

# Highlands News

Highlands Council Newsletter  
Winter 2017

## Mayor's Message



The holidays are a great time for loved ones to gather, reflect on the year gone by and take a break from a world that is moving so fast.

We are living in a time of ever quickening transitions, and heading towards a new multipolar world economy that I hope, in the future, will bring peace to all. The holidays give us an opportunity to be thankful for what we have and support those that are less fortunate. This season, let us reach out a little further to those around us. Let us look for those that might need a helping hand.

Council would like to recognize the amazing dedication, creativity, and effort demonstrated by Highlands volunteers, firefighters, community groups and organizations. We thank all of you who so generously give your time, your warmth, your humour and your caring.

On behalf of Highlands Council and staff, I extend our warmest regards and best wishes to everyone in our community. May the spirit of this wonderful season be with you and your loved ones throughout the holidays and we wish you a happy, healthy, prosperous 2018.

## Maintenance of Unopened Public Road Rights of Way Serving Private Property

Highlands Council will be considering an amendment to the Roads and Traffic Bylaw and adoption of an accompanying policy in respect to maintenance of unopened District rights of way used solely as private driveways. As directed by Committee of the Whole, the bylaw amendment and policy will come forward to a future meeting of Council (as yet undetermined). Please stay tuned to upcoming Council's agendas for more information.

## Post Box Break In

The post boxes located at Munn Road and Bukin Place have been damaged after a break-in. A new bank of mailboxes will be constructed (though Canada Post cannot say when), and new keys will be issued. In the meantime, mail will be held and can be picked up at the Glanford Postal Station, where the new keys will be made available as well.

## Highlands information at your fingertips

Don't miss a meeting or Highlands event. By simply signing up with the "Notify Me" function on the District's website at [highlands.ca](http://highlands.ca) you will receive email or cell phone notifications for items such as: agendas, minutes, news alerts and events posted to the community calendar.

 **Notify Me®**  
Sign up to receive notifications



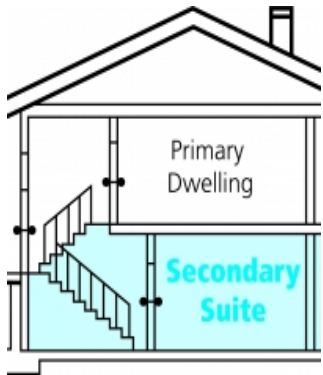
**MERRY CHRISTMAS** & Happy Holidays

### Winter Road Maintenance

The District's duty phone will be active on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Residents can report winter road conditions on this line, which is monitored 24/7. Action taken will be appropriate to circumstances.

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.

The duty phone number is 250-893-1773.



### Secondary Suites

Council will begin the process of considering secondary suites before the end of the year...Stay tuned to the December Council agendas for more information.

## Highlands Volunteer Fire Fighter's Association Santa Run!

Watch for Santa on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. More information on Santa's schedule on Highlands home page: [www.highlands.ca](http://www.highlands.ca)



# Community and Council News

**Traffic Concerns** At the August 14th regular council meeting, a group of Highlands residents from the Millstream Lake/Ross Durrance Road area presented Council with a petition signed by 72 residents concerning increased commuter traffic issues on local residential roads. The petition highlighted excessive speed and aggressive drivers as priority problems. It is recognized that Highlands roads have been experiencing ever-increasing volumes related to regional transportation pressures. In response, both the District and the RCMP took action, monitoring, collecting data and resourcing potential solutions. Additionally, Highlands remains engaged at all levels in working toward regional transportation solutions. Residents and Council support ongoing traffic enforcement by the RCMP throughout the District.

With respect to traffic regulation, Council, through its Strategic Plan, has directed staff to report back on traffic regulation options for controlling speed/improving safety on the District's roads. It is anticipated that this item will be on the second Council meeting agenda in January 2018.

At the November 6 council meeting, Inspector L. Chomyn, Sg. Raj Sandu and Cpl. Heinz Krauss from the Westshore RCMP detachment discussed traffic concerns with Council and members of the public and provided advice on reporting traffic incidents. They caution all drivers to slow their speed due to seasonal driving conditions. Council passed a motion to discuss options and solutions regarding traffic issues on Ross Durrance/Millstream Lake Roads at an upcoming Committee- of- the -Whole meeting. It is anticipated that the Committee- of- the-Whole discussion will occur following the receipt of the staff report noted above, incorporating the overall Strategic Plan item and the concerns regarding Ross Durrance/Millstream Lake Roads.

## From the West Shore RCMP:

Citizens are encouraged to report any after-the-fact traffic incidents to the RCMP via the non-emergency line at [250-474-2264](tel:250-474-2264). When reporting a traffic complaint, it is important to provide sufficient details to allow police to follow up appropriately. This information includes, but is not limited to:

- description of the vehicle involved
- location of the alleged offence
- licence plate of the vehicle
- description of the driver

More information:

Link to August 14, 2017 Petition: <http://highlands.ca/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/3605?fileID=4202>

Link to excerpt August 14, 2017 Council meeting minutes: <http://highlands.ca/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/3735?fileID=4385>

Link to November 6, 2017 Council minutes (see Item 2): <http://highlands.ca/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/3800?fileID=4474>



Photo Credit: Goldstream Gazette

## Highlands Emergency

**Preparedness** In August Council approved engaging consulting services from Smart Risk Control to update the District of Highlands Emergency Plan. Subsequently, in October, Council approved an amendment to Emergency Preparedness Bylaw No. 56 integrating the Emergency Coordinator role into the Fire Department.

Fire Chief Dean Ford was appointed Emergency Coordinator and Assistant Fire Chief, Jason Schuttinga was appointed Deputy Emergency Coordinator. Together they have over 39 years of experience in emergency services and are looking forward to assisting neighbourhood H.E.L.P. (Highlands Emergency Local Preparedness) groups, radio operators, local, regional and provincial planning organizations to help residents of the Highlands feel safer and be more prepared.

## 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: <http://www.highlands.bc.ca/183/Emergency-Preparedness>

## 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 district 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](http://www.highlands.ca) or phone the office prior to December 22. Payments during the winter closure may be dropped in the mail slot at the front door of the district office (no cash please).

## Highlands Community Garden



The Fence is finished! The next project will be building garden boxes. Watch for signs as we will be seeking volunteer assistance. The plan is to have the community garden operational by the Spring of 2018. For more information or to be on our contact list please email us at [HighlandsCommunityGarden@outlook.com](mailto:HighlandsCommunityGarden@outlook.com)

## Regional Growth Strategy

**Update** The Province has given the CRD an extension to complete the non-binding dispute resolution process for the Regional Growth Strategy. The process, which includes in-person mediation sessions in early December, must be completed by January 15, 2018. Following the in-person mediation process, it is expected that something will go before Council for approval. Stay tuned to December and January Council Meeting agendas for more information.

Additional Information of the RGS process may be found here on the CRD's website:

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

**Burning Information** There have been complaints about the smell of burning plastic in our municipality. This is not only a nuisance but a serious health issue that is prohibited by provincial law and enforced.

No person may burn oil, tar, rubber, plastic, vinyl, fertilizers, chemicals, tires, creosote, wiring insulation, petroleum products, household garbage or any material which produces or may produce toxic or heavy smoke.

**Violations can be reported to RAPP –  
Report All Poachers and Polluters  
1-877-952-7277**



Positions are available for the District of Highlands Select Committees. If you are interested in community topics and feel you may have an interest in contributing, then the District encourages residents to apply for a position.

District of Highlands Select committees include:

- Highland Heritage Select Committee
- Social Sustainability Select Committee
- Sustainable Land Use Select Committee

Information on Highlands Select Committees can be found here: <http://www.highlands.bc.ca/367/2014-Select-Committees>

Residents may also participate by becoming an E-participant. This means that you can contribute to any agenda item on any Committee via your home computer, but may not vote on any items.

Anyone interested in serving is invited to submit a letter and/or resume detailing their interest to serve. All submissions should be forwarded to the district office or email [neurauter@highlands.ca](mailto:neurauter@highlands.ca) by January 15, 2018.

**Development Application Fees and MTI Fines under Review** A priority identified under Council's Strategic Plan included a request to staff to provide a comparison of Highlands' current development application fees and Municipal Ticket Information (MTI) fines with other local jurisdictions. Council had indicated a wish to move towards cost recovery with respect to land use applications. Staff presented Council with an initial report with recommendations. Council directed staff to prepare draft bylaws and to schedule a future Committee-of-the-Whole meeting to engage the public.

The Committee-of-the-Whole meeting, at which draft bylaws will be presented to Council and the public for consideration and comment, will be scheduled for Monday, January 15. All are invited to attend.

## Subdivision and Development of Land Bylaw Amendments

Recent changes have been made to the District of Highlands Subdivision and Development of Land Bylaw 154 with respect to water well regulations.

The two notable changes include:

1. **Increasing the pumping test time duration from 10 hours to 72 hours:** This recommendation is based on guidance for bedrock aquifers from the Provincial Ministry of Environment.
2. **Adding a section on "well closure":** This recommendation seeks to remind property owners of their obligation under the Provincial Groundwater Protection Regulation. An alternative for a property owner to closing the well would be to maintain it as a monitoring well, providing it is converted in accordance with the Groundwater Protection Regulation.

The report and background information (including the Bylaw 393) may be viewed here on the District of Highlands website:

<http://www.highlands.ca/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/3699?fileID=4331>

**RECYCLE  
YOUR HOLIDAYS**

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>



Grant-in-Aid  
Deadline  
January 31

## 2018 Grant-in-Aid Applications

The District will be accepting grant-in-aid applications for 2018 up to and including January 31, 2018. Organizations wishing to submit an application must complete a grant-in-aid application. The grant-in-aid application and policy can be found at the District's website at: <http://www.highlands.bc.ca/163/Grant-in-Aid>.

# 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



Community Hall

### Caleb Pike Heritage Grounds

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



Caleb Pike Heritage Grounds

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.

## Council and Staff Contacts:

Mayor Ken Williams  
[kwilliams@highlands.ca](mailto:kwilliams@highlands.ca)  
 250-882-5481

Councillor Leslie Anderson  
[leslie.corvidconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:leslie.corvidconsulting@gmail.com)  
 778-350-8180

Councillor Ann Baird  
[ann@eco-sense.ca](mailto:ann@eco-sense.ca)  
 250-478-2680

Councillor Gord Baird  
[gord.baird@gmail.com](mailto:gord.baird@gmail.com)  
 250-478-2680

Councillor Karen Burns  
[burnska@shaw.ca](mailto:burnska@shaw.ca)  
 250-391-6227

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

Fire Chief Ford  
[firechief@highlands.ca](mailto:firechief@highlands.ca)  
 250-920-6970

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

## Community Calendar

### December 2017

Dec 4 & 18 **Council Meeting**  
 7pm School House – Heritage Park

Dec 9 **Coffee House**

Dec 11 **Committee of the Whole**  
 7pm School House – Heritage Park

### January 2018 (tentative)

Jan 8 & 22 **Council Meeting**  
 7pm School House – Heritage Park

Jan 9 **Social Sustainability**  
 7.30pm Pike House –Heritage Park

Jan 10 **Heritage Committee**  
 7.30pm School House – Heritage Park

Jan 13 **Coffee House**

Jan 15 **Committee of the Whole**  
 7pm School House – Heritage Park

Jan 16 **Sustainable Land Use Committee**  
 7pm School House – Heritage Park

### February 2018 (tentative)

Feb 5 & 19 **Council Meeting**  
 7pm School House – Heritage Park

Feb 14 **Heritage Committee**  
 7.30pm School House – Heritage Park

Feb 10 **Coffee House**

Feb 13 **Committee of the Whole**  
 7pm School House – Heritage Park

Feb 14 **Social Sustainability**  
 7.30pm Pike House –Heritage Park

Feb 20 **Sustainable Land Use Committee**  
 7pm School House – Heritage Park

**Volunteer of the Month** Sheriden Plant was awarded Highlands Volunteer Service Pin at the 2017 Volunteer Recognition Celebration.

Sheriden is acknowledged for the countless hours spent fundraising for the Canadian Muscular Dystrophy Association through:

- Highlands Casino Night
- Highlands Halloween Night
- 50/50 draws at Western Speedway
- Highlands Fling
- Fire Engine “Truck Pull”



Sheridan can also be found decorating the fire engine for the Victoria truck parade and Santa run, organizing special events, cutting the grass, painting, baking and tidying up the Fire Halls. **Thank you Sheriden for all you do for the District of Highlands!**



## Upcoming Events

- **December 9, 2017:**  
 - Three Worlds (Greg Joy, Brad Prevadoros, and Neil Golden).
- **January 13, 2018:**  
 - Karel Roessingh & friends
- **February 10, 2018:**  
 - The Aerie Trio (Diane Berry on Flute, Nathan Jacklin on cello and Kathryn Le Gros on Piano and clarinet).
- **March 10, 2018:**  
 - Ozmoses

## 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.

Stay connected! Check out our website at [www.highlands.ca](http://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!

