



Mayor's Message

Once again I am inspired by the strength and courage of our community. Thanks to the firefighters, staff, volunteers, and committee members for their time and service to Highlands.

On behalf of Highlands Council, I hope this Christmas and holiday season brings you and your loved ones many great memories and reasons to smile. May your New Year be filled with joy and success.

COVID-19 Update

Highlands remains committed to the safety of the public and District staff. The District's response to COVID-19 continues to evolve along with the changing situation. Provision of service and operations continue in person at the District Office and by using alternative, safe approaches where possible. Staff is ready to assist you if you call 250-474-1773 or email info@highlands.ca.

South Highlands Local Area Plan Survey Update

- The much anticipated survey was open between October 7 and November 8. We received 268 surveys in total. WOW! The Project Team are processing and analyzing the data in order to develop the Engagement Summary Report.

- The Engagement Summary Report will be the next major deliverable for the project, and will be made publicly available.

- After that is complete, the Project Team will draft early local area plan key content.

- Review of the draft early local area plan key content will be the subject of the next Task Force Meeting. We expect this to occur approximately 5 weeks after the Engagement Summary is made public.

- Keep posted at www.LetsTalkSHLAP.ca and <https://www.highlands.ca/504/South-Highlands-Local-Area-Plan>. ~ Planner Laura Beckett

Highlands Fire Department Santa Run 2021

Santa Claus will once again be visiting the District of Highlands on **Saturday December 11, 2021.**

The volunteers from the Highlands Fire Department will be driving Santa around on a fire truck so that he can meet all of you. Please come out and meet Santa. Treats will be available to all. The Fire Department will also be collecting non-perishable food items for the Goldstream Food Bank to ensure a great holiday for all citizens of the West Shore.

Please note that Santa will not have time to go up and down every street, therefore, please see the list below for scheduled locations we will be at or driving past:

COVID FRIENDLY EVENT- Appropriate safety measures will be in place. We also ask that you please wear a mask when within 6ft of our members, or your fellow residents. ~ Fire Chief Ford

East Highlands Route

9:30 Start at East Fire Hall
9:35 Woodridge / Robb
9:45 Woodridge / Munn
10:00 Munn / Bukin East
10:10 Munn / Rolla
10:30 Munn / Compton
10:40 Munn / Fork Lake
10:50 Davies Rd
11:00 Millstream Lake / Millstream



West Highlands Route

12:00 Start at West Fire Hall
12:15 White Pine / Red Cedar
12:25 Millstream / Martlet
12:30 Caleb Pike North / Millstream
12:45 Caleb Pike Homestead
13:00 Highland Park Terrace / Skyview
13:15 Lorimer / Lorimer Place
13:30 Blacktail / Quail
13:45 Up Stewart Mountain
14:00 Up Finlayson Arm to Past Rowntree
14:30 Taylor Way/Millstream
14:45 Hawkins/ Hanbury
14:50 Hanington/ Danby
15:00 Millstream/ River Road
15:15 Bear Mountain Parkway – Rivers Crossing



Note: All times are approximate. Listen for the sirens to hear when Santa and the Fire Fighters are getting close to your stop.

Community Hall Technology and Acoustic Upgrades

At their Nov. 22nd meeting, Highlands Council voted to approve the use of COVID-19 Safe Restart Administration contingency funds for technology and acoustic upgrades to the Community Hall. These improvements will help facilitate electronic participation and in person meetings now that the Community Hall has been identified as the location for council meetings. Provincial legislation requires that persons physically in attendance at the Community Hall and those attending electronically can watch and hear meeting participants.

The technology under consideration would provide a camera, likely with a 360 degree view and multi microphone capability, that would automatically focus in on whomever may be speaking. This would allow for a much improved live interactive internet streaming experience of council proceedings.

Over time it has been apparent that the acoustics in the Community Hall are not necessarily ideal for holding meetings, electronic or otherwise, due to the reverberation and HVAC system noise. Accordingly, it is suggested that acoustic panels be installed to absorb unwanted sound reflections and thus ensure the best possible acoustic environment for meetings moving forward.

Now Recruiting Volunteers for Select Committees and Board of Variance

Are you interested in volunteering to contribute to decision making on matters affecting the District of Highlands? Community members wishing to participate are encouraged to apply by **December 17, 2021**.



The following Boards and Committees are seeking volunteer members: For terms ending:

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| • Highlands Board of Variance | December 31, 2024 |
| • Highlands Heritage Select Committee | December 31, 2023 |
| • Highlands Social Sustainability Select Committee | December 31, 2023 |
| • Highlands Sustainable Land Use Select Committee | December 31, 2023 |

In addition, there is opportunity for residents to participate on all Select Committees as an E-Participant with terms ending December 31, 2023. E-Participants are not permitted to vote on meeting agenda items, however are able to provide feedback on agenda items without attending meetings.

Terms of Reference for the Board of Variance and Select Committees are available on the District's website at: <https://www.highlands.ca/367/Select-Committees>.

For More Information: Please contact the District office at 250-474-1773

Application Deadline: Friday, December 17, 2021

How to Apply: Please submit a letter outlining details of relevant background information by the application deadline to Melisa Miles, Corporate Officer, by mail or drop box to 1980 Millstream Road, Highlands, BC, V9B 6H1 or by email to mmiles@highlands.ca

Capital Region Emergency Service Telecommunications Inc.

CREST has announced the purchase of property in Langford, on a new road parallel to Millstream to the west and close to Treanor Avenue, to build a post-disaster headquarters/operations building. The project, expected to be complete in 2024, has long been identified as a strategic priority for CREST and will require no increase in municipal requisitions as the funds to be borrowed are included in the current 5-year financial plan. ~ *Councillor Karel Roessingh*

Storm Preparedness – Are You Ready?

With recent weather conditions you can't help but ask yourself "Am I ready for a serious storm?" You can find helpful tips and a checklist on the Highlands website here: <http://www.highlands.bc.ca/183/Emergency-Preparedness>

Community and Council News

WSPRS is hosting their grand opening of the JDF Childcare Centre and the re-opening of the JDF Arena on Monday December 6th at 10:00AM.



West Shore Parks & Recreation is excited to announce the official reopening of the JDF Childcare Centre and the JDF Arena after both locations received major capital renovations.

There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on Monday, December 6th at 10:00 AM at the entrance to the JDF Childcare Centre and the JDF Arena. After the ribbon cutting, there will be tours of the new spaces. Coffee and treats will be served. There will also be a "FREE" public skate from 10:30AM to 11:20AM on the new JDF Arena ice.

With \$3.9 million in grant funding from the Ministry of Children and Family Development and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, renovations were completed on the upper JDF Recreation Centre to build the new JDF Childcare Centre. This beautifully-renovated childcare space has 24 new full-time daycare and 30 new preschool spaces (for children 30 months to 5 years) and 40 new afterschool care spaces. As well, additional amenities specific to childcare licensing include: a new outdoor playpark, a commercial kitchen, fully accessible washroom facilities and upgrades to the existing elevator.

Come Join Us at the Community Garden in 2022

What an incredible summer growing season we had at the Highlands Community Garden! We had an abundance of peaches, pears, apples, berries and more. Fall cleanup is now complete and many of our members have planted overwintering crops such as garlic and swiss chard in their garden boxes. The waitlist is open, if you are interested in renting a garden box for the 2022 growing season or have any questions, please contact our Membership Coordinator, Bonnie at HighlandsCommunityGarden@outlook.com
~ Bonnie Smith



2022 Grant-In-Aid Funding

The Highlands office is accepting applications for grant-in-aid funding for 2022. Organizations wishing to apply must submit a completed application prior to the deadline, February 28, 2022. Application forms and District policy are available at <https://www.highlands.ca/163/Grant-in-Aid>.

BikeMaps.org

BikeMaps.org is a great idea that uses a crowd source data technique to map your cycling experience to make cycling safer. Your knowledge of cycling safety, hazards and even bike thefts are analyzed using GIS to identify valuable information, not only locally, but from across the planet. Check out the bikemap.org expandable/collapsible map starting from our area: <https://bikemaps.org/@48.5086157,-123.4832811,14z>

RECYCLE YOUR HOLIDAYS

If you are looking at ways to recycle this season please visit: <https://www.crd.bc.ca/education/campaigns/list-of-current-campaigns/holiday-recycling/holiday-recycling-tips>

Outdoor Burning – Do you have a permit?

There is no longer an open season for burning so permits are now required for all outdoor burning. Permits are free and can be obtained online at: <https://hvfd.burnpermits.com/>. Burning in woodstoves does not require a permit. If you need help completing the permit process, please contact District staff for assistance at 250-474-1773 or by email at info@highlands.ca.





~ photo by J&R Hughes

Warmest Wishes of the Season from the Highland Heritage Park Society
Be Kind, Be Calm, Be Safe

District Office Winter Closure

Please be advised that the District Office will be closed December 27, 2021 and will re-open on Tuesday January 4, 2022.



Winter Road Maintenance?

Duty Phone: 250-893-1773

The District's duty phone will become active when hazards such as ice and snow conditions are apparent on Highlands' roads. The Duty phone is monitored 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Residents can report winter road conditions to this number and actions will be taken as appropriate to the circumstances. Please do not report road conditions or submit requests for winter maintenance to the Fire Chief as he does not have the authority to direct the roads contractor to respond.

Culverts and Flooding

With the significant rain events recently experienced, please take the time to monitor your driveway and its culverts and ensure they remain clear of debris to reduce road flooding risk and possible damage.



Meeting Schedule



Council will be considering the 2022 annual schedule of Council meetings at their meeting on December 6, 2021. Once approved, it will be available online at www.highlands.ca. You have the choice to attend Council meetings electronically by Zoom, or in person at the Community Hall located at 729 Finlayson Arm Rd.

Members of the public are encouraged to provide written comments on agenda items to Council by emailing info@highlands.ca, or by delivering them to the drop box at the District Office at 1980 Millstream Road. If you would like to attend an electronic meeting, please contact District staff at 250-474-1773 or info@highlands.ca for instructions.



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 and businesses. Names are provided to the Society by the Christmas Bureau of Victoria, or by sponsors. Individuals, groups, service clubs, schools and businesses donate money each year to purchase the goods.

Please contact 250-391-9627 for more information.

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
info@highlands.ca
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