

Highlands News

Highlands Council Newsletter
Summer 2025



We are very pleased to announce that Highlands Council has appointed Sarah Jones as Chief Administrative Officer/Chief Financial Officer following the upcoming retirement of Lorraine Hilton, which was announced in the last newsletter.

Sarah brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience in local government within the Capital Region, having worked in the Town of View Royal as the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/Director of Corporate Administration for many years. We are all looking forward to welcoming Sarah to the District and joining our wonderful team!

John Horgan Campus

A special ceremony was held to commemorate the renaming of RRU Langford University to the John Horgan Campus, in honour of former Premier and long-time Langford resident John Horgan.

The event featured heartfelt speeches from his wife Ellie Horgan, Premier David Eby, MLA Ravi Parmar, and Royal Roads University President Philip Steenkamp, all of whom reflected on John's enduring legacy. A passionate advocate for education, Horgan often described it as "the great equalizer" and was deeply aware of the challenges students faced commuting from areas like Highlands, Sooke, and Langford to distant campuses.

The new campus is set to open its doors to students this fall.

2025 Property Tax Notices and Financial Plan Update

In May, Highlands Council adopted the [2025-2029 Financial Plan](#). Please contact the District Office with any questions that you may have regarding the Financial Plan. You can view the final 2025 budget online: [2025 – 2029 Financial Plan](#).

2025 Property Tax Notices have now been mailed to property owners in the District of Highlands. Please see [property tax insert](#) which will accompany the tax notice. Payment is due by July 2, 2025 to avoid penalties being applied to your account. If you do not receive your property tax notice within the next couple of weeks, please contact staff at finance@highlands.ca or [250-474-1773](tel:250-474-1773). Please be advised that home owner grants cannot be accepted at the District Office. Applications must be made directly to the Province of BC at www.gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant or [1-888-355-2700](tel:1-888-355-2700).

New Burning Restrictions

Effective May 30th, 2025

Fire Rating Is Moderate/High

This Means:

NO OPEN or BACKYARD BURNING

& NO INCINERATORS

PERMITTED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Recreational Campfires (<.5m x .5m) in a fire pit and Wood-burning Stoves with spark arrestors are still permitted.

Free Campfire permits are available at:
hvfd.burnpermits.com

Fire Chief / Emergency Program Coordinator
Dean Ford 250-920-6970

FIRECHIEF@HIGHLANDS.CA

Sign up for emergency alerts:
www.WestshoreAlert.ca

If your roof and gutters are full of dry leaves, pine needles, and small branches, your home isn't as resilient against wildfire as it could be. To do your part in preparation for wildfire season, remove all combustible materials from your roof and gutters. This will significantly reduce the risk of ember-based ignition for your property.

As Wildfires won't wait for you to make a plan, residents are strongly encouraged to visit the FireSmart BC website for information on how to prepare their home, their property and their families for a wildfire: <https://firesmartbc.ca/>

However, if a wildfire is threatening your area, the priority is getting out safely!

Community and Council News

2024 Highlands Annual Report

The 2024 Annual Report for the District of Highlands will be available for viewing at the District Office on Monday, June 2, 2025 at 1980 Millstream Road during regular business hours, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm, Monday – Friday, excluding holidays. It may also be viewed on the District's website at www.highlands.ca.

The Annual Report will be considered by Council on Monday, June 16, 2025 at 7:00 pm at the Highlands Community Hall. Anyone may attend the meeting to make a verbal submission, and those wishing to make a written submission regarding the Annual Report may do so in writing at any time prior to the meeting:

By mail: 1980 Millstream Road, Victoria, BC V9B 6H1 or By E-mail: info@highlands.ca

SELECT COMMITTEE FRAMEWORK

A select committee framework review was completed with feedback from Council, Select Committee members and the public. A [General Council Committee Policy](#) and Committee Terms of References ([Heritage Select Committee](#) & [Integrated Sustainability Select Committee](#)) were adopted to help guide the committees in their work.

BE BEAR AND COUGAR AWARE

It is a contravention of the Wildlife Act to knowingly put out attractants to predatory wildlife. Let's help the animals by doing our part to protect them.

Conservation Office: 1 877 952 7277



Wildsafe B.C. <https://wildsafebc.com/>

REZONING - 1772 and 1760 Millstream Road

The rezoning application at the WMÍYETEN (Mary Lake) Nature Sanctuary was approved by Council amending both the Official Community Plan (OCP) and Zoning Bylaw. The changes would allow for assembly uses including a retreat facility and overnight accommodation within buildings, recreational vehicles or camping (no food prep allowed in the accommodations) only for people attending the retreat facility. Buildings and structures are only allowed within designated areas (Rural Assembly Zone). Outside of those areas (Conservation 2 Zone), the land is to be used for assembly uses such as gathering for recreation, nature appreciation and/or education, and natural habitat conservation and restoration.

RECORDING AND LIVESTREAMING MEETINGS

A [Meeting Video Recording and Livestreaming Policy](#) was approved by Council ensuring that meeting proceedings are accessible to all members of the community fostering greater engagement and trust in local governance.

A colorful poster for 'HDCA presents SUMMER MARKETS 2025 Dates'. It features a blue bird illustration and floral patterns. The text lists the dates: June 8th, July 13th, Aug. 10th & Fling Day Sept 7th, from 10am - 1pm Sunday. It also mentions 'The Highlands Market Returns!' and lists items like locally made and grown garden vegetables, wooden signs, cookies, knitting, soaps, concrete garden sculptures, crochet toys and garments, salves, jewellery, and much more. A banner for 'Highland Fling Sept. 7th' is also present. The location is 'Caleb Pike Heritage Park 1589 Millstream Rd' and it encourages people to come and buy wonderful local goods and produce.

HDCA presents
SUMMER MARKETS
2025 Dates

The Highlands Market Returns!

June 8th, July 13th, Aug. 10th & Fling Day Sept 7th
10am - 1pm Sunday

There will be locally made and grown,
garden vegetables, wooden signs, cookies, knitting, soaps,
concrete garden sculptures, crochet toys and garments,
salves, jewellery and much, much more!!

Highland Fling Sept. 7th

Caleb Pike Heritage Park
1589 Millstream Rd

Come, meet your neighbours and take the opportunity
to buy wonderful local goods and produce!

Community and Council News

Reconciliation Event: June 14th, Highlands Community Hall

Just a reminder that some seats are remaining for Journey of our Generation Event, brought to the Highlands by the Quw'utsun Elders who will share their stories, their history and their healing following their values of working together with one heart, one mind, one spirit. Attendees will benefit from a unique immersive opportunity to understand pre and post contact indigenous experiences, as shared by elders.

Saturday June 14th, 9:00 – 3:30 PDT Highlands Community Hall 729 Finlayson Arm Rd.

Registration: Register through EventBrite: [District of the Highlands \(Victoria\)](#) or email: gccsociety@gmail.com.

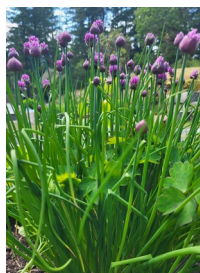
Cost: \$75 (includes lunch, snacks, coffee and tea). *No one will be turned away due to insufficient funds.*

Community Garden Update

"The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul." —Alfred Austin

Despite a cool, wet May, our garden beds and orchard are bursting with new growth, with an abundance of fruit and veggies on the way!

Are you curious about the Highlands Community Garden? Are you thinking about growing your own food? Everyone is welcome at our community work parties, workshops and seminars. For more information follow us on the Highlands Community Garden Facebook page, contact us at highlandscommunitygarden@outlook.com or see you at the Farmer's Market!



Highlands Music Coffee House:



A quick background: Highlands Music Coffee House has been bringing music and arts to the Highlands since 1998, providing a time and place where people, young and old, could get together once a month to listen to live music, and have a chance to say hi and talk to neighbours, musicians, music lovers, friends and newcomers.

The musicians we have brought over the years have come from various places in Canada including Victoria and the Highlands itself, as well as from other countries.

You can read the information about the upcoming music nights and our musicians in various places including on the Highlands' Municipality's website, on some radio stations and newspapers, and as well in our emails once you are on our email list.

These music nights are free for children under the age of 15, as well as for those who don't have enough means. The audience can pay as they can afford (we provide a donation box).

We thank the volunteers that have helped with these nights to set up goodies on the table, to put flyers up on many of the mailboxes, etc.

Here are the dates and **feature presentations** for the next few months:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| June 14 | Homespun Band |
| July 12 | Mufaro Marimba Band (definitely bring all your children to this picnic music) |
| August 16 | Rob Hollingsworth with Ken Williams & Sherry Clayton |

Come and enjoy these wonderful live music nights and say hi to your neighbours, friends and newcomers.



Regional Trail Etiquette

~ Share the trail ~ Keep right except to pass ~ Alert others when passing ~ Use caution particularly around horses ~ Respect the environment and neighbouring lands ~ Keep pets on leash on the right side of trails ~ Cooperate and show respect ~ Park only where permitted ~

Community and Council News

Highlands District Community Association

Your Highlands District Community Association (HDCA) had a busy spring offering residents a variety of activities. The AGM and potluck dinner was entertaining with several members relating stories about 'Living in the Highlands'. Over 50 children turned out for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt - it took the parents about 45 minutes to hide the treats, and only a couple of minutes for them to be collected by all those little hands. Our HDCA Speaker Series presented a talk by Mollie Cameron from WildWise on "Living with Bears". The community Clean Up was productive - although a full dumpster is a sad reflection of how much garbage is dumped in the Highlands. Many of the volunteers attended the Community Clean Up Concert featuring Allen Dobb that evening, a treat after a busy day. More volunteers have been cutting Broom this month and once again we have Paul Henry to thank for organizing the Broom Bash. Raffle tickets were earned by dropping off a load of broom on Saturday morning and some great prizes were awarded.

Summer is almost here and that means it's time for the Summer Community Markets. These are held at the Caleb Pike Heritage Park the second Sunday of each month from 10 am to 1 pm. There are a variety of stands selling crafts, jams and jellies, plants, produce and other assorted items. The dates this year are June 8, July 13 and Aug 10. For more information and to book a table contact Karel Roessingh at karel@roessong.com

The HDCA Speaker Series Summer event is a workshop on Reconciliation: Journey of Our Generation brought to you by the HDCA, the District of Highlands, the WMÍYETEN Nature Sanctuary Society and the Quw'utsun' Cultural Connections Society. Join Quw'utsun' Elders who will take you on a journey through time with stories of pre-contact village life, the arrival of settlers, the development of colonies and policies of colonization. This will be held at the Community Hall June 14th, 9 am to 3:30 pm. For more information and to register contact highlandsjogworkshop@gmail.com.

Music Nights organized by Zhinoos continue at Caleb Pike Heritage Park sponsored by HDCA and HHPS. Dates are June 14, July 12, and Aug 16, music starts at 7 pm.

Summer will fly by so don't forget to mark your calendars with the date for this year's Highland Fling. Your Highlands District Community Association (HDCA), together with the Highland Heritage Park Society (HHPS) and the Highlands Volunteer Fire Department welcome you to this annual community festival and market open to all Highland residents, friends and family. The Fling is on Sunday September 7 at the Caleb Pike Heritage Park from 12 noon to 4 pm. There will be games, displays, live music, a market, hot dogs and ice cream, face painting and a giant Tug of War. For more information on HDCA events we have several options. We post events on the bulletin boards beside the mailboxes, they are also posted on our Face Book page and on our new website. The sandwich boards on the roadside at the entrances to the Highlands will also remind you of upcoming events. See the links below;

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064562177401>

Website: <https://highlands-hdca.weebly.com>

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

Upcoming Events:

- June is National Indigenous History Month
- National Indigenous Peoples Day – June 21
- West Shore Parks and Recreation Roving Play Park at Twinflower Park July 14-18, 1560 Millstream Rd.
- West Shore Parks and Recreation's free planned activities for Pride Month and National Indigenous History Month at www.wspr.ca

Upcoming Council Meeting Dates

~ Monday June 16 ~ Monday July 14 ~ Monday August 11

Visit our [Meeting Portal](#) for Agendas and Minutes

