

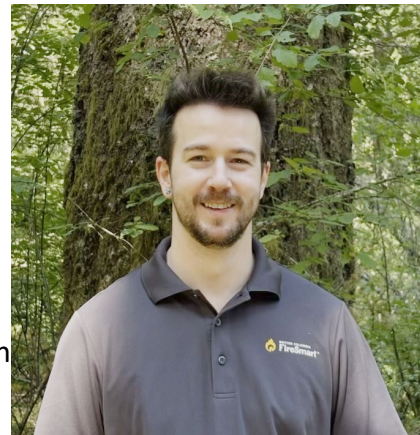
## New FireSmart Coordinator: Michael Henderson

The District of Highlands is excited to welcome **Michael Henderson** as our new FireSmart Coordinator. With a strong focus on community safety and wildfire preparedness, Michael will be a key resource for residents as we head into what is forecast to be a long, hot wildfire season.

**Free FireSmart Home Assessments** are now available. These no-charge, personalized on-site visits help homeowners understand their property's wildfire risk and receive practical, easy-to-implement recommendations — from vegetation management to building materials and hazard mitigation.

**Early action matters.** Taking steps now can significantly improve your home's resilience and contribute to a safer community.

To book your free assessment, contact Michael at: [firesmart@highlands.ca](mailto:firesmart@highlands.ca)



*FireSmart Coordinator  
Michael Henderson*

**Highlands FireSmart Dinner**

- Learn how to protect your homes.
- Panel discussion with the Highlands FireSmart Coordinator and local fire-resiliency horticulturalist and arborist.

**June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026 5:30 – 8:00pm**  
Highlands Community Hall 729 Finlayson Arm rd

**FREE Food Truck**

Pre-register for this FREE event at:  
**[FireSmartDinner.eventbrite.ca](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-management/local-emergency-programs/volunteers/emergency-support-services)**

FireSmart, Intelli-feu and other associated Marks are trademarks of the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre

## Volunteer with Emergency Support Services (ESS)

Interested in making a real difference during emergencies? The District is recruiting **Emergency Support Services (ESS) volunteers**.

ESS volunteers provide critical short-term help to individuals and families affected by disasters — whether a house fire or larger event. You would help with:

- Referrals for food, clothing, and lodging
- Accurate, timely information updates
- Family reunification
- Multicultural, childcare, and pet services

As a volunteer, you'll receive training, join a supportive South Island network, and play a vital role in helping your neighbours recover quickly.

Questions? Interested? Contact: Sally Gose, ESS Director [ess@highlands.ca](mailto:ess@highlands.ca)  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-management/local-emergency-programs/volunteers/emergency-support-services>



# Community and Council News

## 2026 General Local Election

The next general local election will be held on Saturday, October 17, 2026.

There will be multiple voting opportunities for the 2026 General Local Election as follows:

- Advance Voting 1 - October 7, 2026  
Highlands Fire Department  
(East Fire Hall), 3613 Woodridge Place  
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Advance Voting 2 - October 14, 2026  
Highlands Community Hall,  
729 Finlayson Arm Road,  
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- General Voting Day - October 17, 2026  
Highlands Community Hall,  
729 Finlayson Arm Road,  
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

## 2025 Highlands Annual Report

Effective Monday, June 1, 2026, the District of Highlands' 2025 Annual Report will be available for public review at the District Office (1980 Millstream Road) during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, excluding holidays), as well as online at: [www.highlands.ca/annual-reports](http://www.highlands.ca/annual-reports).

Council will consider the Annual Report at its Regular Meeting of Council on Monday, June 15, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Highlands Community Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend and provide verbal submissions.

Written submissions regarding the Annual Report may be submitted at any time prior to the meeting by:

Mail: 1980 Millstream Road, Victoria, BC V9B 6H1 or Email: [info@highlands.ca](mailto:info@highlands.ca)

## THINKING OF RUNNING FOR COUNCIL?



**The 2026 local election is approaching.**

Serving on Council is an opportunity to take part in local decision-making and contribute to your community.



**If you're interested, now is a good time**

to learn more about the role, responsibilities, and nomination process.



**Find out what's involved**

and explore whether it's the right fit for you.



LEARN MORE:

[highlands.ca/local-government/elections](http://highlands.ca/local-government/elections)

For more information on the 2026 General Local Election, please visit to our website at [www.highlands.ca/elections](http://www.highlands.ca/elections).



General Local Election  
October 17, 2026

INTERESTED IN BECOMING  
A SCHOOL TRUSTEE?



[www.sd61.bc.ca](http://www.sd61.bc.ca)

ATTEND AN INFO SESSION!

JUNE 2 AND AUGUST 25, 2026

6:30 - 8:00PM

BOARD OFFICE (556 BOLESKINE RD)



# Community News



## HIGHLANDS FARM & CRAFT MARKET

Come, meet your neighbours & get wonderful local goods & produce!

**Sunday 10am - 1pm**

**June 14 / July 12 / August 9**

Enjoy locally made & grown vegetables, baking, preserves, woodwork, cards, garden sculptures, art, handmade candles, crochet, eggs, & much, much more!!

**Caleb Pike Heritage Park  
1589 Millstream Rd**

Brought to you by the Highland Heritage Park Society (HHPs) and the Highlands District Community Association (HDCA)

The Summer Markets are back! The market will also appear Sept 13th at this years Highland Fling at the Caleb Pike Heritage Park from 12 pm to 4 pm.

If you would like a table please contact

[karel@roessong.com](mailto:karel@roessong.com)

## Explore The Night Sky

**August 14th - Friday**

**8:30pm - 10:00pm**

**Twinflower Park**

**1564 Millstream Road**

**Next to the Fire Hall**



**Cloudy sky date  
August 15 - Saturday**

Amateur astronomer Dan Gentile and other members of the RASC Victoria will facilitate a Highlands Star Party in honour of renowned Highlander Sid Sidhu, who sadly passed suddenly on October 25th.

**Check the Highlands Facebook page for cancellations or call Scott at 250-478-2526**

Brought to you by the Highland Heritage Park Society (HHPs) and the Highlands District Community Association (HDCA)

## HIGHLANDS Music Nights

SECOND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH | 7:00 PM | CALEB PIKE HERITAGE PARK

**JUNE 13: BOWKER CREEK**

**JULY 11: STELUTA**

**AUGUST 15: GILLIAN AND THE SILVER HAMMERS**

*Live Music. Good People. Our Community.*

FREE FOR CHILDREN/YOUTH UNDER 15. ADULTS BY DONATION. A great opportunity to enjoy live music and connect with neighbours.

CONTACT: [zhinoos219@gmail.com](mailto:zhinoos219@gmail.com)

## WEST SHORE PARKS & RECREATION

# ROVING PLAY PARKS

OUTDOOR FUN. NEW FRIENDS. EVERY WEEK!

West Shore Parks & Recreation Leaders will be in a different park each week for a low-cost (\$35 per week) for outdoor summer camp experience for children ages 6 - 12 years old.

Themes and activities will change each week.

- ACTIVE GAMES & SPORTS
- CRAFTS & CREATIONS
- MAKE FRIENDS & HAVE FUN!

Roving Play Park Camps will take place in **THE HIGHLANDS AT TWINFLOWER PARK**

July 13 - 17, 2026  
August 17 - 21, 2026

YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER AT:  
[https://explore.wspr.ca/Westshore/public/category/browse/sa\\_camp\\_rov](https://explore.wspr.ca/Westshore/public/category/browse/sa_camp_rov)

# Community News

## Highlands District Community Association Update - Summer Newsletter

What is the HDCA? The HDCA (Highlands District Community Association) is YOUR community association and provides opportunities for social, cultural, and educational activities. The HDCA, in conjunction with the Heritage Park Society and the Fire Department, presents the annual Highland Fling every September with music, games, a market, BBQ and displays. It also organizes the Community Clean Up, the Easter Egg Hunt, the Speakers Series, and supports the Broom Bash and Music Nights. The HDCA also acts as a link between the community and our council, and advocates for community issues. HDCA activities are open to all residents of the Highlands and we encourage everyone to become a member.

A giant **THANK YOU** to all the volunteers that help keep the community clean and broom free. It was great to see we only collected about a third of a dumpster load during the Community Clean Up this year, despite the many volunteers that came out. Wouldn't it be lovely if someday we had no need for a clean up? However the Broom is not going away anytime soon. Many thanks to the volunteers who spent hours removing the broom in bloom and a special thank you to Paul Henry for organizing this event year after year. Every flowering bush that is cut down prevents hundreds of seeds being released in the summer.

Sneak Preview for the Fall - Don't miss the Highland Fling this year on Sunday Sept 13th! Mark your fall calendar so you can attend our community festival. There will be games, displays, live music, hot dogs, corn and ice cream, face painting and a giant Tug of War. It's election year for Municipalities and the HDCA plans on organizing two All Candidates Meetings, in person on Oct 1 and virtually on Oct 6th. The 'in person' event will be at the Community Hall at 7 pm. These meetings will only be held if the number of candidates exceeds the number of seats.

Call for Volunteers - If you have ideas for speakers, or other events and want to be involved with planning, please contact Doone Watson at [doone@hotmail.com](mailto:doone@hotmail.com). If you would like to join our board we have several openings for directors-at-large. This allows you to participate without having major responsibilities 😊



**BEAR AWARE**

- SECURE GARBAGE AND COMPOST
- CLEAN GRILLS AND OUTDOOR COOKING AREAS
- REMOVE BIRD FEEDERS WHEN NOT IN USE

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.

**KEEP WILDLIFE WILD** Conservation Office: 1 877 952 7277



**REGIONAL TRAIL ETIQUETTE**

*Be considerate. Be safe. Enjoy together.*

- Share the trail, keep right except to pass.
- Alert others when passing.
- Use caution, particularly around horses.
- Respect the trail environment and neighbouring lands.
- Keep pets on leash and on the right side of trail.
- Cooperate and show mutual respect.
- Park only where permitted and maintain emergency vehicle access.

SHARE THE TRAIL. SHOW YOUR CARE. ❤️

### Staying in Touch

Recent events in the Highlands have revealed how difficult it can be to communicate with Highland residents. For information on HDCA events there are several options. We rely heavily on our community bulletin boards, located beside each bank of mail boxes, to relay information. Please take the time to read the official side of the board. Unfortunately several of these boards had to be removed for repairs and we anxiously await their return. If you are reading this you have already found the Highlands District Newsletter put out by the District four times a year. The newsletter is sent electronically and paper copies are available in the plastic holders on the bulletin boards. The Sandwich Boards on the roadside at the entrances to the Highlands will also remind you of upcoming events. Finally, we post events on our Face Book page and on our website. See the links below. Note that our HDCA Facebook page is not the one called Highlands BC Community (which is a great source of information, but is a private page).



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



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

## Highlands Community Garden Update

Besides all the individual garden box rentals there is a lot of communal food being grown which is shared amongst the members or sold at Highland markets. This year's communal food list: several varieties of tomatoes, mustard greens, garlic, potatoes, 5 types of squash, 3 types of zucchini, strawberries, rhubarb, scarlet runner beans, bay leaf, brassicas, oregano, black and red currants, raspberries, josta berries, quince, plum, cherries, peach, apples, hazelnuts, and pears. Oh and flowers too--iris, dahlias, and sunflowers. Whew!



Email [HighlandsCommunityGarden@outlook.com](mailto:HighlandsCommunityGarden@outlook.com) for more info about becoming a member and come grow with us!

## Te'mexw Treaty Association Public Engagement Open Houses

The open houses are a drop-in format open to all. There will be no formal presentations, instead material will be displayed throughout the venue to encourage small group discussion. The type of information shared at these sessions will be general information about the proposed land packages as well as general information on modern treaties.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA NEWS**

**Public invited to learn more about five proposed Te'mexw treaties**

The Province, Canada and the Te'mexw Treaty Association invite you to open houses this June to learn more and ask questions about five proposed modern treaties on southern Vancouver Island.

- Get information and ask questions
- Join in open, respectful dialogue
- Supporting reconciliation

**OPEN HOUSES THIS JUNE**  
IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL OPTIONS PLANNED

**DATES & LOCATIONS:**  
[news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2026IR0021-000627](https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2026IR0021-000627)

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A STRONGER B.C.

# FINANCIAL PLAN & PROPERTY TAX UPDATE

**2026-2030 FINANCIAL PLAN ADOPTED**

Highlands Council adopted the 2026-2030 Financial Plan Bylaw in May.

**VIEW THE 2026 BUDGET:**  
[www.highlands.ca/bylaws/five-year-financial-plan-2026-2030](http://www.highlands.ca/bylaws/five-year-financial-plan-2026-2030)

**2026 PROPERTY TAX NOTICES**

Property tax notices have now been mailed to property owners.

**PAYMENTS DUE BY JULY 2, 2026 TO AVOID PENALTIES**

**TAX INSERT AVAILABLE ONLINE:**  
[www.highlands.ca/local-government/finance/property-taxes](http://www.highlands.ca/local-government/finance/property-taxes)

**DIDN'T RECEIVE YOUR NOTICE?**  
Please contact staff:  
finance@highlands.ca  
250-474-1773

**HOME OWNER GRANT**  
Applications must be made directly through the Province of BC. The District Office cannot accept applications.



**APPLY FOR HOME OWNER GRANT:**  
[www.gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant](http://www.gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant)

1-888-355-2700

Thank you for helping build a strong community!

## ≡ Upcoming ≡ COUNCIL MEETING DATES

 JUNE 15, 2026	PUBLIC HEARING
 JUNE 15, 2026	REGULAR COUNCIL
 JUNE 22, 2026	COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
 JULY 6, 2026	REGULAR COUNCIL
 AUGUST 24, 2026	REGULAR COUNCIL

## Be Part of WHAT'S HAPPENING



Never miss what Council and committees are discussing.



Get agendas delivered straight to your inbox—and watch meetings live or anytime through our online portal.



**SUBSCRIBE TO  
MEETING NOTIFICATIONS**

Subscribe here:  
<https://highlandsbc.community-ca.diligentoneplatform.com/Portal/Subscribe.aspx>

≡ Stay informed. Stay connected. Get involved. ≡

## STAY CONNECTED to Highlands!

Get Alerts, Events and News delivered straight to your inbox. It's quick, easy, and free!



### ALERTS

Important notices and emergency updates.



### EVENTS

Find out about community events and activities.



### NEWS

The latest news from your District and Council.



**SIGN UP TODAY!**

Don't miss what matters in our community.

Subscribe now: [highlands.ca/subscribe](https://highlands.ca/subscribe)

## COUNCIL

Mayor Ken Williams

[kwilliams@highlands.ca](mailto:kwilliams@highlands.ca)

250-882-5481

Councillor Leslie Anderson

[leslie.corvidconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:leslie.corvidconsulting@gmail.com)

778-350-8180

Councillor Ann Baird

[ann@eco-sense.ca](mailto:ann@eco-sense.ca)

250-812-5481

Councillor Gord Baird

[gord.baird@gmail.com](mailto:gord.baird@gmail.com)

250-818-7986

Councillor Marcie McLean

[marciemclean@shaw.ca](mailto:marciemclean@shaw.ca)

250-474-4725

Councillor Karel Roessingh

[karel@roessong.com](mailto:karel@roessong.com)

250-727-9808

Councillor Rose Stanton

[rose26@telus.net](mailto:rose26@telus.net)

250-474-3403



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

## Help Shape a More Accessible Community ≡ WE NEED YOU! ≡

Are you passionate about creating an inclusive and accessible community?

The District of Highlands is seeking a dedicated resident to serve as the District's Citizen Representative on the Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee (CWAAC).



### WHY GET INVOLVED?

As a committee member, you will:

- ✓ Advocate for accessibility improvements
- ✓ Collaborate with neighbouring municipalities
- ✓ Help advance inclusive practices across the Capital West region
- ✓ Support the goals of the Accessible BC Act to improve inclusivity, accessibility, and livability for all



### TERM DETAILS

- Volunteer position
- Two-year term ending December 31, 2026
- Meetings rotate among partner municipalities



### MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Interested in applying or learning more?

[accessibility@highlands.ca](mailto:accessibility@highlands.ca)

(250) 474-1773

Building a more inclusive Highlands for everyone.

