

Highlands News

Highlands Council Newsletter
Winter 2018

Highlands 25th Anniversary
1993-2018



Mayor's Message

I am very proud of Highlands' accomplishments as we celebrate our 25th anniversary. We are leaders in the province, not only environmentally, but fiscally. The Canadian Federation of Independent Business has recognized Highlands as the municipality with the lowest operational costs in the province out of 162 municipalities. That's over a ten year period.

On behalf of Highlands Council and staff, may the spirit of this wonderful season be with you and your loved ones throughout the holidays and we wish you a happy, healthy, prosperous 2019.

Notice Regarding Highlands Newsletter



Distribution. This will be the last time the Highlands News is mailed to you using Canada Post Neighbourhood mail system. District staff have been informed by Canada Post that we must now use an online system for neighbourhood mail which would greatly increase cost and staff time to produce. Please refer to this report which Council received at its November 19, 2018 Council meeting:

<http://www.highlands.ca/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/4563?fileID=4889>

In the future, Highlands community is encouraged to use the District of Highlands website tools to receive the Highlands Newsletter.

It is simple to sign up: Go to the Highlands website, choose the "Notify Me" button, then create an account. Simply supply your email address and/or cell phone number and then choose which items you wish to be notified on. By doing this, every time the website is updated with an item that you signed up for, you will receive a notification email or a message on your phone linking to the District's website for the updated information.

ALTERNATIVELY, residents may contact staff and leave your mailing address with us and we will mail a newsletter directly to your personal mailbox using regular Canada Post.

Please contact staff should you have any questions. 250-474-1773.

From Highlands District Community Association

The HDCA also can no longer mail out its newsletter using the Neighbourhood Mail system. The HDCA is considering the use of an electronic version if there is sufficient interest. If you are interested in receiving the Semi-Annual Highlander by email, please notify HDCA Chair Scott Richardson:

Telephone: 250-478-2526,

Email scott.richardson@shaw.ca.



MERRY CHRISTMAS & Happy Holidays

Thanks to Highlands Firefighters for another outstanding Santa Run as they collected items for the Goldstream Food Bank. Thanks also to Highlanders for giving generously. It is all of you who give your time, your warmth, your humour and your caring that help makes Highlands such a special place.



Highlands Council Inaugural Meeting - November 5, 2018

Highlands Council was sworn in on November 5, 2018, The current term runs until October, 2022.

From left to right: Councillors Marcie Mclean, Rose Stanton, Ann Baird, Mayor Ken Williams, Councillors Gord Baird and Leslie Anderson with CAO Lorraine Hilton. Councillor Karel Roessingh was sworn in, a few days later, after his return.

The West Shore RCMP is committed

to ensuring that the roads are safe in our communities. With the Holiday season, we remind you to have a designated driver. Every year over 125 people are killed in B.C. in alcohol-related car crashes. B.C. laws prohibit operating a motor vehicle while impaired by alcohol and/or drugs and you can lose your driving privileges if your blood/alcohol concentration is 'over .05'.



Many collisions in the fall and winter are a result of drivers continuing to drive at or above the speed limit when they need to slow down. We encourage citizens to report any after-the-fact traffic incidents via the RCMP non-emergency line at: 250-474-2264



Community and Council News

Emergency Planning In Highlands There has been a significant focus on the Emergency Program over the past few years. The Emergency Response Plan was recently updated and approved by Council. A Strategic Plan for the Emergency Program is underway, and the District has recently submitted an application for grant funding to further emergency evacuation route planning.

If we are successful in obtaining funding, the emergency evacuation route planning project will result in collection of evacuation data, such as the number of residents in each neighbourhood requiring evacuation assistance, and the alternative evacuation routes that are available to each resident. The project would include a limited test of the evacuation notification and procedures, such as measuring the time it takes for evacuation teams to knock on doors. Even if we are unsuccessful with the grant application, the Emergency Program will continue to work towards ensuring emergency preparedness including evacuation route planning.

Please consider becoming part of a HELP group. This will help to further overall emergency response planning in the community. To sign up contact the Emergency Coordinator at: emergencycoordinator@highlands.ca

Cannabis The BC government has created a user-friendly web site to explain the government's new laws and regulations about cannabis: <https://cannabis.gov.bc.ca>

Specific to the Highlands, the following uses are prohibited throughout the District:

1. Non-medical cannabis production
2. Retail cannabis sales
3. 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.

Winter Road Maintenance

The District's **duty phone** will be active shortly. Residents can report winter road conditions on this line, which is monitored 24/7. Action taken will be appropriate to circumstances.

Please do not contact the District's Fire Chief to report road conditions or request winter maintenance.

The duty phone number is 250-893-1773



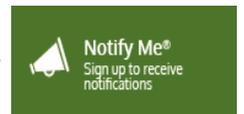
Outstanding Property Tax

Reminder If you have outstanding property taxes please confirm the amount by contacting the District Office at 250-474-1773. Payments should be made at the District Office, Monday to Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM, 1980 Millstream Road. We accept cash, cheque or debit.

The District Office will be closed over the holiday season from Monday, December 23 until Wednesday, January 2, 2019. Payments during the winter closure may be dropped in the mail slot at the front door of the District Office (no cash please).



H.E.L.P.
Highlands Emergency Local
Preparedness



District's Emergency Program tested its emergency alert system on November 25th at 6pm using its available notification systems which were:

- The District's "Notify Me" system (text and/or email),
- Facebook,
- Twitter
- The Highlands Emergency Local Preparedness (H.E.L.P.). Group leaders were contacted who then initiated a phone tree call out test.

The test successfully emailed/texted all residents who had signed up to the district's "Notify Me" system and selected to be contacted with "alerts." The Facebook (Highlands Fire Rescue) posting reached 625 people and the Twitter posts on @HighlandsFire and @HighlandsEP was viewed by over 400 followers. The HELP group leaders were able to reach over 65% of members in their neighbourhood group. A big thank you to all the neighbourhood HELP group leaders for their assistance in conducting this test!

For anyone that isn't attached to their phone, email or social media platforms...the HELP groups are an excellent way to meet your nearby neighbours and prepare to work together during local emergencies. Currently we have 11 active HELP groups, but with HELP groups smaller by design, we have room for 15-20 more. If you would like to know more or start a HELP group in your neighbourhood, please contact us at emergencycoordinator@highlands.ca

If you have previously signed up for "Notify Me" but didn't receive the notification on the 25th, please make sure you check your account to include "Alerts" as this is where emergency notifications will come from.

Reminder : Your best way of insuring you and your family receive local emergency notifications and information is to sign up for multiple notification sources as not all outlets function perfectly during an emergency.

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:

<http://www.highlands.bc.ca/183/Emergency-Preparedness>

DISTRICT OF HIGHLANDS CELEBRATES ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Highlands celebrated the 25th Anniversary of Incorporation on December 7th, 2018. An enthusiastic committee came together to organize a celebratory event which was held on Saturday, November 24. Thank you to all those involved in putting on such a great show at the Highlands Community Hall. The generosity of spirit of Highlands residents and volunteers is humbling.



Highlands first Council – December 1993
 From Left to Right: Kerry Joy, Sue Johnson, Bob McMinn, Kevin Williams, Karel Roessingh, Bill Vogel (missing: Cal Revelle)
 The Honorable Darlene Marzari presents the Letters Patent



A still of the late **Kathy Gose** giving her 1993 speech, cut from **Rob Jirucha's** excellent video created for the celebration.
 "Small is beautiful. Green is powerful"



Highlands first mayor, **Bob McMinn** cuts the cake with current mayor, **Ken Williams**



Highlands Firefighters information display

RECYCLE
 YOUR HOLIDAYS

If you are looking at ways to recycle this season please visit:
<https://www.crd.bc.ca/education/campaigns/list-of-current-campaigns/holiday-recycling/holiday-recycling-tips>

Highlands Community Hall and Caleb Pike Heritage Grounds

Rental Information

Community Hall

Rates:	2 DAY	FULL DAY	HALF DAY	HOURLY RATE
Community Hall	750	400	250	75
Security Deposit	375	200	125	50

Caleb Pike Heritage Grounds

Rates:	2 DAY	FULL DAY	HALF DAY
Complete Facility	600	300	150
Caleb Pike House	120	70	20
School House	100	100	30

With floor to ceiling windows overlooking a natural wetland ecosystem, the **Community Hall** offers a 1200 square foot assembly area which can seat up to 100 people at tables, 112 theatre type seating, and 72 conference type seating. The warming kitchen comes equipped with coffee and tea service, and full dinnerware for up to 50 people. The stage area is visually beautiful and acoustically designed.

The **Caleb Pike Heritage Park** can be rented for almost any event. Both the Caleb Pike House and the Schoolhouse are available for rent either separately or together. The use of the park grounds is included with the rental. A new renovation in the Dairy provides a VIHA certified serving kitchen. Rental prices include set up of table and chairs, and lighting of the wood-stove in the Caleb Pike House. Renters need to bring any items such as flip charts or slide-projectors. A high speed ADSL wireless internet connection is available in the Schoolhouse.



Caleb Pike Heritage Grounds



Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP)

Please Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP). The Province hosts a hotline and anyone can report wildlife-human interactions where public safety may be at risk.

The RAPP program is a toll free tip line and online service that also allows you to report known or suspected violations of fisheries, wildlife, or environmental protection laws anonymously and without risk of confronting the offender.

Highlanders are reminded that the discharge of firearms is not permitted in the District. Should you hear a gunshot it should be reported to the R.C.M.P. at its non-emergency number: 250.474.2264. The B.C. Conservation Officer Service number and RAPP Hotline is: 1.877.952.7277 or you may fill out an online form here: <https://forms.gov.bc.ca/environment/rapp/>

District Office Hours over the winter holidays the District Office will be closed from Monday, December 23 and Re-opens on Wednesday, January 2, 2019.

Community Calendar

December 2018

Dec 17 **Special Council Meeting**
7pm School House – Heritage Park

January 2019

Jan 7 & 21 **Council Meeting**
7pm School House – Heritage Park

Jan 9 **Heritage Committee**
7.30pm School House – Heritage Park

Jan 14 **Committee of the Whole**
7pm School House – Heritage Park

Jan 15 **Sustainable Land Use Committee**
7pm School House – Heritage Park

Jan 19 **Coffee House, 7.30 Pike House**

February 2019

Feb 4 & 19 **Council Meeting**
7pm School House – Heritage Park

Feb 9 **Coffee House, 7.30 Pike House**

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

Feb 13 **Heritage Committee**
7.30pm School House – Heritage Park

Feb 20 **Sustainable Land Use Committee**
7pm School House – Heritage Park (tentative)

2019 Grant-in-Aid

The District will be accepting grant-in-aid applications for 2019 up to and including February 28, 2019.

Organizations wishing to submit an application must complete a grant-in-aid application. The grant-in-aid application and policy can be found at the District's website at: <http://www.highlands.bc.ca/163/Grant-in-Aid>.



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 Gift in Kind by Individuals, groups, service clubs, schools and businesses. Names are provided to the Society by the Christmas Bureau of Victoria, or by a sponsor. Individuals, groups, service clubs, schools and businesses donate money each year to purchase the goods. Please contact 250-391-9627 for more information.

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
250-478-2680

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

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
250-474-1773

CRD Animal Control
250-478-0624

CRD Bylaw Enforcement
250-474-3351

CRD Parks
250-478-3344

Wildlife Conflicts
1-800-663-9453

Conservation Office (RAPP)
1-877-952-7277

Stay connected! Check out our website at www.highlands.ca and subscribe to *Notify Me* which allows you to sign up to an unlimited number of email lists. Receive email or text message updates regarding the information you have requested that is important to you!

