



Mayor's Message

John Horgan was a beloved leader, a great premier and a cherished friend of Highlands, known for his warmth, humour and remarkable gift for connecting with people. His passing has left us deeply saddened. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family during this difficult time.

His unwavering dedication to the people of B.C. will always be remembered.

DID YOU KNOW?



This summer a seismic sensor was installed at the East Fire Hall; this sensor is part of a Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) initiative to provide early detection and notification of an earthquake. NRCAN has now activated this Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) system for Greater Victoria and surrounding areas. EEW is the rapid detection of earthquakes, real-time estimation of the shaking hazard, and notification of expected shaking. EEW provides seconds to tens-of-seconds of notice before strong shaking arrives, which can help reduce injuries, deaths, and property losses. EEW systems provide up to tens-of-seconds of warning by detecting an earthquake immediately as it occurs; they do not predict earthquakes. In general, it is best to assume the shaking is imminent and take immediate protective actions. Earthquakes generating only low levels of shaking will not produce EEW alerts, public alerts will be sent for earthquakes estimated to be at or above magnitude 5. EEW only reduces the impacts of strong shaking if people and systems take protective actions.

These EEW alerts are sent to the public through national and provincial alerting systems (e.g., Text, Radio, TV) and other means. Recipients of an EEW alert should assume strong shaking is imminent. There are several protective actions people and organizations can take within seconds of notice. For people, this is generally to Drop, Cover and Hold On.

For more information, visit the NRCAN EEW webpage:
<https://www.earthquakescanada.nrcan.gc.ca/eev-asp/faq-en.php> ~ Fire Chief Dean Ford

Highlands Fire Department Santa Run 2024

Santa Claus will once again be visiting the Highlands on **Saturday December 14th, 2024**. The volunteers from the Highlands Fire Department will be driving Santa around on a fire truck so that he can meet all of you. Please come out and meet Santa. Treats will be available to all. The Fire Department will also be collecting non-perishable food items for the Goldstream Food Bank to ensure a great holiday for all citizens of the West Shore. We will also be accepting cash donations for the Food Bank. E-Transfers can be sent to HVFFA@OUTLOOK.COM. Please note the Santa will not have the time to go up and down every street; therefore, please see the list below for scheduled locations we will be at or driving past. All times are approximate. Listen for the sirens.

East Highlands Route

9:30 Start at East Fire Hall	9:35 Woodridge / Robb
9:45 Woodridge / Munn	10:00 Munn / Bukin E
10:10 Munn / Rolla	10:30 Munn / Compton
10:40 Munn / Fork Lake	10:50 Davies Rd
11:00 Millstream Lake / Millstream	

West Highlands Route

12:00 Start at West Fire Hall
12:15 White Pine / Red Cedar
12:25 Millstream / Martlet
12:30 Caleb Pike North / Millstream
12:45 Caleb Pike Homestead
13:00 Highland Park Terrace / Skyview
13:15 Lorimer / Lorimer Place
13:30 Blacktail / Quail
13:45 Up Stewart Mountain
14:00 Up Finlayson Arm to Past Rowntree
14:30 Taylor way/Millstream
14:45 Hawkins/ Hanbury
14:50 Hannington/ Danby
15:00 Millstream/ River Road
15:15 Bear Mountain Parkway – Rivers Crossing



New District of Highlands Meeting Portal

Our goal is to make it easy for you to be informed and engaged in our community. You can access the meeting portal at:

<https://highlandsbc.diligent.community/Portal/>

ICBC Road Improvement Program Project

This project is to review road signs and pavement markings throughout the District. Staff and our road consultant have been in communication with ICBC regarding its Road Improvement Program and ICBC has agreed to fund a road sign and pavement marking review in the District via a consultant, WATT Consulting Group.

Mutual Aid Agreement

Highlands Fire Department: The mutual aid agreement with the City of Colwood was renewed and the purchase of a water tender apparatus to replace the existing aging apparatus was approved.

Caleb Pike Homestead

~ *A poem by Judith Heron*

*At the winter craft fair on the old homestead
where a dollar still buys a mug of apple cider
and the apples still grow on the trees outside
where the wood fire is on and the door open
you will find folks who make pear ginger jam
rose petal jelly; embroider small felt people
with mushrooms for hats; make garlands
of dried oranges and herbs; sew mittens
from old woolen sweaters. Here, it is safe
to remember everything you have lost.
You can walk down to the old schoolhouse
where familiar faces sell Christmas cakes,
fancy potholders, hand painted cards
and what you thought you were sad about
becomes a remembered thing so deep
you just stand beside the old building in awe.
Then you take a photo of yourself because
there is that much peace inside of you
you want to be sure to remember it;
to figure out how to walk in gladness
every step of the way from here on.*



Select Committee Operating Framework Review

As part of its Strategic Priorities, Council has approved a review of its select committees and staff has engaged a consultant to carry out the review, which is to include committee terms of reference, volunteer satisfaction and recruitment, public participation and engagement, and committee administration and operations. Staff will report back to Council with recommendations early in 2025

The Asset Management Plan

First approved in 2018, the Asset Management Plan has been updated over time. In November Council approved the latest update which incorporates significant replacement cost increases. To better meet the future replacement needs, the consultant, Brentwood Advisory Group, recommended that Council consider an additional 1% asset management tax increase for general purposes, bringing the total asset management tax to 2%. The asset management tax for fire services was recommended to remain at 1%. You can find the updated Asset Management Plan in our meeting portal under the November 4th Council agenda. [LINK](#)

Council has directed that the Five-Year Financial Plan be prepared incorporating this additional asset management tax which will be formally considered during the budget deliberations typically held in late March and early April. Public input on the Five-Year Financial Plan is encouraged and welcomed. Please visit our meeting portal for information on upcoming meeting agendas or to subscribe to receive meeting e-notifications at: [LINK](#)

Interim Housing Needs Report



The provincial government requires municipalities to update their Housing Needs Reports with 5- and 20-year projections using a prescribed methodology. Council has received the updated report, to be appended to the CRD Housing Needs Assessment.

[Interim Housing Needs Report](#)

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: [Emergency Preparedness](#)

Community and Council News

Community Garden Notes



The gardeners enjoyed another successful year of planting, tending and harvesting all manner of vegetables, fruits and nuts. We wrapped up the season with our Harvest Social at the Caleb Pike House on October 20th. At that time, we took the opportunity to honour the founders of the Highlands Community Garden, Marlene Tyshynski and Libby McMinn, who had the foresight and determination to create this productive oasis to grow and learn in.

Are you curious about the garden? For information about renting a garden plot or becoming a communal garden member, please contact:

HighlandsCommunityGarden@outlook.com

New members are always welcome!

2025 Grant in Aid Funding

The Highlands office is accepting applications for grant-in-aid funding for 2025. Organizations wishing to apply must submit a completed application prior to the deadline, February 28, 2025. Application forms and District policy are available at: [Grant in Aid Application](#).

Outdoor Burning

There is no longer an open season for burning so permits are now required for all outdoor burning. Permits are free and can be obtained online at: <https://hvf.d.burnpermits.com/>. Burning in woodstoves does not require a permit. If you need help completing the permit process, please contact District staff for assistance at 250-474-1773 or by email at info@highlands.ca.

What's going on in the Highlands this winter and how do I find out?

HDCA Update

2024 is rapidly coming to a close and as the cold weather approaches the Highland District Community Association (HDCA) wishes all the best to Highland residents and families for the holiday season. This year saw record numbers at the Fling (our annual community festival) with many new families attending with a whole new generation of Highlanders. Thanks to all our volunteers the HDCA had a busy year, with the annual Easter Egg hunt, a Potluck dinner at the Community Hall with "Stories of the Highlands", a Community Roadside Clean-Up, the Broom Bash, the Summer Markets and of course the Fling. We also celebrated the 100th birthday of the Highlands most active volunteer Bob McMinn, who continues to sit on our board. Congratulations Bob! Our Speaker Series included a Septic Savvy talk by CRD and a wonderful evening of astronomy with Sid Sidhu.

We are looking forward to 2025 and are busy planning more events for the Highlands District including a repeat of our AGM and Potluck Dinner with "Stories of the Highlands" on April 5th at the Community Hall. We also plan to partner with HHPS for the Scottish Country Dance and we will continue to support the Music Nights. Our Speaker Series will include a talk on Bears by Wild Wise, a talk on Invasive Plant Species, another night of astronomy with Sid and a talk on the history of Gowlland Tod Park. Stay tuned for more details on dates and locations.

This year we will be looking for more volunteers to sit on our board so that we can expand the events we offer. We will be looking specifically for people interested in children's activities, social events, the markets and nature activities. If you would like to be involved, please contact the HDCA chair - Doone Watson at doonew@hotmail.com.

For more information on HDCA events we have several options. We post events on the bulletin boards beside the mailboxes. They are also posted on our Facebook page and on our new website. The sandwich boards on the roadside at the entrances to the Highlands will also remind you of upcoming events. See the links below;

Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064562177401>

Website: <https://highlands-hdca.weebly.com>

**RECYCLE
YOUR HOLIDAYS**

If you are looking at ways to recycle this season please visit: [CRD Recycling Tips](#)



Highlands Music Coffee House 2025

Here are the dates and feature presentations for 2025. For more info contact:

zhinoos9@gmail.com

Jan. 2025 TBA On Zoom

Feb. 2025 TBA On Zoom

Please wait for our Zoom invite by email.

LIVE at the Caleb Pike House

1589 Millstream Rd. Doors open at 6:30PM

March 8, 2025 Backyard Boulevard

April 12, 2025 JR and the Badox Band

May 10, 2025 Ryton Rigg

June 14, 2025 Karel Roessingh and Friend

July 12, 2025 Mufaro Marimba

Aug. 9, 2025 Ken Williams, Sherry Clayton and Friends

Sept. 20, 2025 Mike Mitchell, Ruby Thomsen, Gillian Phillips and Al Olgilvie

Oct. 11, 2025 Allen Dobb

Nov. 15, 2025 Peach and Quiet

Dec. 13, 2025 Gravitation



Winter Road Maintenance?

Duty Phone: 250-893-1773

The District's duty phone will become active when hazards such as ice and snow conditions are apparent on Highlands' roads. The Duty phone is monitored 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Residents can report winter road conditions to this number and actions will be taken as appropriate to the circumstances. Please do not report road conditions or submit requests for winter maintenance to the Fire Chief as he does not have the authority to direct the roads contractor to respond.

Meeting Schedule

Meeting Schedule

2025 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING DATES
Community Hall – 729 Finlayson Arm Road

Month	Weekday	Date
January	2 nd Monday	January 13
February	1 st Monday 3 rd Tuesday	February 3 February 18
March	1 st Monday 3 rd Monday	March 3 March 17
April	1 st Monday 4 th Tuesday	April 7 April 22
May	1 st Monday 3 rd Tuesday	May 5 May 20
June	1 st Monday 3 rd Monday	June 2 June 16
July	2 nd Monday	July 14
August	2 nd Monday	August 11
September	1 st Tuesday 2 nd Monday	September 2 September 15
October	1 st Monday 3 rd Monday	October 6 October 20
November	1 st Monday 3 rd Monday	November 3 November 17
December	2 nd Monday	December 8

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
250-812-5481

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

District Office Winter Closure

Please be advised that the District Office will be closed as of noon Dec. 24th, 2024 and will re-open on Thursday, January 2nd, 2025.



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

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!

