



Mayor's Message

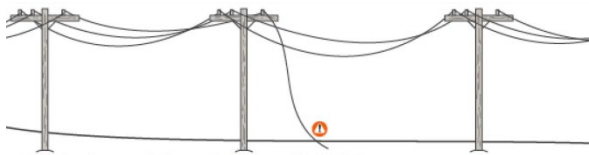
After a decade of dedicated service to the District of Highlands, our Chief Administrative Officer, Lorraine Hilton, has announced her upcoming retirement. While we

will greatly miss her leadership, we are grateful that she will continue to support a smooth transition over the next several months.

Throughout the past decade, she has played a pivotal role in shaping our municipality, guiding us through challenges, fostering collaboration, and championing initiatives that have strengthened our community. Her dedication, professionalism, and vision have left a lasting impact, and her contributions will be remembered for years to come.

As she prepares for this next chapter, we extend our heartfelt appreciation for her service and commitment to Highlands. Please join Council in thanking Lorraine for her years of leadership and in wishing her a retirement filled with joy, new adventures, and well-earned relaxation.

If It's Down, It's a Danger, Dial 911



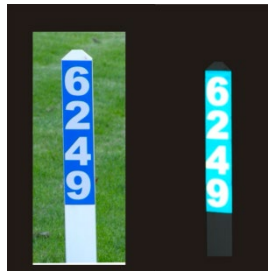
A downed line is a danger, stay back and dial 911.

Always assume that a downed, sagging, low-hanging or damaged power line is live, even if it's not sparking or making any sound. You should never touch or try to move a downed power line.

If you come across a downed or damaged line, follow these steps:

1. Stay back at least 10 meters (33 feet). That's about the length of a city bus.
2. Dial 911 and let them know that a power line has fallen or is damaged.
3. Keep others in the vicinity at least a bus length away.
4. If you are in your car, **STAY** there and wait for help. Do not step outside your car until BC Hydro or First Responders tell you to.

Highlands Volunteer Fire Fighters Association



Daytime Nighttime

It's an emergency!

Can we find your address in the dark?

Calls for the Fire Department cover all sorts of emergencies: medical emergencies, fires, motor vehicle incidents, downed power lines, trail rescues, public safety calls and many more.

When we are responding to these emergencies it's often at night and in poor weather conditions and we are trying to find your address as quickly as possible!

Can we easily see your house number? Is it in the open near the road? Is it reflective? Are the colours visible in the dark? And can we see it from both directions?

Emergency personnel will have a difficult time finding your house in the dark if you have an address sign that is not reflective or visible from BOTH directions. Precious minutes could be wasted as they try to find you on a dark road.

We encourage all residents to consider improving their signage by having high visibility reflective double-sided signs that can be seen coming from either direction.

Our Association is working with a supplier to prepare address signs that will make your home easier to find in all conditions. Our volunteer firefighters are happy to come to your residence and recommend an optimum sign solution for your location and we will also help with installation, if needed.

We are offering a double-sided address marker to identify your house and driveway for \$65.00. The sign has contrasting reflective silver numbers on a blue background and will be installed with 2 steel posts set into the ground. These signs have proven to be highly visible in low light conditions. To date almost 40 signs have been installed around the Highlands.

Net proceeds will be donated to Muscular Dystrophy Canada. If you are interested, please contact us at Highlands Firefighters Association:

HVFFA@outlook.com or 250-508-3479 ~Jason Schuttinga



Community and Council News

2025 District of Highlands Property Taxes and Home Owner Grants

2025 District of Highlands Property Tax Notices will be mailed at the end of May with Property Taxes being due by July 2, 2025. Should you need to update your mailing address, please call the District Office at 250-474-1773 or email finance@highlands.ca as soon as possible.



Your Provincial Home Owner Grant must be claimed every year by July 2, 2025 to avoid penalties. Eligible property owners can apply for their grants on the Province's website at gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant or by calling toll-free to 1-888-355-2700 to speak with an agent.

2025 Provincial Speculation and Vacancy Tax

Please note that the Provincial Speculation and Vacancy Tax Program is different than the Provincial Homeowner Grant Program and that both need to be claimed separately.

Declaration letters were mailed in January by the Province. The declaration deadline is March 31, 2025. Every owner of a property must declare every year.

Budget Consultation Dates

Monday, March 24, 2025 – Committee of the Whole
Monday, April 14, 2025 – Committee of the Whole
Tuesday, April 22, 2025 – Regular Council Meeting
Monday, May 5, 2025 – Regular Council Meeting
2025 Budget Meeting Agendas are available from



<https://highlandsbc.diligent.community/Portal/>

on Friday prior to the meeting date. Council invites you to get involved and attend these important council meetings. We will be examining the financial details while doing our best to balance the cost of our plans against rising inflation pressures.

**CHECK YOUR
SMOKE
DETECTOR**

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on Sunday, March 9th for daylight savings time. It is recommended that you test your smoke alarms and replace the batteries to ensure that they are functioning properly.

**NEW WEBSITE
COMING SOON...**

The District of Highlands is excited to announce our New Website - Set to Launch April 1st!

In preparation, we encourage you to sign up with Alertable - our new alert system - for all traffic advisories and community notices

STAY TUNED

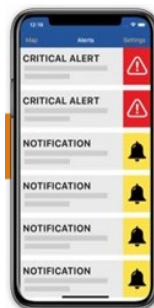
Are you passionate about creating a more accessible and inclusive community?
WE NEED YOU!



The District of Highlands is looking for a dedicated resident to serve as Highlands' Citizen Representative on the Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee. This is a unique opportunity to make a difference and advocate for accessibility improvements that benefit everyone.



If you are interested in making a positive impact, please email accessibility@highlands.ca or phone our District Office at (250) 474-1773.



ALERTABLE

COMMUNITY NOTIFICATIONS

Stay Aware & Plan Ahead



Stay informed with Alertable notifications

Use Alertable to stay aware and plan ahead. Check in advance for events, closures, restrictions, hazards and more. Know before you go. Keep yourself and others informed and up to date with Alertable.

Notifications are fast, reliable and easy to see and hear. Personalize notifications by type and severity. Choose notifications for many locations including home, work, school, cottage, family and friends locations and more. Change your locations and other personalized options in Settings, after the fact. Please **SHARE!**

Guidance on Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) for Property Owners

The District of Highlands has recently updated its Zoning Bylaw to allow one accessory dwelling unit (ADU) on most residential properties. This includes attached units, such as secondary suites within a home, and detached units like carriage houses or garden suites. This update provides homeowners with more flexibility in utilizing their properties while supporting the development of affordable housing options in the community.

However, it's important to understand that while ADU's are allowed, this does not mean all units will be automatically approved through the building permitting process. Instead, the bylaw creates a pathway for property owners to bring existing ADUs into compliance with the BC Building Code. This process ensures that these units meet the required health and safety standards, helping to keep both residents and the broader community safe.

For homeowners who already have an ADU on their property, this is a great opportunity to bring their unit into compliance and avoid potential issues down the line. The permitting process involves reviewing the design, structure, and safety of the unit to ensure it meets the necessary regulations. It's also important to note that some properties may have specific zoning requirements or restrictions that must be addressed before an ADU is approved.

If you are a property owner with an existing ADU or are considering adding one to your property, it's highly recommended that you contact the District of Highlands office for guidance. Staff can help you navigate the permitting process, schedule an appointment for a consultation and provide more information on the steps you need to take to ensure your ADU meets all applicable codes and regulations.

By taking advantage of this opportunity, you can ensure your ADU is safe, legal, and fully compliant with local and provincial requirements, contributing to a healthier and more sustainable community.

For more information, or to schedule a meeting to discuss your options, please contact the District of Highlands office today.

Re:Create – West Shore Recreation Facilities Master Plan

Join the conversation about the future of recreation facilities in the Westshore.

There are several ways to provide your input toward the master plan including online surveys for residents and community groups, Digital Community Input Workshops, and in-person staffed engagement stations that will be held in each partner municipality. www.wspr.ca



Please Help Protect Our Night Sky From Light Pollution

Protecting our night sky from light pollution is important for preserving its natural beauty and supporting ecological health. Everyone can easily help protect the night. Adopt the following lighting principles that ensure a safe environment while minimizing impacts on the night sky, ecosystems and human health: intensity, direction, period and colour.

- 1 Use Shielded Lighting:** Ensure outdoor lights are fully shielded, directing light downward rather than upward. This reduces light spill and glare.
- 2 Install Motion Sensors:** Use motion sensors or timers for outdoor lighting to minimize unnecessary light usage.
- 3 Choose Warm Lighting:** Opt for warm-coloured lights (3000K or lower) that are less disruptive to the night sky and wildlife.
- 4 Control time:** Time and length of use of light must also be considered. Install a timer, a motion detector, or simply always turn off the lights before going to bed... the idea is to use only the lighting you need.



SPRING MARKET



The Highlands Market Returns!

Market dates - June 8th / July 13^h / August 10th,
and at the Fling

There will be veggies, plants, baking, eggs, garden sculpture, embroidered items, crocheted animals, wood products, soaps, driftwood hearts, local wool blankets & shawls, and much, much more!



Caleb Pike Heritage Park
1589 Millstream Rd

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



You are invited to the 13th Annual SPRING POTLUCK & SCOTTISH DANCE

Saturday, March 15th

Highlands Community Hall, 729 Finlayson Arm Rd

Sponsored by the Highland Heritage Park Society. **Free to attend!!**



The potluck supper begins at 6 pm

Please bring your own plates, cutlery, drinking vessel, beverage and a delicious dish to share. Tea and coffee will be provided.

Labeling dishes with main ingredients would be appreciated



The dance begins at 7:30 pm

Mary Ross will provide the live music and Bob Anderson will lead us through the dance steps.

Let us know whether you and a partner and any children want to join the fun - either supper and dance, supper only or dance only.

If you have any friends or family who might enjoy the occasion, please send us their email or phone number so that they can be invited.

RSVP to:

Ingo Lambrecht ingomail@gmail.com

PAWS In Parks

Pause to consider this simple canine courtesy



Learn more at www.crd.bc.ca/petsinparks

CRD

Protect nature by keeping your dog away from wildlife and sensitive areas



Help reduce human-wildlife conflicts.

Help protect your dog and wildlife by keeping your dog in sight and under control. Visitors with dogs share parks with wildlife — bears, wolves, cougars, deer, elk, small mammals, ground-nesting birds and salmon — which rely on parks for survival.

Having your pet on leash where required reduces human-wildlife conflicts. It protects your dog and the plants and animals that rely on these natural areas.

An off-leash dog may chase or attract a bear or cougar, making the bear or cougar rush towards other people further up the trail, or back to you.

Ground-nesting birds, small animals, and their young, can be stressed or even killed by off-leash dogs.



Lone Tree Park

50th Annual Greater Victoria Flower Count

During Flower Count week, March 5 to 12th, head outside and count all the blooms you see in your neighbourhood. Then, head to www.flowercount.ca to submit your count!

Community and Council News

Highlands Easter Egg Hunt



Sunday April 20th
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
At the Caleb Pike Heritage Park
1589 Millstream Road

The Easter Bunny is once again coming to the Highlands! Come enjoy this outdoor event with family and friends and watch the kids scramble for candy. Please bring some **nut-free** treats to hide.



The Highlands Community Garden has a few garden boxes and memberships available for the 2025 growing season. Save money on your grocery bills and GROW LOCAL. Garden box renters get their own box, plus a share of the bountiful harvest from the communal boxes, berry bushes and orchard. Please contact highlandscommunitygarden@outlook.com for more information.



Highlands District Community Association (HDCA) Presents:

Pot Luck & AGM

Come meet your neighbours & listen to stories about the Highlands
Then stay for the AGM to find out what the HDCA does for you!



Saturday, April 5th
Supper & Stories 5:30 - 7:30
AGM 7:30 - 8:30

Highlands Community Hall,
729 Finlayson Arm Rd



Please bring your own plates, cutlery, drinking vessel, beverage and a delicious dish to share. Tea and coffee will be provided.

To help us plan, please let us know who is going to attend.
Send an email to: doonew@hotmail.com
However if you don't decide until the last minute we will find you a table and chair!!

DID YOU KNOW...

You can now follow the District on Facebook for information and updates about what is going on in our community.



Highlands Broom Bash All Of May

Cut Broom in bloom. Don't pull.
Deliver your cut broom to the field behind the Community Garden off Finlayson Arm Rd.
Drop off open every Saturday in May from 8-1pm.

We encourage all landowners to cut the broom at their roadside. Take ownership of your section of road.

Contact Paul Henry: 250-478-7885



Highlands Information at your fingertips!

You simply sign up for items such as: agendas, minutes, news alerts and events posted to 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.



Notify Me®
Sign up to receive notifications

Community Calendar

What's happening in the Highlands this Spring?

Spring is well on its way and your **Highland District Community Association (HDCA)** hopes you will join us at these activities this spring. They are open to all Highlanders.

SAVE these dates!

Highlands Music Coffee House

- Mar 8th** Backyard Boulevard
- April 12th** JR and the Badox Band
- May 10th** Ryton Rigg



Backyard Boulevard
Doors open at 6:40
 and music will start at 7:00

Venue: The Historic Caleb Pike House, By donation \$10+ 1589 Millstream Road, Highlands under age 15 free

March 15, Scottish Dance and Potluck RSVP to Ingo Lambrecht ingomail@ymail.com

Apr 3rd The Night Sky astronomy with Sid Sidhu (rain/cloud date April 3) HDCA Speaker Series



April 5 Potluck dinner with stories of the Highlands. Community Hall 5:30 - 7:30 pm followed by our AGM at 7:30. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet your neighbours and share stories about the Highlands. RSVP to Doone Watson doonew@hotmail.com

Apr 14th Wild Wise talk on Bears - 7 pm Pike House, Heritage Park HDCA Speaker Series RSVP to doonew@hotmail.com



April 20th Easter Egg Hunt - Bring some treats to hide - Pike House, Heritage Park

April 26th Community Clean Up, Pick up bags and gloves, then drop roadside garbage off at the Pike House, looking for volunteers!

June 8th Summer Market Community Summer markets starting June 8, also July 13 and August 10

June 14th Reconciliation event with the Quw'utsun (Cowichan) elders - this will be an all day workshop you will not want to miss - it has been described as a gateway to the first step of reconciliation: understanding the lived experiences of others. further details to follow HDCA Speaker Series co-hosted with WMÍYEFEN Nature Sanctuary Society

We encourage all residents to purchase or renew your HDCA membership every April and we will be selling memberships at our AGM as well as at any of our HDCA Speaker Series. Individual \$5, Family \$10 (cash or cheque please). We are also looking for members interested in children's activities, social events, music, the markets and/or nature activities. If you would like to be involved, please contact the HDCA chair - Doone Watson at doonew@hotmail.com or talk to any of our directors at our events.

For more information on these HDCA events we have several options. We post events on the bulletin boards beside the mailboxes. They are also posted on our Facebook 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

MEETING DATES	
Council	March 3 rd - 7:00pm
Committee of the Whole	March 10 th - 7:00pm
Council	March 17 - 7:00pm
Committee of the Whole	March 24 - 7:00pm
Council	April 7 - 7:00pm
Committee of the Whole	April 14 - 7:00pm
Council	April 22 - 7:00pm
Council	May 5 - 7:00pm
Council	May 20 - 7:00pm