

Highlands Newsletter

Highlands Council Newsletter
Summer 2020



Mayor's Message

Due to your strength and steadfastness, we are making good progress in our battle with the COVID-19 virus. Your sacrifices and restraint are saving lives. Thank you for thinking of others.

Infection rates on Vancouver Island are quite low compared to other areas of the world and that's a direct reflection of your determination and hard work. On behalf of council, once again, I offer my sincere gratitude and support to first responders, health care workers and indeed, our staff for their fantastic response to the pandemic. Take care and stay safe.

District Office remains closed except for tax payments.

Only tax payments will be permitted in person at the District Office. Recommendations and requirements of the Provincial Health Officer have been implemented including the installation of a plexiglass barrier. Please consider payment through your financial institution.



For all other District business call 250-474-1773 or email info@highlands.ca
For due dates, Home Owner Grant and other tax information, please visit the District Website: www.highlands.ca

Bear Season – Are you Bear Aware?

The B.C. Conservation Officer Service says bear and cougar sightings are becoming increasingly common in our area.



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 and cougar safety: wildsafebc.com OR <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/wildlife/human-wildlife-conflict>

Fire Department News

To align with a recent Province of BC open fire ban, all Backyard/Hand Pile and Machine Pile burning in Highlands is banned until further notice. All current OAB permits are revoked.

Recreational campfires burning clean, dry fire wood are still permitted in Highlands. You must fill out a permit using lvfd.burnpermits.com and follow all regulations.

Chimney Cleaning: The British Columbia Fire Code requires that chimneys, flues or flue pipes shall be cleaned as often as necessary to keep them free from dangerous accumulations of combustible deposits.



2020 Budget Update

In recognition of the financial hardship some are facing as a result of COVID-19, Highlands Council and the Provincial Government have enacted special bylaws and legislation to change the property taxation framework for 2020. Council also revisited taxes and reduced the general and fire tax increase from 2% to 1%. When added to the asset management tax of 1% per average residential dwelling, this resulted in a 2% overall increase in 2020, down from the initial 3% overall increase proposal. After a series of budget meetings, Highlands Council has adopted the 2020-2024 Financial Plan. By now you should have received your tax notices. For capital projects in 2020, the budget includes funds for road paving, culvert replacements, fencing for the Community Garden, additional sign boards, a new Fire Chief's vehicle, other fire equipment and improvements at the Caleb Pike Heritage Park.



Create a District of Highlands website Account:

- On the DOH website you can create a [user account](#)
- This account allows you to be added to the special Highlands HELP group
- Any post or communications to this group will be emailed or texted to you
- Conversations can occur during any emergency, even if cell service is cut off



happy ♥ retirement

TINA

On behalf of the people of Highlands, we'd like to wish our outstanding Corporate Officer, Tina Neurauter, an amazing retirement! Tina began with Highlands in June 2007 as the Deputy Corporate Officer and was appointed as the Corporate Officer in 2014. Always helpful, hard working and deeply committed to Highlands, she is the epitome of professionalism. Tina, you have our heartfelt thanks for your superb performance and may you have the best of fortune in your new life journeys! - Mayor & Council

Looking back to 2007 when Tina joined the staff at Highlands, I am taken by the magnitude of the events that occurred over the course of the subsequent years and particularly how our small staff stayed tightly knit, focused, and sorted through such issues as tigers, Tervita and taxes; community plans, community halls and community sustainability. Tina played an important role in all of these things, with her straight forward, professional and calm manner, while looking ahead and focusing on keeping her part of the ship sailing smoothly. Most notably Tina was a trusted ear and sounding board for all of us. After a long and successful career in local government Tina, the very best wishes for a wonderful retirement and all that awaits you and your family.

Chris Coates

HDCA Directors unanimously voted to extend our appreciation to you, Tina, for the service ethic evident in all of your work, your friendliness and approachability and for all those very long, late Monday nights! The HDCA implores you to **RETIRE Like Nobody is Looking!** Appreciatively, HDCA".



Dear Tina,

As a colleague, you have supported every member of staff that you have worked with over the last thirteen years with your knowledge and experience in local government. Thank you for always being there to help with whatever has been needed.

Just as appreciated is your genuine kindness and caring for all of your work family. We are really going to miss you in the office but know that we will keep in touch. It is a special connection that we have shared in our small office environment, and you have been an integral part of that. We sure have had a lot of fun, too!

We wish you the very best in your retirement and whatever new adventures that brings you,
Loranne, Laura B., Chris, Liz, Brigitte, Laura U., Michael.

Congratulations on your retirement Tina! Thank you for your assistance and advice all these years! If you ever find yourself really missing the Highlands, remember that we have an out of district firefighter program.... Sincerely Chief Ford.

Hi Tina

Many thanks for the help that you have given me in the tasks that I have entrusted to you over many years. I have always felt comfortable approaching you because I have always been met with courtesy and willingness to understand what I needed. I will miss your accommodating attitude and wish you the same success in your retirement that you have brought to your years at the Highlands office. Best wishes. - Bob McMinn

I have had the pleasure of talking with our dear Tina Neurauter for many years, sometimes about an upcoming event, but mostly about the Highlands Music Coffee House events when we needed to let her know about the upcoming events so they could be put on the District of Highlands' website, so people could find out about the dates and the musicians who would be performing at the Highlands Music Coffee House in the Highlands. Tina was always very graceful and so knowledgeable. Thank you for that Tina. We of course don't want you to go, but we know retirement is a great thing in a person's life, so, we all wish you a very happy retirement! Enjoy your retirement!! From the Highlands Music Coffee House,

- Zhinoos Armstrong, Gordon Hart and Linda Hemsworth.

Support Resourcefulness Positivity Community Values Patience

Tina, thank you for being champion of Caleb Pike Heritage Park over the years. Your support contributed to the smooth operation of the park in significant and small ways. Always helpful and practical, you facilitated our partnership with the District, responded to our needs, and came to the rescue if things got missed. You have had great ideas for the park and the Winter Craft Fair, which have been most appreciated. We will miss you, your warmth, and your never-ending patience, and we wish you all the best in your retirement.

Hello Tina,

With Gratitude,
Highlands Heritage Park Society
Sally, Allen, Bob, Daphne, Dave, Ingo, Ed and Gwenn

Congratulations on your retirement!

I want to thank you for all of your help and support for the work that you have done for the Te'mexw Treaty Advisory Committee in your role of supporting its during Highland's leadership of this organization. You have been key in managing the TTAC records, and in hosting the many meetings with our many local governments during the Te'mexw Treaty negotiations. I have enjoyed working with you throughout this complex process.

Retirement is a great time to recapture some of the freedom that we had when we were younger, Tina. I wish you good health and great happiness as you move into this new phase of freedom in your life.

Cheers,
Dave Drummond, TTAC Consultant

Thank you, Tina, for taking such excellent care of all of us: councils, co-workers, community. Always professional and capable, you brought a calm, sensible 'can do' positivity to every challenge. You will be missed! Congratulations on your well-deserved retirement.

Jane Mendum,
Former Mayor

Tina has been very helpful and supportive to the Intermunicipal Advisory Committee on Disability Issues and we really appreciate it. Best wishes to her for a fun and relaxing retirement.

- Marnie Essery, Chair, Intermunicipal Advisory Committee on Disability Issues

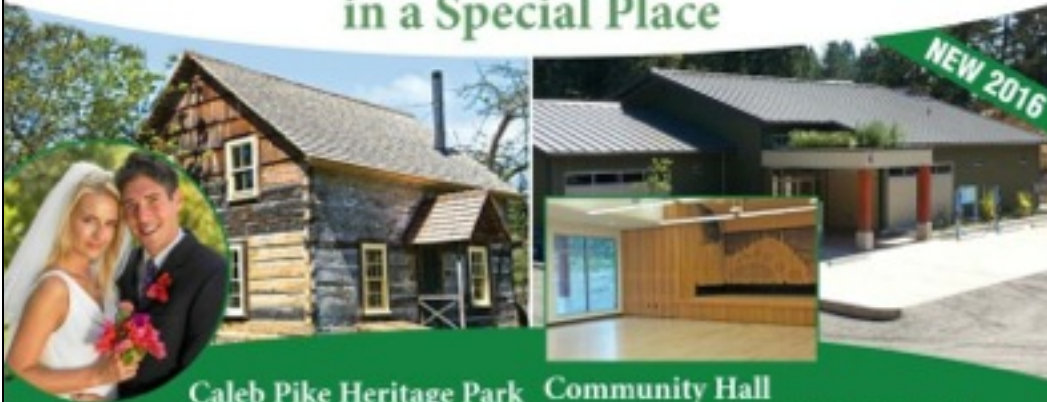
AS INTERIM CAO FOR THREE MONTHS, I HAD THE PLEASURE OF WORKING WITH TINA IN 2016. I REMEMBER HOW EVEN KEELED SHE WAS DEALING WITH A MYRIAD OF ISSUES, A NECESSARY TRAIT WHEN SERVING AS A CORPORATE OFFICER. CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT TINA. THOUGH HIGHLANDS WILL MISS YOUR KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE, DEDICATION AND COMMON SENSE, YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY WILL GLADLY TAKE UP THE SLACK. ALL THE BEST FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE. -TIM WOOD

Dear Tina,
Thank you so much for taking such great care of various Highlands Councils, your colleagues and our Highlands Community!! The municipal office just won't be the same without you there. Thank you for being so dedicated for such a long time. I hope your future holds lots of interests and fun for you and I hope you will always be healthy and happy. All the Best, thank you, Marcie.

TINA, WE WILL MISS YOU!
YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SO FRIENDLY, RELIABLE
AND GREAT TO WORK WITH. YOU HAVE ALWAYS MADE US FEEL SUPPORTED;
THAT YOU WERE THERE FOR US. THANK YOU. ALL THE BEST FROM ALL OF US AT
THE HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY GARDEN.



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
leslie.corvidconsulting@gmail.com
778-350-8180

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

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

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

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

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

Council resolved to meet only once a month during the COVID-19 pandemic. The next 3 regular council meetings will be held July 13th, August 17th and September 8th, 2020.

At this time, council meetings will be held electronically. It is possible for the District to invite a limited number of people to observe the meeting electronically using an application called "Zoom". If you would be interested in joining the council meeting, please contact the District Office directly prior to 12:00 pm on the meeting day at: info@highlands.ca and staff will inform you how this will occur. Although it is possible for members of the public to "attend" a council meeting electronically, we would encourage you to communicate with Council by forwarding any comments regarding an agenda item in writing via email at info@highlands.ca or via Canada Post- District of Highlands, 1980 Millstream Road, Victoria BC, V9B 6H1



Highlands Council average figures April 2019		
2.4 earths	4.14 hectares	6.94 tonnes of CO2
Highlands Council average figures April 2020		
1.6 earths	2.8 hectares	4.1 tonnes of CO2

Congratulations to Highlands council members for their dramatic improvement over the course of one year. We are still awaiting the results from the other participating local governments. The goal of the challenge was to initiate a fun and friendly local government competition with members of each participating council and Board measuring their average "One-Planet Living"

The calculator we are using is: <https://www.footprintcalculator.org>. This easy-to-use online tool helps to inform you and your families energy consumption. Give it a try!

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 on 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



WEST SHORE RCMP

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**Highlands Information
at your fingertips!**