

Highlands News

Highlands Council Newsletter
Fall 2017



Mayor's Message It's been a long, hot and sometimes smoky summer. Soon the kids will be back in school and nature will burst into autumn splendor once more. Over the summer the issue of road safety has percolated in the community and the District is doubling down on aggressive drivers.

Every effort will be made to calm the traffic. Our rural roads are not designed for high traffic volumes and are a very poor choice for anyone attempting a commuter shortcut. Expect increased monitoring and enforcement by the RCMP. Sadly, loss of life and serious accidents have recently occurred, so please slow down and report any aggressive behavior you witness to the West Shore RCMP at 250-474-2264.

On another note, this summer has had a record amount of bear sightings. Please keep garbage safely locked up and be Bear Aware. We hope to see you at the Twinflower Play Park Grand Re-Opening and the Highlands Family Fling on September 9th.



Highlands Music Coffee House presents Auntie Kate and Uncles of Funk

The October 14th event will be a DANCE AT THE COMMUNITY HALL, 729 Finlayson Arm Road. Come join us for some fun, lively, danceable music! Tickets \$10.00 advance, \$15.00 at the door.

Time: 7:00pm | **Place:** Community Hall, 729 Finlayson Arm Road

For more info please phone or email Zhinoos: 778-678-2409 or Zhinoos9@gmail.com

Highlands Emergency Program



Council recently considered recommendations from its Emergency Planning Committee to incorporate the Emergency Program and Emergency Coordinator into the Fire Department structure in place of the current "stand alone" structure. The recommendation has been approved by Council in principle. Staff will be bringing forward the necessary bylaw amendments to effect this potential change to a future meeting of Council or its Committee of the Whole for formal consideration.

Fire Department News

With our warm dry summer the District of Highlands has been on an EXTREME fire hazard rating for most of the past two months! This means absolutely no burning is permitted in the District - No open fires, campfires, incinerators, woodstoves, chimneys, tiki torches, etc.

Should 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 insuring 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. No burning permits will be issued until October 15th or further notice.

Grand Re-Opening of Twinflower Play Park

When: Saturday, September 9, 2017 @ 11:30 am

Where: 1560 Millstream Road – Twinflower Park

Come Celebrate the installation of new playground equipment at Twinflower Park. There will be a short ceremony and then cake will be served. Following the ceremony will be the HDCA's Family Fling located at the Caleb Pike Heritage Park, 1589 Millstream Road (directly across the road) where there will be something fun for the whole family to enjoy.



Community and Council News

Mines Act Permit Application

Residents may have seen the notification sign at the OK Industries Ltd. site along Millstream Road (south) regarding its Mines Act Permit application.

The authority for issuing Mines Act Permits rests with the Provincial Government. In June Council responded to a formal referral on the application from the Province, indicating its concerns regarding the application. The letter can be found on the District's website under the news items.

As requested by Council and previously offered by the Province, staff is pursuing the attendance of Provincial staff of the Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources Ministry at a future Council meeting to provide further information in respect to the Mines Act Permitting process.

Sustainable Asset Management Plan

Council previously authorized staff to apply for a planning grant through the Union of BC Municipalities to develop an Asset Management Policy and Plan. The District was successful in securing the matching grant for up to \$10,000. Development of a policy and plan is one of the deliverables contained in Council's Strategic Plan.

Asset Management is an integrated process bringing together planning, finance, engineering and operations to effectively manage existing and new infrastructure to maximize benefits, reduce risks and provide satisfactory levels of service to community users in a socially, environmentally and economically sustainable manner.

The District will soon be getting underway with its Sustainable Asset Management project (assets included in the plan are manufactured assets such as buildings and roads, but will also include the District's groundwater resource).

Please visit the District website to view Council and Committee of the Whole agendas for opportunities to provide your input and hear more about the project.

Highlands Emergency Local Preparedness "HELP" Groups being re-established

This Spring, Council approached the HDCA with a request to rejuvenate the Highlands HELP groups established in 2004 – 2006.

The idea of local preparedness is based on experiences the world over that when crises occur Emergency Service Providers are quickly overwhelmed with demand and it is often neighbour helping neighbour that gets a community through, even more so in rural and semi-isolated communities like our own. In the last 2 decades there have been several multi-day occurrences of road closures and power outages due to snow events and wind storms. With the ever present risk of earthquake, flood and fire we need to be as prepared as possible, as the summer of 2017 amply illustrated on the mainland.

The good news is that the HDCA contacted remaining HELP Group Leaders and at the time of writing it appears that up to 10 groups of 10 – 30 households each are 'up and running'. These are the communities of: Ross Durrance Road.; Hazlitt Creek Road; Millstream Lake Road (north of Munn); Upper Munn Road; Compton Road; Lakeridge Place; Stewart Mountain Road; Lost Lake Road; and Martlett / Upper Millstream Road. Obviously many more HELP Groups are needed in our other Highlands neighbourhoods. If you are prepared to step forward to lead (or co-lead) a group in your part of the Highlands please contact the District Office and/or attend a meeting of HELP Group leaders on October 4th at 7:30 PM - Pike House, 1589 Millstream Road. Hats off to those that have so graciously offered their time to guide a HELP group in their neighbourhood.

Approving Officer

Due to the need for additional resources, the District is pleased to advise that it has recently engaged the services of a subdivision Approving Officer, Michael Dillistone, RPP, MCIP, on a part time basis. This will separate out the subdivision administration function from the regular planning services, which will continue to be provided through staff.

Regional Growth Strategy Update



The draft 2016 Regional Growth Strategy was rejected by the District of Highlands Council, along with six other local governments in the region.

The Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development directed that a non-binding dispute resolution process for the 2016 RGS, as requested by the CRD Board, be undertaken; the process must commence no later than June 14, 2017.

At the June 5, 2017 Regular Meeting of Council a motion was passed agreeing to a mediator and process.

The full report, which included information on the approved mediator and process may be found here:

<http://www.highlands.bc.ca/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/3545?fileID=4024>

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 and events posted to the community calendar and an alert will be directed to either your cell phone or email account informing you of the new item. Sign up by visiting highlands.ca.

Community News

Highlands Family Fling

Saturday September 9th 12:00 – 5:00 PM
1589 Millstream Rd.



Featuring the music of Celtic band Cookeilidh and Classic Rock Dance and Blues band BackTrack, this year's Fling promises to be a lively affair for the whole family. In addition to many of the traditional offerings such as kids games, face painting, and information booths, this year's event will also feature a dunk tank, bouncy castle, a Highlands firefighting kids obstacle course, yoga, ping pong, badminton, bocci ball, while also seeing the return of the ever-popular "FLINGO". Hot dogs, corn on the cob, popcorn, watermelon, ice cream treats, water, and ice tea will be available. AND for the first time this year the Highlands Market will be set up and on site throughout. Hope to see you there!



Heritage Park Society Update

Improvements are taking place at the park this summer with funds from a Canada 150 grant. Stonework around the base of the museum has been completed, and stonework and railings have been added to the two sets of exterior stairs in the park. Small downcast LED lights are being installed in the stonework to improve safety. The final phase of access improvements to the museum will focus on the area at the south end of the building. The ramp will have railings and lights installed. Crushed rock and pathway material will be added to the east side of the building to connect the existing path to the ramp access. The parking area will be improved to allow for a HandyDART to safely drop off and pick up passengers.

Highlands Community Garden - Where Are We Now?



Building the Garden Fence.....To-date we have held 6 work parties for a total of 202 volunteer hours and have had around \$10,000 worth of professional landscape and architectural design services donated.

Upcoming Garden Group Events

September 9: Highland Family Fling: Please see our table at the event

October: Two work parties will be held to complete the garden fence. Dates to be announced. New volunteers welcome – no experience necessary.

November: Soil Preparation Workshop and Work party.

Recruitment

- Urgent. We need a volunteer Facebook administrator
- We welcome new Committee volunteers. The Committee develops policies, organizes garden events, applies for grants etc. Meetings are held every 4th Tuesday of the month, Pike House 7:30 pm
- Volunteer at work parties. No experience necessary.

Contact

For more information or to be on our contact list please email us at HighlandsCommunityGarden@outlook.com

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 2017

Sept 5 & 18 Council Meeting

7pm - School House – Heritage Park

Sept 9 Twinflower Park Playground Grand Opening & Highland Fling (12pm)

11.30 am – 1560 Millstream – Twinflower Park

Sept 11 Committee of the Whole

7pm - School House – Heritage Park

Sept 12 Social Sustainability Committee

7.30pm - Pike House – Heritage Park

Sept 13 Heritage Select Committee

7.30 - School House – Heritage Park

Sept 19 Sustainable Land Use Committee

7pm - School House – Heritage Park

Sept 26 Garden Group

7.30 - pm Pike House – Heritage Park

October 2017

Oct 2 & 16 Council Meeting

7pm - School House – Heritage Park

Oct 9 Thanksgiving

District Offices Closed

Oct 10 Committee of the Whole

7pm - School House – Heritage Park

Oct 11 Heritage Select Committee

7.30pm - School House – Heritage Park

Oct 14 Highlands Music Coffee House

7.00 pm - Community Hall – 729 Finlayson Arm Rd

Oct 17 Sustainable Land Use Committee

7pm - School House – Heritage Park

November 2017

November 6 & 20 Council Meeting

7pm - School House – Heritage Park

Nov 11 Highlands Music Coffee House

7.30pm - Pike House – Heritage Park

November 13 Committee of the Whole

7pm - School House – Heritage Park

November 8 Heritage Select Committee

7.30pm - School House – Heritage Park

Nov 14 Social Sustainability Committee

7.30 pm - Pike House – Heritage Park

Nov 19 Highlands Winter Craft Fair

10 am – 4pm - Heritage Park and Community Hall

Nov 21 Sustainable Land Use Committee

7pm - School House – Heritage Park



Volunteer of the Month

Volunteer of the month is **Cathy Atkinson**, who has kept Millstream Road clear of litter for the past several years, picking up countless loads of items. Cathy and her husband are moving to Ontario, and it is her hope others volunteer to continue this activity. Thank you sincerely for your contribution which has enhanced the enjoyment of our community, Cathy-you will be missed. We wish you and Jack the very best!
* If you would like to volunteer to pick up litter where you observe a need, please contact the District office. Staff will provide you with bags and coordinate waste disposal

Council and Staff Contacts:

Mayor Ken Williams

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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

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Councillor Karen Burns

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250-391-6227

Councillor Marcie McLean

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250-474-4725

Councillor Karel

Roessingh

karel@roessong.com

250-727-9808

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 Information

1-800-663-9453



Tip Remember to replace the batteries in any battery-operated smoke alarms on November 5th 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!

