

THE HIGHLANDER

February 2004

Newsletter of the Highland District Community Association & the Highland Heritage Parks Society

Purpose of HDCA is "to determine democratically the wishes of the property owners and permanent residents of the Highland Land District of the Province of British Columbia, and accordingly take appropriate action to preserve or improve the amenities of the Highland Land District."

Highland District Community Association Executive Directory 2003-2004

	Name	Phone
Chair:	Evelyn Samuel esamuel@pacificcoast.net	478-6544
Vice-Chair:	Eric Bonham ebonham@shaw.ca	474-5252
Treasurer:	Angela Aarts-Faris aafaris@shaw.ca	474-5738
Secretary:	Georgina Zilinsky gzilinsky1@telus.net	478-7489
Events Co-ordinator:	Marcie McLean	474-4725
Director	Ann King aking@pacificcoast.net	478-2687
Director	Elaine Limbrick	474-1420
Director	Alan Philip aphilip@telus.net	478-3659
Director	Sheila Taylor stay@telus.net	474-1685
Director	Kit Wheatcroft	478-2687

COMING EVENTS

Come and meet your neighbours at the

Annual Highlands Fling

Sunday, September 7, 2003 from 10 a.m. to 4-p.m.

10 a.m. to noon Family Baseball Game
Twinflower Park

Noon to 4 p.m. Food, Games, Entertainment
Caleb Pike Homestead

Food available for a very good price.

Bring your favourite dessert for the dessert potluck table.

All ages TALENT SHOW at 3:15 p.m.

Highland District Community Association Priorities

If you're interested in getting involved, please contact the following director:

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| • Wildland/Urban Wildfire Interface | Alan Philip |
| • Community Events | Marcie McLean |
| • Help for seniors and others | Elaine Limbrick |
| • Highlands Business Directory | Evelyn Samuel |
| • Research into Highlands by-laws and how they are enforced | Ann King |
| • Children and Young People's Programs | Kit Wheatcroft |
| • Cultural Events in the Highlands | Angela Aarts-Faris |
| • Membership Drive | Elaine Limbrick |
| • Reducing speeding in the Highlands | Evelyn Samuel |
| | Angela Aarts-Faris |

Highland District Community Association

GENERAL MEETING

September 30, 2003 7:30 p.m.

West Fire Hall

Wild fires are uppermost in the minds of Highlanders these days. Come and have your say on the WILDLAND/URBAN WILDFIRE INTERFACE ISSUE

- Should Highlanders have to clear around their homes?
- What are the new standards being required?
- Should these new standards be required on new developments or for all residents in the Highlands?
- How do we balance environmental, safety, habitat, and privacy concerns?

Panel discussion will include foresters, safety officials, biologists, and others. Your thoughts and ideas are welcome.

Can We Stop Time?

If we think things in the Highlands are good, we wish we could keep everything the same forever. If we think things in the Highlands need changing, we can't wait for the changes to come. Somehow, this wonderful community has to meet the needs of all its residents.

If nature teaches us anything, it is that things change--constantly--inevitably--over and over.

Something important is happening in our community right now. The Council has approved a process for reviewing and updating our current Official Community Plan (OCP). Everyone of us is affected by the decisions made in the OCP. It is important that we all get involved in one way or another.

A way to start is to look at the current OCP. Does it reflect your vision of the Highlands? Everyone can see a copy at the Municipal Hall. It includes maps showing existing and proposed land uses including trails and parks, industrial lands, and other uses. You can look at the area around your home to see the present plan. What would you like to see for your neighbourhood?

The revised OCP will be the blueprint for the future of the Highlands. What kind of a future do you want? When the time comes for public consultation, you will have a chance to become involved in discussions. Take advantage of the process to let your wishes be known.

Meanwhile, The Highlander is asking for short (under 500 words) statements about YOUR VISION for the Highlands.

See Sheila Taylor's and Elaine Limbrick's visions inside.

My Vision for the Highlands

In the interests of helping us understand each other, *The Highlander* welcomes your ideas for the future of the Highlands. Below, two directors of HDCA share their visions. Please contact Evelyn Samuel, 478-6544, if you'd like to contribute.

Highlander: How long and where have you lived in the Highlands?

Sheila Taylor Larry and I moved here in 1984, so I've lived here for 19 years, always in this house on Millstream Road.

Highlander: Why did you chose to move to the Highlands?

Sheila: We came from Calgary and lived close to neighbours. When we moved out here, we wanted to be in the country and wanted more privacy. We looked around a lot, as far as Metchosin and Sooke, but we chose here. We lived in a trailer for five or six months until our house was built, and we finally moved into our new house in the first week of December in 1984.

Highlander: What do you value most about the Highlands?

Sheila: I value the rural nature, the quiet, the trees and garden. I appreciate being able to do my own thing here.

Highlander: What have you enjoyed the least here?

Sheila: The shortage of water!! I'm just about out of water now, and I have to be very careful. I have to get water trucked in--five loads so far this summer. I also don't like the polarization of the community, neighbour against neighbour. It seems to be getting too controversial, and there's a lot of unrest.

Highlander: What would your dream for the Highlands be like in twenty-five years?

Sheila: A lot like it is now. I see that we have to have some growth, but I would like it to stay as rural as it can. But we also have to remember that everyone of us lives in a house that used to be forest, and we should share our community with others who want the same experience, so I'm not opposed to some growth.

Highlander: What are some of the things that would improve the Highlands for you?

Sheila: I'd like to see a community centre--a central meeting place, facilities for older people (maybe small houses, duplexes, or four-plexes. I'd like to see affordable housing. I can see that someday we may need to get piped water.

Highlander: Do you feel at home in the Highlands?

Sheila: Oh, yes! I hate to think of the day when I have to move because I can't handle four and a half acres. That's why I'd like to see seniors housing so that I could stay here. I'd like to feel that we look out for each other, and that neighbours help each other when they need help. It doesn't matter if we disagree about some things in the community. It all comes down to people trying to make it a good place to live for everybody.

Highlander: How long and where have you lived in the Highlands?

Elaine Limbrick: I've lived for two years on Munn Road.

Highlander: Why did you move to the Highlands?

Elaine: I moved here for peace and quiet and the natural beauty. I used to live on Triangle Mountain, and as it became developed, I lost my mountain retreat.

Highlander: What do you value most about the Highlands?

Elaine: The silence and beauty, being close to nature and the wildlife. I enjoy seeing the wonderful wildflowers, and I love trees. I have always lived on a hill, and a vista is important to me. I used to look out and dream of travel. Here, I look out and I don't have to travel. The Highlands has wonderful night skies. Pascal was always gazing out at the night sky and thinking his ideas. You do that here, too, even if you can't put it into words.

Highlander: What have you enjoyed the least here?

Elaine: The threat of having no water made me hesitate about buying the property, and the fire hazard. I conserve water and watch it closely. You conserve what is precious.

Highlander: What would your dream for the Highlands be like in twenty-five years?

Elaine: It would be essentially to preserve the land and trees with controlled development. Some growth is necessary in order for us to keep on living here. We don't want it to become just an enclave for the rich. I would like to see it possible for more artists to be able to afford to live here. A lot of them now live in Metchosin and Sooke. I consider myself very lucky to be living here.

Highlander: What are some of the things that would improve the Highlands for you?

Elaine: I would like to see a centre for activities, rather like Metchosin has their café, store, small shops. It would be a place to relax and supply the needs of the residents to meet each other. Also, I would like to see facilities for old people. Most old people are condemned to live in the city—not everyone wants to retire to the city.

Highlander: Do you feel at home in the Highlands?

Elaine: Absolutely. I feel as though I've come home. My grandparents were farmers, and I've always felt comfortable in the country. I've come back to my roots. Through working on the HDCA and, now, the OCP Task Force, I've met some wonderful, very interesting people. The Highlands has a fascinating group of residents. Everyone has something to say and something to give.

Anybody interested in organizing a tour of Highland artists studios?

We know there are some wonderful artists in the Highlands—painters, sculptors, fabric workers, potters, but we don't know them all. A tour of studios gives Highlanders (and others) a chance to get to know our artists better and gives the artists a chance to sell some of their wares.

If you're interested in being involved in organizing such an event, please call Elaine Limbrick at 474-1420.

The Roadside Cleanup Campaign



John Dlugos, a long-time volunteer for the roadside cleanup campaign, is seen here in his safety suit, ready to do battle with broken bottles, fast-food wrappers, and worse!!

My Experience as a Volunteer

Evelyn Samuel

This was my first road-side cleanup campaign as a volunteer, and it opened my eyes to the amount of volunteer work

Highlanders do for their neighbours without any recognition.

Marcie McLean organized the event which started with a potluck breakfast at the Pike House on May 9, 2003. Highlanders brought many tasty morsels for breakfast, coffee was in the urn, and groups of happy munchers proceeded to polish off the vittals. Some Highlanders were so keen to get started they had phoned Marcie ahead of time for their routes, and were already at work. Marcie estimates that 30-35 people were involved this year. She says, "We do it because there's a need for it. People want the Highlands to look nice—garbage detracts from the natural beauty."

Marcie had everything well in hand, including an Alpine Recycling dumpster and a list of road routes to hand out.. Mine was on Millstream Lake /Ross Durrance Road, from Mason's driveway to Herbert's corner (the donkey place).

I parked my car at Mason's driveway and took my plastic bags to the side of the road. I looked around: bottle caps, gum wrappers, bits of glass—how small should I pick up? I decided I would be thorough, and the trail of small scrap led me to the edge of the woods. I looked in and saw a glint of glass. Pushing through the underbrush, I nearly fell over! I had come upon a huge dump of stuff. Thank goodness for the strong work gloves I had brought!! I hauled out over thirty broken canning jars, parts of a baby buggy, old umbrellas, sneakers with things living in them, and more.

But, the main prize was the dishwasher!! How to get this out of the woods? Surprisingly, a dishwasher is not that heavy, and I was able to get it rolled end-over-end to the roadside, very pleased with myself. Marcie says the worst ever find, a few years ago, was a freezer full of rotting meat.

The cleanup was also an opportunity for me to walk a stretch of the road that I usually drive through. I was stunned by the numbers of Lady Slipper Orchids, and I had to stop and photograph them. There were clumps of six to ten of them, more than I'd every seen before.

Some parts of my route were littered with garbage. Others were absolutely clear. I saw that neighbours going for a walk were diligently cleaning up the road as part of their nightly strolls. Thanks to everyone who helps keep our roads tidy.

HIGHLAND DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

Consider joining the HDCA. A dedicated group of volunteers can make a difference in a community. Even if you don't have time to help, your membership will help to support the Association financially.

Membership Fee is annual: \$5.00 per person; \$9.00 per household.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email address _____

Please send your cheques to

Angela Aarts-Faris, Treasurer, Highland District Community Association, 1201 Millstream Road, Victoria, BC, V9B 6J3

Highland District Community Association

SURVEY OF NEEDS

A survey for those who need help and those who want to help in the Highlands

The Highlands is a small community in which many homes are fairly isolated so that it is not always possible to know one's neighbours and be aware that they might need help. We are a caring community and would like to know what services are necessary for community members facing challenges to their independence. Please fill in the enclosed questionnaire so that we may determine the need for certain services in the Highlands. All returned questionnaires will be treated as

confidential information and will be destroyed once a summary has been compiled. You do not need to identify yourself. The results of the summary will be given to the **West Shore Community Resources** office which coordinates all volunteer services for the people of View Royal, Colwood, Langford, Metchosin, Highlands, and Sooke. They are at 1096 Goldstream Avenue, Victoria, BC, V9B 2Y2. Telephone 478-1122. Volunteers are desperately needed for the Highlands.

QUESTIONNAIRE Please tick the appropriate column.	YES	NO
1. Do you need drives to medical appointments?		
2. Do you need help to get groceries?		
3. Do you need help to go shopping?		
4. Would you like a volunteer to visit and chat?		
5. Would you like a volunteer to walk your dog?		
6. Would you like a volunteer to go walking with you?		
7. Would you like help with gardening?		
8. Do you need help with odd jobs around the home?		
9. Would you like a volunteer to check by phone to see if you are O.K.?		
10. Would you like a volunteer to read to you or write letters for you?		
11. Do you think it would be useful to have a neighbourhood watch block sign for designated houses?		
12. Would you like a "buddy watch" by neighbours to be set up?		
13. Do you currently receive any volunteer help?		
14. Would you like to volunteer to help your neighbours in the Highlands?		
15. Do you use Meals on Wheels?		
16. Do you use HandiDart?		
17. Comments:		