



Remembering Two Remarkable Highlands Residents

Over the past few months, Highlands has said goodbye to two extraordinary residents whose contributions helped shape the heart and spirit of our community — Allan Roger and Sid Sidhu.

Though their passions were different, both embodied what it means to give generously, joyfully, and wholeheartedly to the place they called home.

Allan Roger was a man who believed in showing up — for his neighbours, for his community, and for the future. As a volunteer firefighter and chair of the Sustainable Land Use Select Committee, he worked tirelessly to keep residents safe and to help guide decisions that will shape Highlands for generations. Many will remember him as Santa on the Santa Run, and as the warm, witty MC of the Highland Fling, where his energy made every gathering feel like a family celebration. Allan's spirit of service, kindness, and joy will continue to echo in every corner of community life.

Jaskarn 'Sid' Singh Sidhu shared a different kind of light — one that came from the night sky. For nearly forty years, he inspired thousands of children and adults with his passion for astronomy. Whether giving school presentations, lending telescopes through the Victoria Centre, or welcoming neighbours to his backyard observatory, Sid brought the wonders of the universe within reach. The asteroid named in his honour is a fitting tribute to a man whose gentle spirit and curiosity touched so many. His legacy will live on in every young person who looks up and feels that first spark of awe.

To the families of Allan and Sid, the District of Highlands extends its deepest condolences and heartfelt thanks. We are grateful for all they shared with us — their time, their talents, and the unique joy each brought to our community. Their memories will continue to shine, here on the ground and in the skies above.



Deputy Fire Chief shares a laugh with Allan (Santa) Roger on the Santa Run.



Sid Sidhu in his backyard observatory.

Highlands Fire Department Santa Run 2025

Santa Claus will once again be visiting the Highlands on **Sunday December 7th, 2025**.

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. We will also be accepting cash donations for the Food Bank. E-Transfers can be sent to HVFFA@OUTLOOK.COM

Please note the Santa will not have the time to go up and down every street; therefore, please see the list below for scheduled locations we will be at or driving past. All times are approximate. Listen for the sirens.

East Highlands Route

9:30 Start at East Fire Hall	9:35 Woodridge / Robb
9:45 Woodridge / Munn	10:00 Munn / Bukin E
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 Hannington/ Danby
15:00 Millstream/ River Road
15:15 Bear Mountain Parkway – Rivers Crossing



Community and Council News

New Parks Management Bylaw

The District of Highlands is taking important steps to safeguard our natural spaces. Council has recently adopted the “Parks Management Bylaw No. 470, 2025”, which applies to all parks, beaches, and public open spaces within the District. This bylaw strengthens protections for environmentally sensitive areas and ensures that our parks remain safe and enjoyable for everyone.

Under the new regulations, use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), motorcycles, and other motorised vehicles within parks are prohibited. Horse access to parks is only allowed in areas expressly designed for equestrian use. These measures are designed to minimise damage to trails and sensitive ecosystems, reduce erosion, protect wildlife habitats, and maintain the natural beauty of our parks.

If you’re planning a special event, commercial or business activity, or any activity that goes beyond everyday park use, the Parks Management Bylaw requires you to obtain a permit. Please reach out to the District office for more information.

Eagles Lake Park

Restoration work is underway at Eagles Lake Park following the removal of a hazardous tree near the beach access. This project reflects our commitment to visitor safety and ecological integrity. The restoration includes stabilising disturbed areas and enhancing native vegetation to support biodiversity.

We encourage all visitors to respect these rules and help us preserve the Highlands’ unique landscapes for future generations. Together, we can ensure that our parks remain a sanctuary for people and wildlife alike.



Highlands After Dark: Lighting Restrictions Support Highlands’ Natural Character

To help maintain Highlands’ rural character and protect our night skies, the District has introduced updated lighting regulations through the Zoning Bylaw. These new rules are designed to minimize light pollution, ensuring outdoor lighting is used thoughtfully and only where truly needed. Highlights of the new regulations include:

- No flashing or blinking exterior lighting is permitted anywhere in the District.
- All direct and ambient lighting in residential zones must be shielded so that light does not shine beyond the boundaries of the property.
- Lighting posts may not exceed the lesser of the height of the primary building or 7.0 metres.

By following these guidelines, residents can help preserve the natural beauty and tranquillity of Highlands after dark, keeping our community a welcoming place for people and wildlife alike.

Outdoor Burning

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://hvd.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.

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: <https://www.highlands.ca/community-services/protective-services/emergency-program/emergency-preparedness>



**RECYCLE
YOUR HOLIDAYS**

If you are looking at ways to recycle this season please visit:
<https://www.crd.ca/programs-services/garbage-recycling/curbside-recycling>

Community and Council News

Community Garden Notes

What a fantastic year we had in the Highlands Community Garden! We had workshops on year round gardening and preserving your harvest, learned how to prune and manage the orchard, built garden structures and had a lot of fun at our work parties and socials, laughing and learning from each other. And after the whirlwind fall season where we harvested hundreds of apples and preserved our tomatoes, beans, peppers and planted our garlic, we can put our feet up and start dreaming about next season.

Would you like to join us? Would you like to get on the waitlist for a garden box next year or become a communal garden member? Please contact us at HighlandsCommunityGarden@outlook.com

Have a happy holiday season everyone!



2026 Grant in Aid Funding

The Highlands office is accepting applications for grant-in-aid funding for 2026. Organizations wishing to apply must submit a completed application prior to the deadline, February 28, 2026.

Application forms and District policy are available at: <https://www.highlands.ca/local-government/finance/grant-aid>

Exciting News for Electric Vehicle Users

The District of Highlands is pleased to announce the upcoming installation of the two new Level 2 electric vehicle charging stations at the Community Hall.

Key Details:

- **Location:** Highlands Community Hall, 729 Finlayson Arm Road
- **Type:** Level 2 charging stations, suitable for most electric vehicles
- **Access:** Available to residents and visitors, with a modest user fee

How It Works:

The District has entered into a licence of occupation agreement with the Capital Regional District, allowing the chargers to be installed and operated on municipal land. This agreement outlines responsibilities for maintenance, service, and fee collection, ensuring reliable access for all users. The chargers are part of a regional network, making it easier to travel sustainably throughout the Capital Region.

Why It Matters: This project supports Highlands' commitment to climate action and sustainable transportation. By providing convenient charging options, the District encourages residents and visitors to choose low-emission vehicles and helps reduce our community's carbon footprint.

WINTER ROAD CONDITIONS

WINTER ROAD ADVISORY

Please be advised that Millstream Lake Road, Ross Durrance Road, and other surrounding roads may be slippery. Exercise caution while driving.

Additionally, refrain from parking vehicles on narrow, winding roads to ensure that snow plows and de-icing equipment can operate effectively.

Stay safe and drive carefully!



WINTER ROADS MAINTENANCE LINE
DURING BUSINESS HOURS (8:30AM - 4:00PM)
(250) 474-1773

AFTER HOURS
(250) 893-1773



Highlands Music Coffee House We are delighted to bring:



Gravitation! on Saturday, December 13

Caleb Pike House,
1589 Millstream Road, Highlands

Bill Hamilton, Brad Hawkes, and Burke Rosen are an acoustic trio grounded in folk, roots and blues.

Suggested donation: \$1.00- \$25.00
(15 years and younger, free admission)

We will start the evening with the open stage, with Cassandra Paxton and more....
“Doors” open at 6:30 PM

To put your name on the open stage list or for any questions or suggestions please contact us at: zhinoos219@gmail.com

Community Information Session

Communities serviced by the West Shore RCMP are invited to learn more about police and public safety planning and resourcing.

December 9, 2025, 6-8pm

The Langford Business Centre (Nootka Rose Room)
2840 Peatt Road, 2nd Floor

The communities serviced by the West Shore RCMP are assessing best practices for police and public safety planning and resourcing. This session will share information and present approaches used in other communities. The purpose of this work is to ensure resources align with community needs and residents' lived experiences.

Free public parking is available under the building (access from Peatt Road). On-street parking also available.

The session will be presented by two subject matter experts in the field of policing.

We hope you will join us for this important discussion.

Doors Open: 5:30pm

Presentation: 6pm

Questions & Answers: 7pm

Hosted by the City of Langford

2026 Council Meeting Schedule

The 2026 Regular Council Meeting schedule has been adopted by Council. Meetings will be held at the Highlands Community Hall, 729 Finlayson Arm Road, starting at 7:00 pm unless otherwise posted. The schedule is as follows:

- **January:** 12
- **February:** 2 and 17
- **March:** 2 and 16
- **April:** 7 and 20
- **May:** 4 and 19
- **June:** 1 and 15
- **July:** 6
- **August:** 24
- **September:** 8
- **November:** 2 and 16
- **December:** 7

Please note: All dates are subject to change; updates will be posted at the District office and on our website at www.highlands.ca.



Contact Info:

Mayor Ken Williams
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250-882-5481

Councillor Leslie Anderson
leslie.corvidconsulting@gmail.com
778-350-8180

Councillor Ann Baird
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250-812-5481

Councillor Gord Baird
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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

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.

District Office Winter Closure

Please be advised that the District Office will be closed as of noon Dec. 24th, 2025 and will re-open on Thursday, January 2nd, 2026.

