



Highlands News

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:

- VOTING DAY—SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH—SCHOOL TRUSTEES
- Winter Storm Preparedness
- Community Calendar



THE CALEB PIKE PARK lost one of its heritage apple trees to the weight of a bear searching for a meal. The animal was seen coming back the next night for dessert.
Photo Credit: Daphne Allen

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.

2011 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS On Monday, October 24, 2011 at 4pm a *Declaration of Election by Acclamation* was announced for the District of Highlands. Sitting for a new term is Mayor Jane Mendum and Councillors: Allen Dobb, Diane Gill, Sigurd Johannesen, Marcie McLean, Karel Roessingh and Ken Williams. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL.

The municipality will host the School Trustee Election for Highland residents for District 61 and 62.

ELECTION DAY: Saturday, November 19th from 8am - 8pm

All voting opportunities will be at the District Office, 1980 Millstream Road from 8am - 8pm.

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

MAYOR'S MESSAGE Although a civic election will not be held in Highlands this year due to the Election by Acclamation results, all residents who are qualified to vote are strongly encouraged to cast a ballot for your choice of school trustees. The school board plays a critical role in our public schools, creating policy that guides the education of our children. Please see details of when and where to vote below.

The inaugural Council meeting will be held on Monday, December 5, 7:00 p.m. in the Schoolhouse located at 1589 Millstream Road. Council members will be officially instated to serve for the 2011-2014 term of office. Residents are welcome to attend and join Council for light refreshments following the meeting – we hope to see you there!

Mayor Jane Mendum

Highlands Winter Craft Fair

20th Annual Highlands Winter Craft Fair, Sunday November 20, 2011 - 10 am to 4 pm
Caleb Pike Heritage Park, 1589 Millstream Road

Our 20th Anniversary Winter Craft Fair will have the largest number of local artisans ever.

Pottery, jewellery, homemade goodies, handcrafted gifts, clothing and much more will be for sale.

Come and visit for hot apple cider and a slice of our 20th Anniversary cake in between browsing through a great display of one-of-a-kind goods and meeting friends and neighbours in a welcoming atmosphere.

Hope to see you there.

For more information contact Bessie at highlandswintercraftfair@gmail.com | 250-588-9688

Community and Council News

GREATER VICTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY STRATEGIC PLAN Our libraries are more popular than ever! Visitor (both in person and online) and borrowing numbers are increasing dramatically every year. On the heels of its award-winning facilities plan, the Greater Victoria Public Library has just released its new strategic plan, and you can find it at <gvpl.ca>. The Plan provides a vision for the future and will direct the actions of the Library Board and staff for the next three years. The Strategic Plan provides a guide for the use of library resources as the Greater Victoria Public Library continues to meet the changing needs of the community.

LOCAL PARK EVENTS

November 19 | 1-2.30pm
Ha-bat-itat (Guided Walk) Francis King
Where do bats live? What do they eat?

November 26 | 1-2.30 (Guided Walk)

Forever Green (Guided Walk)

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



NEW HARTLAND LEARNING CENTRE On October 18th a grand opening was held for the new learning centre located on site at the Hartland Road Landfill. Constructed from a recycled home, it features a large mural depicting the inner workings of the entire landfill and a 'Smart Board', an interactive tool that allows users to explore educational content. Meant to provide education concerning how the region deals with its waste, the learning centre can be visited by any school or community group. To book an educational tour, phone 250-360-3030. More information can be found here: <<http://crd.bc.ca/waste/schoolprogram.htm>>.



ARE YOU PREPARED FOR WINTER CONDITIONS IN THE HIGHLANDS?

Environment Canada has forecasted a winter with cooler temperatures and higher amounts of precipitation (aka snow, if cold enough) higher than normal amounts of precipitation for the months of **October, November and December. Once again this condition is caused by the cooler "La Nina"** atmospheric/ocean current circulation in the northern hemisphere. AccuWeather.com, based in the US, says temperatures in western Canada will be up to five degrees Celsius lower than normal.

Here's what we experienced last winter under similar climate conditions (my unofficial records in the East):

November 15/16 South Westerly windstorm 70-90 km/hr | November 19/20, 10 cm snow, temp -5 deg. at nights next several days | November 22, 2 cm snow, cool temperatures continued | November 25, 7.5 cm snow, warming up to 0 deg., melt continues over next few days | January 11, 2011, 17 cm snow, warming trend, roads clear, snow gone one week later | February 15, 2 cm snow | February 22/23, 15 cm snow total, -7 deg. overnight, -4 deg. daytime next few days | March 2, windstorm with temperatures above zero.

Given the expectations for the winter I'd like all Highlanders to get prepared for the wintry weather on the horizon. During windstorms we typically have power outages caused by falling trees and branches taking out hydro lines. For most people losing electricity means losing their water (electric well pump) and perhaps heat as well. Give some thought to installing a generator – to electrical code with a transfer switch to isolate it from the power grid. Also think about installing (to building code) some form of auxiliary heat such a wood stove or properly vented propane space heater.

You should also have an individual or family Emergency Preparedness Kit that would provide the necessities (food, water, other household items) for at least 3 days (7 is better) for yourself or family in case of extreme weather conditions or power outages. Contents for a kit and other winter preparedness tips are given on our website: www.Highlands.ca, choose Emergency Program on the left hand menu, then scroll down to WINTER STORMS and click on Emergency Preparedness for Winter Storms. Other websites with good information are:

Provincial Emergency Program:

http://www.pep.bc.ca/hazard_preparedness/Weather_Information.html

Government of Canada:

<http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/index-eng.aspx>

Those of you who do not have access to the Internet/World Wide Web can drop by the District Office to pick up hardcopy information on the above. You may also contact me, at 250-479-1725, vfletcher@highlands.ca for further information or if you have any questions or comments.

Val Fletcher, Emergency Coordinator

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



Acclaimed Council members for the 2012-2014
Term of Office (from left to right)
Councillors Johannesen, Williams, McLean
Mayor Mendum
Councillors Gill, Roessingh, Dobb

REZONING APPLICATION RZ-02-11 (1150 BEAR MTN. PARKWAY) - UPDATE At October's Committee of the Whole meeting, Council received a presentation by the applicant with regard to this rezoning application for 52 residences. A number of items were discussed including potential impact to surrounding lands, effects of proposed density increase on regional service financial contributions, emergency services response capability, archeological considerations and future sanitary sewer liabilities to the District, if any.

The application was referred back to the applicant at the October 17th council meeting in order to address the discussion points. Additionally, it was referred to the Fire Department for preliminary comments. Council, staff and the Fire Chief attended an arranged site visit on November 4th. **To view the planner's report and more, visit:** highlands.ca/agendas/cotw/2011/10_11_CoTW_Agenda.htm

WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS Over the past several weeks increased sightings of bear and cougar have been reported in the district. The natural landscape of Highlands provides important habitat for these large animals. Bear appear to be transient, for the most part, moving through the area generally twice a year to feed on berries or on their way to Goldstream River in search of fish. Residents are reminded that enclosing garbage containers, composters and food digesters in a building or well-fenced area is the best way to **reduce a bear's attraction to your home.**

Cougar are predatory animals that generally avoid human contact. Exceptions are young males that are still honing their hunting skills and those animals that are diseased or injured. Conservation officers remind the public to retain an awareness while outdoors, with special attention to small children and pets. Those who own range animals such as sheep, goats, llamas and horses are encouraged to provide a closed shelter at night for their animals. Find the Ministry of **Environment's Safety Guide to Cougars at:**

env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/cougsf.htm.
A link to Bear Aware is provided on the homepage at highlands.ca.

AMENITY REZONING CONSIDERATIONS POLICY At the October 17th regular meeting, Council endorsed a policy that provides guidelines for those rezoning applications that propose to exchange public amenities in exchange for increased density. Following the adoption of the Official Community Plan in 2007, the use of the former policy was set aside upon the receipt of legal advice. Since then, staff have been seeking a replacement policy that would provide direction for applicants and the district. The policy provides that amenity rezoning proposals consider if the offered amenities:

1. ...offset any negative impact(s) resulting from the proposal
2. ...contribute towards any other municipal policies
3. ...assist in integrating the proposal into the community

The official policy is available at the district office. To view the staff report, please visit highlands.ca/agendas/council/2011/documents/AmenityZoningPolicy.pdf.

AMENITY PARCEL (YORK REZONING) One of the amenity parcels provided through the recent York rezoning was recommended as the preferred site for a future community hall by the Community Centre Task Force. In order to build a community hall - **and make use of a provincial "Town for Tomorrow" grant for construction costs** - on the parcel, it requires rezoning. The terms of the grant require a construction completion date of March 31, 2013. At the October 17th meeting, Council authorized staff to proceed with the rezoning process.

WEST SHORE PARKS AND RECREATION OWNERS AGREEMENTS
The district is one of six co-owners of the West Shore Parks and **Recreation facilities, and the current owners' agreements will** expire at the end of 2011. Senior staff representing the co-owners recommended that an extension be sought in order to review and update the current agreements.

The co-owners, at the Annual General Meeting held in June of this year, agreed to contract a review of governance and update of the agreements; that work is currently underway. To allow for this process, at its October 17 regular meeting Council passed the following resolution:

"That Council approve a one year extension to the current Members Agreement, Co-owners Agreement and Operating Agreement to December 31, 2012..."

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FORM - NEW POLICY A sustainability appraisal form was developed following recommendations by the former Sustainability Task Force. At the October 17th regular meeting, Council approved its use as policy. The appraisal form is based on the Five Capital Stocks model, (natural, manufactured, financial, human and social). Considered a supplemental evaluation tool, the form will be utilized to inform rezoning/Official Community Plan amendment processes. Staff advised that the form will provide high-level information to analyze how applications **compare with the District's sustainability policies and desired** directions. It will be used in addition to current analyses normally utilized by staff and applicants.

RCMP INCIDENTS REPORT September 15 to October 15, 2011

SEPTEMBER

- 16 - Abandoned Vehicle- Bear Mountain Pkwy/ Nicklaus
- 18 - Breach of Peace- Caleb Pike
- 18 - Animal Calls- Millstream
- 22 - Unspecified Assistance- Stag
- 23 - Traffic Other Moving- Millstream Lake/ Munn
- 24 - Breach of Peace- Millington
- 25 - Collision Damage > \$1000- Bear Mountain/Nicklaus
- 25 - Animal Calls- Deerfield
- 25 - Breach of Peace- Emma Dixon

OCTOBER

- 03 - Collision Damage > \$1000- Millstream
- 03 - Collision Damage > \$1000- Millstream
- 03 - Traffic Other Moving- Caleb Pike
- 06 - Property Lost- Millstream Lake
- 08 - Animal Calls- Old Mossy
- 10 - Theft from Motor Vehicle < \$5000-Mount Work
- 10 - False Alarms- Woodridge

COMING MAY 2012 – BLUE BOX PROGRAM UPDATE

At its October 12 meeting, the Capital Regional District Board endorsed the addition of polycoated cartons (drink, soup and milk/ milk substitute cartons) to the blue box program. It is important to note that this will come into effect in May 2012. Regional residents have long requested that milk and other containers be included in the recycling program. It is estimated that approximately 800 tonnes of material or 15 million containers will be diverted from Hartland landfill.



VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

This month we recognize all those volunteers who organized, hosted and contributed to the Halloween celebrations. More residents attended the event at the West Firehall than ever before! Breaking of piñatas, a tradition held in the east Highlands for many years, was introduced at the event and was a smashing success with youngsters. The Pike House provided welcome warmth on a chilly night for children and their parents, and the dozens of jack'o'lanterns lining Millstream Lake and Ross Durrance Road were enjoyed by countless others.

A big thank you to the volunteer fire fighters and their families, the Highlands District Community Association and the many others who contributed to these popular and successful events.

2011 Council Meeting Schedule

November: 7 | 21 and December: 5 | 19

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)

NOVEMBER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2 - Fiscal and Environmental, Pike House, 7:30pm
NOVEMBER 7 - Council Meeting, School House, 7pm
NOVEMBER 9 & 16 - Advance Vote for School Board Trustee Election - 8am - 8pm, District Office
NOVEMBER 10 & 24 - Blue Box Recycling Days
NOVEMBER 11 - Remembrance Day - Office Closed
NOVEMBER 14 - Committee of the Whole, School House, 7pm
NOVEMBER 19 - School Trustee Election, 8am—8pm, District Office
NOVEMBER 21 - Council Meeting, School House, 7pm
NOVEMBER 23 - Community Infrastructure, School House 7:30pm

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

REMINDER: The district office will be closed for the holidays from December 24 to January 3, 2012.

HIGHLANDS HISTORY A narrow escape....Cougars, also known as panthers, were a problem for the early settlers.

This story ran in the Daily Colonist on February 18, 1903.

Joseph Dixon was Caleb Pike's son-in-law and lived on Millstream Road north of the Pike House. "Exciting

Encounter with a Panther near Millstream. Mr. Joseph Dixon, of Millstream, Highland District, while in search for a panther on Saturday last, came upon the object of his search, perhaps a little more suddenly than he expected, and before he had time to get a bead on him the ferocious brute sprang for him. And, says Mr. Dixon, would probably have done for him but for the timely intervention of his two fine large dogs rushing on the panther to protect their master, thus giving Mr. Dixon time to get his gun in action. It is needless to say, however, that Mr. Dixon's well-known deadly aim brought his would-be assassin to grief. The panther was a female, and had kittens about her probably to the number of four or five. She measured 7 ft. 9 in. from tip to tip and had been killing calves belonging to the ranchers in that District, Mr. Dixon himself having lost no less than three fine calves in the past few weeks. The skin may be seen at No. 42 ½ Johnson St."



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.