

Highlands News

Highlands Council Newsletter
Spring/Summer 2017



Mayor's Message

After a very late and wet spring, the weather is finally getting warmer and soon summer will arrive in Highlands. There is much to do as winter has been tough on our roads. Work has already commenced on Davies Road but many areas will need attention before next winter.

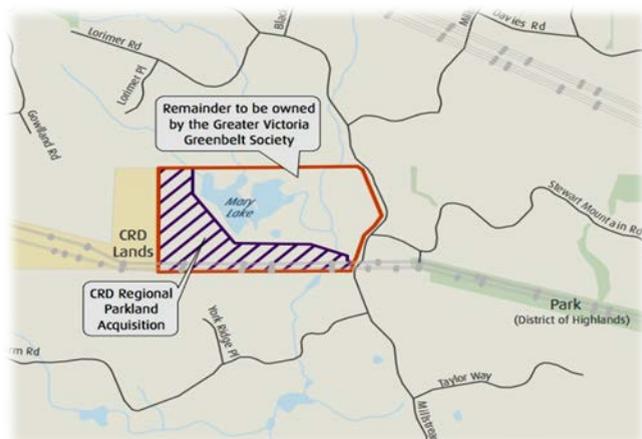
Taking care of our assets is an important function of local government and I'm pleased to report that the District of Highlands has received a grant through UBCM that will help facilitate better integration of asset management planning with long term financial planning.

On behalf of Council and staff, I'd like to thank the HDCA and all the volunteers for another successful broom bash and roadside clean-up. We wish everyone a great and relaxing summer with family and friends.

Mary Lake Properties Update

The Greater Victoria Greenbelt Society (GVGS) has purchased the two remaining Mary Lake parcels, and has entered into an agreement to sell 10 hectares of that land to the Capital Regional District for \$500,000.00 through the CRD Land Acquisition Fund.

"This parcel is identified in the CRD Regional Parks Land Acquisition Strategy," said CRD Board Chair Barbara Desjardins. "The CRD acquired this land to complete a recreational corridor connecting Thetis Lake Regional Park with Gowlland Tod Provincial Park. Hikers will now be able to complete a 25 km loop including Gowlland Tod, Mount Work, and Thetis Lake Parks. This property was the last missing link to complete the corridor. "The purchase of this property contributes to the protection of a Coastal Douglas Fir ecosystem, which in an undisturbed state is rare in British Columbia. The linking trail corridor under CRD's authority, will provide additional outdoor recreational benefits for community and regional residents.



Emergency Program Positions Available



Emergency Coordinator:

The District is looking for an Emergency Coordinator. A full job description can be found here:

<http://www.highlands.ca/Jobs.aspx?UniqueId=97&From=All&CommunityJobs=False&JobID=Volunteer-Opportunity-Emergency-Coodinat-8>

Social Services Team Members:

The District is also seeking volunteers to join the Social Services Team. Information of these positions may be found here:

<http://www.highlands.ca/Jobs.aspx?UniqueId=97&From=All&CommunityJobs=False&JobID=Volunteer-Opportunity-7>

If you have experience as an Emergency Coordinator or have interest in joining the Social Services Team please contact the District Office..



Council has indicated its support in principle for the possible land acquisition of the remaining Mary Lake parcels but no financial commitment has been made by council. Much more information is needed and there would be many legislative processes to go through and the community would be informed at every step. GVGS Society Director, Greg Nuk, says "We are looking forward to a summer of community engagement, coming up with a sustainable financial plan and will be bringing forth our ideas to council in the Fall". No land use applications have been received from the GVGS to date.

Community and Council News

2017 Property Taxes Due Tuesday July 4 By 4:00 pm (Office Closed Monday July 3)

Tax notices will be mailed at the end of May. If your mailing address has changed please make sure to let the Office know.

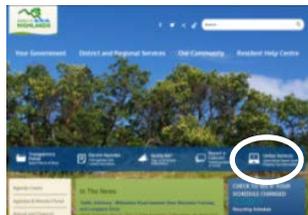
We urge you to read the informative *tax insert* which will accompany the *tax notice* which, for 2017, will highlight the new look of the Home Owner Grant application, changes to procedures for deferment application and the latest budgetary information.

Home Owner Grants must be claimed every year

Banks no longer accept Home Owner Grant applications, therefore, the District of Highlands provides **online** options below. We also accept HOG applications 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** via the District's website
- **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** - Program runs August 10 to May 10
- **Viewing Property Information For The Public**



Payment Options:

- Mail 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.

HAT Eagles Lake - Turtle Habitat Project

The District of Highlands and the Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) partnered for a Western Painted Turtle habitat enhancement project at Eagles Lake. Included in the project was additional logs being placed in various locations for enhancing basking opportunities and new substrate for nesting areas. The Western Painted Turtle is an endangered species so please make sure to let the office know if you're lucky enough to see on these local turtles. Amazing video footage can be seen here of an adult turtle waking after hibernation and searching for a water source.



<https://www.facebook.com/HabitatAcqTrust>

Eagles Lake Update A process to prepare a municipality owned Eagles Lake property for possible sale is underway. If Council comes to the decision to sell the property, a public notice would have to be published to advise the public in advance. Council has not committed to any sale revenue going towards the purchase of the Mary Lake property; the intention is that, if sold, any proceeds would be placed in reserve funds for future consideration.

2017 Budget Update

After a series of Budget meetings, Highlands Council has adopted the 2017 – 2021 Financial Plan. Your tax notice should arrive by the first week of June. You are encouraged to contact the District Office with any questions you may have in relation to the Financial Plan information.

The 2017 budget provides for maintained service levels and a number of capital projects.

Final Budget summary can be found here:

<http://highlands.bc.ca/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/3469?fileID=3902>

Regional Growth Strategy Update



The draft 2016 Regional Growth Strategy was rejected by the District of Highlands Council, along with six other local governments in the region.

The Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development directed that a non-binding dispute resolution process for the 2016 RGS, as requested by the CRD Board, be undertaken; the process must commence no later than June 14, 2017.

The CRD Board and each rejecting Council need to agree to a mediator and a process. In the absence of agreement by June 14th, the Minister will direct a mediator/process.

CRD staff have been working closely with municipal partners of rejecting municipalities (Central Saanich, Colwood, Esquimalt, Highlands, North Saanich, Saanich, View Royal) to advance the process. Municipal staff will bring forward recommendations to their Councils for the proposed process and mediation services by June 5th. The CRD Board will be presented with recommendations on the proposed process and mediator for a decision by the June 14, 2017 deadline.

The most recent report received by Council at their January 16, 2017 Council meeting may be found here;

<http://www.highlands.ca/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/3305?fileID=3585>

June 10th Highlands Music Coffee House presents an evening with Fine Spirits !



Come join us for some fun, lively, danceable music!

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

Upcoming Events – July 8, 2017 – Mufaro Marimba



Eagles Lake

Community and Council News



Twinflower Park Upgrade Completed

Over the fall and winter of 2016/2017 Twinflower Park had new playground equipment installed. The upgrade was a joint project with the District of Highlands and Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program. A Grand Opening will be scheduled – watch the District website for information.

FireSmart

Fifteen District of Highlands Property Owners benefited from the grant received from the Union of BC Municipalities Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative. This program assists communities to advance local planning efforts to mitigate risk from wildfire on private lands within a wildland urban interface. These fifteen property owners agreed for a FireSmart Consultant to attend their property and provide them with a FireSmart plan for their property. All costs were covered under the grant program.

The District was 1 of 50 local governments to receive a \$10,000 grant.

Highlands Community Garden

A Highlands Community Garden is being created at the Municipal Hall. A volunteer committee has been working on this project for the last year. The ground has been prepared and it looks fabulous. We welcome more Committee members (Meetings: the fourth Tuesday of each month, 7:30 pm at the Pike House.) In July we will be holding a fence building workshop followed by construction of the garden fence. No experience necessary. Watch for further notice of this work party. Contact marlene@jmmca.ca

Pictured at the right is the community garden property before work commenced on the property. Pictured below is after work commenced.



New Accessible Path to the Museum



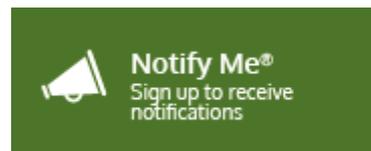
Board members of the Highland Heritage Park Society and volunteers installed a new pathway to the museum at the Caleb

Pike Heritage Park. The new improved access was constructed using fill, ¾" crushed gravel, and pathway gravel and has a low slope (1:12) suitable for wheelchair and other mobility aids. This work was partially funded through a British Columbia/Canada 150 grant. Equipment and trucking was donated by Don Mann Excavating, and operators Rick Hughes and Paul Reynolds, who are both Highlands residents, volunteered their time. Thank you, Don Mann, Rick and Paul!

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 Low, 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.



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.

Celebrate Your Special Day in a Special Place



Caleb Pike Heritage Park

This rustic and unique 3 acre park is surrounded by beautiful Douglas Fir forest

3 Heritage buildings circa 1883 • Ceremonies • Free Parking
For rates and availability please call or go online today

Community Hall

Customize your event at our brand new hall which offers a 1200 square foot assembly area

Entertain up to 150 guests • Acoustically designed stage
Non-Commercial Kitchen • Floor to ceiling windows
Free Parking



1980 Millstream Rd, Victoria
Heritage Park: 250-474-7601 • Hall: 250-474-1773
www3.telus.net/calebp05 • www.highlands.ca

Council and Staff Contacts:

Mayor Ken Williams
kwilliams@highlands.ca
250-882-5481

Councillor Leslie
Anderson
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778-350-8180

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

Councillor Gord Baird
gord.baird@gmail.com
250-478-2680

Councillor Karen Burns
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250-391-6227

Councillor Marcie McLean
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250-474-4725

Councillor Karel
Roessingh
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250-727-9808

Fire Chief Ford
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 June 2017

June 3 **Casino Night**
6pm West Fire Hall

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

June 10 **Highlands Music Coffee House**
7:30pm Pike House – Heritage Park

June 12 **Committee of the Whole**
7pm School House – Heritage Park

June 13 **Social Sustainability Committee**
7.30 Pike House – Heritage Park

June 14 **Heritage Select Committee**
7.30 School House – Heritage Park

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

June 26 **Garden Group**
7.30pm Pike House – Heritage Park

July 2017

July **Highlands Music Coffee House**
7.30pm Pike House – Heritage Park

July 10 **Council Meeting**
7pm School House – Heritage Park

August 2017

August 14 **Council Meeting**
7pm School House – Heritage Park

Thanks Volunteer of the Month

Marnie Essery is a wonderful speaker and tireless advocate for the disabled.

Congratulations Marnie on your achievements and acclamation as Chair of the Intermunicipal Advisory Committee on Disability Issues (IACDI).

Casino Night!

Saturday, June 10, 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.



Highlands Oral History Project

Do you have memories about living in the Highlands, or old photos or maps that you would like to share? The Highlands Heritage Select Committee is beginning to work on the Highlands Oral History Project and would like the opportunity to interview you about your experiences and perspectives of the Highlands. We would like to ask you about things such as what drew you to the Highlands, how you would describe your neighbourhood, and changes you have seen in the roads and other infrastructure over time. We also want to know about ways you have been involved in the community, what types of activities you enjoy in the Highlands, and if you have any favourite places or trails.

If you are interested in participating in the Highlands Oral History Project, or would like to have more information please contact: Sally Gose | Chair Heritage Select Committee | sgose@telus.net | 250 474-3403

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!

