

TOTAL FIRE BAN



Fire Department News



The District of Highlands has been on an EXTREME fire hazard rating since Aug. 4th, 2022. This means absolutely NO burning is permitted in the District - No open fires, campfires, incinerators, chimneys, tiki torches, etc.

This prohibition, along with a BC Wildfire prohibition being enacted at the same time, covers all BC Parks, Crown lands and private lands within the Highlands, and will be in place until October 28, 2022, or until the order is rescinded.

The campfire prohibition does not apply to cooking stoves that use gas, propane or briquettes, or portable campfire devices that use briquettes, liquid, or gaseous fuel, provided they are CSA or ULC approved, and the height of the flame is less than 15 centimeters.

When weather changes occur, it can take weeks before the fire hazard falls to a level where it is safe to burn. September in Highlands is historically our driest and busiest time of the year and we must all remain vigilant in ensuring our community is safe, so early spotting and reporting of any burning or fires is essential to keep any incidents as small as possible.

Residents are encouraged to contact the Fire Chief at 250-920-6970 or Firechief@highlands.ca if they see anything of concern. Complainants personal information is confidential.

Highlands Council has provided financial support for the following event:



Where: Royal Athletic Park
1014 Caledonia Ave, Victoria, BC.

When: September 30th, 2022

Schedule of Events:

Doors open | 10:00 am

Opening ceremony | 11:00 am

Grand entry | 12:00 pm

Intertribal dances

Category dancing

Grand Entry | 6:00 pm

Intertribal dances

Category dancing

Retirement of colours | 12:00 am

Cost: Free to attend



For more information, please visit:
<https://www.songheesnation.ca/>

Distracted driving in B.C.



This month, ICBC and police around the province are reminding drivers to leave their phones alone.



On average, 76 people die every year in crashes where distracted driving is a contributing factor. Distracted driving is responsible for more than **one quarter** of all car crash fatalities in B.C.



When you are distracted, you react slower. Most rear-end crashes resulting in injury **involve distracted drivers.**



There are many types of distractions but one of the **most common** is the use of personal electronic devices.

Studies show that when drivers use a hand-held device, their visual attention is reduced by half.



5X

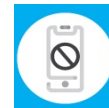
You're five times more likely to crash if you are on the phone.

89% of B.C. drivers believe it is **highly risky** to text while driving.

89%



43% of B.C. drivers admit to using their phone at least some of the time while driving.



The use of hand held personal electronic devices while driving has been banned in B.C. since 2010.

The law also applies while you are stopped at a red light or slowed in traffic.



Focus on the road and your driving.

#LeaveYourPhoneAlone and #EyesFwdBC

Community and Council News

Art for Child Care Spaces through WSPRS

West Shore Parks & Recreation Society has selected artwork for their new child care spaces from local artists at the Juan de Fuca Recreation Centre. The successful submission from Highlands was from Rob Jirucha, who has provided a wonderful collection of photographs illustrating some of the District's natural spaces. In addition to selections from each of the other four municipalities, there were selections made to highlight young and indigenous artists.



One of the photos by Rob Jirucha appearing in the Highlands Room at JDF

The Fling is Here Again!

Saturday, September 10
12pm – 4pm
Caleb Pike Heritage Park
1589 Millstream Road

Come listen to great music, enjoy hotdogs, corn and ice cream, and join in some fun races and games. Get a few 50/50 tickets to support Muscular Dystrophy and stay till the end to pull in the giant tug of war!

And don't forget the wonderful things we have going on all day:

Local craft market / Amazing display booths / Face painting and balloon animals
Kids crafts table / Lots of food and ice-cream.

Come a little early and grab a good seat or bring a blanket and have a picnic on the grass. There's great entertainment all day, so lie in the sun and share some fun with your community!

We acknowledge all the wonderful help and support we have received from:

Highlands Volunteer Fire Dept.

Thrifty Foods

CO-OP

The Great Canadian Oil Change

Westshore Recreation

University of Victoria

Institute of Ocean Sciences

Victoria Natural History Society

Rocky Point Bird Observatory

Highlands Community Garden Society

Highlands Heritage Parks Society

Highlands District Community Association

District of Highlands

And all of our many volunteers! ~ HDCA



Mary Lake Nature Sanctuary

The Greater Victoria Greenbelt Society is pleased to announce the completion of a three year process to conclude a restrictive conservation covenant with the Province of BC to protect the ecosystems of the Mary Lake Nature Sanctuary for future generations in perpetuity. A celebration will be held at the Nature House when registration of the covenant is complete.

You can join a "Guided Tour" of the Sanctuary's lake, streams and woodlands on the second Sunday of each month. Meet at the gates, 1772 Millstream Road, at 1.30 pm, 2.00 pm or 2.30 pm on Sunday Sep 11, Oct 9, Nov 13 or the following months.

Book your tour at info@marylakegvs.com

You can also choose to stroll with your own party or by yourself to see the Millstream and Earsman Creek tumbling over rocky streambeds after the fall rains have revived water flows following the summer drought. Gates are open from 1 pm to 4 pm. Donations welcome.



Highlands Music Coffee House

The Highlands Music Coffee House started in 1998 to provide a community event each month where Highlanders, and anyone that enjoys music and arts, young and old, could gather once a month to listen to live music and have a place where kinship could grow.



Carolina Bluebirds

The music nights are free for those who can't afford, and by honorary donation for those who can afford and who would like to share the expenses of bringing these lovely musicians to these events. You can go to the Municipality of Highlands website, under "Community", see the names of the musicians we have booked to bring each month. We hope to see you soon at these music nights. They are normally on the 2nd Saturdays of the month. Sometimes, due to unforeseeable events, we have to change the dates, so check the municipality website, or if you are on the email list, just check your emails from Zhinoos.

We thank all our wonderful musicians who with their talents are bringing us together. With their talents "they soothe us, diminish our sorrow, unleash our laughter and amplify our joy". Keep smiling everyone, and keep being kind to everyone. ~ *Highlands Music Coffee House*

September 17th: Carolina Bluebirds

October 8th: Hounds of Cuchulain

November 12th: Cookeilith

Asset Management Plan

The Brentwood Advisory Group conducted a regularly scheduled update of both the Asset Management and Reserves and Surplus policies. With the addition of a new Community Climate Resiliency Fund, the Reserves and Surplus Policy and the Asset Management Policy align well the District's work toward Sustainable Asset Management. The next scheduled review is planned for 2027.

Highlands Community Garden Update

"Down the Garden Path"

After a cool wet spring, the heat arrived and the garden is now burgeoning with fruit and vegetables. Our July seminar on how to grow vegetables year round was very inspiring and informative, and we plan to hold more such learning opportunities in 2023.

If you are interested in becoming a garden member or have any questions, please contact us at:

Highlandscommunitygarden@outlook.com



Photo by~ @hiromigotowrites

2022 General Local Election – October 15, 2022

Are you thinking of running for District of Highlands Council?

General Local Elections are this Fall.

A person qualified to be nominated, elected, and to hold office as a member of local government must meet the following criteria:

- Canadian citizen
- 18 years of age or older on general voting day – October 15, 2022
- Resident of BC for at least 6 months immediately before the day nomination papers are filed
- Not disqualified under the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment from voting in an election in BC or being nominated for, being elected to or holding the office, or be otherwise disqualified by law.

The period for candidates to submit their nominations to local election officials is Tuesday, August 30, 2022 – Friday, September 9, 2022, and General Voting Day is Saturday, October 15, 2022.

Please stay tuned for more information on the 2022 General Local Election. More information can be found by visiting the Ministry of Municipal Affairs website at: [Thinking of Running for Local Election](#).

HDCA Hosting Potential All-Candidates Meetings

After September 9, please watch for further information about the Highlands All-Candidates Meetings on the roadside hymnal boards, bulletin boards and HDCA Facebook page. ~HDCA



Black Bears in the Highlands

A cool, wet spring and late start to warm temperatures resulted in a potentially poor crop for local fruit trees this year, but if you do have a fruit crop please pick as soon as feasible to reduce the scent attractant & food source for bears and raccoons.

Bears are also attracted to compost piles and garbage. These large animals require many calories to survive and, for the females (sows) to successfully reproduce, an impregnated female needs to put on an extra 50 lbs in the autumn. Additionally, if bears do not put on extra weight, they will only hibernate for a few weeks at a time, and then rise to go out and search for food, again often garbage, compost and bird seed at feeders since these are often available.

Due to human encroachment, many of the bears' historic roaming areas are gone and no longer provide habitat, natural food for their survival and wildlife corridors/connections. We can take steps to reduce human/wildlife conflicts by:

- putting garbage out on the morning of pick up, and until that time keeping our garbage, meat wrappings, etc. in our freezers,
- keeping our garbage bins/cans within a secured locked building. Link clips can be used on doors & garbage lids with the appropriate hardware which is fairly simple to convert (see YouTube videos on this technique), and
- keeping our entire barbeque clean.

The best way to deter bears is to have no food scents and reduce attractants. Electric fencing in particular areas of attractants, such as bee hives, gardens, and compost piles can be installed.

For more information on electric fencing and other information pertaining to living with local wildlife please visit:
Co-existing with Carnivores Alliance at:
coexcarnivores.org



Meeting Dates

September

Council - Tuesday, September 6 – 7:00 pm
HSC – Wednesday, September 14 – 7:00 pm
Council - Monday, September 19 – 7:00 pm
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation –
Office Closure – Friday, September 30, 2022

October

Council - Monday, October 3 – 7:00 pm
Thanksgiving Day Holiday – October 9, 2022
2022 Local Government Election – October 15, 2022
Advance Voting – October 5 & 12, 2022

November

Inaugural Council - Monday, November 7, 2022 – 7:00 pm
Remembrance Day Holiday – November 11, 2022
CoTW – Monday, November 14, 2022 – 7:00 pm
Council – Monday, November 21, 2022 – 7:00 pm

2021 Annual Report

The Highlands 2021 Annual Report can be found on the District's website at:

<https://www.highlands.ca/DocumentCenter/View/8093/2021-Annual-Report>

Contact Info

Mayor Ken Williams
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Councillor Leslie Anderson
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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



Tip Remember to replace the batteries in any battery-operated smoke alarms on Sunday, November 6th when we turn the clocks back one hour.

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!

www.highlands.ca | 1980 Millstream Road | Highlands, BC | V9B 6H1 | 250-474-1773

