

Mayor's Message

On behalf of Council and staff, I extend our very best wishes to Bob McMinn on the momentous occasion of his 100th birthday, May 10, 2024.

Bob was instrumental in the incorporation of the District of Highlands in 1993, served as the District's very first Mayor and has received the honour of Freedom of the Municipality. He has demonstrated unparalleled dedication to community service and preservation of the natural environment before, during and after his tenure as Mayor of the District of Highlands.

Bob has been a resident of the Highlands since 1953 and played a pivotal role in preserving the area's natural beauty amidst development pressures. He founded community associations, advocated for greenspace protection, and spearheaded initiatives like the Greater Victoria Greenbelt Society. His efforts led to Highlands incorporation as a separate municipality, ensuring its distinct character. He dedicated himself to conservation, contributing financially and orchestrating fundraising campaigns for projects like the WMÍYETEN Nature Sanctuary.

Bob remains committed to safeguarding the land, aiming to increase parkland and preserve the Highlands greenery for future generations.



Photo by Koi Neah

BE BEAR AND COUGAR AWARE

A mother black bear and her two cubs near the Highlands municipal office. It is a contravention of the Wildlife Act to knowingly put out attractants to predatory wildlife. Let's help the animals by doing our part to protect them.

Conservation Office: 1 877 952 7277

New Burning Restrictions

Effective May 17th, 2024

Fire Rating Is Moderate/High

This Means:

NO OPEN or BACKYARD BURNING

& NO INCINERATORS

PERMITTED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Recreational Campfires (<.5m x .5m) in a fire pit and Wood-burning Stoves with spark arrestors are still permitted.

Free Campfire permits are available at:
hvfd.burnpermits.com

~Fire Chief / Emergency Program Coordinator

Dean Ford 250-920-6970

FIRECHIEF@HIGHLANDS.CA

Sign up for emergency alerts:

www.WestshoreAlert.ca

We encourage residents to download the Emergency Wildfire Preparedness Checklist, familiarize themselves with the steps they can take to be prepared for an emergency:

<https://firesmartbc.ca/resource/firesmart-last-minute-wildfire-checklist/>

As Wildfires won't wait for you to make a plan, residents are strongly encouraged to visit the FireSmart BC website for information on how to prepare their home, their property and their families for a wildfire:

<https://firesmartbc.ca/>

However, if a wildfire is threatening your area, the priority is getting out safely!



Community and Council News

2024 Property Tax Notices and Financial Plan Update

In May, Highlands Council adopted the 2024-2028 Financial Plan. Please contact the District Office with any questions that you may have regarding the Financial Plan. You can view the final 2024 budget online: [2024 – 2028 Financial Plan](#).

2024 Property Tax Notices have now been mailed to property owners in the District of Highlands. Please see [property tax insert](#) which will accompany the tax notice. Payment is due by July 2, 2024 to avoid penalties being applied to your account. If you do not receive your property tax notice within the next couple of weeks, please contact staff at finance@highlands.ca or [250-474-1773](tel:250-474-1773). Please be advised that home owner grants cannot be accepted at the District Office. Applications must be made directly to the Province of BC at www.gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant or [1-888-355-2700](tel:1-888-355-2700).



2023 Highlands Annual Report

The 2023 Annual Report for the District of Highlands will be available for viewing at the District Office on Monday, June 3, 2024 at 1980 Millstream Road during regular business hours, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm, Monday – Friday, excluding holidays. It may also be viewed on the District's website at www.highlands.ca.

The Annual Report will be considered by Council on Monday, June 17, 2024 at 7:00pm at the Highlands Community Hall. Anyone may attend the meeting to make a verbal submission, and those wishing to make a written submission regarding the Annual Report may do so in writing at any time prior to the meeting:

By mail: 1980 Millstream Road, Victoria, BC V9B 6H1

By E-mail: info@highlands.ca

Beekeeping

The Animal Regulation and Impounding Bylaw No. 1465, [Schedule "G"](#) was recently amended to allow bees for the purposes of beekeeping where agriculture is a permitted use. The District encourages prospective beekeepers to consult the [provincial requirements](#) for beekeeping.



Community Garden Update



"It was such a pleasure to sink one's hands into the warm earth, to feel at one's fingertips the possibility of a new season." " —Kate Morton

Spring has finally sprung! And despite the cool weather, the gardeners are off to a great start with peas, lettuces, carrots and greens coming on strong. In the communal garden and orchard, it looks like the cherries, currants, raspberries and plums are setting a bumper crop of fruit this year; garlic, zucchini, squash and tomatoes aren't far behind.

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! —Karen Burns

Community and Council News

Highlands District Community Association

In 2024, our community association was bustling with activity, from the heartwarming AGM and Potluck Dinner in April, filled with tales from Highlands history, to the diligent efforts of volunteers during the annual Roadside Cleanup and Broom Bash. A new committee has been established to support Reconciliation Efforts, fostering understanding and respect for the original inhabitants of our municipality. This committee arranged a presentation by Virgil Sampson from the Tsartlip First Nation as the first get together and is already planning more events

Looking ahead, we're thrilled to announce the return of the Summer Markets starting on June 9th, followed by the much-anticipated Annual Highland Fling on September 8th, promising a day of fun, music, and reconnecting with neighbors. Additionally, our upcoming Speaker Series this fall will feature talks on topics ranging from septic systems to the history of Gowlland Tod Park.

HDCA memberships for the April 2024-April 2025 term are now available, providing access to these enriching events. And as always, volunteers are the lifeblood of our community initiatives, so if you're able to lend a hand, please reach out to us via email:

hdcacontact@gmail.com ~ Doone Watson

Highlands Heritage Park Society Hosts Tea & Yoga With Instructor, Bree

Caleb Pike Heritage Park
1589 Millstream Road
Highlands

Tea & Yoga in the park

For more info: sgose@telus.net

Saturdays

May 18 & 25

June 1 & 29

July 6 & 20

August 3 & 17

10 am - 11:30 am

Pay what you want

(minimum recommended \$10)

HDCA presents SUMMER MARKETS 2024 DATES!



The Highlands Market Returns!
June 9th, July 14 & August 11th
10 am - 1 pm Sunday

There will be locally made and grown, garden vegetables, wooden signs, cookies, knitting, soaps, concrete garden sculptures, crochet toys and garments, salves, jewellery and much, much more!!

Highland Fling Sept. 8th

Caleb Pike Heritage Park
1589 Millstream Rd

Come, meet your neighbours and take the opportunity to buy wonderful local goods and produce!

Regional Trail Etiquette

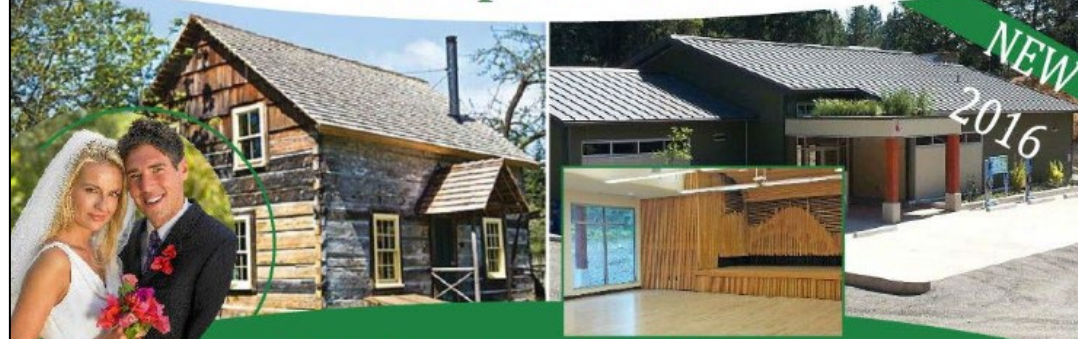
- Share the trail and keep right except to pass.
- When passing, alert other trail users.
- Use caution, particularly around horses.
- Respect the trail environment and neighbouring lands.
- Keep pets on leash and on the right side of trail
- Cooperate and show mutual respect.
- Park only where permitted and maintain emergency vehicle access.

Home Energy Navigator Program

Residents can access an online tool to help navigate the process of home energy retrofits and all available grants. There are even grants for switching from wood heat to a heat pump or even addition of solar energy.

<https://homeenergynav.ca/retrofit-roadmap/>

Celebrate Your Special Day in a Special Place




Caleb Pike Heritage Community Hall

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

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
www.calebpikheritagepark.ca • www.highlands.ca




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

Highlands Music Coffee House

Saturday night, June 8, features **Hank Kramer**

Doors open at 6:30 and the music starts at 7:00 PM

Caleb Pike House, 1589 Millstream Rd.

For more info: zhinoos219@gmail.com

Upcoming acts:

July 13 - Steluta

August 10 - Karel Roessingh with special guest bassist Joey Smith



Hank Kramer, "one of the Pacific Northwest's Popular folksingers" is well known in maritime circles as the "Shantyman" from Tall Ship Lady, Washington. By donation (we suggest \$15.00)

Meeting Dates

June

Council – Monday - June 3 - 7:00pm

Committee of the Whole - Monday - June 10 - Cancelled

Social Sustainability Select Committee - Tuesday - June 11 - 7pm

Heritage Select Committee - Wednesday - June 12 - Cancelled

Council – Monday - June 17 - 7pm

Sustainable Land Use Select Committee - Wednesday - June 19 - 7:15pm

Heritage Select Committee - Wednesday - June 26 - 7:30pm

July

Canada Day Holiday - Monday - July 1

Council - Monday - July 15 - 7pm

August

Labour Day Holiday - Monday – August 5

Council - Monday - August 12

Meetings held at Highlands Community Hall 729 Finlayson Arm Rd.

Upcoming Events:

•June is National Indigenous History Month

•National Indigenous Peoples Day – June 21

•West Shore Parks and Recreation Roving Play Park at Twinflower Park July 15-19, 1560 Millstream Rd.

•Check out West Shore Parks and Recreation's free planned activities for Pride Month and National Indigenous History Month at

<http://www.westshorerecreation.ca/>