



Highlands News



Members of the **Prince Edward Branch Legion** raise the **Poppy Flag** at the District office on October 29, 2010. Councillor Ken Williams and Mayor Jane Mendum were in attendance.

The annual Remembrance Day Ceremony takes place on Thursday, November 11 at 11:00 a.m. at Veteran's Memorial Park in Langford (corner of Veteran's Memorial Parkway and Goldstream Avenue). Everyone welcome.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS Highlands Volunteer Fire Department would like to encourage residents to examine their address signs for visibility, especially after dark. The District's fire fighters are trained as first responders. In the case of fire and medical or other 911 emergencies response time can become critically important.

Address signs should have numerals that are about four inches in height in contrast colour to the background. Numbers must be readily visible from the road from all approaches. Check yours the next time you access your driveway at night. Should there ever be an emergency at your address, both the emergency responders and your family will be glad you did.

Reminder: As of October 15th, burning permits are not required for fireplace/woodstove/incinerator burning (with screen). Permits are required for outdoor burning piles larger than 1x1 m. Phone the A/Fire Chief or visit <www.highlands.ca> for more information.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- **Community Calendar**
- **Treaty Advisory Committee - Interest Paper**
- **Highlands Sustainability Fair - Save the Date!**

MAYOR'S MESSAGE For many years, Council and the community have considered sustainability and how to implement initiatives to ensure long term viability and community well-being. What are the priorities and how might they be addressed so they fit with community values? Last term, Council determined that a Sustainability Task Force would be formed to examine these issues on behalf of the community.

As reported in the last issue of the Highlands News, the District has engaged consultants with the Whistler Centre for Sustainability to draft an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP), following from the final report of the Task Force. The consultants' six month work plan will commence with a **Highlands Sustainability Fair**, planned for November 19 (7 - 9 pm) and November 20 (9:30 am-3:30 pm). See page 3 for details. Council strongly encourages your participation, as sustainability planning is all about you, your community and the future. **Please plan to attend!**

A new page containing current subdivision application information has been added to the District website. The *Application Information and Status Sheet* can be found here:

highlands.ca/documents/Application_Information_Status.pdf

When you phone or visit the District office, a new staff member may greet you. June Cameron, the district's long time administrative assistant, is job sharing with Shawna Abbott from now until the end of January 2011. We extend a warm welcome to Shawna.

Mayor Jane Mendum

Highlands Winter Craft Fair

Old Schoolhouse and Pike House - 1589 Millstream Road.
Pottery, silver jewelry, crochet, baked goods, clothing and more!

Sunday, November 14, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Contact: Bob McMinn (250) 478-4403

The Heritage Task Force will be holding an open house in conjunction with Highlands Winter Craft Fair.

Please come and share your views on Highlands Heritage!



CORRECTION The October newsletter informed that the Towns for Tomorrow Grant (community hall and museum) was extended to March, 2012 - the correct date is end of March, 2013.

The Highlands News — NOVEMBER 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 & Sustainability

VOLUNTEERS WANTED The **Community Centre Task Force** and the **Heritage Task Force** are currently seeking additional members.



Both committees have focused mandates, and both make recommendations to Council concerning their respective topics.

The Community Centre Task Force invites those interested to join them in planning for a future community hall.

The Heritage Task Force is seeking additional members from the community to continue work on defining a heritage vision and list for the Highlands. Help us find our heritage!

If you are interested in serving on one of these task forces, or to learn more, please contact Tina Neurauter (tneuraute@highlands.ca) at the District Office.

IN THE NEWS A group of Highlands residents has launched a fundraising campaign to acquire a unique Highlands lake property for conservation purposes. **Save Mary Lake** members were recently interviewed by local media at the campaign's kickoff. Details of the ambitious project can be found at <savemarylake.com>.

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FORM At a committee-of-the-whole meeting on October 12th, Council considered a draft sustainability appraisal form to assess development applications, presented by staff. The creation of a form was one of 42 recommendations from the Sustainability Task Force final report of December, 2009.

The form is proposed to provide applicants for rezoning or OCP amendments with a standard for building spaces which are healthy and use energy and resources efficiently, and if measures are considered early in the planning and design process, staff advises that many would be easily incorporated and would cost no more than conventional practices.

Categories on the draft form include site and landscape, energy, water, indoor environment, social amenity, materials, waste, owner and public education, economics and innovation, with many considerations in each category. Applications would receive a point for each consideration provided, and they could be rated based on a final score.

Since the draft form is detailed and fairly complex, council will be taking time to consider it before making a decision on how to proceed.

BE BEAR AWARE Throughout Vancouver Island there has been an increase in black bear sightings within neighbourhoods this year. Highlands is no exception. To avoid potential conflict best practices include storing your garbage cans within a fenced area or shed, keeping your yard free of fallen fruit, and using recommended composting techniques. Visit <bearaware.bc.ca> for more information.

TRAFFIC ADVISORY - As of press time a firm date has not yet been set for the deck replacement of Corry Bridge, located on Millstream Lake Road just north of the Munn Road intersection. Please watch for signs or check the homepage at highlands.ca for advance notification of a one day **road closure**, anticipated to occur this month. Residents are advised to plan an alternate route for that date.

TE'MEXW ADVISORY COMMITTEE INTEREST PAPER Treaty negotiations in B.C. are confidential and tripartite between the Federal and Provincial Governments and First Nations negotiators. Implications for municipalities and residents are potentially significant. Though local governments have a limited ability to influence the outcome, Treaty Advisory Committees (TAC's) were formed across the province to champion the interests of local government and municipal taxpayers. The Te'mexw Treaty Association (TTA) is made up of five Coast Salish First Nations - Songhees, Nanoose, Beecher Bay, T'Souke and Malahat. The Te'mexw TAC currently has members representing Highlands along with Colwood, Esquimalt, Langford, Metchosin, Saanich, Sooke and View Royal. Councillor Ken Williams currently serves as the district's representative on the TAC.

The Te'mexw TAC has developed an Interest Paper which is available on the Highlands website. The Interest Paper is reflective of current developments in the Treaty Negotiations which could result in an Agreement in Principle within the next six to twelve months and potentially, a Final Treaty in the following eighteen to twenty-four months. The Te'mexw Treaty negotiations are very complex because, for the most part, desirable land in the region has been developed or lies in close proximity to land that has been developed. With the exception of limited Crown parcels, land within TAC municipal boundaries is already subject to the land use bylaws of a municipality. The TAC has identified interests in seven areas: standards and regulations, land-use planning, infrastructure and services, revenue and taxation, cooperation on governance, participation in the management of natural resources, and communication protocol. Highlands residents are encouraged to review the Interest Paper (www.highlands.ca).

To learn more or to voice your opinion, contact your local MLA, MP or B.C.'s Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (visit highlands.ca for contact information). More information on the treaty is available at: www.gov.bc.ca/arr/firstnation/temexw

2010 Council Meeting Schedule

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>. Please consider passing this newsletter on to any tenants or other residents who are without a Highlands mailbox. Thank you!



Council & District News

MILLSTREAM ROAD WORK In 2009 Council unsuccessfully applied to the federal Building Canada Fund for road improvements including cycle lanes and a pedestrian trail on south Millstream Road. The project is ready for construction, and Council has approved some of the works to be done this fall.

Staff advised Council at a regular meeting on October 18, 2010 that the Towns for Tomorrow program (under which funding was granted for a Highlands community hall and museum) is accepting applications for 80% funding until early in 2011, and approvals will be announced within 60 days. In light of this new funding opportunity, Council has postponed planned construction on lower Millstream Road. With a successful application, all works could be done together, and the municipality would have to provide only 20% of the costs. Total cost of the project is estimated at \$537,180.

REQUEST FOR TAX EXEMPTION The Land Conservancy (TLC) has asked council for a property tax exemption for their Second Lake property. The municipal property tax is currently approximately \$8500. Council referred the request to the Fiscal and Environmental Select Committee for a recommendation, and the committee recommended that Council deny the request.

The committee, in their rationale for the recommendation, declared support for the work of TLC and conservation of the property, but was reluctant to recommend approval of the request at this time. They noted that there is a large number of conservation properties and covenanted properties in Highlands, and that approving the request could introduce a precedent without the community better understanding financial implications.

Council denied the TLC request, and advised staff that consideration of a policy for tax breaks or exemptions for conservation properties be included on a list of future strategic plan discussions.

B.C. TRANSIT Representatives of B.C. Transit presented their Transit Future Plan to council at a committee-of-the-whole meeting on October 12th. The plan aims to:

- guide and prioritize future investment in the transit system,
- identify key transit corridors and the supporting local transit network,
- encourage transit supportive land uses in consultation with municipal and regional plans, and
- meet the targets set out in the Provincial Transit Plan.



B.C. Transit currently provides service to Highlands with a once-daily route along Millstream Road which carries from 40-120 people per month. Any future expansion of the service will be based on need, and council made suggestions of weekend bus trips to Highlands parks and a regular route along Munn Road to the Helmcken exchange in future.

The plan includes a proposed future rapid transit route from the south side of Langford Lake to Goldstream, then along the Island Highway and Highway #1 to downtown Victoria. Options include trains or rapid buses along dedicated lanes. Other proposed routes include connections from downtown to the University and to the Naden Base.

Next phases include cost implications and funding sources, which will depend on transit options chosen by the Victoria Regional Transit Commission. Details of the plan can be found at:

[<http://www.transitbc.com/2030/>](http://www.transitbc.com/2030/).

Council passed motions to:

- provide a letter of endorsement in support of the Transit Future Network, visions and goals, and
- direct staff to work with BC Transit to identify and support the Transit Future Network and facilities in District of Highlands transportation and land-use plans.

HIGHLANDS SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FAIR – Nov. 19 & 20 – What would it be like to live in a sustainable Highlands of the future? What does *sustainably* mean? How do we define it in the local context - the Highlands story? These questions and others will be topics for discussion at two enjoyable sessions: Intro (Friday, 19th, 7-9 p.m.) and Workshop (Saturday, 20th, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.) at the School House, 1589 Millstream Road. Guided by professionals, District staff and Advisory Committee members, your participation in the Fair will help determine how we create the next Highlands' storyline. **Bring your ideas and your own story to help create a community vision for a sustainable future.**

For a look at 2009's work see: http://www.highlands.bc.ca/planning/documents/SustainabilityTaskForce_FinalReport.pdf

Check the District web site and watch the mail for a flyer with details!



**NEXT HIGHLANDS FOLK MUSIC NIGHT:
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 7:30PM**

Highlands Folk Music will be bringing the "Chattering Class" band to the Highlands - Saturday, November 13, 2010

Chattering Class is an acoustic quartet made up of Rose Birney on mandolins and guitars and homemade songs, Patty Castle on upright bass and vocals, Kevin Ramsay on guitar and vocals, and Graeme Card on guitars.

There will also be an open-stage segment - please phone to learn more.

For more information you can call (250) 391-9987, (250) 474-5831, (250) 721-1264 or (250) 727-9561.

Date: November 13, 7:30 p.m.

Place: Caleb Pike House, 1589 Millstream Road

Admission by donation: minimum suggested is \$5 - coffee, tea and goodies included

STAY INFORMED: visit the District website: highlands.ca

RCMP INCIDENTS REPORT - Sept. 15 - Oct. 15, 2010

September

- 18 - Unspecified Assistance - Caleb Pike /Millstream
- 21 - Parking Violations - Millstream Lake /Munn
- 28 - Unspecified Assistance - Munn
Property-Found - Bear Mountain Pky
- 29 - Unspecified Assistance - Munn
- 30 - Mischief \$5000 or Under - Red Cedar

October

- 1 - Unspecified Assistance - Munn
- 2 - False Alarms - Stewart Mountain
- 3 - Theft-Other Under \$5000 - Ross Durrance
- 4 - Unspecified Assistance - Millstream
- 6 - Traffic-Other Moving Prov - Munn /Millstream Lk
- 7 - Breach of Probation - Finlayson Arm
Unspecified Assistance - Finlayson Arm
- 9 - False Alarms - Millstream Lake
- 11- Mischief \$5000 or Under - Munn
Breach of Peace - Munn



The Highlands Horse/Trails Club holds their next trails walk on Saturday, November 20th at 10:00am (rain or shine). These events are usually 1.5 hours in length. We will meet at the riding ring on Caleb Pike Road and walk along the trail through Twinflower Park. Some trail clearing may be necessary so please bring loppers or a small saw. Everyone welcome - we hope you'll join us!

For more information please contact Marian:

250-478-7756 or email- taylormandi@shaw.ca

YOUTH DROP IN - Join the fun!

When: Friday, November 19, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Where: School House basement, 1589 Millstream Rd.

Who: Ages 5 and up

For information contact Bob McMinn: 250-478-4403

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH



Recognition goes to all those volunteers who organized, hosted or contributed to this year's community Hallowe'en events. Always very popular with Highlands residents, celebrations were held at the East and West Firehalls (volunteer firefighters and their families) and the Pike House (Highland District Community Association) - the places to be on Hallowe'en night! Party food, impressive bonfires and fabulous fireworks provided a backdrop for families, friends and neighbours to spend the evening together; this was made possible by numerous volunteers who work to ensure that the events are a great success.

The residents who decorate Millstream Lake/Ross Durrance Roads with a prolific display of jack-o'-lanterns are also recognized for adding to the community fun.

On behalf of Highlanders, thank you all - your efforts were very much enjoyed and are appreciated!

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

Deputy Fire Chief Peter Schuttinga—hvfd.dc@gmail.com / 250-514-8526

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

District of Highlands Office—250-474-1773

CRD Bylaw Enforcement—250-474-3351

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

CRD Parks—250-474-2264

CONGRATULATIONS to Highlands residents Ann and Gord Baird. Their home, *Eco-Sense*, has been named as one of only three certified buildings in the Living Building Challenge, a featured program of The International Living Building Institute out of Seattle, Washington. The program aims to demonstrate that buildings can be designed and built to benefit the ecosystems they inhabit. Information on the program can be found at <<http://ilbi.org/lbc/certified>>; to learn more about the Bairds' home and their sustainable building techniques, visit <eco-sense.ca>.

Jason McLennan, CEO of Cascadia Chapter of the U.S. and Canadian Green Building council, called *Eco-Sense* "the greenest modern home in the world". And it's located right here in Highlands!

NOVEMBER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

NOVEMBER 3 - Fiscal and Environmental Meeting**, Pike House, 7:30pm

NOVEMBER 4 - Community Centre Task Force, School House, 7:30pm

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

NOVEMBER 11 - Remembrance Day - District Office closed

NOVEMBER 12 & 26 - CRD Recycling Blue Box pickup

NOVEMBER 14 - Highlands Winter Craft Fair*, Caleb Pike Homestead, 11am - 4 pm

NOVEMBER 19 & 20 - Highlands Sustainability Fair*, School House (Caleb Pike

Homestead, 1589 Millstream Road), 19th: 7-9 pm; 20th: 9:30-3:30 pm

NOVEMBER 24 - Community Infrastructure and Services**, School House, 7:30pm

*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? Hanington Road that runs past our Municipal office was named after Dr. Ernest Barron Hanington, a well-known Victoria physician. Dr. Hanington began purchasing land in the Highland District in 1886 and by 1892 he owned close to 1200 acres. This description was printed in the Daily Colonist, June 23, 1888. "A pleasant drive of an hour and a half from the city by way of the Gorge or Craigflower and the Goldstream road brings the traveler to Aldermere, a lovely tract of land at the foot of the Goldstream range, comprising some 400 acres, the property of Dr. Hanington and his brother, Mr. W Hanington. Millstream, a famous trout brook, winds through the land, which is partly meadow and partly wooded, with hills rising on either side. The Messre. Hanington, having witnessed the unnecessary waste of trout-life by amateur sportsmen, will preserve a portion of the brook and have established a small hatchery from which good results are already obtainable." The paper also states on May 16, 1891, that Dr. Hanington's Chinese caretaker, Ah Sam, was charged with shooting at and wounding three boys trespassing in Dr. Hanington's trout preserve. The Doctor provided \$1000 bail and a week later Ah Sam was convicted and fined \$100 and bound to keep the peace for a period of six months.



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.