

Highlands News

Highlands Council Newsletter
Winter 2016

Mayor's Message

The holidays are a wonderful occasion for loved ones to get together and reflect on the past year while celebrating the coming year with renewed hope and enthusiasm.

Council is continually inspired by the amazing dedication, creativity, and effort demonstrated by Highlands volunteers, firefighters, community groups and organizations that give up their valuable time to help others.

Our council is thankful for the support we receive from our hard working staff who not only exemplify the professionalism, skill, and hard work that is required for the smooth-running of our municipality, but who also truly care about our Highlands community.

As we celebrate with family and friends, we wish all of Highlands, a wonderful holiday season and a happy, healthy, prosperous New Year.

Highlands Volunteer Fire Fighter's Association Santa Run!

Watch for Santa on **Saturday, December 10th**. More information on Santa's



schedule on Highlands home page. www.highlands.ca

Chief Ford Awarded 25 Year Service Medal



At the Nov 7th Council Meeting, the British Columbia Long Service Award was presented to Fire Chief Dean Ford in recognition of 25 Years of dedication to the Fire Service. Congratulations Dean!



Safety Tips for Woodstoves

Most Highlands homes have a wood stove for backup heating. Help reduce the environmental and health impacts of wood smoke by following these tips:

- **Choose a low-emission stove.** Install an "advance combustion" wood stove or fireplace insert to reduce toxic emissions.
- **Maintain your stove.** Make sure that your wood stove is well maintained and working properly. Have it inspected by a qualified professional at least once a year.
- **Clean your chimney.** Clean your chimney and flues regularly. Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- **Use your dampers.** Allow more air (ventilation) when starting a fire, and close the dampers when the wood is well charred. This technique produces more heat, so you use less wood
- **Use dry, seasoned wood.** Cut, split, and stack wood in a dry area for at least six months before burning it.
- **Let wood breathe.** Stack wood loosely in your firebox to let the air freely circulate around it.
- **Burn smaller pieces of wood.** Small pieces are more efficient and a better source of heat.

Never burn:

- wood that has been painted or chemically treated
- household garbage or cardboard (plastics, foam, and coloured ink on magazines, boxes, and wrappers produce harmful chemicals when burned)
- ocean driftwood, plywood, particle board, or any wood with glue on or in it (they all release toxic chemicals when burned)
- wet, rotted, diseased, or mouldy wood (this may expose your family to mould and spores that can harm their health)



Community and Council News



Mary Lake - The Greater Victoria Greenbelt Society has plans to purchase two of the remaining Mary Lake properties and wishes to preserve the southern lake lot as parkland and a regional trail connection. The Society has expressed its desire for the District of Highlands to purchase the lake lot for the long term preservation of the property for public use.

The Society has requested that Council consider borrowing \$500,000 for the purchase of the lake lot, and consider selling a District owned lot adjacent to the east end of Eagles Lake to raise funds as well. Staff has recommended that prior to Council considering selling the property, a lot line adjustment be undertaken to reconfigure the lot to ensure that all of Eagles Lake would remain public property should the east lot be sold.

While there is much left to be considered in terms of how the property could be used in the future should it become public parkland and there are many statutory requirements for related borrowing, land use application and land disposition processes, Council passed several motions to move the project forward which can be found here: <http://www.highlands.bc.ca/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Minutes/11072016-294> - pg 8.

Superior Shuttle Accreditation Update

The District's application and paperwork for Superior Shuttle Accreditation has been submitted to the Fire Underwriters.

The next steps in the process involve the Underwriters reviewing and approving the District's:

- Application
- Water source paperwork
- Dry hydrant certifications
- The Fire Departments operational guidelines for water shuttling distances from water sources to homes
- The Fire Departments available apparatus and membership
- Setting up a practical onsite 2 hour shuttle test within the district

Unfortunately the Fire Chief has been informed that due to circumstances out of our control (the Underwriters are currently very busy with an insurance guideline review) the underwriter will not be able to complete this review until mid December. Due to the holiday season this may mean that the practical test (the last step) will not be scheduled until early in the new year. Please watch the homepage for continued updates on the process.

Outstanding Property Tax Reminder

If you have outstanding property taxes please confirm the amount by contacting our office at 250-474-1773 . So that we may promptly apply payments to outstanding accounts, late payments must be made at the municipal office located at 1980 Millstream Road. We accept cash, cheque or debit.

For office closure during winter break please check the District's website : www.highlands.ca or the office prior to December 23. Payments during the winter closure may be dropped in the mail slot at the front door of the district office (no cash please).

Storm Preparedness - Are You Ready?

With recent weather conditions you can't help but question yourself.....Am I ready for a serious storm? You can find helpful tips and a checklist on the Highlands website here: www.highlands.bc.ca/DocumentCenter/View/5918



Several residents attended the FireSmart seminar hosted by the District's Fire Chief (Dean Ford) and fire consultant, Margaret Symon. Fifteen residents were provided with personal FireSmart Plans. Highlands is thrilled with the results of this initiative.

Thanks goes out to Chief Ford, Margaret Symon, Councillor Gord Baird and UBCM.

The next step in this program is for the District to organize a roadside pickup of the debris removed from the fifteen properties who participated in this initiative in December 2016.

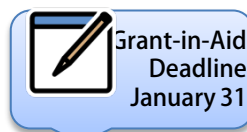
CRD Regional Growth

Strategy Coming to Council

At its November 23, 2016 meeting, the CRD Board considered input from the public hearing, directed minor content changes and referred the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) bylaw for municipal acceptance.

Referral for municipal acceptance is the last step in the provincially-mandated update process before the RGS bylaw can be adopted. The referral period is 60 days, beginning December 2, 2016. Before the CRD Board can adopt the RGS bylaw, it must be accepted by all municipalities; if acceptance cannot be reached, provincial legislation sets out a process for resolving outstanding matters.

<https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/regional-growth-strategy>



2017 Grant-in-Aid Applications

The District will be accepting grant-in-aid applications for the 2017 year up to and including January 31, 2017. Organizations wishing to submit an application must complete the a Grant-in-Aid application. The Grant-in-Aid online application and policy and can be found at the District's website at: <http://www.highlands.bc.ca/163/Grant-in-Aid>.

Community and Council News

Volunteers of the Month - Highlands Service Medal Recipients

The Highlands Service Medal was awarded to Leslie Wagner for her volunteer contributions which included serving as a director of the Highlands District



Community Association, the Highlands Fling Committee and many years of organizing the popular Highlands Farmer's Market. Her baked goods, preserves and floral arrangements were appreciated by all who attended. Leslie's contribution to both the Wildflowers of Highlands and the Schoolhouse Quilt projects are appreciated by all who visit the Schoolhouse on the Caleb Pike Heritage property.

The Highlands Service Medal was also awarded to Neville Grigg for his time serving as director of the Highlands Stewardship Foundation and his contribution to the foundation's Water Stewardship program. He is noted for his leadership of the American bullfrog control programs which became a district-wide effort to control this invasive species and included countless nights on Highlands lakes, training and encouraging other volunteers.



The District of Highlands has three Select Committees as well as an opportunity for residents to participate on all Select Committees by providing feedback through participation

as an "E-Participant". Currently there are positions available on:

- Highland Heritage Select Committee
- Social Sustainability Select Committee
- E-Participants to all Select Committees

Information on Highlands Select Committee can be found here:

<http://www.highlands.bc.ca/367/2014-Select-Committees>

Anyone interested in serving is invited to submit a letter and / or a resume detailing their interest to serve on one of these committees. All submissions should be forwarded to the District office or email to: tneurauter@highlands.ca by December 30.

Holiday Recycling

If you are looking at ways to recycle this season please visit:

<https://www.crd.bc.ca/education/campaigns/list-of-current-campaigns/holiday-recycling/holiday-recycling-tips>

South Highlands Applications Update

OK Industries Rezoning Update: As a result of the September 12 Design Charrette at the Committee of the Whole, the applicant provided an amended design concept for their property indicating that approximately 37% of the site would have some sort of green buffer or greenspace designation.

Approximately 63% of the site would be developed in phases, and aggregate would be mined over the next 30 years. An amenity of \$500,000 was offered in April 2016. Link to the District's consultant economic analysis (see item 4a) (<http://www.highlands.ca/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/05092016-300?html=true>). The amended application was considered by Council at their November 14 Committee of the Whole Meeting. After discussion, the application was denied. This was ratified at Council's November 21 Council Meeting.

Millstream Meadows Rezoning Update: This application remains active, and is expected to return to Council for further consideration at an upcoming meeting. It was linked to the OK Industries rezoning through a joint initial concept plan that was first considered by Council at their September 8, 2015 meeting.

Ecoasis Rezoning – "Commercial Area" within BMCD1 Zone: At the July Council Meeting, Council considered an introductory report for a rezoning application for the "Commercial Area" within the Bear Mountain Comprehensive Development Zone 1. This area is approximately 3 acres in size and is located at the north-west intersection of Millstream and Hanington Roads. The zoning currently permits 5 lots with each lot having up to 1,100m² (11,840 square feet) of commercial building floor area. The main element of the application was to allow one building comprising 3750m² of floor area (approximately 40,000 square feet). Council resolved to refer the application to the Heritage Select Committee and the Sustainable Land Use Select Committee. Both select committees subsequently reviewed the application in September. The applicant revised their application based on the select committees' recommendations. This amended application was considered by Council at their November 21 meeting, where Council directed that the application be forwarded to a Committee of the Whole Meeting for more thorough discussion.

Regional Growth Strategy (RGS)

At an upcoming Council meeting, Council will be considering:

- An amendment to the existing RGS to extend the Regional Urban Containment and Servicing Policy Area at the Metchosin-Langford border to allow for water and sewer servicing as part of Provincial Treaty negotiations with the Beecher Bay First Nation (Sc'ianew). This amendment is part of a broader proposal to adjust the Langford-Metchosin boundary to facilitate an economic development opportunity. These discussions occurred at the CRD Board's meetings of September 14 and November 9, 2016.
- Council will be considering the RGS for acceptance – refer to page 2 for details please.

Winter Road Maintenance

The **District's duty phone** will once again be initiated on the first of December. This phone is monitored full time. Residents may report winter road conditions on this line. Action appropriate to circumstances will be taken. **The phone number is 250-893-1773.**

Please do not contact the District's Fire Chief to report road conditions or request winter maintenance. The Fire Chief does not have the authority to ask the roads contractor to respond, and these calls unnecessarily occupy his time.

Highlands Community Hall and Caleb Pike Heritage Grounds

Rental Information

Community Hall

Rates:	2 DAY	FULL DAY	HALF DAY	HOURLY RATE
Community Hall	750	400	250	75
Security Deposit	375	200	125	50

Caleb Pike Heritage Grounds

Rates:	2 DAY	FULL DAY	HALF DAY
Complete Facility	600	300	150
	8 hour	4 hour	hourly
Caleb Pike House	120	70	20
School House	180	100	30

With floor to ceiling windows overlooking a natural wetland ecosystem, the **Community Hall** offers a 1200 square foot assembly area which can seat up to 100 people at tables, 112 theatre type seating, and 72 conference type seating. The warming kitchen comes equipped with coffee and tea service, and full dinnerware for up to 50 people. The stage area is visually beautiful and acoustically designed.

The **Caleb Pike Heritage Park** can be rented for almost any event. Both the Caleb Pike House and the Schoolhouse are available for rent either separately or together. The use of the park grounds is included with the rental. A new renovation in the Dairy provides a VIHA certified serving kitchen.

Rental prices include set up of table and chairs, and lighting of the wood-stove in the Caleb Pike House. Renters need to bring any items such as flip charts or slide-projectors. A high speed ADSL wireless internet connection is available in the Schoolhouse.



Caleb Pike Heritage Grounds

Community Calendar

December 2016

- Dec 5 & 19 **Council Meeting**
7pm School House – Heritage Park
- Dec 12 **Committee of the Whole**
7pm School House – Heritage Park
- Dec 29 **Social Sustainability**
7.30pm Pike House –Heritage Park

January 2017 (tentative)

- Jan 16 & 30 **Council Meeting**
7pm School House – Heritage Park
- Jan 11 **Heritage Committee**
7.30pm School House – Heritage Park

January 14 Coffee House

- Jan 23 **Committee of the Whole**
7pm School House – Heritage Park

January 17 Sustainable Land Use Committee

- 7pm School House – Heritage Park

January 24 Social Sustainability (tentative)

- 7.30pm Pike House –Heritage Park

February 2017 (tentative)

- Feb 6 & 20 **Council Meeting**
7pm School House – Heritage Park
- Feb 8 **Heritage Committee**
7.30pm School House – Heritage Park
- Feb 11 **Coffee House**
- Feb 14 **Committee of the Whole**
7pm School House – Heritage Park
- Feb 21 **Sustainable Land Use Committee**
7pm School House – Heritage Park
- Feb 28 **Social Sustainability (tentative)**
7.30pm Pike House –Heritage Park

Highlands Music Coffee House Upcoming Events

- Dec 10, 2016 – **Cookeilidh**
- Jan 14, 2017 – **Karel Roessingh and Friends**
- Feb 11, 2017 – **Bijoux du Bayou**

West Shore Christmas Hamper Fund Society



The West shore Christmas Hamper Fund Society, located at 761 Station Ave (basement) provides Christmas hampers, toys, gift certificates and clothing to those individuals requiring assistance. Up to 650 hampers of various sizes are issued. The goods are either purchased by the Society or provided as Gift in Kind by individuals, groups and businesses. Names are provided to the Society by the Christmas Bureau of Victoria, or by a sponsor. Individuals, Groups, Service Clubs, Schools and Businesses donate money each year to purchase the goods.

Please contact 250-391-9627 for more information.



*On November 11th,
2016 Highlands
Wreath at the
Langford Cenotaph*

Council and Staff Contacts:

Mayor Ken Williams
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250-882-5481

Councillor Leslie Anderson
leslie.corvidconsulting@gmail.com
778-350-8180

Councillor Ann Baird
ann@eco-sense.ca
250-478-2680

Councillor Gord Baird
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250-478-2680

Councillor Karen Burns
burnska@shaw.ca
250-391-6227

Councillor Marcie McLean
marciemclean@shaw.ca
250-474-4725

Councillor Karel Roessingh
karel@roessong.com
250-727-9808

Fire Chief Ford
firechief@highlands.ca
250-920-6970

Emergency Coordinator
Ryan Hobbs
rhobbs@highlands.ca
250-208-8992

Municipal Office
250-474-1773

CRD Animal Control
250-478-0624

CRD Bylaw Enforcement
250-474-3351

CRD Parks
250-478-3344

Wildlife Information
1-800-663-9453

District Office Winter Closure
Dec 23 (noon) – Jan 4, 2017

Stay connected! Check out our website at www.highlands.ca and subscribe to *Notify Me* which allows you to sign up to an unlimited number of email lists. Receive email or text message updates regarding the information you have requested that is important to you!

