

Highlands News

Highlands Council Newsletter
Spring/Summer 2016

2016 Budget Update

Mayor's Message

Recently I attended the Salish Sea and WSÁNEĆ gathering of First Nations and listened to concerns for the safety and protection of our coasts. Bringing Indigenous peoples together with the local non-Aboriginal community, this



gathering presented a unique opportunity to deepen learning and understanding between neighbours about culture and tradition, sustainability, and challenges we face together.

In May, Council adopted a long term borrowing bylaw which will enable the purchase of a new fire tender and the construction of an apparatus bay at the West Fire Hall. This brings us closer to achieving Superior Shuttle Accreditation.

The next steps will be purchasing the fire tender, conducting tests under the "Fire Underwriters Survey" to acquire accreditation and constructing the apparatus bay. It is anticipated that residents should receive a letter for insurance purposes before the end of 2016 which, in most cases, will provide a lower fire insurance cost.

On behalf of Council, I wish everyone a relaxing safe and rejuvenating summer with family and friends.

Fire Department News

A reminder that Highlands is entering the annual fire hazard season and therefore burning

restrictions are in place; at the time of publishing the hazard level HIGH, campfires are still permitted – visit our homepage for details at www.highlands.ca and watch the roadside fire hazard signs at all Highlands entrances. Contact the Fire Department to inquire about permits .



Casino Night!

Saturday, June 11, plan to attend the Annual Casino Night, a fundraiser to benefit Muscular

Dystrophy Canada. Bring your family, friends and neighbours and join your hosts, members of the Highlands Fire Fighters Association, for a fun event in aid of this deserving charity. The action starts at 6p.m. at the West Fire Hall, 1564 Millstream Rd. Entrance fee: \$20, cash bar. Lots of prizes to be won! Must be 19+ to attend.



After a series of Budget meetings, Highlands Council has adopted the 2016 – 2020 Financial Plan. You will by now have received your tax notice and related information. You are encouraged to contact the District Office with any questions you may have in relation to the Financial Plan information. The 2016 budget provides for maintained service levels, a number of capital projects, and improved fire protection.

Final Budget summary information can be found here:

<http://highlands.bc.ca/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/2759?fileID=2918>

Safe Soils Resolution

The District put forth a 'Safe Soil' resolution to send to the UBCM in an effort to address the transport and dispersal of invasive pests via soils. Increasingly, development is promoting the spread of invasive species such as Knotweed and Fire Ants, and local governments are faced with the extraordinary cost to mitigate these issues. The resolution asks the Provincial Government to create a 'Safe Soil' program similar to the "Clean Plant" program in the nursery industry, where companies that sell soil products can be certified as a 'Safe Soil' provider if they meet a set of criteria to ensure their soils are invasive free. This voluntary program would allow consumers the tool to differentiate between products and choose an invasive free product. It would also allow local governments to build into their Soil Deposit and Removal Bylaws that any soils intended for top dressing be certified, thus mitigating the problem.

On the lower mainland some communities have experienced property values drop with losses at almost a billion dollars, where infestations of fire ants at one property on a street directly impacts all the neighbouring properties. Metchosin and Colwood have also officially supported Highlands Resolution.

Are You Bear Aware ??

The District would like to remind all residents that the number one attractant to bears is household garbage, and that it is the responsibility of the home owner to ensure that household garbage is securely stored until the morning of collection day.

Please visit the following websites for more information on bear safety: wildsafebc.com OR <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/wildlife/human-wildlife-conflict>



Community and Council News



HAT

Eagles Lake Turtle Habitat Project

Council was approached by Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT), a non-profit conservation organization aimed at protecting habitat through education, stewardship and research, regarding a Western Painted Turtle habitat enhancement project at Eagles Lake.

The Western Painted Turtle is an endangered species in Canada, and HAT has been working towards mitigating threats and protecting and enhancing turtle habitat in the Capital Regional District since 2008.

The project proposed for Eagles Lake, which received Council approval in April, will focus on enhancing basking opportunities for turtles by placing additional logs in various locations for this purpose, along with creating a safe nesting area.



Regional Growth Strategy Update



At the March 9, 2016 CRD Board meeting, the Board received the draft 2016 RGS for information and resolved to invite municipal Councils to provide comment through an informal referral - by May 18, 2016.

District of Highlands Councils received the draft document for information at their May 2 & 9 Council Meetings and made several recommendations to the CRD Board regarding the draft document. Minutes from those meeting may be found here: <http://www.highlands.bc.ca/agendacenter> and information on the CRD's draft RGS and Council's May 18, 2016 response letter may be found here: <http://www.highlands.bc.ca/230/Planning-Related-Documents>.

2016 Property Taxes

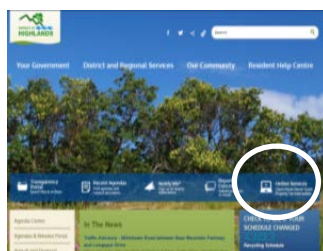
Taxes are Due July 4th by 4 pm. YOU SHOULD HAVE ALREADY OR VERY SOON RECEIVED YOUR 2016 PROPERTY TAX NOTICE BY MAIL. If not, please contact the municipal office at 250-474-1773. Remember Friday, July 1 is Canada Day, a statutory holiday, and our office will be closed.

Home Owner Grant Options:

Banks no longer accept HOG claims at the counter, therefore, the District of Highlands provides new online options below. We also accept Home Owner Grant claims at our counter, secure drop box or mailed. Please remember to claim every year.

Visit the District's website www.highlands.ca and click the ONLINE SERVICES button, you will find the following options and instructions:

- CLAIMING YOUR E-HOG electronically
- VIEWING YOUR TAX ACCOUNT (you must register to safeguard your personal information)
- PAYING YOUR TAXES (information on how to pay through your Financial Institution's website)
- PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENT PLAN (PAPP) - how to apply
- VIEWING PROPERTY INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC



Payment Options:

- Mail us a cheque or post-dated cheque to avoid a line up (please include roll # on cheque for reference).
- In person
- After hours: secure drop box at front door
- We accept cash, cheque, debit/interact
- We DO NOT accept credit cards
- You may also pay via internet banking through YOUR financial institution's website as: "Highlands, Dist-Taxes" is now set up as a Payee at major banks and credit unions.

Ribbon Cutting for New Accessible Path

Pike House Accessibility Improvement Project - Landscape Plan



The Heritage Park Society hosts a celebration for the completion of the accessible path to the Pike House on Saturday, June 25 at 2 pm.

Representatives from the Westshore Lions Club (who donated \$1,000

towards the project) will be in attendance along with Highlands resident and disabilities advocate Marnie Essery.

Events include a ribbon cutting ceremony and an informal presentation featuring stories and photos of the Caleb Pike House Homestead.

Tea and cookies will be served. Everyone welcome!



June 11th Highlands Music Coffee House presents an evening of Jammin'!

Solo musicians and bands will create a great evening of music. Just Jammin' and Having Fun!

Time: 7:30pm | **Place:** Caleb Pike House, 1589 Millstream Road
Charge: \$5.00/person - coffee, tea and goodies provided

Upcoming Events – July 9, 2016 – Muraro Marimba

Highlands South Gateway Rezoning Update

At their May 9, 2016 Committee of the Whole Meeting, Council discussed the Industrial Rezoning Application Analysis report. This report looked at the two rezoning applications involving the Millstream Meadows property and the property to the south of it now owned by OK Industries. A copy of the report can be found at web site: <http://highlands.bc.ca/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/2796?fileID=2957>, and a copy of the minutes from that meeting can be found at web site: <http://highlands.ca/agendacenter> under "May 9, 2016 - Council - Committee of the Whole".



Twinflower Park Upgrade

Plans are ongoing for the replacement of the playground equipment at Twinflower Park, towards which the District received a Canada 150 grant of \$30,000. The old equipment has now been removed, and the District is working on receiving proposals for new equipment.

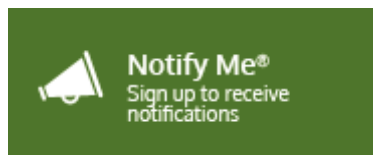
Watch the upcoming council agendas (District website: Agenda Centre) for a staff report on options for replacement playground equipment.

FireSmart Grant Program

The District received a \$10,000 grant from the Union of BC Municipalities grant program. \$6,000 of this grant is to be used towards a \$200 reimbursement for property owners to hire a FireSmart consultant to provide the homeowner with a FireSmart plan for their property.

Watch the District website for further information on these initiatives.

Highlands Information at your fingertips!



You will not miss a meeting or Highlands event by using the "Notify Me" function on the District's website. You simply sign up for items such as: agendas, minutes, news alerts and events posted to the community calendar and an alert will be directed to either your cell phone or email account informing you of the new item. Sign up by visiting highlands.ca.

Highlands 2016 Broom Bash

Organized by the Highlands District Community Association



The HDCA partnered with the The Land Conservancy, the Victoria Green Team and Highland volunteers to cut and collect broom. Together the volunteers removed broom from the community, including the Community Hall grounds and adjacent road-sides. TLC also provided a truck and person-power to transport the substantial road-side pile from Martlet Drive to the Hall site.

The 2016 event was a great success. Approximately 140 cubic metres of broom was collected and will be chipped at the Community Hall site for a useful end-product.



Community Garden Coming to Highlands

A group of residents have formed a committee to look at options for the creation of a community garden. The preferred location proposed by the residents is the Community Hall property. In order for Council to be in a position to further consider this proposal, the zoning for the property would need to be changed to allow for this use.

(Note: At the time of publication a public hearing on a Zoning Bylaw amendment to add community garden use to all "P2" zoned properties [Community Hall, District Office, East and West Fire Hall/playground] is scheduled for June 6, 7pm at the School House, 1589 Millstream Road.)

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
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.



Thanks

Volunteers of the Month

Thank you HDCA for a successful Highlands Community Clean Up.

On Saturday, May 7th, many community members organized and cleaned the main roads and municipal parks of tossed litter, metal, tires & miscellaneous items. Volunteers make the District of Highlands the great place it is!



The **Hartland Open House** is an amazing opportunity to take a behind the scenes look at your award-winning

landfill and check out our educational displays. Come enjoy the fun and participate in your region's biggest waste and recycling depot.

Date: Sunday, June 12, 2016

Time: 10:30am - 2pm

Where: #1 Hartland Avenue (off West Saanich Road)

Light refreshments served, great family event!

<https://www.crd.bc.ca/service/public-tours/hartland-happening>

Community Calendar

June 2016

June 6&20 **Council Meeting**
7pm School House – Heritage Park

June 11 **Casino Night**
6pm West Fire Hall

June 11 **Highlands Music Coffee House**
7:30pm Pike House – Heritage Park

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

June 15 **Heritage Select Committee**
7.30 School House – Heritage Park

June 21 **Sustainable Land Use Committee**
7pm School House – Heritage Park

June 25 **Heritage Park Society**
Ribbon Cutting for accessibility path
2pm Pike House – Heritage Park

Council and Staff Contacts:

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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

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!

