

Highlands News

Highlands Council Newsletter
Spring 2020

SPRING POTLUCK

Saturday, March 28th @ 6:00 PM
Community Hall, 729 Finlayson Arm Road

Dinner Start: 6:00 PM | Dance Start: 7.30 PM

Please bring your own plates, cutlery, a drinking vessel, beverage and a delicious dish to share for the potluck.

Tea and coffee will be provided.

Mary Ross will provide live music and Bob Anderson will lead us through the Celtic dance steps. Couples and individuals of all ages are welcome; no partner is required. Dress casually and wear soft-soled shoes.


Everyone welcome!

So that we can plan for the event RSVP by March 23rd to:

Bob McMinn: bobmcminn@shaw.ca

Ingo Lambrecht: ingomail@gmail.com

Mayor's Message



After a cold and wet winter, I am more than ready for spring. It is time to put away those little computer screens we carry around and stare at all the time. Sometimes the echo chamber of social media and broadcast propaganda becomes so overwhelming it can affect what is truly important, and that is enjoying life in our beautiful Highlands.

Springtime is budget time and your Highlands council will be examining the latest facts and figures. Please attend the budget meetings and give us your input. It is noted by council that due to changes in assessments, population and prudent budgeting our requisitions for the Library, CREST and WSPRS have been decreasing.

Highlanders wish all the best to Highlands Volunteer Firefighter, Sheriden Heddon, as she embarks on a new life in North Eastern BC. Sheriden is noted for her terrific service not only as a firefighter but as a tireless fundraiser for Muscular Dystrophy Canada. She was awarded the Highlands Service Medal in 2018.



Please note that Highlands has moved on to an online permitting process for all open burning. Permits are required for campfires, hand-piles and machine piles. Burning permits are free.

Visit <highlands.ca/510/Burning-Permits> for information.

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>

New Process 2020: Property Tax Deferment Applications and Renewals

Starting 2020, the BC Government is changing their application process for Applying for Deferment of Property Taxes and municipalities will no longer accept paper deferment applications or renewals. Why?

- Currently, it takes up to five months for applications to the property tax deferment program to be reviewed due to the high volume of applications. As well, eligible owners must complete a renewal application each year.
- Ineligible property owners were subjected to penalties and interest for not paying their taxes on time as a result of not meeting requirements or as a result of delays in the review of their applications.
- The new online application process will allow for quicker application review.

Available May 2020, BC residential property owners will apply for property tax deferment on their principal residence online and can set up their account to auto renew every year, as long as their eligibility does not change. For those property owners already taking part in the BC Government Deferment Program and receiving paper-based renewals, a letter will be forwarded to you by the BC Government Deferment Branch with instructions on how to Register Online.

Property owners who still wish to apply by way of a paper application will have to download the application from the Deferment Branch website (May 2020). These applications must be mailed to BC Government Deferment Branch. The District will NOT accept paper-based applications. The paper-based application will NOT be eligible for the auto renewal option which is available through the online version only, and delays may still occur with these applications.

Important: property owners must still apply (online or at the District Office) for the Home Owner Grant (HOG) every year (included with annual tax notice at the end of May) and ensure there are not outstanding taxes or penalties on your account before applying for Deferment.

The BC Government Deferment website is still under construction and will be updated by May 2020 at: www.gov.bc.ca/propertytaxdeferment



Property Taxes

Community and Council News



The Highlands Community Garden

GARDEN BOX RENTALS NOW AVAILABLE for Highland residents

CONTACT: Tammy Brown, membership and financial coordinator at: highlandscommunitygarden@outlook.com

COST: \$50.00 for garden box rental for one year and \$10.00 for Highland Parks and Recreation (family or individual) membership (required for insurance purposes).

WHAT YOU GET: Garden box with nutrient rich soil in a sunny location (some waist high garden boxes); deer fencing; garden tools; child play area including dinosaur and fairy garden, sandbox and tiny picnic table; access to communal produce from fruit and nut trees, and berry bushes; new gardener friends; gardening mentors; fun work parties; educational events; and tons of snacks.

NEXT EDUCATIONAL EVENT: PLANNING YOUR YEAR ROUND VEGETABLE GARDEN: EVERYONE WELCOME

- Saturday, March 21, 2020 from 10 am to noon: FREE
- Highlands Community Hall, 729 Finlayson Arm Road

Watch for notices of future work parties and educational events."



TOTAL GENERAL OCCURRENCES

Table 2 depicts the total general occurrences in each West Shore municipality, district & First Nations Reserve (FNR) for 2018 & 2019, along with the file count (+/-) & percent change.

	2018	2019	FILE COUNT (+/-)	% CHANGE
Colwood	3594	4420	826	23%
Esquimalt Nation	119	123	4	3%
Highlands	390	342	-48	-12%
Langford	11297	13831	2534	22%
Malahat	161	163	2	1%
Metchosin	991	918	-73	-7%
Songhees Nation	518	585	67	13%
View Royal	3058	3365	307	10%
West Shore Total	20235	23889	3654	18%

Table 2 - 2018/2019 General Occurrences Comparative Figures

Volunteer Opportunities

Highlands Select Committees Does volunteering a couple of hours of your time each month seem appealing to you? The District of Highlands' three select committees still require additional members. The committees are: Heritage Select Committee, Social Sustainability Select Committee and the Sustainable Land Use Select Committee.

Link [here](#) for information on how to apply.



South Highlands Local Area Plan (LAP)

The Council-appointed Task Force (TF) began their work in the last few weeks, with meetings on February 13 and February 26. Task Force members reviewed the objectives for Phase 1 of the LAP, which are to propose:

- the boundaries for what will be covered in the plan,
- the high-level content for what will be included in the LAP (e.g. a table of contents), and
- the LAP development / engagement process.

One of the first tasks of the TF will be to propose a boundary for the LAP. The TF is leaning towards defining a South Highlands geographic area for the Plan, with a focus area within it that will receive the greatest attention to detail. The TF is also considering ways to identify and consider the impacts of suggestions made on areas outside of whatever boundary is proposed. The TF will make a decision on the proposed boundary at their next meeting.

The facilitator (Evan Peterson, from Barefoot Consulting) provided a brief overview of the kinds of activities and process steps that might be included to ensure appropriate engagement with the public and stakeholders. This will be discussed further at the next meeting, March 9, 2020 at 5:30 – 7:00 pm at the Community Hall. Meetings are open to the public. ~ *Councillor Leslie Anderson*



Inspector Todd Preston

In the coming years, as the community grows in size, so too will the need for enhanced policing services. I believe community safety is a shared responsibility and we will continue to work with our community leaders and rise to the challenge of providing safety services to the West Shore. ~ *Inspector Todd Preston*

The West Shore is the fastest growing jurisdiction on Vancouver Island, which inevitably has led to an increase in calls for service. In 2019, we had an 18% increase in call volume as compared to 2018. The close relationship we have built with community leaders allows us to communicate the increased demands on policing resources. Community leaders have responded by supporting West Shore Detachment's growth. In 2019, we increased the total number of officers serving the West Shore Detachment to 88 officers.

Community and Council News



2020 Budget & Financial Plan Review Schedule

Highlands Council will review the Draft 2020 Budget and 2020-2024 Financial Plan during March, April and May.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend these meetings at the Old School House, 1589 Millstream Road at 7 pm

- March 9 - CoTW – Financial Plan Presentation
- March 23 - Special CoTW – Financial Plan Discussion
- April 14 - CoTW – Financial Plan Discussion
- May 4 - Regular Council - Bylaws – Three Readings
- May 11 - Special Council – Bylaws - Adoption

CREST

CREST's emergency radio communication system is currently undergoing a \$24.5 million upgrade in technology. As such, the system

will now advance to a P25 Standard. P25 represents a suite of standards for digital radio communications used by federal, provincial/state and local emergency response agencies across North America. It is considered a world standard. A big thank you to Highlands resident Barry Duch for allowing a new CREST communications tower on his property. This will be a much needed improvement for emergency coverage in Highlands.



Sunday, April 12th @ 11:00 am

Caleb Pike Heritage Grounds, 1589 Millstream Road

Please bring nut-free treats to hide or finger food to share

Beverages provided

Everyone welcome! Rain or shine.

For information contact Marcie: 250-474-4725

Sponsored by the Highlands District Community Association

Highlands Newsletter

Don't forget that the Highlands Newsletter is no longer distributed through the regular mail. To receive the Highlands Newsletter sign up under the "Notify Me"

button on Highlands Website, where all information is available 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 you can choose to receive email or cell phone notifications for items such as: agendas, minutes, news alerts and events posted to the community calendar.



Highlands Community Clean-up Saturday - May 2nd - 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Spring into action and join our annual clean-up of litter, tossed metal, tires & miscellaneous items from main roadsides & municipal parks. To reserve a section of a main road prior to that Saturday or for more information, please contact Marcie @ 250-474-4725.

If you have not confirmed before the Saturday of the clean-up, please come to the Pike House, 1589 Millstream Road between 9:00-9:30 am.

There you may select a section of a main road, and obtain garbage bags and disposable gloves. Beverages will be provided. If you cannot bring your collected garbage back to the Pike House, please leave it on the shoulder of a main road where it can be safely retrieved by 1:00 pm. Highlands' main roads are: Millstream Rd., Finlayson Arm Rd., Munn Rd. and Millstream Lake Rd.



Municipal Survivor Climate Challenge

The 50th anniversary of Earth Day (April 22nd) is approaching and Council will be calculating their average "One -Planet Living" footprint to see which AVICC (Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities) local governments made the most improvement in reducing energy and waste in their daily lives. The calculator we are using is here:

<https://www.footprintcalculator.org>.

BROOM BASH 2020

Cut Broom in Bloom		Small Broom Plants
April to June		Pull Anytime
Out For A Walk?		Take Ownership
Pull Some Each Time		of Roadside Near Your Home



Watch for Signs: Cut and Pile for Pickup
Contact Paul at 250-478-7885

Strategic Plan Update: In January Council reviewed its 2019 to 2022 Strategic Plan, and made some key updates. In particular, Council incorporated a Bow Hunting Bylaw update and development of a Climate Leadership Plan for 2020. In terms of Bow Hunting, the mapping included in the Bylaw will be updated, and permits will be restricted to deer hunting only. For the Climate Leadership Plan, the District has engaged Pinna Sustainability to assist with developing a plan. Updates on this project, and opportunities for public input, will be advertised on the website, so stay tuned!



One of Council's current strategic priorities is to implement the BC Energy Step Code. Staff will be working towards this implementation throughout 2020.

The BC Energy Step Code is a compliance path in the BC Building Code that local government may use to incentivize or require a level of energy efficiency in new construction that goes above and beyond the requirements of the base BC Building Code. It consists of a series of steps, representing increasing levels of energy-efficiency performance. The Province of BC has set a goal that all new buildings must reach a net-zero energy ready level of efficiency by 2032; the BC Energy Step Code serves as the policy pathway to reach that goal.

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	500	300	150
	# hour	# hour	hourly
Caleb Pike House	120	70	20
School House	100	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 dinersware 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.



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

Community Calendar

March 2020

- March 2 & 16 **Council Meeting**
7pm School House - Heritage Park
- March 9 **Committee of the Whole Meeting**
7 pm School House - Heritage Park
- March 9 **Local Area Plan TF Meeting**
5:30-7:00 pm Community Hall
- March 11 **Heritage Select Committee**
7:30 pm School House - Heritage Park
- March 14 **Coffee House**
7:30 pm Pike House - Heritage Park
- March 18 **Sustainable Land Use Committee**
7 pm School House - Heritage Park
- March 23 **Special Committee of the Whole**
7 pm School House - Heritage Park

April 2020

- April 6 & 20 **Council Meeting**
7 pm School House- Heritage Park
- April 7 **Highland Heritage Park Society Annual General Meeting**
7:30 pm Caleb Pike House - Heritage Park
- April 8 **Heritage Select Committee**
7:30 pm School House - Heritage Park
- April 10 **Good Friday** - Office Closed
- April 13 **Easter Monday** - Office Closed
- April 14 **Committee of the Whole Meeting**
7 pm School House - Heritage Park
- April 15 **Sustainable Land Use Committee**
7 pm School House - Heritage Park
- April **Coffee House** - date unknown at time of publication - check website please.
7:30 pm Pike House - Heritage Park

May 2020

- May 4 & 19 **Council Meeting**
7 pm School House - Heritage Park
- May 9 **Coffee House**
7:30 pm Pike House - Heritage Park
- May 11 **Special Council Meeting (Budget)** followed by **Committee of the Whole Meeting**
7 pm School House - Heritage Park
- May 13 **Heritage Select Committee**
7:30 pm School House - Heritage Park
- May 18 **Victoria Day** - District Office Closed
- May 20 **Sustainable Land Use Committee**
7 pm School House - Heritage Park

Daylight Savings

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour on Sunday, March 8.

This is also the ideal time to test your smoke alarms and install new batteries.



Thank You Marlene Tyshynski for your diligent work in helping create and manage the Highlands Community Garden.

Since her initiation of the project four years ago, Marlene has contributed countless hours in a number of key roles. Besides acting as Chairperson at the monthly meetings, she has liaised with Highlands District staff to navigate the regulations, managed the finances, written grant applications, welcomed new garden members and kept the whole project moving forward. Without Marlene, and her blue ribbon cinnamon buns, the community garden would not be the success that it is. Many heartfelt thanks Marlene! - Pat Lintaman, Highlands Community Garden volunteer.



March 14th Highlands Music Coffee House presents Mechanical Botanicals

Time: 7:30pm | Place: Caleb Pike House, 1589 Millstream Road
 Charge: \$7.00 /person - coffee, tea and goodies provided.
 Upcoming Events - April - Three Wheeler | May - Dark Island



Spring is a good time to do a FireSmart assessment of your home and property. Visit the FireSmart Canada website for information on how to increase the likelihood of your home surviving a wildfire. <https://firesmartcanada.ca/>