

HIGHLANDS NEWSLETTER

Highlands Council Newsletter
Summer/Fall 2019



Mayor's Message I hope you had a wonderful summer with family and friends. We have so much to be thankful for in Highlands. Looking ahead to the next few months, there are many fun and family-friendly activities to enjoy such as the Fling and the Firefighters Halloween Bonfire. Westshore Parks and Recreation will begin their Fall program, September 1st.

On another note, the Western Community Mayors including Esquimalt have met with the South Island Collaborative Services Committee (partners for Better Health) to discuss ways to engage the public to help create a Primary Care Network. The shortage of family doctors is acute with over 80,000 unattached patients at present in Westshore.

On behalf of council, I wish you all the best as we head into autumn.

Fire Rating is HIGH/EXTREME

TOTAL FIRE BAN



IN EFFECT

ALL BURNING IS CLOSED This means: No Open or Backyard Burning, No Campfires, No Incinerators, No Woodstoves, No Tiki Torches, No Spark Emitting BBQ's. No Burning Permits will be issued until October 15, 2019 or until further notice.

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.



Crime statistics are down from last year

The RCMP report that District of Highlands had a 29% decrease in calls for service in the first six months of 2019 compared to the same time period in 2018.

West Shore Detachment	District of Highlands			
	Jan 1 - Jun 30, 2018	Jan 1 - Jun 30, 2019	% Change	2015 - 2019*
Crimes Against Persons	24	8	-67%	
Offences Against Property	40	19	-53%	
Other Criminal Code Violations	11	5	-55%	
Controlled Drug & Substances Violations	4	2	-50%	
Other Federal Statute Violations	1	1	0%	
Provincial Statistics Codes	22	9	-59%	
RCMP Statistics Codes	133	118	-11%	
Traffic Violations (Provincial)	12	2	-83%	
Total	220	156	-29%	

* Jan 1 - June 30, 2019



Highlands Community Fling This year the Highlands District Community Association's Fling will be held on Saturday, September 7th from noon until 5:00 PM, at the Caleb Pike Heritage Park, 1589 Millstream Road. It will feature live music, magic, an artisan market, food and beverages. Come and take some 'throws' at the Dunk Tank (with proceeds going to the Muscular Dystrophy Association). As always, there will be lots of crafts and games for kids, plus the fabulously popular Fire Fighters' Kids Obstacle Course. We hope to see you there! More info: Scott Richardson @ 250-478-2526.



Slow Down and Drive Safely

Westshore RCMP have committed their Traffic Division to the equivalent of one shift per week in Highlands. Watch for their presence on District roads.

Community and Council News



Co-Existing With Carnivores Alliance – Update

This Alliance is composed of a wide net of interested parties including First Nations, scientists, conservation groups, farmers, landowners, businesses, government agencies and citizens all working together so that people and carnivores can thrive in Southern Vancouver Island.

The Alliance has a website: coexcarnivores.org where extensive information about the Alliance is available along with toolkits and resources. The Alliance also has a Facebook page (Coexisting with Carnivores Alliance) where articles and other information is posted. Additional information can also be found on the District of Highlands website: <https://highlands.bc.ca/501/Wildlife-Sightings-and-Information>.

Tips to keep in mind:

- Bears possess keen abilities to sniff out sources of food and are attracted to any scents including cosmetics, vehicle oils, fuels, ripe fruits, etc.
- Experts recommend the best deterrent for bears is the use of electric fencing (vegetable gardens, orchards, beehives, feed sheds, compost/green cones, etc). There is excellent information about this on the Alliance's website.
- If garbage is attracting raccoons to your property or roadside, then it is potentially attracting cougars to your neighbourhood as cougar are known to hunt raccoon.
- Be aware that wildlife are much more active at dusk and in the dark and are foraging for food. Large carnivores need a lot of protein and calories to survive and reproduce and require uninterrupted space to do that.
- BC Conservation Officers (COs) highly recommend that households only put their garbage out on the morning of scheduled pick up. It is in contravention of the Wildlife Act to knowingly place attractants out where accessible by wildlife and residents can be ticketed by COs for doing so; fines start at \$275.00 and increase to \$575.00 for a second offence.

When wildlife has access to household foods or waste, they become habituated. Provincial Policy directs Conservation Officers to assess the risk of conflict between large carnivores and humans and unfortunately, this can include euthanization of the animal.

Let's each do our best to avoid conflicts by identifying, managing and reducing wildlife attractants as much as possible. ~ Councillor McLean currently represents Highlands council at meetings of the Alliance.

Eagles Lake Water Testing Beginning (2019), Island Health is working with local governments and agencies providing oversight of beaches to review existing beach sampling frequencies and transition sampling responsibilities. To find Eagles Lake results look here: <https://www.islandhealth.ca/sites/default/files/2019-08/si-beach-sampling-report-aug-29-2019.pdf>.

2019 PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT

REMINDER 2019 property taxes were due July 2, 2019 at 4:00 pm. On July 3rd a 5% penalty was added to all outstanding amounts including Home Owner Grants (HOG). Reminder notices were mailed at the beginning of August to those property owners who had outstanding taxes.

Please note that as of 4:00 pm September 1, 2019, an additional 5% penalty will be added to outstanding current (2019) taxes.

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.

Water Conservation 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. 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=>.

UPDATE - Groundwater Protection Work and Implementation Plan

Further to the award of contract to Elucidate Consulting in April of this year, a draft Work Plan will be presented to Council at the September 9, 2019 Committee of the Whole. All are welcome! The draft work plan will be available to see prior to the Committee of the Whole meeting at the Agenda Centre web

Link: <https://www.highlands.ca/agendacenter>.



Create a District of Highlands website Account:

- On the DOH website you can create a [user account](#)
- This account allows you to be added to the special Highlands HELP group
- Any post or communications to this group will be emailed or texted to you
- Conversations can occur during any emergency, even if cell service is cut off

Community and Council News



Heritage Select Committee in front of the heavily overgrown remnants of a Highlands Lime Kiln near the municipal office.



This photo from Texada Island shows how BC lime kilns appeared in the late 1800's

Highlands Lime Kiln The Heritage Select Committee hosted a morning event on August 28, 2019. Special guests Richard Linzey, Director BC Heritage Branch, and Ben Gourley, building conservator and archaeologist led a group of Highlanders on a tour of the lime kiln located near the District Office. Ben described the lime kiln structure, as we stood in front of the remains: the fire chamber where the quarried limestone was burned, the draw hole where the lime was pulled out. The limestone would be dumped into a steel chimney from above and accessed from the back of the kiln. This lime kiln is representative of kilns built in the 1880's in the area, and there are examples of them up and down the coast of North America.

There is a band of limestone that crosses the south Highlands, which was seen as good quality because of its high calcium level. The limestone was burned at upwards of 800 F and changed from calcium carbonate to calcium oxide or 'quick lime', a highly volatile material. Add water and you have your building material. Lime production is a carbon neutral process: it absorbs carbon as it dries!

The group then moved to the Schoolhouse for fascinating presentations. Richard and Ben have a keen interest in the production and traditional uses of lime and its revival in building construction, and are very knowledgeable about the history of lime kilns on Vancouver Island. They described in detail the lime kiln industry, supported by photos, maps, samples of lime in its various forms, and even a bit of science!

Two Councillors and the Mayor attended the event, along with Cecelia Porter from Millennia Research, who will be conducting a historic archaeological assessment of the lime kiln site. The story of the Highlands lime kiln will be made available once the assessment is conducted. ~Sally Gose

South Highlands Local Area Plan

In July, Council approved a terms of reference for the project, and staff have begun writing a request for proposals for a consultant. The project will include a Task Force that will be appointed by Council. Information updates are available at: <https://www.highlands.ca/504/South-Highlands-Local-Area-Plan> Request for applications to the Task Force will also be advertised at this web link.

Highlands 28th Annual Craft Fair

will be held Sunday, November 17th 10am to 4pm at Caleb Pike Heritage



Park and Highlands Community Hall. Plan to visit this Traditional Craft Fair showcasing our Local Artisans. Further information may be found here:

highlandswintercraftfair@gmail.com or www.facebook.com/highlandswintercraftfair.

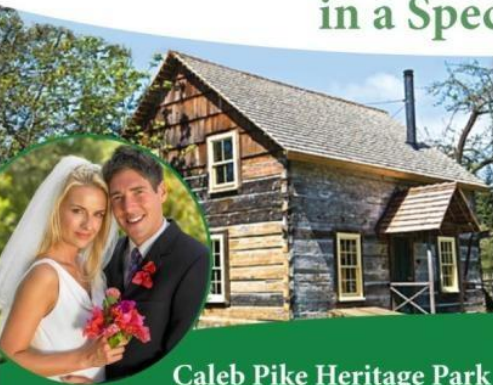
Asset Management Work continues on implementation of the Asset Management Plan. The District was successful in obtaining funding through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to assist with asset management initiatives.

One aspect of asset management implementation was developing a Pavement Management Plan as one of the tools to be used in the long term approach to capital renewal investment. A final report on the Plan was recently received by Council. Please visit the municipal website at www.highlands.ca and go to the agenda centre and click on the August 12th Council agenda for further information.

As a result of the Pavement Management Plan, portions of South Millstream Road between Industrial Way and Fork Lake Road were recently paved. Thank you for your patience during this work!

The next step in implementing the Asset Management Plan is to develop a Long Term Financial Plan. It is expected that Council will consider its approach for long term financial planning in the Fall. The public will be welcome to provide feedback and we encourage you to monitor upcoming Council and Committee of the Whole agendas in this regard.

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

Community Calendar

September 2019

September 3 & 16 **Council Meeting**
7pm School House – Heritage Park

September 9 **Committee of the Whole Meeting**
7 pm School House - Heritage Park

September 10 **Social Sustainability Select Committee**
7:30 pm School House - Heritage Park

September 11 **Sustainable Land Use Committee**
7 pm School House - Heritage Park

September 14 **Highlands Coffee House**
7 pm Pike House – Heritage Park

September 18 **Heritage Select Committee**
7:30 pm School House - Heritage Park

October 2019

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

October 8 **Social Sustainability Select Committee**
7:30 pm School House - Heritage Park

October 9 **Heritage Select Committee**
7:30 pm School House - Heritage Park

October 12 **Highlands Coffee House**
7 pm Pike House – Heritage Park

October 15 **Committee of the Whole Meeting**
7 pm School House - Heritage Park

October 16 **Sustainable Land Use Committee**
7 pm School House - Heritage Park

November 2019

November 3 **Daylight Savings**

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

November 9 **Highlands Coffee House**
7 pm Pike House – Heritage Park

November 12 **Committee of the Whole Meeting**
7 pm School House - Heritage Park

November 13 **Heritage Select Committee**
7:30 pm School House - Heritage Park

November 20 **Sustainable Land Use Committee**
7 pm School House - Heritage Park

Remembrance Day

Ceremony The Annual Remembrance Day Ceremony, organized by the Prince Edward Branch 91 Legion, will take place on Sunday, November 11, at 11am at Veteran's Memorial Park (corner of Goldstream Ave and Veteran's Memorial Parkway, in Langford). Everyone is invited to attend.



Council and Staff Contacts:

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Councillor Karel Roessingh
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Councillor Rose Stanton
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Fire Chief Ford
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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



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notifications

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.

Tip Remember to replace the batteries in any battery-operated smoke alarms on Sunday Nov. 3rd when we turn the clocks back one hour.

