



Highlands News



Photo Credit: Allan Dobb

Final event of the The Fling—Tug o War, Highlands style. This years Highland Fling, held September 9, was a great success! Congratulations to the Highlands District Community Association for a community event that was truly enjoyed by all, and appreciation to all those who volunteered, entertained and took part in the celebration.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS REMINDER:

Halloween fireworks will need a permit issued by the Fire Chief. **Watch for the advertisements in the Goldstream Gazette 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. **Fireworks may only be set off between 5pm and 10pm on October 31st.**

The recruit training program starts in January, 2013 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.

Fire Hazard ratings have been recently reduced to low, allowing residents to use woodstoves, fireplaces, hand piles, and screened incinerators. Class "A" Permits are required all year round for machine piled fires.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

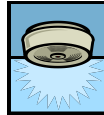
- Your opinion requested—see bottom of page 3
- Upcoming Events
- Volunteer opportunities—see page 2

Living Locally, Living Sustainably

Water Conservation We have experienced a very long dry period. The District does not have a water restriction bylaw in place for ground-water, however we'd like to remind everyone that *groundwater is NOT unlimited in supply*. Aquifer levels normally reach their lowest in October/November of each year, and may be lower this year. Therefore, we encourage residents to practice water conservation to avoid the possibility of well water shortage.

Climate Action Kits The Greater Victoria Public Library (GVPL), in partnership with the CRD and BC Hydro, has a new program featuring Climate Action To Go Kits. The kits contain practical tools with which to measure household energy use and efficiency, such as a meter to measure the electrical use of appliances or electronics and a thermal leak detector to assess drafts around windows and doors. Those who use the kit are encouraged to join an online conversation afterward. The kits are available for loan at all ten branches of the GVPL.

New—Alien Invasive Species Mobile Reporting The Ministry of the Environment has released an application for smart phones that allows users to identify and report 200 different species of alien invasive plants found throughout the province. The Report-A-Weed program is available as an online reporting tool that can be accessed by your home computer; visit www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/plants/raw.htm to learn more. For mobile use, search your smart phone's application store for Report-A-Weed.



Remember to replace the batteries in any battery-operated smoke alarms on November 4th when we turn the clocks back one hour.

Hallowe'en Events - Wednesday, October 31st

Highlands Kids' Hallowe'en Gathering - Pike House - 1589 Millstream Rd - 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)

Bonfire - West Fire Hall - 1564 Millstream Rd - 7 pm

All are welcome 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! Sponsored by the Highlands Firefighters Association

The Highlands News — OCTOBER 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

Community News

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO REPORT INSTANCES OF CRIME TO POLICE?

The West Shore RCMP relies on the public to be our eyes and ears as we cannot be in all places at once. We must all work together for safe communities and you can play an important part in helping to keep yourself, your loved ones and the community safe by reporting crimes committed against you or someone else.

Some citizens believe that some crimes are too trivial to report or that the police don't care. By sharing information you have about a crime that has or may be committed or about someone involved in committing a crime, you may help the police solve crimes and help prevent future crimes from taking place. What is most important is that this information is shared with police. This helps police understand crime patterns in a community; it helps focus policing resources and helps to gather intelligence. Reporting crime is not about statistics, it is about sharing information and knowing what is occurring in communities.

If you have a crime to report, please do not hesitate to contact the West Shore RCMP at 250-474-2264; we will be pleased to take your information and open a file.

Submitted by: Community Policing,
West Shore RCMP



Long Service Award On September 28, the Highlands Volunteer Fire Department held their annual recognition banquet. Congratulations to Deputy Fire Chief Dean Ford, who received a medal and award recognizing 20 years of dedicated service to the department and the community. Dean has been an active member of the department for over 21 years—thank you, Dean, for your valued contributions to the Highlands community!

Pumpkin Smash November 3—4, 2012 The Greater Victoria Compost Education Centre invites you to give your jack-o'-lantern a proper burial in their compost bins with fun games for the whole family! In partnership with Thrifty Foods, Ellice Recycle and the CRD, and by donation to the Greater Victoria Compost Education Centre.

Saturday, November 3rd - 10am - 3pm at Broadmead and Fairfield Thrifty Foods

Sunday, November 4th - 10am - 3pm at Admirals Walk and Cloverdale Thrifty Foods



District of Highlands volunteers are still required for several Committees/ Boards and Commissions.

If volunteering an hour or two each month seem appealing to you the following committees have vacancies: **Board of Variance, Community Infrastructure and Services, and Fiscal and Environmental Committee.**

Full Terms of Reference for these committees are available on the District website: www.highlands.ca. Anyone interested in serving is invited to submit a letter and / or a brief resume detailing their interest to serve on one of these committees.

All submissions should be forwarded to the office or email to: tneurauteur@highlands.ca.

Generally, committees meet once per month in the evening with the exception of July, August and December.

Westshore Unlimited TV Show The Westshore Chamber of Commerce has been busy producing a community television program, and production crews visited Highlands this summer. Featuring interviews with Ann and Gord Baird at their home, eco-sense, and local historian Daphne Allen at the Caleb Pike Homestead, the show can be viewed online at <http://www.westshoreunlimited.ca/full-tv-episode-4>.



The CRD Regional Parks **Fall Nature Outings and Events** brochure for October to December 2012 is now out. Naturalists lead guided walks, hikes, drop-in events and canoeing for all ages and abilities are available. Most are free, all are fun! Find the Fall brochure here :

crd.bc.ca/parks/events/documents/CRDSummerNatureProgram2012web.pdf

21st Annual Highlands Winter Craft Fair Sunday November 18th, 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!

Contact Bessie: highlandswintercraftfair@gmail.com



Remembrance Day Ceremony

The Annual Remembrance Day Ceremony, organized by the Prince Edward Branch 91 Legion, will take place on Sunday, November 11, at 11am at Veteran's Memorial Park (corner of Goldstream Ave and Veteran's Memorial Parkway, in Langford. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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. Thank You!



Community & Council News

RZ-01-12 (Little Bear's Daycare, 1931 Millstream Rd)

Council approved an application to increase the capacity of this daycare facility. Previous zoning was defined by the number of children permitted; the new zoning recognizes that this is a function of the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA), the authority that provides licensing in accordance with regulations for daycare facilities. Bylaw 347 removes the restriction related to the number of children attending daycare, does not increase residential density, introduces a total floor area of 362 square meters for all buildings and requires vegetative screening along Millstream Road frontage.

Community Hall Update Council has approved proceeding to tender with the community hall project, to be constructed near the corner of Finlayson Arm and Millstream Roads. The schedule provided by Stantec has been reviewed by staff and it is apparent that the completion date is unlikely to be achieved without extensive cost premiums. District staff is currently engaged in formal discussions with the province to address this situation.

South Millstream Road-Water Line Construction This project has been delayed subject to approved pressure testing results. Ultimately, the project will result in 3 fire hydrants located within the District – two in the road right of ways and one within the industrial park. Millstream Road will be restored to its former condition at completion of the project according to the terms of the contract. Additionally, it is planned that a new layer of asphalt will be applied to the entire lower Millstream Road in future.

Noise Suppression Bylaw Amendment - Bylaw No. 350

In response to requests from residents, Council has adopted an amending bylaw to suppress the use of engine (jake) brakes within the District. The bylaw can be viewed at <http://www.highlands.bc.ca/bylaws> and is in force now.

Ecostar Awards On September 11 the CRD hosted the 7th annual Eco Star Community Environmental Awards. This program recognizes achievements and contributions by local businesses, groups and individuals in enhancing and conserving our environment. Congratulations to Highlands resident Neville Grigg whose business, Heritage Office Furnishings, won the Waste Reduction award. Neville's company has adopted a zero waste policy, and has succeeded in diverting 90% of its waste from local landfills. Congratulations, Neville! You can read more about the awards and view an online video at crd.bc.ca/ecostar/previouswinners/2012.htm.

Museum Project Update The Highlands Heritage Park Society (HHPS) is currently constructing a museum at the Caleb Pike Homestead. It will reside in the area between the School House and the Gregory House. Funded (80%) through the Towns for Tomorrow provincial grant program, it is a stand-alone project. Council recently approved some design changes recommended by the HHPS, who consulted with Highlands resident and architect Bruce Greenway.

Donation of Parkland One of the community amenities realized by the rezoning of Section 74 earlier this year was the donation of 16 hectares of land by the developer for regional park purposes. The CRD has accepted this donation; it will be held as regional parkland reserve until a trail route is established, linking Thetis Lake and Gowland Todd Parks and contributing to the establishment of an east-west connector.

Drywall Disposal CRD has discontinued drywall recycling at the Hartland Landfill site. Due to increased health and safety regulations imposed by Worksafe BC, the cost of providing a place to recycle drywall has increased disproportionately to the amounts historically collected at this site. Drywall has been banned from the landfill since 1991. Several businesses located within the region will accept drywall for recycling; please visit www.myrecyclopedia.ca/items/drywall.aspx for a list.

CRD Housing Trust Fund—Your Opinion Requested

At the July 16 regular meeting, Council received a presentation from representatives of the Regional Housing Trust Fund. Highlands is one of three municipalities that do not currently take part in this service, although financial contributions to the trust fund have been voluntarily made annually since its inception in 2005. A formal request has been made to have the District become a full member in the service. The cost is shared among participating municipalities based on 50% each of converted assessed property values and population. The 2012 cost for the District totals \$6,134.00. Council is currently weighing the regional benefit, which has been demonstrated to be very positive, with becoming a full financial participant in a service that may be challenging to opt out of in future, and **welcomes your views**. Information on the program can be viewed online at crd.bc.ca/housingsecretariat/trustfund.htm. The staff report can be found at highlands.ca/agendas/council/2012/documents/HousingTrust2012.pdf or can be obtained from the District office – please make arrangements with staff by phoning: 250-474-1773.

Please email your views on this topic c/o Tina at tneurauteur@highlands.ca or **mail them** to the District (address at bottom of page 1) by Wednesday, November 28th in order to inform Council's decision.

RCMP INCIDENTS REPORT

August 16 to September 15, 2012

AUGUST

16 - Unspecified Assistance - Southwood
16 - Unspecified Assistance - Munn/ Fork Lake
17 - False Alarms - Stewart Mountain
17 - Collision Non Fatal - Millstream/ Stewart Mountain
17 - Traffic- Ross Durrance/ Hazlitt Creek
18 - Missing Persons - Davies
18 - 911-False/ Abandon Calls - Block Ross Durrance
22 - Unspecified Assistance - Industrial Way
23 - Mischief < \$5000 - Rolla/ Munn
24 - Cause a Disturbance - Lakeridge
25 - Bylaw Noise - Taylor/ Millstream
27 - Collision Damage < \$1000 - Millstream
29 - Unspecified Assistance - Robb
31—Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Industrial Way

SEPTEMBER

01 - Property Found - Westridge
02 - Bylaw Noise - Millstream
06 - Unspecified Assistance - Millstream
06 - Suspicious pers/veh/occur - Millstream Lake
06 - Unspecified Assistance - Millstream Lake/ Munn
07 - Theft From MV < \$5000 - Munn
07 - Suspicious pers/veh/occur - Millstream/ Finlayson Arm
07 - Breach of Peace - Jayhawk
08 - Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Millstream/ Finlayson Arm
08 - Unspecified Assistance - Millstream
08 - Suspicious pers/veh/occur - Millstream/ Taylor
09 - Bylaw Noise - Stewart Mountain
09 - Bylaw Noise - Stag
09 - Unspecified Assistance - Blk Finlayson Arm
10 - Unspecified Assistance - Jayhawk
10 - False Alarm - Finlayson Arm
11 - Traffic - Other Non Move Prov - Millstream
11 - 911- False / Abandon Calls - Rowntree
11 - 911-False / Abandon Calls - Eagles Lake
11 - Unspecified Assistance - Jayhawk
11 - Collision-Damage > \$1000 - Millstream
12 - Traffic- Millstream/ Millstream Lake
13 - Unspecified Assistance - Millstream Lake
15 - Traffic -Other Moving Prov - Millstream
15—Bylaw Noise - Millstream

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

Recognition goes to the many broom pulling volunteers who toiled throughout the district this past spring and summer. Highlands, along with its rural neighbours, has seen an increase in this prolific invasive species in the last few years, and the hard work done by residents to reduce its presence is very much appreciated.

Recognition and appreciation also goes to Bob McMinn, who is leading the construction of the museum at the Caleb Pike Homestead on behalf of the Highlands Heritage Parks Society. The museum will provide a welcome space in which to display historical items and information about the District's heritage.

Bob has also recently completed the accessible approach to the washroom facility at Twinflower Park - thank you!



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.ca
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

Oct 1 & 15 - Council meeting, School House, 7pm
Oct 3 - Fiscal and Environmental, Pike House, 7.30pm
Oct 6 - Statutory Holiday - District office closed
Oct 9 - Committee of the Whole, School House, 7pm
Oct 12 & 26 - CRD Recycling Blue Box pickup
Oct 24 - Community Infrastructure and Services, School House, 7pm
OCTOBER 31 - Halloween Gatherings and Bonfire—see front page - 7:00pm

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

Welcoming New Caretakers The District welcomes new Heritage Park caretakers Ed and Gwen Ouellet who recently moved into the Gregory House. Ed and Gwen look forward to meeting residents as they settle into their new home.

Facility booking inquiries can be made by phoning 250-474-7601.

HIGHLANDS HISTORY

The District of Highlands is a wonderful place to live and many of us have been here for decades. But sometimes fortunes and lives change and people have to move away. That is when you will see the “for sale” signs appearing on the road.

One of the earliest real estate ads in our area was posted in the Daily Colonist on August 18, 1878 by George Hawkins advertising his farm of 160 acres for sale. Hawkins had arrived in Fort Victoria in 1850 on the same ship as Caleb Pike. He pre-empted land in the area where our municipal hall is now located in about 1877. By 1878 something in his life must have changed and he was obliged to put the farm up for sale. On Sept 13 the sale, as noted in the paper, was successful.

“Real Estate Sales. The Hawkins farm, consisting of 160 acres situated on Highland District, together with improvements thereon, consisting of dwelling house, barns etc. were sold by Messrs. J.P. Davies and Co. yesterday at public auction to Mr. Dobinson, formerly of Esquimalt for \$950. The purchase is considered a bargain.” That price in today’s dollars would be \$21,205.00, a bargain indeed.

