

HAPPY

Holidays

Highlands News

Highlands Council Newsletter
Winter 2019/2020

Mayor's Message



The holidays are a wonderful time for loved ones to gather, reflect on the year gone by and take a break from the hustle and bustle of life. I'm proud to lead a community where people care deeply for one another and that no matter what the issue, we find a way to move forward. Your Highlands council and staff have been working hard on asset

management and emergency planning this past year. Highlands council members made a good showing at the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives "Livable Cities Forum" that focused on community resilience through the intersection of climate, food and health. On behalf of Highlands council and staff, I extend our warmest regards and best wishes to everyone in our community. May the spirit of the season be with you and your loved ones throughout the holidays and we wish you a happy, healthy, prosperous new year.

Groundwater Protection Implementation and Work Plan

Groundwater protection remains one of Council's top priorities in its Strategic Plan.

In April of this year, Elucidate Consulting was awarded the contract to prepare a Groundwater Protection Implementation and Work Plan for Highlands, based on the recommendations of the Phase 3 Golder and Associates groundwater report and subsequent considerations from the Sustainable Land Use Select Committee. The funding for the project was approved under the Federal Gas Tax funding administered by UBCM.

The purpose of the project is to prepare a practical and realistic plan to implement a Groundwater Protection Plan. A draft plan was presented to Committee of the Whole and the community in September and posted on Highlands' website. Members of the public were invited to provide comments and subsequently a number of comments and questions were received and incorporated by the consultants into a final version of the Groundwater Protection Implementation and Work Plan. This final version was recently endorsed by Council ([link to agenda item](#)).

As a result of only a portion of the grant funds being used for the final report, the District will be undertaking some of the first steps of the implementation program with the remaining funds. This work is expected to commence in the new year.

Further information can be obtained by contacting the District Office.



Winter Road Maintenance

The District's duty phone will be active on December 1st. 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.



Highlands Volunteer Fire Fighters' Association Santa Run!

Watch for Santa on Saturday, December 14th. More information on Santa's schedule can be found on Highlands website following this [link](#).

West Shore RCMP

With the holiday season approaching, we remind you always to have a designated driver if you intend to drink alcohol. Every year more than 125 people are killed in B.C. in alcohol-related accidents.



ICBC has also launched its December campaign, Impaired Driving/Counter Attack. More information on this campaign can be found [here](#)

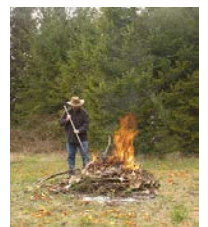
Residents are encouraged to report minor traffic incidents on the RCMP non-emergency line at 250-474-2264.

Message from the Fire Chief

The District of Highlands has moved to an online permitting process for **ALL OPEN BURNING**.

All permits may be applied for here:

hvfd.burnpermits.com



Community and Council News

Long Term Financial Plan Council approved an Asset Management Strategy early in 2018 and adopted an [Asset Management Plan](#) and [Policy](#) at that time. The next step in the process in order to implement asset management more fully into the functions of the District was to apply for funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to do the following:

- Undertake a road surface profile assessment and develop a pavement management strategy;
- integrate asset management into a long term financial plan, including developing a reserves and surplus policy; and
- support staff training and mentoring in relation to the project.

With the completion of the [pavement management strategy](#), which has been incorporated into the District's Asset Management Plan, the last piece of the project was the development of a Long Term Financial Plan. This Plan ([link to plan](#)), endorsed by Council in October, integrates with District operations, and aligns the District's financial capacity with the community vision and long term service objectives. Going forward the Plan will form a basis for preparing the Five Year Financial Plan each year.

Please contact the District Office for further information.

Traffic Enforcement Council has heard from residents, primarily in the Ross Durrance Road/Millstream Lake Road area, concerning aggressive driving, speeding, and other traffic enforcement issues. Council, together with the West Shore RCMP, has agreed that Councillor Anderson will work with the community and staff to gather comments, concerns and suggested actions that will be forwarded to the RCMP for consideration. Councillor Anderson will be contacting Sally Gose, designated community member representative in the Ross Durrance Road/Millstream Lake Road area, to ensure receipt of the most current perspectives from those residents.

There is also an opportunity for the rest of the community to provide comments with respect to traffic enforcement concerns directly to the District Office. Please send your comments to Liz, Administrative Assistant, at lcondon@highlands.ca.

Outstanding Property Tax Reminder

If you have outstanding property taxes please confirm the amount by contacting the District Office at 250-474-1773. Payments should be made at the District Office, Monday to Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:00PM, 1980 Millstream Road. We accept cash, cheque or debit.

The District Office will be closed over the holiday season from noon, Tuesday, December 24 until Thursday, January 2, 2020. Payments during the winter closure may be dropped in the mail slot at the front door of the District Office (no cash please).

If you are looking at ways to recycle this season please visit the CRD webpage on [Holiday Recycling](#).

District of Highlands Service Medal Awarded

On November 18, 2019 Pattie Whitehouse received the District of Highlands Service Medal for her significant contributions to the District. Pattie's skills as a community organizer and journalist/writer helped give Highlands an impactful presence in our region.

Thank you Pattie!



Emergency Planning In Highlands On the heels of last year's project to equip a mobile Emergency Operations Centre for response to emergencies within the Highlands, the District has embarked upon an evacuation route planning project with the assistance of Logic League Consulting. This project has been identified under the District's Emergency Program Strategic Plan as a priority. Both of these projects received funding through the Union of BC Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund. Thanks goes out to the Highlands District Community Association's HELP groups, and West Shore RCMP for their collaboration on the evacuation route planning project! Other priorities from the EP Strategic Plan are being implemented as well, including recently updating the Emergency Program Bylaw and planning for staff to be trained on how Emergency Operations Centres (EOC's) operate.



Highlands Select Committee

Positions are available. The District encourages residents to apply for a position if you are interested in community topics and feel you can contribute.

District of Highlands Select Committees include: Highland Heritage Select Committee, Social Sustainability Select Committee, and Sustainable Land Use Select Committee.

Information on Highlands Select Committees can be found [here](#).

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 tneurauter@highlands.ca by February 14, 2020.



Storm Preparedness – Are You Ready?

With recent weather conditions you can't help but ask yourself, "Am I ready for a serious storm?" You will find helpful tips and a checklist on the Highlands [Emergency Preparedness](#) webpage.



Community and Council News

The South Highlands Local Area Plan

The formation of a South Highlands Local Area Plan is expected to begin in the coming months. Council has appointed the Task Force members and awarded a consulting contract to a local firm, Barefoot Planning + Design.

NEXT STEPS: The consultant and staff are expected to meet in December to finalize some of the project details, and the Task Force is expected to begin meeting by the end of January. All Task Force meetings are open to the public.

The latest information on this item can be found [here](#).



Get on the Highlands Community Garden Wait List for Spring 2020.

Ten more garden boxes, including 2 waist-high boxes for people with mobility issues and one wheelchair-accessible box, will be available to rent. Coming events include a fruit tree pruning workshop in January and a presentation in February by the Victoria Compost Education Centre on creating excellent soil. Everyone is welcome. Dates will be announced. Please contact Tammy Brown, membership and financial coordinator, at HighlandsCommunityGarden@outlook.com if you have any questions or would like to be on the wait list for 2020.

Archaeological Investigations



Archaeological investigations for the lime kiln are underway. Millennia Research is performing the work as commissioned by the District through the Heritage Select Committee.

Volunteers Celebrated

Council celebrated with District volunteers at the annual Volunteer Recognition Celebration held in October at the Community Hall.



Safety Tips for Woodstoves

Many Highlands homes have a wood stove. Here are some tips to help reduce the environmental and health impacts of wood smoke:

- Choose a low-emission stove. Install an "advance combustion" wood stove or fireplace insert to reduce toxic emissions.

- 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 and flues regularly. Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Use your dampers. Allow in more air when starting a fire, and close the dampers when the wood is well charred. This will produce more heat and use less wood.
- Use dry, seasoned wood. Cut, split and stack wood and store 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 circulate freely around it.
- Burn wood in smaller pieces. Small pieces are a more efficient source of heat.

Never Burn:

- Painted or chemically treated wood.
- Household garbage or cardboard (plastics, foam, or any paper, wrappers or cardboard with coloured ink produce harmful chemicals when burned)
- Driftwood, plywood, particle board, or any wood with glue on or in it, all of which release toxic chemicals when burned
- Wet, rotten, diseased or mouldy wood, which can expose your family to mould and spores that may be a health hazard.

Broom Pulling Tip for Winter

Broom can be pulled throughout the rainy season, and the small plants are easy to pull when the ground is wet. Pulling in winter reduces the population significantly. Our aim is to stop the flowering plants so that over time, seed production and the formation of new plants will be stopped.

-Paul Henry, organizer HDCA padhenry@shaw.ca



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
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 VHA 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.



Community Hall

Caleb Pike Heritage Grounds



Report all Poachers and Polluters (RAPP)

Please Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP). RAPP is a provincial toll free tip line and online service to report human/wildlife interactions that pose a threat to public safety. Known or suspected violations of fisheries, wildlife or environmental protection laws can also be reported anonymously and without risk of confronting the offender.

Highlanders are reminded that the discharge of firearms is not permitted in the District. If you hear a gunshot please call the RCMP non-emergency number: 250-474-2264

The B.C. Conservation Officer Service and RAPP Hotline is: 1-877- 952-7277 or you can fill out an online form here:

<https://forms.gov.bc.ca/environment/rapp/>

District Office

Hours Over the winter holidays the office will be closed at noon Tuesday, December 24th and will re-open on Thursday, January 2nd, 2020

Community Calendar

January 2020

- Jan 13 & 27 Council Meeting
7pm School House – Heritage Park
- Jan 8 Heritage Committee
7.30pm School House – Heritage Park
- Jan 15 Sustainable Land Use Committee
7pm School House – Heritage Park
- Jan 20 Committee of the Whole
7pm School House – Heritage Park

February 2020

- Feb 3 & 18 Council Meeting
7pm School House – Heritage Park
- Feb 8 Coffee House, 7.30 Pike House
- Feb 10 Committee of the Whole
7pm School House – Heritage Park
- Feb 12 Heritage Committee
7.30pm School House – Heritage Park
- Feb 19 Sustainable Land Use Committee
7pm School House – Heritage Park

March 2020

- Mar 2 & 16 Council Meeting
7pm School House – Heritage Park
- Mar 9 Committee of the Whole
7pm School House – Heritage Park
- Mar 11 Heritage Committee
7.30pm School House – Heritage Park
- Mar 14 Coffee House, 7.30 Pike House
- Mar 18 Sustainable Land Use Committee
7pm School House – Heritage Park

2020 Grant-in-Aid

The District will be accepting grant-in-aid applications for 2020 up to and including February 29, 2020.

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 [here](#).



Upcoming Events - December 14
- Duncan Sutherland and Homespun



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 gifts-in-kind by Individuals, groups, service clubs, schools 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. All donations gratefully appreciated.

Contact Info:

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

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

Councillor Ann Baird
ann@eco-sense.ca
250-812-5481

Councillor Gord Baird
gord.baird@gmail.com
250-818-7986

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

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

Councillor Rose Stanton
rose26@telus.net
250-474-3403

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 Conflicts
1-800-663-9453

Conservation Office (RAPP)
1-877-952-7277

Winter Duty Line
1-250-893-1773