At its regular meeting on July 18th, Council passed the 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 UBCM on this issue.*

At the Union of B.C. Municipalities convention in September, a resolution supporting a moratorium on Smart Meters passed.

At its September 19th meeting, Council received a letter from Gary Murphy, BC Hydro's Chief Project Officer, in response, outlining BC Hydro's reasons for carrying out the Smart Meter Program, and informing Council that BC Hydro will work with customers on a "case by case basis to identify mutually agreeable solutions that will enable us to continue to provide those customers with safe, reliable electricity." Residents can contact BC Hydro via email at <[SmartMeters@BCHydro.com](mailto:SmartMeters@BCHydro.com)> with any questions or concerns that they may have. Current information about the program is available at <[bchydro.com/smartmeters](http://bchydro.com/smartmeters)>.

*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 of entertainment!*

*For more information please call: 778-678-2409 or email: [zhinoo9@gmail.com](mailto:zhinoo9@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 August 15 to September 16, 2011

### August

- 16 - Unspecified Assistance - Caleb Pike
- 17 - Theft-Other Under \$5000 - Industrial Way
- 18 - Unspecified Assistance - Southwood
- 19 - Theft-Other Under \$5000 - Southwood
  - Property-Lost - White Pine Terrace
- 24 - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Millstream/Mill. Lake
  - Property-Lost - Millstream
  - Theft Bicycle Under \$5000 - Southwood
  - Cause a Disturbance - Finlayson Arm
- 25 - Breach of Peace - Southwood Dr
- 26 - Presentation - Millstream Rd
  - Unspecified Assistance - Caleb Pike /Highlands Park
- 27 - Animal Calls - Southwood
- 29 - Theft-Other Under \$5000 - Millstream
  - Property-Lost - Crestwood
- 30 - Theft-from MV < \$5000 - Gowlland Tod Prov Park/  
Caleb Pike

### September

- 01 - 911 - False/Abandoned Calls - Viart
- 03 - Traffic - Other Moving Prov - Willis Point /Ross Durrance
- 04 - Breach of Peace - White Pine
- 05 - Unspecified Assistance - Finlayson Arm
  - Bylaw Noise - Woodridge
- 06 - Unspecified Assistance - Davies
- 09 - Theft-from MV < \$5000 - Hawkins
- 10 - Unspecified Assistance - Caleb Pike
- 15 - Other Prv Statutes - Not Traffic - Munn
  - Other Prv Statutes - Not Traffic - Ross Durrance

#### 2011 Council Meeting Schedule

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

### VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

This month we recognize the many volunteers who provided assistance in the aftermath of a house fire on September 7th. Regrettably, a home

was lost in the blaze, but thankfully without injury to the occupants. Highlands Volunteer Fire Department were quick to respond along with several neighbouring departments, and spent long hours at the scene ensuring the fire did not spread to the surrounding forest. As the fire hazard level was extreme, several spot fires needed attending to over the course of a week. Neighbours provided support and watchful eyes, and a local business, Williams Scrap Iron and Metals, generously operated their excavator in order to assist fire fighters in getting the fire put out.

A sincere thank you to all who donated their time, equipment and skill in response to this unfortunate incident.

## Contacts:

Mayor Jane Mendum—[jmendum@highlands.ca](mailto:jmendum@highlands.ca) /250-478-9449, 250-893-9440  
Councillor Allen Dobb—[allendobb@telus.net](mailto:allendobb@telus.net) /250-391-3998/  
Website: [allendobb.ca](http://allendobb.ca)  
Councillor Diane Gill—[didoll@live.ca](mailto:didoll@live.ca) / 250-391-8928  
Councillor Sigurd Johannesen—[Sigurd.johannesen@shaw.ca](mailto:Sigurd.johannesen@shaw.ca) /250-514-1880  
Councillor Marcie McLean—[marciemclean@shaw.ca](mailto:marciemclean@shaw.ca) / 250-474-4725  
Councillor Karel Roessingh—[karel@roessong.com](mailto:karel@roessong.com) / 250-727-9808  
Councillor Ken Williams—[kgwmaya@shaw.ca](mailto:kgwmaya@shaw.ca) / 250-479-7497  
Fire Chief Guy Brisebois—[Guy.Brisebois@forces.gc.ca](mailto:Guy.Brisebois@forces.gc.ca) / 250-920-6970  
Deputy Fire Chief Dean Ford—[hvfdtraining@shaw.com](mailto:hvfdtraining@shaw.com)  
Emergency Coordinator Val Fletcher—[vfletcher@highlands.ca](mailto: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)

### OCTOBER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

OCTOBER 5 - Fiscal and Environmental, Pike House, 7:30pm  
OCTOBER 10 - Thanksgiving - Office Closed  
OCTOBER 11 - Committee of the Whole, School House, 7pm  
OCTOBER 14 & 28 - Blue Box Recycling Days  
OCTOBER 17 - Council Meeting, School House, 7pm  
OCTOBER 26 - Community Infrastructure, School House 7:30pm  
OCTOBER 31 - Halloween Gatherings and Bonfire—see front page - 7:00pm

PLEASE visit the District website, [highlands.ca](http://highlands.ca) for detailed agenda information in advance of meetings

**MORE ABOUT BC HYDRO'S SMART METER PROGRAM** Leading up to this year's recent Union of B.C. Municipalities Annual Convention, local government officials received an abundance of correspondence highlighting concerns around this program. Issues included the effect of radio frequencies on health, privacy concerns and future electricity costs to the consumer, among others. Residents directed council members to visit <[citizensforsafetechnology.org](http://citizensforsafetechnology.org)> for articles concerning various issues. See page 3 of this newsletter for more information on the program.

**HIGHLANDS HISTORY** One of the advantages of living in our modern age is the advance in dental care we enjoy.

Jessie Bernard of Mitchell Lake described her dealings with dental problems in her diary. On Sept. 15, 1904 she wrote "George and I went to see Dr. Dier about my front tooth and at 1:30 he put some arsenic in to kill the nerve. I have to go again on Monday." Then on Sept 19<sup>th</sup>. "George and I drove to town at 11am and after going to Post Office etc. I went to Dr. Dier's office and had my tooth sawn off—have to go again on Thursday as the nerve isn't dead—it feels awfully funny without it." Finally on Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>. "George and I left at 10am for town—I went to the dentist and had a tooth put in (not mentioning the knocking about of my gum and the awful drilling) my mouth awfully sore and tender."

That work seemed to do the trick as Jessie had no more problems until January 1906 when she wrote "We all went to Town and I went to Harry Dier and got my tooth mended and two front ones filled for \$3.00".



*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.