



# Highlands News



It was a proud day to be a Highlander at the Westshore Earth Day 2010 Event held April 17. Climate Action Westshore (CAWS) extended invitations to local municipalities to showcase sustainable initiatives within their jurisdictions. Several Highlands-based organizations had plenty to share with interested passersby. Displays included the district's Green Map, Heritage Park and buildings, Highlands Stewardship Foundation initiatives, Groundwater Protection Study, Sustainability Task Force Report, the history book *Beautiful Rocks* and the popular Eco-Sense cob building display.

*Photo credit: Daphne*

## HIGHLANDS SUSTAINABILITY GROUP ON FACEBOOK

A **Facebook** group has been formed for Highlanders to share ideas, experiences and thoughts, with lots of how-to information. Topics include local food and water, bees, maintenance, farm animals, climate change, sustainable energy alternatives, native birds and plants, composting, art, music, biodiesel, gardening, kids, heritage, lake stewardship, invasive Species and anything else related to sustainability. The group has also been used as a networking tool to arrange carpooling, hikes, work parties, crop trading and sharing, and social events. It may also prove useful in emergencies. The group is only available to Highlands residents, and cannot be viewed by non-members. For more information, contact Ann Baird at [ann@eco-sense.ca](mailto:ann@eco-sense.ca)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Community Calendar
- Property Tax Information
- Upcoming OCP Amendment

## CRD HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF CRD REGIONAL PARKS & TRAILS!

The Capital Regional District and a Citizen Advisory Panel are preparing a new strategic plan that will set the direction for the regional parks and trails system for the coming decade.

Community engagement meetings are being held throughout the region. Get involved to ensure your ideas, values and issues are known.

Monday, May 17, Doors open 6-7pm

Langford Church of the Rosary, 798 Goldstream Ave.

Community dialogues 7-8:30 p.m.

## A MESSAGE FROM ACTING FIRE CHIEF GUY BRISEBOIS

As of May 1, B.C.'s Fire Code requires that all residences (including those built before March 31, 1979) be equipped with working smoke detectors. This applies to rental units as well, with onus on owners for compliance. In part, the regulation states ***Smoke alarms within dwelling units shall be installed between each sleeping area and the remainder of the dwelling unit, and where the sleeping areas are served by hallways, the smoke alarms shall be installed in the hallways.*** For specifics, visit [http://www.housing.gov.bc.ca/building/consultation/smoke\\_alarms/index.html](http://www.housing.gov.bc.ca/building/consultation/smoke_alarms/index.html)

Contact the Fire Chief (250-920-6970) or the District office (250-474-1773) if you require additional information.

## HDCA ANNUAL COMMUNITY CLEAN UP OF HIGHLANDS PUBLIC LAND AND MAIN ROADSIDES

**Mission:** Cleanup of garbage, tossed metal, tires and miscellaneous items from main roadsides and municipal parks. Garbage bags provided. To reserve a section of a main road prior to Saturday or for more information, contact Marcie McLean at 250-474-4725. **Everyone Welcome!**

**When:** **Saturday, May 1, 9am to 1pm** - Potluck breakfast, 9-9:30 a.m. at the Pike House. Beverages provided. There you may select a section of main road, get some garbage bags and a pair of gloves, have breakfast and meet your neighbours and friends. If you cannot bring your collected garbage back to the Pike House, then please leave it on the side of a main road where items can be safely retrieved by 1pm, May 1. Thanks for your care!

**Where:** Caleb Pike House, 1589 Millstream Road

**Main Roads:** Millstream, Finlayson Arm, Munn, Millstream Lake, Ross-Durrance

*Organized by the Highland District Community Association*

## The Highlands News — MAY 2010

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

# Tax News—2010 Taxes Due July 2, 2010



**YOUR 2010 PROPERTY TAX NOTICE** will be mailed out at the end of May. This year's **due date is 4:00 pm on July 2, 2010.** Please note:

Regular Office hours are 8:30 am to 4:00 pm (July 1 Canada Day office closed). After July 2, any outstanding 2010 (current) property tax is subject to a 5% penalty. Another 5% penalty will be applied after 4:00 pm on September 1, 2010. Outstanding arrears and delinquent taxes accrue daily interest at a percentage rate set by the province.

**THE HOME OWNER GRANT MUST BE COMPLETED EVERY YEAR!** If eligible, please claim your Home Owner Grant (HOG) by completing the reverse side of the property tax notice and dropping it by our office or mailing it to 1980 Millstream Rd, Victoria, BC, V9B 6H1. We also have a mail slot in the front door. If not claimed by July 2, the HOG portion becomes part of the outstanding amount and will be subject to penalties. *You do not need to make a payment to claim your HOG.*

**HOG PHASE-OUT SAME AS LAST YEAR** For properties assessed at \$1,050,000 (threshold) and above, the HOG is reduced by \$5 for each \$1,000 of assessed value in excess of the threshold. The basic grant (\$570) is therefore eliminated or phased out on properties assessed at \$1,164,000+ and the additional grant (\$845 for seniors, veterans and persons with disability) is eliminated on properties assessed at \$1,219,000+. For more information on the Home Owner Grant (HOG) Program please go to [www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/hog](http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/hog).

**PAYMENT** The municipal office does accept debit card payments; however, please be aware your debit transaction limit. Your debit transaction may be denied if you have not contacted your bank to arrange for a large amount to be debited from your account. You can still pay by cash, cheque, or postdated cheque (please include roll# on cheque for reference). Note: we *do not* accept credit cards or online payments.

You may pay your property taxes at your bank or credit union. Your financial institution will require the original bottom portion of your tax notice to process your payment and will accept Home Owner Grant application only if accompanied by a payment.

## IMPORTANT: UPDATE YOUR MAILING

**ADDRESS** If you have moved or bought your property this year, please ensure that the District has your current mailing address before mid-May by calling the Municipal Office at 250-474-1773.

**NEW FOR 2010** Property Tax Deferment Program for Families with Children Beginning in 2010, qualifying homeowners who are financially supporting a dependent child under age 18 will be able to apply to defer property taxes on their principal residence. This expansion of the Property Tax Deferment Program allows government to assist families with children, particularly during those years when household costs are typically the highest.

As with the Property Tax Deferment Program for seniors and the Financial Hardship Property Tax Deferment Program, the Property Tax Deferment Program for Families with Children is a loan program that allows you to defer your annual property taxes on your home if you meet certain eligibility criteria. Details for applying and eligibility requirements are available on the following website:

[http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/individuals/Property\\_Taxes/Property\\_Tax\\_Deferment/ptd.htm](http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/individuals/Property_Taxes/Property_Tax_Deferment/ptd.htm)

**ETHICS POLICY** At its regular meeting on April 6th, Council adopted a code of ethics which addresses issues for Council such as gifts, favours and discounts, public interest, conduct of members, work environment, breach of code and consequences. It also addresses issues for staff such as obligation to citizens, financial advantages, confidential information and outside employment. The policy is available at <highlands.ca> under the April 6th agenda, item 10d.

## 2010 Council Meeting Schedule

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

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!



## CRD SEE-IT PROGRAM LAUNCHED TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL PLANNING

The Capital Regional District (CRD) has partnered with Visible Strategies to launch a program called See-It, which will provide information on Regional Monitoring indicators. With the launch of the See-It program, the CRD can now clearly display its targets and plans for the future and determine their accuracy and effectiveness, driving action towards social, economic and environmental goals.

The Program is designed to enable the CRD, its member municipalities and its provincial partners to assess whether the Regional Growth Strategy and its related implementation actions are having the desired effect, and to provide timely information for the five year review and update of the RGS to the Regional Sustainability Strategy.

To view the program visit [www.crd.bc.ca](http://www.crd.bc.ca).

## HIGHLANDS TRAILS OPEN HOUSE APRIL 24, 2010

Residents were invited to view plans of the proposed trail system along Millstream Road, lower Millstream Lake Road, Munn Road and Woodridge Place, and to complete a survey. Those attending expressed their support for the proposed trail plans and standards, and were in favour of trail sharing by pedestrians and horse riders, and designated bike lanes along lower Millstream Road. They were particularly interested in having trails located off the road edge as much as possible. Almost all respondents indicated that they or members of their family would use the proposed trails if they were built.

In terms of priorities, support was highest for a trail along the Millstream Road corridor and for bike lanes south of the Millstream Lake Road junction. There was also support for trails along lower Millstream Lake Road and Munn Road, and, to a lesser extent, Woodridge Place.

Some of the issues addressed by residents were the need for more loop trails and east-west connector trails within the municipality, and the value of the District working with landowners to acquire trail corridors or easements. Some residents expressed uncertainty over the status of some present trail routes, and identified a need to integrate municipal, regional and provincial trail planning within the Highlands.

For those unable to attend the Open House, trail plans will be on display at the School House from 6 pm to 7 pm prior to Council meetings during the month of May along with surveys. The information can also be found online at [highlands.ca](http://highlands.ca). The survey forms are due at the District office by the end of May, after which the consultant, Michael Bocking Landscape Architect Ltd., will submit a report to council regarding the trail plans and consultation results.

# Council & District News

## PROVINCIAL CLIMATE ACTION CHARTER - OCP AMENDMENTS

On April 6th, Council received a report from Planner Jon Munn on steps to amend the Official Community Plan to include a new chapter on Greenhouse Gas (GHG). The amendment will address greenhouse gas reduction policies, targets and actions and must be adopted by May 31, 2010 as mandated by provincial legislation.

The Highlands Community Energy and Emissions Inventory (CEEI) estimates 8,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents are emitted annually. The majority (92.7%) is attributed to on-road transportation, while buildings (4.3%) and solid waste (3%) make up the remainder. The report suggests alternatives for community GHG reduction, including:

- working with the region to improve waste diversion from the landfill towards reuse and recycling, including increased organics recycling
- requiring higher building efficiency standards for new structures
- mixed and clustered land use (mostly through rezoning) to reduce vehicle use and encourage more walking, cycling, and shorter vehicle trips
- including more energy efficiency requirements, with respect to landscaping, siting, form, and exterior design in new zoning
- providing better transportation alternatives through public works such as trails, cycling lanes and greater access to public transit

Other solutions consider the replacement of vehicles with more energy efficient models. The report also addresses corporate (District) GHG reduction. A corporate inventory shows most of the energy used by the District is derived from diesel (55%), followed by gasoline (19%), propane (17%) and electricity (8%). The proposed OCP amendment includes general council policies, local government operations policies, targets and actions. The report will get further consideration at the May 10 committee of the whole meeting where a presentation from Tod Litman from the Victoria Transport Policy Institute is anticipated.

**HERITAGE TASK FORCE APPOINTMENTS** Council has appointed David O'Laney, Bob McMinn, Diana McMinn, Sally Gose, Daphne Allen and Bronwen Duncan to the newly-formed Heritage Task Force. The function of the Task Force is to establish heritage values and vision for the Highlands, eligibility criteria for a community heritage register, and make a preliminary list of heritage features to be placed on such a Register (e.g. structures). Members will take part in a heritage training workshop provided by the provincial government.



## HIGHLANDS FOLK MUSIC

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

This is our special 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 8.**

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: 18 years old

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

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

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

**Date: May 8, 6:40 pm**

**Place: Caleb Pike House, 1589 Millstream Road**

**Charges: FREE—coffee/tea/goodies included**



**GOOD BUDGET NEWS FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT!** Acting Fire Chief Guy Brisbois reported to Council there will be no fire truck replacement required for about 15 years, as the trucks currently in use have a life expectancy of 20-25 years. Since the fire capital reserve stands at over \$500,000, Acting Chief Brisbois has requested that \$10,000 from the reserve be budgeted to engage an architect to plan a new East Fire Hall (which is in poor condition) for potential construction next year. Acting Chief Brisbois proposes a 2-bay hall with an area for training.

Attention in subsequent years could then be focused on upgrading the West Fire Hall. Though there has been discussion of a single fire hall for Highlands, Acting Chief Brisbois did not support this alternative. He advised call response times would increase for both East and West Highlands residents from a single hall, since firefighters on average would have to travel greater distances to the single hall, before continuing on to the scene.

**Note: Council will be adopting the 2010 budget by May 15; you can access details by visiting the District website and following the agenda links.**

**CREST IN THE NEWS** You may have noticed significant media coverage on the performance of CREST for the Victoria Police Department (VPD). Over the past two years CREST, the regional inter-agency emergency communications system, has made significant improvements in its infrastructure, resulting in demonstrably improved reliability and coverage. The improvements, costing \$10.6 million, were made with the agreement of all 36 participants of CREST. Subsequent field testing showed that performance expectations, including an international public safety standard of 97% reliability, were met.

Since then, VPD has informed CREST and the public that it is still not satisfied with performance and would like upgrades to a UHF 700MHz system. All other users are currently satisfied with the current VHF system, which works well particularly over distances but not as well in large buildings and through thick walls. CREST is working very hard to satisfy VPD's needs, but the CREST board's position is that other users should not be paying for a costly system upgrade for one user.

A special committee, consisting of CREST and VPD staff, was established in 2009 to address the problems. The committee continues to meet to seek a solution for VPD's needs.

Please contact Councillor Roessingh, Council's representative on the CREST board, if you have any questions.

**STAY INFORMED: visit the District website: [highlands.ca](http://highlands.ca)**



## RCMP INCIDENTS REPORT

March 15 to April 15, 2010

### MARCH

- 17 - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Millstream/Taylor
- 09 - Theft from MV Under \$5000 - Southwood  
Abandoned Vehicles - Munn
- 22 - Break & Enter - Millstream
- 24 - Collision-Damage Under \$1000 - Woodridge/Munn  
Theft from MV Under \$5000 - Lakeridge/Woodridge  
Theft from MV Under \$5000 - Rolla  
Theft from MV Under \$5000 - Westridge
- 25 - Theft Motorcycle Under \$5000 - Taylor
- 26 - Parking Violations - Old Mossy
- 28 - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Millstream/Lost Lake  
Bylaw-Other - Red Cedar
- 29 - Break & Enter - Stag
- 30 - Break & Enter - Danby
- 31 - Cause a Disturbance - Munn

### APRIL

- 02 - Traffic-Other Moving - Millstream /Industrial Way
- 04 - False Alarms  
Theft-Other Under \$5000 - Ross Durrance
- 05 - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Rowntree
- 07 - Suspicious Pers/Veh/Occurrence - Michael  
Theft of Auto Over \$5000 - Millstream /Finlayson Arm
- 11 - False Alarms - Emma Dixon
- 12 - 911-False/Abandoned Calls - Rockridge  
Theft-Other Under \$5000 - Industrial Way
- 13 - False Alarms - Millstream Lake  
Traffic-Other Moving - Munn/Millstream Lake
- 14 - Collision-Damage Over \$1000 - Munn/Woodridge  
Traffic-Other Moving - Munn
- 15 - Property Found - Millstream Lake  
Bylaw-Litter - Munn/Rolla



### JDF SOCCER REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN FOR 2010/2011 SEASON

JDF Soccer has initiated a new online registration system. Registrations are open now for next season. Visit [www.jdfsoccer.ca](http://www.jdfsoccer.ca) and link to *Registration* at the top of the website.

**BUILDING WITHOUT A PERMIT** Highlanders should be aware that building without a permit can result in a penalty of doubled permit fees.

### VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

Recognition goes to the talented volunteers who organized and attended the Earth Day display at the West Shore Mall on April 17th. Highlands made an excellent addition to the very successful event, with professional looking displays that showcased the District's efforts in moving toward a more sustainable future. Thank you for the outstanding representation!



### 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—May is your last chance before summer!

- May 16 - Play outside at Twinflower Park

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

## 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

Acting Fire Chief Guy Brisebois—[GuyBrisebois@Forces.gc.ca](mailto:GuyBrisebois@Forces.gc.ca) / 250-920-6970

Emergency Coordinator Val Fletcher—[vfletcher@highlands.ca](mailto: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



**NEW! BULLFROG REPORTING** Have you seen or heard a bullfrog? As the weather warms, this invasive species will make its presence known. Not sure what they sound like? Want to distinguish between bullfrogs and the **protected** (blue listed) **red legged frog**? Visit [highlands.ca](http://highlands.ca) for links to recordings and photos of the American bullfrog.

Check your pond or wetland this month through to September. Bullfrogs may be present wherever there is year-round water. If you see or hear a bullfrog, please report the details to Pattie—250-478-3319 or email [pattie@pacificcoast.net](mailto:pattie@pacificcoast.net). This information will help the District to track migration and to plan for control.

### MAY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**MAY 1 - Community Roadside Clean up\***, 9 am - 1 pm, see page 1 for details

**MAY 3 & 17 - Regular Council Meeting\*\***, School House, 7pm

**MAY 5 - Fiscal/Environment Cttee**, Pike House, 7:30 pm

**MAY 8 - Arts & Music Event for Children and Youth\***, Pike House, 7 pm

**MAY 10 - Committee of the Whole \*\***, School House, 7 pm

**MAY 11 - Highlands Garden Group**, School House, 7 pm

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

**MAY 16 - Youth Drop In Program\***, 6:30 pm, Schoolhouse Basement

**MAY 17 - CRD Parks Open House\***, 6-8:30 pm, see page 1 for details

**MAY 18 - School Dist. 62 Public Forum \*\*\***, John Stubbs Elem., 7 pm

**MAY 26 - Community Infrastructure & Services**, School House, 7:30pm

**MAY 26 - Pike House, 7:30 pm, Brainstorming Session, Volunteers & Ideas for the Highlands Fling - Everyone welcome!**

**MAY 30 - Highlands Market, Caleb Pike House, 10 am - 1 pm - watch for notices**

*\*details elsewhere in the Newsletter*

*\*\*please visit the District website, [highlands.ca](http://highlands.ca) for detailed agenda information in advance of meetings*

*\*\*\* for details visit [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca) and look for notice of forum: Building for the Future*

**HIGHLANDS HISTORY - DID YOU KNOW?** Often in newly settled areas, roads are named for the homesteads they lead to. The north end of Millstream Road was naturally referred to as Pike Road, as Caleb and family were the first settlers up that way. In the 1890s, Millstream Lake Road was referred to as Mesher Road, as it led to and through the Mesher property around Mitchell and Second Lakes. Then in the early 1900s, Munn Road from Millstream Lake Road to Prospect Lake Road led to the home of John Munn and his property, located on the south east section of the road that bears his name. A large, redheaded Scotsman, John Munn farmed the slopes of the eastern Highlands. He also ran a lumber mill on his property and grew much of the hay that the local farmers used to feed their animals.



**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.