

Highlands News

Highlands Council Newsletter
Spring/Summer 2018

Fire Department News

NEW BURNING RESTRICTIONS EFFECTIVE May 22, 2018
FIRE RATING IS HIGH..... THIS MEANS:
NO BACKYARD OR INCINERATOR BURNING PERMITTED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. No Burning Permits will be issued until October 15, 2018.

For more information regarding wood burning and back yard burning please visit our website at: <http://www.highlands.ca/472/Wood-Burning-and-Backyard-Burning> and please pay attention to the roadside fire hazard signs at all Highlands entrances.

Chimney Cleaning Two chimney fires both happened within fifteen hours the same day in February and were a strong reminder of how important proper and regular cleaning of your chimney is. The British Columbia Fire Code requires that chimneys, flues or flue pipes shall be cleaned as often as necessary to keep them free from dangerous accumulations of combustible deposits.



photo of chimney fire

Emergency Operations Funding The District has received a \$25,000 grant to outfit an emergency operations centre and to participate in training opportunities. The District will outfit a mobile unit which may be used at multiple locations depending on the situation. The intent of this mobile EOC solution is to create a stockpile of pre-packed ready to go supplies that would only be used to operate an EOC, and would contain every supply needed to operate that EOC (paper, pens, printers, phones, staples, files, maps, whiteboards, etc.).

Federal Cannabis Act In anticipation of the legalization of recreational cannabis, the District is considering a zoning bylaw amendment that would prohibit throughout the District:

1. Cannabis production
2. Cannabis sales, and
3. Commercial-type medical cannabis production

This action is consistent with past District decisions in regards to federally controlled commercial medical cannabis production and sales. The purpose of the proposed bylaw is to be as restrictive as possible at least initially until Provincial legislation is passed. Once that happens, there may be an interest in community discussions about recreational cannabis that may or may not lead to changes from this initial approach. **The public hearing will be held Monday, June 4, 2018 at 7pm at the School House.**

It is important to note that the proposed bylaw does not prohibit medical cannabis production in the cases of individuals and designated persons who are registered with the federal government with respect to medical cannabis.

The CRD amended its Clean Air Bylaw to include any substance vaped or smoked, thus restricting consumption of cannabis from public areas of the CRD. This includes all typical public indoor areas (business, schools, etc.), patios where food and beverages are served or consumed, parks, playgrounds, beaches, public squares, and bus stops. This link provides detailed information:

<https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/clean-air-bylaw> .

Mayor's Message

The District is in the process of updating our Emergency Response Plan. Kudos to Program Coordinators Fire Chief Ford and Assistant Chief Schuttinga for successfully applying for a grant from UBCM's Community Emergency Preparedness Fund that will help the community improve emergency management and ensure preparedness. On behalf of council and staff, I'd like to thank them and I'd also like to thank the HDCA and all the volunteers for another successful broom bash and roadside clean-up. We wish everyone a great and relaxing summer with family and friends.



Approaching 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>



Community and Council News

2018 Property Taxes Due Tuesday July 3 By 4:00 pm (Office Closed Monday July 2)

Municipal

Tax notices will be mailed at the end of May. If your mailing address has changed please make sure to let the District Office know.

We urge you to read the informative *tax insert* which will accompany the *tax notice* which will highlight the latest budgetary information.

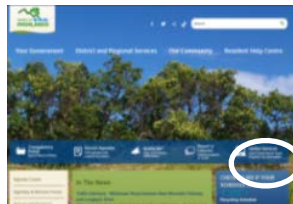
Home Owner Grants (HOG) must be claimed every year

Banks no longer accept Home Owner Grant applications, therefore, the District of Highlands provides **online** options. We also accept HOG applications at our counter, secure drop box or by mail. Please remember to claim every year.

Visit the District's website www.highlands.ca and click the **Online Services** button.

You will find the following options and instructions:

- **Claiming Your e-HOG** via the District's website.
- **Viewing Your Tax Account** - you must register to safeguard your personal information.
- **Paying Your Taxes** - information on how to pay through your Financial Institution's website.
- **Pre-authorized Payment Plan** - Program runs August 10 to May 10.
- **Viewing Property Information For The Public.**



Payment Options:

- Mail a cheque or post-dated cheque to avoid a line up (please include roll # on cheque for reference).
- In person between 8.30am – 4.00pm.
- After hours: secure drop box at front door (no cash please).
- We accept cash, cheque, debit/interact at the counter.
- We DO NOT accept credit cards.
- You may also pay via internet banking through YOUR financial institution's website as: "Highlands, Dist-Taxes" is now set up as a Payee at major banks and credit unions.

Mark your Calendars



Highlands Fling The 2018 Community Fair known as our Highlands Fling will be held on Saturday September 8th, 2018 at the traditional location of the Highlands Heritage Park. More info: Scott Richardson 250-478-2526

June 9th Highlands Music Coffee House presents [Clancy's Front Porch.](#)

Come join us for some fun, lively, danceable music!

Time: 7:30pm | **Place:** Caleb Pike House, 1589 Millstream Rd
Charge: \$5.00 /person - coffee, tea and goodies provided

Upcoming Events – July 14, 2018 – Resonance

2018 Budget Update

After a series of Budget meetings, Highlands Council has adopted the 2018 – 2022 Financial Plan. Your tax notice should arrive by the first week of June. You are encouraged to contact the District Office with any questions you may have in relation to the Financial Plan information.

The 2018 budget provides for maintained service levels and a number of capital projects.

Final Budget summary can be found here:

<http://www.highlands.ca/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/4176?fileID=4702>

Regional Growth Strategy Update



The CRD Board ADOPTED the Regional Growth Strategy on March 14, 2018.

Over the next two years member municipalities will be required to submit to the CRD for acceptance "regional context statements" showing how their Official Community Plan aligns with the new Regional Growth Strategy.

2018 General Local Elections



Key Dates for the 2018 General Local Elections

Election period

The period that begins on January 1 and ends on the 29th day before General Voting Day.

Monday, January 1, 2018 – Friday, September 21, 2018

Nomination period

The period for local election officials to receive nominations.

Tuesday, September 4, 2018 – Friday, September 14, 2018

Campaign period

The period that begins on the 28th day before General Voting Day and ends at the close of voting on General Voting Day.

Saturday, September 22, 2018 – Saturday, October 20, 2018

General Voting Day

Saturday, October 20, 2018



Community and Council News



Secondary Suites and Accessory Dwelling Units DISTRICT OF HIGHLANDS

Community Meeting
Come and tell us what you think



- WHAT?** Council has asked for community input regarding secondary suites and accessory dwelling units.
- WHEN?** Wednesday, June 6, 2018 from 3pm - 7pm
- WHERE?** Highlands Community Hall
729 Finlayson Arm Road

For more information please call:
250-474-1773 or www.highlands.ca

Open House – Secondary Suites and Accessory Dwelling Units

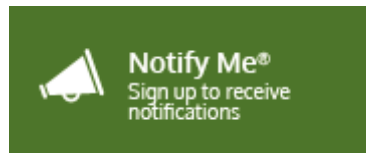
As part of Council's Strategic Plan, Council asked staff to prepare a report outlining an approach to considering secondary suites in the community. While secondary suites are not permitted under existing zoning regulations, it is estimated that approximately 30% to 50% of properties in Highlands have some form of unauthorized secondary suite and/or additional unapproved dwellings. Given increasing land costs and housing shortages in the region this trend is likely to continue.

Staff have reported to Council twice on the issues. The first report was submitted for Council consideration in December, 2017. Council received the report and asked that staff bring back additional information. A second report was submitted to Council for consideration in April, 2018 and Council received the report and directed staff to proceed with an open house to solicit input on the proposed draft policy/program and regulatory framework.

Council invites all residents to attend the Open House to discuss secondary suites and accessory dwelling units on Wednesday, June 6. Input from the open house will be forwarded to Council to assist in considering policy setting regarding secondary suites and accessory dwellings.

To view the reports mentioned in the above paragraph please visit Highlands website at: <http://www.highlands.ca/476/Secondary-Suites-and-Accessory-Dwelling->

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 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.



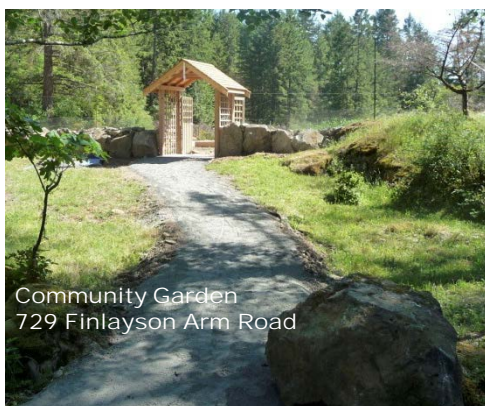
Slow Down and Drive Safely

Westshore RCMP have issued more than 350 speeding tickets to drivers on District of Highlands roads in the past few months.

Highlands Community Garden opens this spring! Growing fruits and vegetables can be hard to do in the rocky, forested Highlands. Now there's a place with sunlight, soil, water and a 6 foot fence where you can grow your own food.

Located next to the community hall at 729 Finlayson Arm Road, the first phase of the community garden is ready to go.

Allotment beds are now available for rent at \$25 (half price this year). Garden beds are 10' x 4' and are available on a first come first served basis.

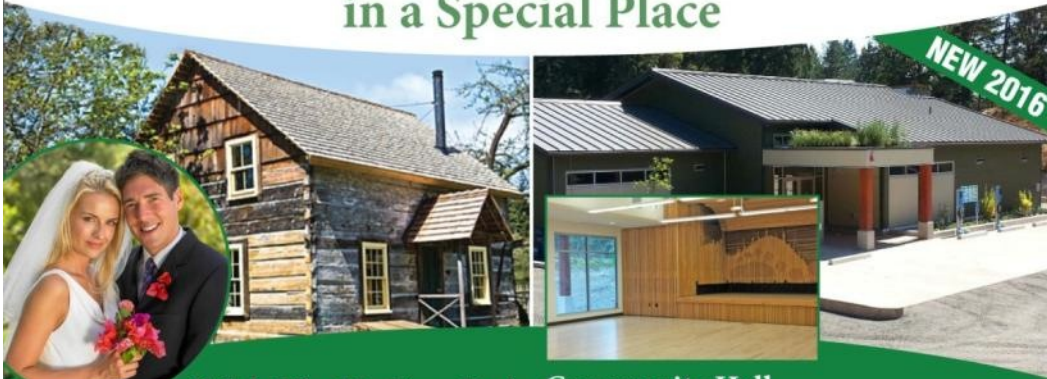


Community Garden
729 Finlayson Arm Road

The garden also includes a newly planted communal orchard and food forest with a wide variety of fruit trees such as cherries, plums, apples and pears. All garden members are welcome to help in orchard maintenance and share in the harvest.

Hope to see you at the garden to meet neighbours, share knowledge and grow food. For information on bed rental and garden membership, contact highlandscommunitygarden@outlook.com.

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
burnska@shaw.ca
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 June 2018

June 4&18 **Council Meeting**
7pm School House – Heritage Park

June 9 **Highlands Music Coffee House**
7:30pm Pike House – Heritage Park

June 11 **Committee of the Whole**
7pm School House – Heritage Park

June 13 **Heritage Select Committee**
7.30 School House – Heritage Park

June 19 **Sustainable Land Use Committee**
7pm School House – Heritage Park

June 20 **Highlands Speaker Series**
7:30pm Caleb Pike Heritage Park

July 2018

July 14 **Highlands Music Coffee House**
7.30pm Pike House – Heritage Park

July 16 **Council Meeting**
7pm School House – Heritage Park

August 2018

August 13 **Council Meeting**
7pm School House – Heritage Park



Old Highlands Schoolhouse



Volunteer of the Month

Thank you Paul Henry. Paul single handedly took on the tasks of organizing this year's broom bash. His impressive efforts included re-imagining it as a 3 week effort rather than a 1 day blitz (enabling us to get more of it in bloom), coordinating storage and drop off location with District staff, and using a variety of types of imaginative road side signage to engage the whole community. Congratulations Paul for the huge haul this year!

Highlands Speaker Series



Join forest ecologist Andy MacKinnon for a talk on the Metchosin Biodiversity Project. Learn about how Highlands can create an inventory of species and ecosystems

Wednesday, June 20th 7:30 pm Caleb Pike
Heritage Park

1589 Millstream Road

Tea and refreshments will be served

Hosted by the Highland Heritage Park Society



Thuja plicata