

Highlands News

Highlands Council Newsletter
Summer/Fall 2018

Extreme Fire Conditions

With the hot dry summer, the District of Highlands has been on an EXTREME fire hazard rating for most of the past two months! This means absolutely no burning is permitted throughout the District - no open fires, campfires, incinerators, woodstoves, chimneys, tiki torches, etc.

When weather changes occur, it can take weeks before the fire hazard falls to a level where it is safe to burn.

September in the Highlands is historically our driest and busiest time of year, and we must all remain vigilant in ensuring our community is safe, so early spotting and reporting of any burning or fires is prudent in keeping any incidents as small as possible.

Residents are also reminded that all reports of burning are 100% confidential, and are encouraged to contact the Fire Chief at 250-920-6970 or Firechief@highlands.ca if they see anything of concern. No burning permits will be issued until October 15th or upon further notice.

Federal Cannabis Act

In preparation for the federal legalization of recreational cannabis on October 17, Council has adopted a zoning bylaw amendment that prohibits the following throughout the District:

- Non-medical cannabis production
- Retail cannabis sales
- Commercial-type medical cannabis production



It is important to note:

- This does NOT prohibit personal medical cannabis production by individuals or designated persons who are registered with the federal government under the Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations for such personal production
- Nor does it prohibit federally registered medical cannabis patients from obtaining their medical cannabis from federally licensed producers through the usual mail-order channels
- It also does NOT prohibit industrial hemp production as regulated by the federal Industrial Hemp Regulations
- Other matters in relation to recreational cannabis, including personal possession limits, minimum age requirements, and person growing limits, will be governed by the BC Cannabis Act when it comes into force

The District of Highlands will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary of Incorporation this year (2018). A celebration is planned for Saturday, November 24, 2018 at the Highlands Community Hall, 729 Finlayson Arm Road. Additional information will be posted on the District of Highlands' website as the date gets closer: www.highlands.ca



TOTAL FIRE BAN



Mayor's Message

Highlands is a special place filled with inspiring people whose level of volunteerism and self reliance is second to none in the region. A tip of the hat to all of you as we will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of the incorporation of our District this fall.

On behalf of Highlands Council, I'd like to congratulate RCMP Inspector Todd Preston on his promotion to Officer In Charge of the West Shore RCMP Detachment. Todd replaces recently retired Inspector Larry Chomyn, whom we would like to thank for his excellent service throughout the Westshore.



Bear Season - Are you Bear Aware?



The District would like to remind all residents that the number one attractant to bears is household garbage and that it is the responsibility of the home owner to ensure that household garbage is securely stored until the morning of collection day.

Please visit the following websites for more information on bear safety: wildsafebc.com OR

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/wildlife/human-wildlife-conflict>



Slow Down and Drive Safely

West Shore RCMP have committed their Traffic Division to one shift per week in Highlands. Watch for their presence on District roads.

Fiddle fun in the Highlands!  **Sunday, September 9, 2018**
Highlands Community Hall
2:00 PM



Music by: BC Fiddle Orchestra
Old-Time Dance Band

Director: Daniel Lapp

Part I: 2:00 - 3:00 pm
BC Fiddle Orchestra Concert Presentation

Part II: 3:00 - 4:00 pm
BC Fiddle Orchestra Dance



Community and Council News

2018 General Local Election

Saturday, October 20, 2018
Highlands Community Hall
729 Finlayson Arm Road
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.



Advance Polls:

- Wednesday, October 10, 2018 – 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- East Fire Hall, 3613 Woodridge Place
- Wednesday, October 17, 2018 – 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Community Hall, 729 Finlayson Arm Road

The District has appointed staff member Tina Neurauter as the Chief Election Officer and Liz Condon as the Deputy Chief Election Officer.

The **nomination period is open from September 4 to September 14, 2018**. If you are interested in running for a seat on Council you **must** submit nomination papers to the Chief Election Officer between those dates. A nomination package may be obtained from the District Office during regular office hours. Call the District office at 250-474-1773 or visit the website for information: <http://www.highlands.ca/238/2018-General-Local-Election>.

Water Conservation

Again we are experiencing a very long dry period and the District would like to remind everyone that groundwater is NOT unlimited in supply. Aquifer levels normally reach their lowest in October/November of each year, and may be lower this year. Therefore, we encourage residents to practice water conservation to avoid the possibility of well water shortage.

For additional information on many aspects of groundwater please see the brochure produced by the Sustainable Land Use Select Committee here: <http://www.highlands.bc.ca/DocumentCenter/View/6118/2016-Groundwater-Pamphlet---SLUSC?bidId=>

Emergency Response Plan Update

In June Council approved the updated Emergency Response Plan developed by Jim Lamorte of Smart Risk Control Inc. working with the Emergency Planning Committee of the District. You can find the Plan on our website: www.highlands.ca/182/Emergency-Response-Plan. Please continue to visit our website for updated Emergency Program information as it evolves.

All Candidates Meetings - October 2nd & 3rd

The **Highlands District Community Association** will be hosting two **All Candidates Meetings**. The Oct. 2 meeting will be held at the East Fire Hall and the Oct. 3 meeting will be held at the Community Hall – both will start at 7:30 p.m..

Highlands Community Fling

When: Saturday Sept. 8th from noon until 5:00 p.m. | **Where:** Caleb Pike Heritage Park at 1589 Millstream Road

This year the Fling will feature live music, an artisan market, food and beverages. The Cajun and Zydeco band **Bijoux du Bayou** will kick things off with a flourish, shortly after opening. 'Bijoux' will be followed by our music 'headliner': our own Gord Bennett's **BackTrack**, a classic rock, dance and blues cover band.

There will be ample time between the music for conversation, checking out the market, having a good look at the photos submitted in the photo contest (contact Muriel Sibley at 250-652-5434 for more info or to enter), visiting the Emergency Preparedness Exhibit hosted by our Fire Service, or taking 'throws' at the Dunk Tank (with proceeds going to the Muscular Dystrophy Association). As usual there will be lots of crafts and games for kids, plus the fabulously popular Fire Fighter's Kids Obstacle course. We hope to see you all there! *More info: Scott Richardson @ 250-478-2526.*

2018 PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT

REMINDER 2018 property taxes were due July 3, 2018 at 4:00 pm. On July 4 a 5% penalty was added to all outstanding amounts including Home Owner Grants (HOG). Reminder notices were mailed at the beginning of July to those property owners who had outstanding taxes.

Please note that as of 4:00 pm September 1, 2018, an **additional** 5% penalty will be added to outstanding current (2018) taxes.

To ensure your payment is applied to your account by 4:00 pm on September 1, please send in your payment several days prior to that date.. We accept cash, cheque or debit (no Visa). After hour, cheques can be dropped in our secure mailbox located at the front door (no cash please).

For access to your account balance at any time, you can REGISTER through our ONLINE SERVICES button on our website. Should you require assistance, the District Office phone number is (250) 474-1773.



CRD Acquires a 28-hectare property in Highlands for Parkland

The CRD recently acquired a 28-hectare property within the District of Highlands, adjacent to Mount Work Regional Park, from the Kinghorn family. The CRD notes in its news release that the land will form part of the Mount Work Regional Park, completing the western boundary of the Park. The land was purchased through the Land Acquisition Fund, a levy dedicated to purchasing lands for regional parks and trails. Please visit the CRD website for the full press release at :

<https://www.crd.bc.ca/about/news/article/2018/07/25/crd-acquires-additional-land-for-mount-work-regional-park>



September 22 Music Coffee House features a concert with Resonance – an evening filled with Spanish music.

Time: 7:30pm | Place: Pike House, 1589 Millstream Rd

Charge: \$10.00 /person - coffee, tea and goodies provided

Future events include: Old Tin Shack - October 13 | Sandy Presley - A Night with Elvis - November 10 | Fine Spirits - December 8.

Eagles Lake Property Subdivision (boundary adjustment)

The District owns a residentially zoned parcel at the end of Eagles Lake Road. In order to prepare the parcel for potential sale in the future, Council previously initiated a boundary adjustment between that residential parcel and the adjacent District owned Eagles Lake Park property. The primary reason was to ensure that the lake remains wholly within land for public park purposes, should the residential portion be sold at some point. The adjustment to the lot lines was deemed to be in the public interest by keeping as much of the riparian area and local trail connections within public park land (Eagles Lake Park parcel) as possible. The process has now concluded with the subdivision (boundary adjustment) recently finalized.

Did You Know You Can Recycle Soft Plastics?

Find out more at the CRD Website: [https://www.crd.bc.ca/service/waste-recycling/reduce-reuse-recycle/myrecyclopedia/products/plastic-film-and-sheeting-\(soft-plastics\)](https://www.crd.bc.ca/service/waste-recycling/reduce-reuse-recycle/myrecyclopedia/products/plastic-film-and-sheeting-(soft-plastics))

Heritage - Landowner Consultation Program

If a part of Highlands heritage listed in the second report by the Heritage Task Force is on your property, you may receive an invitation for consultation. Link to report here:

<http://highlands.ca/DocumentCenter/View/12/Heritage-Task-Force---Phase-2---Heritage-Register?bidId>.

The Heritage Select Committee will be conducting landowner consultations, with help from District Planner, Laura Beckett. In 2013, Council created the Highlands Community Heritage Register with PUBLIC sites – here is a link:

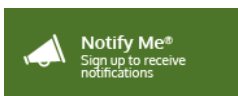
http://highlands.ca/DocumentCenter/View/6929/APPROVED-Community-Heritage-Register_Dec-2013.

There are about 12 PRIVATELY-HELD sites. The District wishes to consult with landowners of these sites in regards to their interest in including these items/places of heritage value in the Highlands Community Heritage Register. While being included in the Register is a formal way of recognizing heritage places, it does not automatically provide any legal protection for the site. Here is a link to a brief pamphlet that provides some information:

http://highlands.ca/DocumentCenter/View/6928/Heritage-Registration-and-Designation_Landowner-Info-Pamphlet_July-2018-Ver

Highlands Information at your fingertips!

You will not miss a meeting or Highlands event by using the “Notify Me” function on the District’s website. You simply sign up for items such as agendas, minutes, news alerts or events posted to the community calendar and an alert will be directed either to your cell phone or email account informing you of the new item. Sign up by visiting highlands.ca.



Update on Secondary Suites and Accessory Dwelling Units

District staff is compiling all comments from the June 6th open house, and is preparing a report expected to be presented to Council in September. Here is a web link for background information, including question sheet responses and comments from table posters from the open house, as well as other public comments received up to July 4th:

<http://www.highlands.bc.ca/476/Secondary-Suites-and-Accessory-Dwelling-> Have a look!

Community Garden Update



The Grand Opening of the Community Garden on July 22 was a great success. Many Highlands residents attended. The individual garden boxes are flourishing! Information was provided about the plans for 17 more boxes, accessible garden boxes, a children’s garden, fruit and nut trees, and berry bush area. The barbecue and music were a hit.

Fall projects:

October 14: Food Forestry Workshop which will cover the theory of food forests – goals, design, maintenance, and resources. (time to be determined - watch for a bulletin board notice)

October 21: Fruit and Nut Tree and Berry Bush Planting Event with sponsors Tree Canada (\$4000 in grants to HPRA); refreshments provided. (time to be determined -watch for bulletin board notice)

- ongoing work on children’s garden and accessible garden boxes (watch for notices for work parties)

All garden boxes have been rented for 2018 to March 1, 2019. Five families are on the wait list for individual boxes for the following year. Highlands residents can still join the Highlands Parks and Recreation Association as “Communal Garden” members, and be provided with opportunities to work in the garden and share the produce from the trees and bushes.

If you wish to join as a Communal Gardener now, or to be on the wait list for an individual garden box for next year, be on the Community Garden Contact List regarding upcoming events or would be interested in serving on the Community Garden Committee please contact us at Highlandscommunitygarden@outlook.com – Marlene Tyshynski

27th Annual Highlands Winter Craft Fair will be held **Sunday, November 18** from 10 am to 4 pm at the Caleb Pike Heritage Park, 1589 Millstream, and the Highlands Community Hall, 729 Finlayson Arm Road. Admission is free. Meet and buy from local artisans and enjoy the hot apple cider. -Daphne daffim@telus.net



Celebrate Your Special Day in a Special Place



Caleb Pike Heritage Park

This rustic and unique 3 acre park is surrounded by beautiful Douglas Fir forest

3 Heritage buildings circa 1883 • Ceremonies • Free Parking
For rates and availability please call or go online today

Community Hall

Customize your event at our brand new hall which offers a 1200 square foot assembly area
Entertain up to 150 guests • Acoustically designed stage
Non-Commercial Kitchen • Floor to ceiling windows
Free Parking



1980 Millstream Rd, Victoria
Heritage Park: 250-474-7601 • Hall: 250-474-1773
www3.telus.net/calebp05 • www.highlands.ca

Council and Staff Contacts:

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
250-478-2680

Councillor Gord Baird
gord.baird@gmail.com
250-478-2680

Councillor Karen Burns
karenburns669@gmail.com
250-391-6227

Councillor Marcie McLean
marciemclean@shaw.ca
250-474-4725

Councillor Karel Roessingh
karel@roessong.com
250-727-9808

Fire Chief Ford
firechief@highlands.ca
250-920-6970

Municipal Office
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



Community Calendar September 2018

Sept. 4 & 24 **Council Meeting**

7pm School House – Heritage Park

Sept 8 **Highlands Community Fling**

12-5pm – Heritage Park

Sept. 9 **Fiddle Fun in the Highlands**

2-4pm - Community Hall

Sept. 17 **Committee of the Whole**

7pm - School House – Heritage Park

Sept. 22 **Highlands Music Coffee House**

7:30pm - Pike House – Heritage Park

October 2018

Oct. 1 **Council Meeting**

7pm - School House – Heritage Park

Oct. 2 **All Candidates Meeting**

7.30pm - East Fire Hall

Oct. 3- **All Candidates Meeting**

7.30pm - Community Hall

Oct. 8 - **Office Closed**

Thanksgiving Holiday

Oct. 9 - **Committee of the Whole**

7pm School House – Heritage Park

Oct. 10 - First Advance Vote

8am – 8pm – East Fire Hall

Oct. 13 - **Highlands Music Coffee House**

7:30pm Pike House – Heritage Park

Oct. 15 - **Council Meeting**

7pm School House – Heritage Park

Oct. 17 - Second Advance Vote

8am – 8pm – Community Hall

Oct. 20 - General Local Election

8am – 8pm – Community Hall

November 2018

Nov. 5 **Inaugural Council Meeting**

7pm - School House – Heritage Park

Nov 10 **Highlands Music Coffee House**

7:30pm - Pike House – Heritage Park

Nov. 12 **Office Closed**

Remembrance Day

Nov. 13 **Committee of the Whole**

7pm - School House – Heritage Park

Nov. 18 **Winter Craft Fair**

10 am-4pm - Heritage Park & Community Hall

Nov.19 **Council Meeting**

7pm - School House – Heritage Park

Nov. 24 **25th Anniversary Celebration**

2.30-5.30pm – Community Hall

Highland Heritage Park Society Update

School House Remediation

The society successfully applied for funding from Heritage BC to remediate the front of the School House. The funding comes through the Heritage Legacy Fund, the only provincial grant program that supports heritage conservation, awareness, planning and indigenous partnerships. Since June 2005, the Heritage Legacy Fund has supported heritage conservation in British Columbia with \$1.8 million of project funding. The funds are made possible through a \$5 million endowment established in 2003 by the Province of British Columbia. The School House project will start in early 2019, and will include replacing the belly band, siding, sheathing, as well repainting the entire building. The grant is for \$8,176.00 which will cover half the cost of repairs (the other half will be paid by the district).

Park Safety Plan

The society is working on a safety plan for the park in the event of an earthquake or fire. The guidelines are being developed in consultation with the Highlands Fire Chief and the Building Inspector. The goal of the plan is to ensure all occupants of the park are given clear safety instructions in the event of an emergency and the Fire Department has up-to-date information about all the buildings in the park.

Orchard Update

In June, the society directors planted three heritage apple trees in the orchard and two Lilac bushes by the gate in front of the Pike House. All have survived the summer drought, thanks to the consistent watering by the caretakers. - *Sally Gose*