



Highlands News



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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

March 20th marks the first day of spring, and with a mild winter behind us, Highlanders are gearing up for a great year.

Spring break takes place from March 8th to 12th – take care to watch for children on or near the roads.

Be sure to set the clocks ahead on Sunday, March 14th. This is a great time to check your smoke alarms and install new batteries, too.

On Monday, March 1st, Stan Orchard is scheduled to present his 2009 data on the American Bullfrog population to council at its regular meeting. Stan has been working to control bullfrogs in and around the Sooke Lake reservoir watershed, and will share his observations with us. Check the council agenda on the district website's homepage to confirm this and other agenda items that might interest you. Council agendas are posted by the end of the week preceding the meeting.

On Monday, March 8th Council will begin its budget deliberations at a Committee of the Whole meeting. Everyone is welcome to join us as we review and plan for the year ahead.

Council encourages you to help us take on Colwood's eco-challenge on March 27th. Depending on the official results, we may never hear the end of it... A future counter-challenge might be in order too - send us your ideas, but first help Highlands win!

Mayor Jane Mendum

A lime kiln situated in south Highlands is just one of the heritage treasures that could receive protection through future Heritage policies. The district is advertising for **volunteers to serve on a Heritage Task force**. The deadline for applying is March 15th; more information can be found in the February issue of the Highlands News, available on the district website, or contact Tina either by email - tneurauteur@highlands.ca or by phone 250-474-1773.

*This lime kiln could date back to the 1890's; the fascinating history of limestone quarrying activities in the Highlands is chronicled in the book **Beautiful Rocks**. See back page for details on how you can obtain a copy.*

Photo credit: Ginny Mendum

COLWOOD ISSUES CHALLENGE! The city of Colwood has issued 'An Earth Friendly Challenge' to other municipalities west of Victoria, including the District of Highlands. An email ending with, "Are you in? Come on now you aren't afraid of a little competition now...are you?" has our attention - and we hope it has yours!

Earth Hour 2010 takes place on Saturday, March 27, 2010 from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. .

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THIS DATE, AND TURN TO PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS...



CYCLING RACES ON MILLSTREAM ROAD/CALEB PIKE ROAD Council has approved nine cycling races to be held by the Schwalbe Cycling Club this spring and summer. The course will begin on Millstream at Caleb Pike (at the Pike House), travel north on Millstream and turn right onto Caleb Pike Road at the north end, then back around to Millstream Road. The Club will provide course marshalls and traffic controllers during each event and pylons will mark the centreline and corners. Event times and dates will be posted around the area, and the Club will provide proof of insurance to the district. The first race will be held from 10 am - 12:30 pm on March 28th, and thereafter will be held on Wednesday evenings beginning on April 14th (from 5 pm - 7:30 pm) and continuing every second Wednesday (from 5:30 - 8 pm) thereafter until July 28th. On committee meeting nights, the Club has been asked to park their vehicles on Caleb Pike Road on the west side of Millstream Road. If you have any concerns or if any problems occur, please contact the municipal office.

The Highlands News — MARCH 2010

District of Highlands Council Newsletter
1980 Millstream Road, Victoria, BC V9B 6H1
Phone: 250-474-1773/ Fax: 250-474-3677
Web: highlands.ca

Community News



ONE PERSON'S TRASH Often residents will place re-usable items at the street for free. While this is a good practice for re-use it is important that when doing this, residents limit the placement of these items to the confines of their driveway as opposed to a more common location where it can end up being deemed as garbage for which there is a cost to the District to remove, or is unsightly for neighbours. Other suggestions include the re-use centre at the Hartland Road Landfill or posting a note of what you have available at community mailboxes.



COLWOOD ISSUES A

CHALLENGE! *Continued from page 1*

Colwood challenges Highlands residents to **turn off all the lights** in our community (except those required for safety reasons) from **8:30 to 9:30 pm on March 27th**. BC Hydro will do all the work tracking the results of a lights out campaign during Earth Hour.

People all over the world will be turning off their lights in a collaborative effort to take responsibility and lead the way toward a sustainable future.

Let's take up the challenge and show them what Highlanders can do! Turn off your lights and unplug anything non-essential; great ideas abound on how to transform this challenge into a fun opportunity for your family or to arrange for some quiet time.



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.

- March 5 - Beading
- March 19 - Movie Night

*For more information call Bob
at 250-478-4403*

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION ISSUES The Local Government Elections Task Force is reviewing local government election issues and is seeking comments from Council, organizations and individuals in the community. The Task Force is a joint, consensus-based group of provincial and Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) members. It is co-chaired by the Honourable Bill Bennett, Minister of Community and Rural Development, and Harry Nyce, UBCM President. The Task Force invites comments on any or all of these topics:

- campaign finance, including contribution/spending disclosure and limits, and tax credits,
- enforcement processes and outcomes,
- role of the B.C. Chief Electoral Officer in local government elections,
- election cycle (term of office)
- corporate vote, and
- matters raised in election resolutions submitted to the 2009 UBCM Convention, such as the eligibility of volunteers.

Comments are requested to be submitted by April 15th, and the Task Force will make recommendations by May 30th. Written comments can be made via email to localelectiontaskforce@gov.bc.ca, by fax to 250 387 7972, or by mail to:

Local Government Elections Task Force
c/o Ministry of Community and Rural Development
PO Box 9839 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C., V8W 9T1

REDUCING THE RISK OF WILDFIRE *Val Fletcher, DoH Emergency Coordinator*

Now that it appears we are though the major winter wind storm season it is time to think about protecting your home from wildfire:

- Start with a general yard cleanup. Within 10 metres of your home, remove trees, needles, branches, deadfall and underbrush that could fuel a fire. Get rid of brush, long grass and anything growing under large nearby trees that could cause a fire to spread into those trees and neighbouring trees. Clean gutters and roofs of organic debris.
- Prune low-level branches up to at least 2.5 metres above the ground. Replace bark mulch with gravel or decorative rocks.
- Move your woodpile and other flammable materials away from your house or other buildings. Flammable materials should be at least 10 metres away and uphill from your home.
- If your home is on a slope, pay particular attention to the downhill side of your property. Fire can race uphill and burn trees, brush, grass or other flammable materials.
- Please consult local regulations prior to undertaking any work (e.g. Highlands Tree Management Bylaw No. 10)

More detailed information on how to reduce the risk of loss, damage, or injury from wildfire is contained in a pamphlet titled **The Home Owners Fire Smart Manual**, available at the District Office or on our web site at:

http://www.highlands.ca/emergency_program/WILDFIRE/homeowner-firesmart.pdf

The Highlands Volunteer Fire Department would like to remind residents that a permit is required year round for burn piles measuring 1m x 1m or greater, and for machine made piles. Permits are required for ANY fire after April 1st, or before that date if the fire hazard rating changes. Check the district website for up to date information regarding open and other burning, observe the signs posted at each road entrance to Highlands, or phone the Acting Fire Chief before you burn; see the back page for contact information.

STAY INFORMED: visit the District website: highlands.ca

Council & District News

COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLANNING

Strategic planning for 2010 will include recommendations from the final report of the Sustainability Task Force, which included a suggested action plan to begin to address sustainability issues which include land use and OCP policy items, groundwater monitoring issues, operational and communication items, and political action items. Since there are many recommendations to be included, Council will hold a council/staff planning workshop in the near future to further discuss prioritizing the many items on the strategic planning list. Some of the Sustainability Task Force recommendations have been referred to the Groundwater Task Force, for possible inclusion in Phase 3 of the Groundwater Monitoring Program.

SOLAR DIGESTERS provide an alternative to disposing of your kitchen waste in the household trash, **reducing the amount of material going from a household to the landfill by 30%!** Different than a composter, digesters decompose foods not suited to backyard composting, such as dairy, meat scraps, bones, and cooked food by using both solar heat and bacteria in a speeded up process. Pet droppings can also be disposed of in a safe and convenient way using a digester. For more information, visit the Greater Victoria Compost Education Centre's website: <http://www.compost.bc.ca> or phone (250) 386-9676.

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN AMENDMENTS The Capital Regional District Board has formally accepted Highlands Regional Context Statement. The statement is required by every municipality in the CRD and is included in Official Community Plans (OCP). It highlights how each municipality will comply with the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS). The RGS is a regional plan accepted unanimously by municipal councils and by the CRD board in 2003 to contain urban areas and protect agricultural and rural areas in the region, largely by setting a boundary beyond which piped services would not be allowed.

When the Bear Mountain property in Highlands was rezoned, Highlands requested an extension of the boundary, a request that was eventually settled by a provincially-appointed arbitrator. Though the entire property was not included, the boundary was extended to include a portion of the property. Highlands council now is required to amend our OCP to incorporate the newly-accepted Regional Context Statement, which includes the arbitrated services boundary.

Council is also required to amend the OCP by May 31st (by Provincial legislation) to include targets, policies and actions to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Highlands. Planner Jon Munn made a presentation to Council on February 15th to explain the requirements and the process. According to the Ministry of Community and Rural Development's Target Workbook, targets are typically expressed as either a percentage or number of tonnes reduction, and must be community-wide.

Last term, Council signed on to the Climate Action Charter, setting a target for municipal corporate operations to be carbon-neutral by 2012. The goal is to reduce green-house gas emissions. Where it's not possible, GHG emissions must be offset by payment to an offsetting organization. GHG emissions are calculated on a carbon equivalent per tonne basis.

Council directed staff to return with policy options in order to proceed with the OCP amendment to meet the May deadline. It is expected that the regional context statement will be included at the same time. The recommendations from staff will be discussed in a future Committee-of-the-Whole meeting to which select committees will be invited.



HIGHLANDS FOLK MUSIC - MARCH 13

Highlands Folk Music will be featuring two bands!

We will start with a six member band: "Bowker Creek"

Bowker Creek draws its bluegrass influences from folk, country, rock and roll, old time, swing, jazz and, yes, even bluegrass. This six piece band consists of **Duncan Sutherland** (guitar and vocals), **Renata Young** (vocals and guitar), **Martin Matychuk** (bass and vocals), **Dan Ready** (mandolin and guitar), **David Grimm** (fiddle) and **Doug VanDine** (banjo). Guaranteed you'll love Bowker Creek's song selection, harmonies and musical energy.

The 2nd half of the evening will feature the band: "Puzzleroot"

Puzzleroot is an eclectic, genre-bending and blending band from Vancouver Island. They have been labeled roots, altfolk, altcountry, bluegrass, and punkgrass. Drawing on primarily original material, this band encompasses adept vocal harmonies and professional musicianship, with poetic and yet, often humorous and insightful lyrics. The band members are **Gary Eugene** - guitar, lead & harmony vocals, **Marian van der Zon** - banjo, slide guitar & slide banjo, lead & harmony vocals, **Dan Fehr** - upright bass, **Kathleen Law** - fiddle, harmony vocals.

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, MARCH 13, 2010 @ 7:30pm

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 January 16 to February 15, 2010

January

- 16 - False Alarms - Millstream
- 19 - False Alarms - Millstream Lake
- 21 - Animal Calls - Woodridge
- 22 - Breach of Peace - Millstream Lake
- 24 - Suspicious Pers/Veh/Occurrence - Millstream Lake
False Alarms - Caleb Pike
- 25 - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Millstream/Lost Lake
- 29 - Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Munn
- 30 - Breach of Peace - Caleb Pike
911-False/Abandoned Calls - Tammy Pl
- 31 - False Alarms - Caleb Pike

February

- 3 - False Alarms - Millstream
- 5 - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Ross Durrance /Millstream Lk
- 6 - Theft from MV Under \$5000 - Ross Durrance
- 7 - Break & Enter - Emma Dixon Rd
- 11 - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Ross Durrance Rd
Impaired Op MV (Alcohol) - Millstream/Lost Lake
- 12 - Theft from MV Over \$5000 - Gowlland Tod Provl Pk
- 14 - Theft from MV Under \$5000 - Hillsborough Lane
False Alarms - Munn Rd

FEBRUARY WAS B.C. AUTO CRIME ENFORCEMENT MONTH

On Feb. 18th, the Westshore RCMP posted a news release highlighting tips for reducing auto crime. This is important to Highlanders as we have had a number of incidents in our neighbourhoods. The two biggest things that we can do is to leave ABSOLUTELY NOTHING in our vehicles and to keep our vehicles locked. For more information you can find the news release on the RCMP website at www.bc.rcmp.ca. Click on the link *Newsroom* and then under region go to *Island District* to find articles regarding issues on Vancouver Island. Alternatively you can pick up a copy of the article at the Highlands Office.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

Council wishes to thank the members of the Fiscal and Environment Committee for their recent work in pulling together recommendations for both provincial and federal consultation opportunities. Council was asked for input regarding Cosmetic Pesticides, the Species at Risk Act, and the B.C. Ocean and Coastal Strategy. Timelines were short, but the committee worked through a lot of material and delivered well thought out recommendations on time.

Special thanks to the committee members - Kenn Faris (Chair), Warren Lee (Vice-Chair), Karen Burns, Patricia Cummins, Vicky Husband, Elaine Limbrick, Bob McMinn, Greg Nuk, Aniko Varga, and Councillor Marcie McLean (council liaison) - for a job well done!

2010 Council Meeting Schedule

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

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

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!



MARCH COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MARCH 1 & 15 - Regular Council Meeting**, School House, 7pm

MARCH 3 - Fiscal/Environment Cttee, Pike House, 7:30 pm

MARCH 4 - Community Centre Task Force, School House, 5:30 pm

MARCH 8 - Committee of the Whole **, School House, 7 pm

MARCH 9 - Highlands Garden Group, School House, 7 pm

MARCH 05 & 19- CRD Recycling Blue Box pickup

MARCH 13 - Coffee House*, Pike House, 7:30 pm

MARCH 14 - Daylight Savings Time - set clocks ahead 1 hour

MARCH 24 - Community Infrastructure & Services, School House, 7:30pm

MARCH 24- HDCA Directors Meeting - Pike House, 7:30pm

MARCH 27 - EARTH HOUR CHALLENGE*, your house, 8:30 - 9:30 pm

*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? Duncan Ross bought

Section 25 around Pease Lake in the late 1890's and in 1910 built his family a summer home there on the lake. By 1918 Mrs. Ross, now a widow, moved herself and their young children to the lake house permanently. The girls had to go to school and if they attended the Highland School at Millstream and Millstream Lake Roads, the school could stay open as the Ross girls would make up the required minimum of eight pupils. Mrs. Ross borrowed a two wheeled cart and horse from neighbour Frederick Corry; her daughter Mary (10 years old) drove her sister Margaret (8 years old) the four and a half miles through the woods to the school every day. When the old horse died, the girls' Highland school days came to an end and Mrs. Ross moved them all back to Victoria for a "proper education".



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.