



Highlands News



Highlands resident Terri Smith (R), founder of the Highlands Garden Group, and Councillor Marcie McLean (L) display their stunning flower arrangement at the Victoria Chamber of Commerce kickoff for the Annual Flower Count. Although Highlands did not win first place, we think we deserved to! Thank you, both, for representing Highlands so well.

Note for next year: take candy with which to bribe media judges!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Community Calendar
- Emergency Services Bylaw No. 264
- **Council's Strategic Plan** - Highlights

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

The days are getting longer, and it seems resident volunteers can be found *everywhere* throughout the district. Highlands is blessed with an incredible wealth of community-minded people – it really is extraordinary!

Council is in the midst of discussing and refining the 2010 budget. We will be identifying priorities and considering items that are supplementary to the core budget. For example, there is a small bridge in need of repair, and lower Millstream Rd. requires rehabilitation. Draft budget documents are available on the district's website within the current council agenda; everyone is welcome to attend meetings, ask questions, and provide input.

Highlands has accepted an invitation to participate in a 40th Anniversary of Earth Day Event. It takes place on Saturday, April 17th, from 10 – 3 at Westshore Town Centre, (formerly Canwest Mall) in Langford. Various community groups will showcase several sustainable initiatives that exist within our district. Plan to stop by to see the Highlands display, and to visit our neighbouring municipalities' tables, too, for discussion of all things sustainable. The event will feature a wide range of participants along with an opportunity to take the 2010 Tomato Challenge, it promises to be a worthwhile outing.

This month's Community Calendar is loaded with a variety of opportunities to connect with fellow Highlanders - there's something for everyone, and all are welcome.

Council members wish each of you a very Happy Spring!

Mayor Jane Mendum

A SEASONAL REMINDER FROM HIGHLANDS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT As of April 1st, until October 15th, (fire hazard ratings permitting), a permit is required for ALL OPEN BURNING. Contact the Acting Fire Chief before you burn to obtain a permit, (250-920-6970). At press time, incinerator burning (with a screen) is allowed without a permit until such time as conditions become drier.

Current restrictions and regulations are posted on the District website, highlands.ca, and will be updated as conditions change. Please check before you burn!

The HDCA'S Annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday April 4th at the Caleb Pike Homestead. Please bring "nut-free" treats to hide, or finger food to share. Beverages provided.

Everyone is welcome! Rain or shine.

Organized by the Highland District Community Association - Information contact Marcie @ 474-4725
1589 Millstream Road

The Highlands News — APRIL 2010

District of Highlands Council Newsletter
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Community & Regional News



2nd ANNUAL SPRING POTLUCK SUPPER AND COUNTRY DANCE

You are invited to the second annual Spring Potluck Supper and Country Dance, *Saturday April 17*, at the Highland Schoolhouse. Potluck supper starting at 6 pm followed by a dance from 7:30 - 9:30 pm. Mary Ross will provide the music and Bob Anderson will coach us through the steps.

We had fun last year and we anticipate it will be great this year too.

RSVP to Bob McMinn at
250-478-4403



LOCAL COMPOSTING WORKSHOP

will be held on June 9, 2010 at the Caleb Pike House from 7.00pm to 9.00pm. Hosted by the HDCA and the Highlands Garden Group, it will feature guest speaker Nashira Birch of the Greater Victoria Compost Education Centre. Come and learn how to make fine compost!

Cost: \$5.00 per household

For information contact
Eric Bonham (250) 474-5252



CONGRATULATIONS to Highlands resident Marnie Essery on her recent appointment to the CRD Regional Parks Citizen Advisory Panel. She joins previous appointee and fellow resident Deanna Henry, who is also a member. The panel is helping to shape a future Strategic Plan for regional parks. Marnie, long time chair of the Intermunicipal Advisory Committee on Disability Issues, has a keen interest in improving accessibility in local parks. Thank you for volunteering, Marnie, and we hope you enjoy working with the panel.

2010 Council Meeting Schedule

April - 6 & 19
May - 3 & 17
June - 7 & 21
July - 19
August - 23
September - 7 & 20
October - 4 & 18
November - 1 & 15

REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY - 5 YEAR REVIEW UPDATE

The Capital Regional District's Growth Strategy (RGS) is undergoing its five year review, and will become the Regional Sustainability Strategy (RSS). The review is at an important consultative stage, and residents are encouraged to take part in the process.

Through an interactive online workshop, individuals are invited to provide input **that will shape the region's future growth.** The website contains interesting and important measurements of current trends along with future population forecasts that will stimulate participants to consider how they want the region to grow.

To take part in the workshop, visit <http://crd.metroquest.com/#/Challenge>. For additional information on the review, go to <http://crd.bc.ca/regionalplanning/growth/index.htm> and look for the Spring 2010 Update.

It is anticipated that the CRD will hold a public meeting in the Westshore area during April or May. Watch for notification in local media; the district will post the meeting time and place on the district website when confirmed.

For further input into the process, email to sustainability@crd.bc.ca or log onto the CRD Regional Planning Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Victoria-BC/CRD-Regional-Planning/141980147426?ref=ts>). Alternatively, you can call (250) 360-3160; the CRD Regional Planning office is maintaining an information counter to provide all media from the website in print form free of charge.

CRD PURCHASE OF REGIONAL PARKS AND WATERSHED LANDS IN

JUAN DE FUCA The Capital Regional District (CRD), The Land Conservancy (TLC) and Western Forest Products (WFP) have reached an agreement in principle for the CRD to acquire 2350 hectares of lands in the Jordan River, Sooke Potholes and Weeks Lake areas for recreation, conservation and watershed protection.

The properties, along with others, were destined to be sold on March 8th. The CRD will fund the parks portion partly through the recently reinstated Parks Acquisition Fund, and will continue to work to bring additional purchasing partners to the table.

ENOUGH ALREADY! Rabbits, that is. It has come to the district's attention that some of UVic's infamous rabbits have been relocated to the Highlands outdoors by well-intentioned residents.

Past releases of domestic rabbits have wreaked havoc upon neighbourhoods, and caused imbalance to the natural order of native plants and animals that quickly becomes increasingly challenging to address. Releasing domestic rabbits into the wild is a criminal act under the Criminal Code of Canada and an offence under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act.

Please, if rescuing or keeping domestic rabbits, ensure that they are contained and sheltered appropriately.

Editor's note: *There is an exception made for the Easter Bunny, who is welcome to visit once a year.*

STAY INFORMED: visit the District website: highlands.ca

Council & District News

EMERGENCY SERVICES BYLAW NO. 264

At its March 15th meeting, Council adopted an Emergency Services Bylaw. The first two readings of this bylaw occurred in 2005, and after extensive review by legal services and the Highlands Fire Department, the bylaw is finally in place.

This document is described as such: A Bylaw to Regulate Emergency Services within the District of Highlands, Including the Prevention and Extinguishment of Fires and For the Preservation of Life and Property in Emergency Situations.

It is an important bylaw, as it adopts the B.C. Fire Code Regulation and establishes the operating authority and structure for the fire department. Further, it contains the required policy of regular Fire and Life Safety Inspections for public buildings. These include municipal buildings and places of business at which the public attend. Notification will go out to those owners affected ahead of a scheduled inspection.

Bylaw #264 can be viewed online - <http://www.highlands.ca/agendas/council/2010/documents/264-EmergencyServicesBylaw.pdf>.

Questions, concerns, feedback? Please contact us! (see back page)

2010 STRATEGIC PLAN APPROVED

Council has approved its 2010 Strategic Plan, earlier discussed at a Committee of the whole meeting February 8, 2010. Items on the list of priorities include:

South Highlands Economic Development: Report coming forward from staff rationalizing zoning boundaries to RUSCPA and the potential redevelopment at the discretion of property owners.

Water: Groundwater Monitoring Program.

Roads: Annual road structure and surface assessments.

Transportation: Participation in regional opportunities to enhance local Transportation.

Trails: Public consultation on final stages of the plan; completion target summer 2010.

Emergency Services: Council will support recruitment of H.E.L.P. volunteers. Review of recommendations from within the MacAulay Report.

Administration/Governance: Treaty process/ First Nations relations to continue, develop and enhance relations with local First Nations. Continue to support the remediation of the Millstream Meadows site. Wildfire Interface Regulation report will come forward to a Committee of the Whole meeting. Draft revisions to the Subdivision Servicing Bylaw are underway and will come to Council. Council will review soil deposit and removal regulations - draft bylaw to come forward. Council will through recommendation from the Heritage Task Force, establish Heritage Visions and recommend properties for inclusion on Heritage Register. Council will consider a policy for ethics.

Land Use: Sustainability Task Force recommendations at the OCP policy level will be addressed through consultant services. Secondary housing will be addressed through consultant services.

Community Based: A volunteer appreciation event will be organized.



HIGHLANDS FOLK MUSIC

Highlands' Folk Music will be featuring "the Old Black Rum" - Saturday, April 10, 2010

The Old Black Rum is comprised of Heather Collins, Billy Collins, and Denis Wightman. Heather and Billy grew up in Newfoundland and were strongly influenced by the traditional music that surrounded them, while Denis grew up in Northern Ireland and was exposed to both Scottish and Irish music. Heather Collins is classically trained on the piano and is a strong promoter of traditional music and dance, as well as being an excellent singer. She has exhibited her talents in sean-nos singing and close-to-the-floor dancing in pubs from Sidney to Ireland to Newfoundland. Bodhran, piano and spoons are her favourite instruments. Bill Collins has played stringed instruments for 30 years, owing to being a geologist and spending time in the bush with few distractions. He has played in numerous bands. Bill is also a fine singer and an extraordinary reciter of stories and jokes. Denis Wightman arrived in Victoria over 20 years ago and began playing the penny whistle and harmonica. He has played with bands such as Kilkenny and The Three Wide Men. Denis also sings in the Victoria-based vocal ensemble 'Soundings'.

Annual Music and Arts night for YOUTH and CHILDREN - Saturday, May 8, 2010

In May we will be having our annual music and arts evening for the YOUTH and CHILDREN of Highlands, their friends and classmates (as well for children and youth of other nearby communities who are also interested in coming to perform or to get inspired). Please tell your children and youth (and their friends) to practice and get prepared for Saturday May 8th.

Categories for talents could include: sing a song / play a musical instrument / perform a dance / share a joke / recite a poem / show and tell about your art, science project, pictures you have taken, painting, statue, pottery, furniture or dress making / and other talents

☺ Age limit for performers: up to 18 years old

☺ Please let your friends and classmates know; they too are welcome to come to perform.

Come and bring your family and friends too for an enjoyable evening of being together, of celebration and entertainment.

For more information call Zhinoos at: (250) 727-9561

Date: Saturday, APRIL 10th @ 7:30pm and May 8th @ 7:00pm

Place: Caleb Pike House, 1589 Millstream Road

Charges: \$5.00 /person - under 15 free (honour system - you may pay more, or as you can afford); coffee/tea/goodies included

RCMP INCIDENTS REPORT February 16 to April 15, 2010

February

16 - 911 False/Abandoned Calls - Lorimer

18 - Property Lost - Hazlitt Creek

19 - Theft from MV Under \$5000 - Caleb Pike Park

Theft from MV Under \$5000 - Mount Work

Theft from MV Under \$5000 - Mount Work

27 - Impaired of MV (alcohol) - Millstream /Lost Lake

Theft-Other Under \$5000 - Industrial Way

March

03 - Suspicious Pers/Veh/Occurrence - Old Mossy

Theft from MV Under \$5000 - Millstream /Caleb Pike

04 - Mischief \$5000 or Under - Millstream

10 - Mischief \$5000 or Under - Hazlitt Creek

12 - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Munn /Millstream

14 - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Millstream

15 - Breach of Peace - Michael Pl.

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

2010 ECOSTAR AWARDS OPEN FOR NOMINATIONS

The CRD's EcoStar Community Environmental Awards recognize outstanding achievements and contributions by local businesses, groups and individuals to enhancing our environment. The EcoStar Awards nominations are open until Sunday, April 11 at midnight.

To view the categories, submit a nomination, or learn more, visit <http://crd.bc.ca/ecostar/index.htm>.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

Recognition goes to all those residents who turned off their household lights during Earth Hour and helped the District compete with Colwood and their Earth Friendly Challenge. The Times Colonist is reporting the Highlands was tops in the region at 2.7 %, followed by North Saanich at 2.6%. Colwood residents saw a 2.1% reduction in power usage, so we handily met Colwood's challenge



Thank you very much for your participation!

YOUTH DROP-IN

Location: Schoolhouse Basement
(1589 Millstream Road)

Who: ages 5 and up / When: 6:30 to 8 pm

Join the fun at Highlands Youth Drop In every other Friday in the basement of the Old Schoolhouse January through April 2010.

- April 16 - Play outside at Twinflower Park

For more information call Bob at 250-478-4403

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

Acting Fire Chief Guy Brisebois—GuyBrisebois@Forces.gc.ca / 250-920-6970

Emergency Coordinator Val Fletcher—vfletcher@highlands.ca / 250-479-1725

District of Highlands Office—250-474-1773

CRD Bylaw Enforcement—250-474-3351

Animal Control (24 hrs) - 250-478-0624

CRD Parks—250-474-2264

APRIL COMMUNITY CALENDAR

APRIL 4 - Easter Egg Hunt*, Pike House, 11am

APRIL 6 & 19 - Regular Council Meeting**, School House, 7pm

APRIL 7 - Fiscal/Environment Cttee, Pike House, 7:30 pm

APRIL 8 - Community Centre Task Force, School House, 7 pm

APRIL 10 - Coffee House*, Pike House, 7:30 pm

APRIL 12 - Committee of the Whole **, School House, 7 pm

APRIL 13 - Highlands Garden Group, School House, 7 pm - guest speaker - Brenda Costanzo will discuss native plants

APRIL 16 - Youth Drop In*, 6:30 - 8 pm, Twinflower Park

APRIL 17 - Earth Day Sustainability Event*, 10 - 3, Westshore Mall - stop by and visit the Highlands display!

APRIL 17 - Pot Luck Dinner and Dance*, School House, 6 - 9:30pm

APRIL 2, 16 & 30 - CRD Recycling Blue Box pickup

APRIL 20 - HDCA AGM with Ann Nightingale to present on birds in the Highlands, Pike House, 7pm; everyone welcome

APRIL 28 - Community Infrastructure & Services, School House, 7:30pm

APRIL 28 - Highland Heritage Park Society AGM, 7 pm, Pike House

*details elsewhere in the Newsletter

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

HIGHLANDS HISTORY - DID YOU KNOW? Why is our soil here in the Highlands so sandy and full of rock? Blame it on the glaciers the next time you try to dig a hole to plant something. Fifteen thousand years ago as the glaciers melted away and receded back to the mountain tops, an unsorted mixture of gravel, rocks, boulders, sand and rock dust was deposited and this is the foundation for most Highland soils. This is one of the reasons the Saanich Peninsula with its rich layer of top soil was developed years before people chose the Highlands to settle in. The poor soil, along with rocky outcrops and large tree stumps, made farming in the Highlands difficult for those early pioneers and only allowed for subsistence farming for the most part.



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.