



# Highlands News



*The District office will be closed at 12pm on December 24th,  
re-opening on Monday December 31 from 8:30 am - 2pm.*



*Mayor, Council and staff wish you a  
wonderful holiday season!*



## A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Highlands Volunteer Fire Department is seeking new volunteers to join the department. Training begins

mid-January 2013 and most courses take place within the District. **There are a limited number of spots available.** If you are interested in learning more, please phone either the Fire Chief or Deputy Fire Chief (contact information on page 4).

Details on this year's Santa Run are below - we hope to see you on **Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**. Members of Highlands Volunteer Fire Department wish Highlanders safe and happy holidays!

## ANNUAL HIGHLANDS VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION SANTA RUN

The Highlands Volunteer Firefighters' Association will hold their annual Santa Run on **Saturday, December 15<sup>nd</sup>**. Santa will be on board to visit with Highlands children, and his helpers welcome donations of cash or non-perishable food items to aid the **local food bank**.

**Santa will start in the east Highlands first thing Saturday morning and finish his route in the west at approximately 6 p.m.**

Visit the homepage at [highlands.ca](http://highlands.ca) for more details!



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

New Soil Deposit/ Removal Bylaw  
Open Burning Regulations  
Friday Evening Youth Program

## WINTER ROAD MAINTENANCE

During the winter season, Highlands roads are inspected and maintained according to the road maintenance contract 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This does not eliminate the presence of challenging or dangerous winter road conditions from time to time. Motorists should be aware of the potential for slippery conditions and should ensure their vehicles are appropriately equipped to drive under these conditions. Highlands has many weather patterns within the District that create different conditions in different areas. This impacts on the ability to plan ahead or react to the conditions.



The District's road maintenance contract has comprehensive provisions for winter maintenance to address icy and snowy conditions. It establishes both minimum and maximum response times as well as establishing priorities for main roads, hills and school bus routes so they receive a quicker response than that of other local roads due to traffic volumes or the more challenging terrain. The Contractor is responsible to adhere to the conditions of the road maintenance contract and generally exceeds the standards. They are supervised by District staff on a daily/weekly basis depending on winter conditions.

The District now maintains a duty phone during the winter season. This phone is monitored full time. Residents may report winter road conditions on this line. Action appropriate to the circumstances will be taken. The telephone number is 250-893-1773 and is posted on the District's web site at [www.highlands.ca](http://www.highlands.ca). Please keep in mind, though, that road conditions are carefully and extensively monitored.

**It is also important to remind residents to not contact the District's Fire Chief to report road conditions or request winter maintenance.** The Fire Chief does not have the authority to ask the roads contractor to respond, and these calls unnecessarily occupy their time.

## The Highlands News — DECEMBER 2012

District of Highlands Council Newsletter | 1980 Millstream Road, Highlands, BC V9B 6H1 | P: 250-474-1773 F: 250-474-3677

For Updates & Information, visit the District website: [highlands.ca](http://highlands.ca)

# Community News

**THE WEST SHORE CHRISTMAS HAMPER FUND** is located at 761 Station Avenue (bsmt). Applications for the food bank are available at this address. Food and toy donations are always appreciated and donation of money is also most welcome. Cheques can be made out to the West Shore Christmas Hamper Fund and dropped off or mailed to the Station Avenue address. Please contact 250-391-9627 for more information. **The District office will gladly accept any food or gift donations and will ensure that they are delivered to the Christmas hamper.**



**OUTSTANDING PROPERTY TAX REMINDER** As of January 1, 2013, all outstanding 2012 property taxes will become taxes in arrears. Taxes already in arrears will become delinquent taxes. **Both delinquent taxes and taxes in arrears accrue DAILY interest at a rate set by the Province.**

Please note that in 2013, the delinquent taxes (2011 outstanding taxes) will be subject to tax sale on Monday, September 23, 2013.

To confirm the amount of outstanding taxes due, please contact our office between the hours of 8:30am and 4:00pm at 250-474-1773.

So that we may promptly apply payments to outstanding accounts, late payments must be made at the Municipal Office located at 1980 Millstream Road. We accept cash, cheque or debit.

Please note our office will be closed at noon on Monday, December 24, 2012 for Winter Holidays and will reopen at 8:30am, Monday, December 31, 2012 until 2pm.

## Friday Evening Youth Program

For 5 -12 yr. olds - 2nd Friday Evening of the Month  
January/ February/ March / April - 6 to 8 pm - School House

Highlands Youth Program will start on January 11, 2013. Designed for 5 - 12 year olds, West Shore Parks and Rec. staff will lead games, crafts and other fun activities. The program will run January/ February/ March and April on the 2nd Friday of each month from 6 to 8 pm in the School House on the Caleb Pike Heritage Grounds, 1589 Millstream Road.

**FREE**

Interested? Please contact  
Beth Venables at  
[bethvenables@gmail.com](mailto:bethvenables@gmail.com) or  
778-433-6963; or  
Bob McMinn at  
[bobmcminn@shaw.ca](mailto:bobmcminn@shaw.ca) or  
250-478-4403.

**HOLIDAY RECYCLING** If you are looking for ways to recycle this season, visit:

<http://crd.bc.ca/waste/recycle/holidayrecycling.htm> for guidelines on how to reduce waste this season. The page includes ideas for holiday gift-giving, clear instructions on preparing your bluebox materials for recycling and many other great tips.

If you would like an electronic copy of the Highlands News please 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!

## Living Locally, Living Sustainably.....

**OPEN BURNING** The District does not currently have a bylaw specific to backyard burning when the fire hazard level is low, however the Province regulates open burning through both the Environmental Management Act and Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation. The regulations control what can be burned, and where and when fires can occur. **The province encourages citizens to recycle or compost materials rather than burning them.** The regulations apply even to small backyard fires which do not, at times, require a permit from the Highlands Fire Department. For example:

- Fires must be located at least 100 meters from a residence or business and are limited in size.
- Individuals are obliged to check the venting index; it must be listed as 'good' followed by a forecast of at least 'fair' the following day before a fire can be lit.
- Materials cannot be brought from elsewhere and must originate from the subject parcel of land.
- Only vegetative matter can be burned; prohibited materials include tires, plastic, household garbage, paint etc. (see list at links listed below).

To learn more, visit [bcairquality.ca/reports/agttobsc.html](http://bcairquality.ca/reports/agttobsc.html) and [bcairquality.ca/topics/burning-outdoors.html](http://bcairquality.ca/topics/burning-outdoors.html). Highlands is located within Category A.

To view the venting (smoke control forecast) index, visit [env.gov.bc.ca/epd/epdpa/venting/venting.html](http://env.gov.bc.ca/epd/epdpa/venting/venting.html); Highlands is included in 'SRN VAN ISLD'.

For information about recycling options within the region, visit [myrecyclopedia.ca](http://myrecyclopedia.ca). To learn about effective composting, visit the Greater Victoria Compost Education Centre's website at [compost.bc.ca](http://compost.bc.ca).

Note: Highlands requires permits year round for machine piled fires - check with the Fire Department for details.



**CRD Winter 2013 Nature Outings and Events** pamphlet is now available.

**DECEMBER 16 – FIRE TRUCK PARADE** The City of Langford hosts its annual Fire Truck Parade on Sunday, December 16. The parade departs from Langford Parkway at 6 pm; for more details, visit the homepage of the WestShore Chamber of Commerce, [westshore.bc.ca](http://westshore.bc.ca).

**WEST SHORE PARKS RECREATION SOCIETY WINTER ACTIVITY CALENDAR** West Shore Parks and Recreation's 2013 Activity Guide is now available online at [westshorerecreation.ca](http://westshorerecreation.ca).

Registration for classes is open now. Check it out!

Browse the Guide





# Council & District News

**EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS BYLAW** At the November 5 regular meeting, Council considered and gave consent to a CRD establishing bylaw concerning the dispatch of emergency calls (fire dispatch) which provides for service based at the Langford Fire Station. The bylaw enables what was an already existing service provided by Langford, but with different partnering municipalities. The Highlands Volunteer Fire Department has indicated support for continuing with this service provider. CRD Bylaw 3854 is expected to return to the CRD Board for consideration and adoption in the near future.

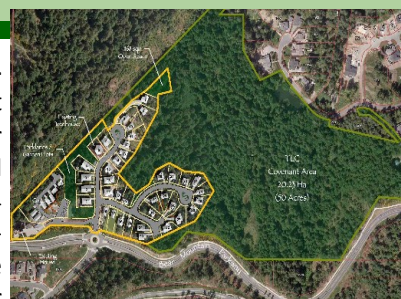
**TERVITA HIGHWEST LANDFILL** At the November 5 meeting, Council received correspondence from CRD pertaining to a pre-application inquiry by the Tervita Corporation (Highwest landfill located on Millstream Rd.) that could result in their future ability to accept asbestos-contaminated demolition and construction materials at the site. Any material with an asbestos content greater than 1% is classified as hazardous waste, and is regulated by the province through its Hazardous Waste Regulation. At the November 19 regular meeting, Council received both a staff report and a presentation from a representative of Tervita. Council learned that strict measures are required by the province in the transportation, handling and disposal of building materials containing asbestos to ensure that the material does not become airborne and that landfilled material is double wrapped, labelled and mapped. Any amendments to the landfill permit are administered by the province, and Council has requested to be kept apprised of the progress of the application, should it commence. The staff report can be found at:

[highlands.ca/agendas/council/2012/documents/HighwestLandfillAsbestos.pdf](http://highlands.ca/agendas/council/2012/documents/HighwestLandfillAsbestos.pdf).

**CHARGING STATION** At the November 5 regular meeting, Council approved a staff recommendation to authorize an agreement with the Fraser Basin Council that would establish an electrical vehicle charging station at the community hall site near the corner of Millstream and Finlayson Arm Roads. The incentive program provides up to 75% of costs in establishing such a station, anticipated to total \$4000.

**GRANT-IN-AID** The District of Highlands will be accepting grant-in-aid applications for the year 2013 up to and including January 31, 2013. All organizations wishing to submit an application must complete the District of Highlands Grant-in-Aid application. Organizations may contact the District office for the Grant-in-Aid policy and application; alternatively this policy and application may be downloaded from the District's website: [highlands.ca](http://highlands.ca).

**PUBLIC HEARING: RZ-02-11 (1150 Bear Mtn. Pkwy)** At the December 3 regular meeting, Council considered draft bylaws 343 and 344 which represent a development proposal for 38 single family dwellings and 7 smaller cottage-type dwellings on approximately 10 acres of land located in the south Highlands. A staff report, the draft bylaws, covenant, and schedules A-M pertaining to the proposal are available online at: [highlands.ca/agendas/council/2012/12\\_03\\_Council\\_Agenda\\_000.htm](http://highlands.ca/agendas/council/2012/12_03_Council_Agenda_000.htm) (item 7.a).



Council gave first and second readings to the bylaws, and a public hearing has been set for Monday, January 7, 2013, 7 pm. Watch for advertisements placed in the Goldstream Gazette, or visit [highlands.ca](http://highlands.ca) to view the public hearing notice two weeks prior.

**NEW - SOIL DEPOSIT/REMOVAL BYLAW** At the December 5 regular meeting, Council adopted Bylaw 341 which regulates the deposit and removal of soil and other materials. Several changes to this activity are addressed within the bylaw, and a new fee schedule has been implemented. Permits are required for volumes greater than 10 cubic meters of material annually and fees are assigned on a sliding scale. **Residents are encouraged to review the bylaw**, which is available online at [highlands.ca](http://highlands.ca) and are welcome to contact the District office with inquiries.



## B.C. LAKE STEWARDSHIP FUNDING

Council was pleased to learn that provincial funding was restored to the B.C. Lake Stewardship Society (BCLSS) recently. Annual funding of \$75,000 had ended after nine years. At the November 5 regular council meeting, Highlands resident and Society Director Eric Bonham shared the good news that a year's funding had been granted by the Minister of Environment, the Honourable Terry Lake. Council had both written to and met with Minister Lake recently concerning the issue. The volunteer-based work of the BCLSS benefits the health of lakes not only in Highlands but province wide through its education programs and the collection and sharing of monitoring data.



**PLAYGROUND UPDATE PLANS** Council has endorsed a staff recommendation to perform maintenance on some of the play equipment at Twinflower Park and to improve the surface under the equipment. Council also requested staff seek pricing for equipment to replace the wooden structure for review during next year's financial planning process.

## RCMP INCIDENTS REPORT October 16 to November 15, 2012

### OCTOBER

- 16 - Traffic-Insurance Violation - Millstream/Finlayson
- 18 - Unspecified Assistance - Millstream
- 19 - False Alarms - Industrial Way
- 20 - Breach of Peace - Southwood
- 21 - Unspecified Assistance - Millstream
- 21 - Query to Locate Individual - Millstream
- 23 - Unspecified Assistance - Millstream
- 25 - Unspecified Assistance - Woodridge
- 27 - Theft-Other Under \$5000 - Millstream
- 30 - Mischief \$5000 or Under - Millstream
- 30 - Unspecified Assistance - Finlayson Arm
- 30 - Unspecified Assistance - White Pine

### NOVEMBER

- 01 - Animal Calls - Millstream
- 01 - Unspecified Assistance - Michael
- 02 - Abandon Vehicles - Millstream/Taylor
- 02 - Theft- Other Under \$5000 - Millstream
- 03 - Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Millstream/Millstream Lake
- 03 - Unspecified Assistance - Millstream
- 04 - Bylaw Noise - Emma Dixon
- 04 - False Alarms - Woodridge
- 07 - 911-False/Abandon Calls - 790 Industrial Way
- 08 - Unspecified Assistance - Millstream/ Industrial Way
- 10 - Unspecified Assistance - Millington
- 10 - Suspicious Pers/Veh/Occurrence - Millstream Lake
- 11 - Unspecified Assistance - Millstream Lake
- 11 - Unspecified Assistance - Caleb Pike/ Gowlland Tod
- 11 - Collision-Damage < \$1000 - Millstream/Hanington
- 13 - Unspecified Assistance - Stewart Mountain

**TIP** - Concerned residents note that unsecured thank you gifts for service providers left at the roadside do not always end up with the intended recipient. A suggestion is to contact the service provider to discuss arrangements that may be more secure for these tokens of appreciation.

**WINTER STORMS - The Highlanders' Essential Guide to Emergency Preparedness For Winter Storms** containing advice from residents, experts, and local government authorities is available on the district's website (Emergency Program tab) or can be picked up from the District office during regular office hours. **Preparation for the winter storm season is strongly advised for homeowners and residents alike** - be sure to obtain your copy soon!

**NEW - CRD REGIONAL KITCHEN SCRAPS STRATEGY** By January 1, 2015 kitchen scraps will be restricted from Hartland Landfill and therefore from household garbage destined for Hartland. Organic materials, such as kitchen scraps, constitute approximately 30% of the waste at Hartland landfill. Current recycling and composting programs are diverting 46% of the waste stream from the landfill; in order to achieve the regional diversion goal of 70% by 2015 kitchen scraps will no longer be put into the landfill. The program will be phased in, with alternatives in place; visit [crd.bc.ca/waste/organics/kitchen-scraps.htm](http://crd.bc.ca/waste/organics/kitchen-scraps.htm) to learn more.

## 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.ca](mailto:hvfdtraining@shaw.ca)  
District of Highlands Office - 250-474-1773  
District of Highlands Winter Duty Phone - 250-893-1773  
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)



**VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH** Recognition goes to Bessie Nuk and Bob McMinn, organizers of this year's Highlands Winter Craft Fair. The annual fair, held on November 18, has become a valued social event in Highlands. Enjoyed by many who stopped by at the Caleb Pike Homestead to peruse the goods for sale and to visit with friends and neighbours, the festive atmosphere took time and effort to organize. Congratulations, both, on a most successful event!

### DECEMBER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**December 17** - Regular Council Meeting, School House, 7pm

**December 14 & 28** - CRD Recycling Blue Box pickup

**December 15 - Santa Run**, watch for details posted at mailboxes

*please visit [Highlands.ca](http://Highlands.ca) for detailed agenda information in advance of meetings*

**HIGHLANDS CHARACTER - William Asher Rountree.** Born in Ontario in 1859, W.A. Rountree first appears in the Highland records in 1892 on a Crown Grant for Section 36, the land surrounding Fizzle Lake. He shortly sold that property and settled on Section 77, the property that includes the switchback on Munn Road. Rountree was one of the Highland District's bachelor farmers, making a living doing odd jobs for others and living off the land often hunting venison and selling the meat in town. Although he had no children, Rountree was involved in founding the Highland School District. His name appears on the original petition sent to the Dept. of Education in 1893 requesting the creation of a Highland School and he is often noted at school board meetings.

Rountree was involved in a tragic accident in September of 1895. Out hunting in the Prospect Lake area with his friend, Thomas Williams, Rountree mistook a movement in the bush for a deer and fatally shot his friend. Police were called and Rountree was arrested and held until an inquest was held. The jury brought in a verdict of accidental death and Rountree was set at liberty. Jessie Bernard's diary mentions him several times as he was a close neighbour and more often than not Rountree was described as being drunk. About 1911, Rountree tried his hand at copper mining, pre-empting a parcel of land off Finlayson Arm Road. His name remains to this day on a small road in that area, (spelled 'Rowntree'). William Rountree passed away November 2, 1921 at the age of 62.