



Mayor's Message

As John Keats says, "Autumn is the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness." We are very blessed in Highlands to enjoy the beauty of nature's changing colours.

We live in challenging times but I'm always proud of the way Highlanders face those challenges with confidence and action. More people are taking long walks, embracing new hobbies that involve creativity, calling and writing letters to loved ones and connecting in meaningful ways. I have been encouraged by the way those in our community are sharing hope, finding ways to continue to volunteer and give help to those who are most vulnerable. As Thanksgiving approaches, council and staff wish everyone the best as we all take a moment to reflect on what's truly important in our lives.

Take care and stay safe.

Highlands Appoints a New Corporate Officer

We are very happy to announce that the District of Highlands has appointed Melisa Miles as the Corporate Officer, following the departure of Deb Hopkins. Melisa will commence with the District of Highlands mid-September, and we are very much looking forward to her arrival.



Melisa has worked in local government for 10 years and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the role. Melisa is coming from the District of Logan Lake where she served as the Director of Corporate Affairs. Melisa will be a wonderful addition to our team at the District Office, and she looks forward to serving the Highlands community.

We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to Sonia Santarossa, who has helped us through the transition to a new Corporate Officer.

Please join us in welcoming Melisa to the District of Highlands!



Fire Department News

The District of Highlands has been on an EXTREME fire hazard rating since June 28th, 2021. This means absolutely NO burning is permitted in the District - No open fires, campfires, incinerators, woodstoves, chimneys, tiki torches, etc.

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 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.



FireSmart Information

More and more people are becoming familiar with the term "interface fire." An interface fire is a forest fire (also called a wildfire) that has encroached upon or otherwise threatens a residential area.

Because of our increasingly hot, dry, longer summer weather and our proximity to heavily fueled forests, Highlands homeowners may need to take preventative measures to protect themselves and others from encroaching wildfires. You can access information such as the "FireSmart Home Owners Manual", "Site Assessment" and "Area Assessment" checklists at: <https://highlands.bc.ca/462/FireSmart-information>.

While visiting the Highlands FireSmart Webpage, you can also access the recent July 28th Wildfire Forum Zoom meeting (presented by the HDCA in partnership with the Highlands Fire Department) by clicking the orange link on the upper right corner and using passcode: *6@9+IW.

Asset Management Capital Works

You may have noticed some road work that has taken place in your neighbourhood over the summer. Four drainage culverts were replaced at the following locations:

- Millstream Road (near Rockridge Place) – 1 culvert
- Rockridge Place (near Millstream Road) – 1 culvert
- Finlayson Arm Road (west of York Ridge Place) – 2 culverts

In addition, some road paving and patchwork was completed on Millstream Road between Millstream Lake Road and Blacktail Road as well as in various other locations in the Highlands.

The work began at the end of July and was largely completed by mid-August with some shouldering work and minor patching scheduled to be completed by the end of September. Thank you for your patience with any traffic delays while this important work is underway.

Community and Council News

COVID-19 Update

The province is currently in Phase 3 of BC's Restart Plan and while we expected to move to Phase 4 as early as September 7, 2021, this now remains uncertain.

Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, Council, Committee of the Whole and select committee meetings have been taking place electronically over Zoom. Council, staff and the public should be acknowledged for their seamless transition to the on-line environment so that we could continue the important work of the District. At its August meeting, Council resolved that meetings will resume in person on **September 27, 2021** at the Community Hall. This is subject to any new announcements from the Provincial Health Officer so please watch our website for any updates.

New legislation will be in place at the end of the month that will allow Council to meet electronically as required. An amendment to the Council Procedure Bylaw is necessary to allow electronic meetings and will be considered at an October Council meeting.

The District developed a Communicable Disease Plan in Phase 3 to replace the COVID-19 Safety Plan. Appointments are no longer required to visit the District Office. The plexiglass barriers will remain in place and we ask that physical distancing be maintained as much as possible. Masks are once again required in all public indoor spaces.

Further information on the BC Restart Plan can be found here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restart>

Finally, rental of the Community Hall will be available as soon as we are in Phase 4 and the restrictions lift. Please contact the District Office at 250-474-1773 to enquire about rental availability.

For rental enquiries of the Heritage Park, please contact the Highlands Heritage Park Society at 250-474-7601.



HIGHLAND FLING Together Again
Sept 11 Saturday 12-4

BBQ **KIDS CRAFTS** **LIVE MUSIC** **HIGHLAND DANCERS** **50/50 DRAW** **ICE CREAM** **BALLOON ANIMALS** **INDIGENOUS DRUMMERS** **DISPLAYS** **MARKET STALLS** **FACE PAINTING** **GIANT TUG OF WAR**

SCHEDULE

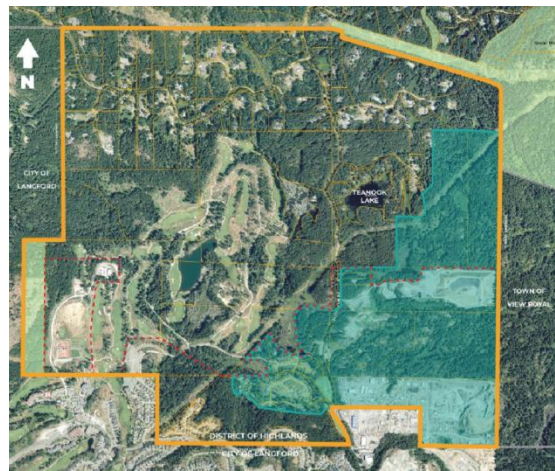
12:00	Yellow Wolf Drummers
12:30	Ken Williams, Sherry Clayton & Al Sabourin Band
1:10	Games: sack race, egg toss, candy hay hunt
1:50	Music by Katrina Kadoski
2:30	Highland Dancers
3:00	Music by Allen Dobb
3:30	50/50 ticket Draw
3:40	Tug of War

Caleb Pike Heritage Park
1589 Millstream Road
For more information, please visit the HDCA Facebook page

South Highlands Local Area Plan Update



The draft survey will be reviewed by the Task Force on September 9. It is really important to respond to this survey once it is available. Please check at www.LetsTalkSHLAP.ca and <https://www.highlands.ca/504/South-Highlands-Local-Area-Plan>.



Community News

True Value of the Mary Lake Nature Sanctuary ~ Greater Victoria Greenbelt Society

How is the true value of protected greenspace determined? Generally our Society uses a monetary system. In 2020, the BC Assessment Commission assessed the 69 acres of the Mary Lake Nature Sanctuary (including TLC's recently acquired 27 acres) at \$2,416,000.



Such assessments do not include the Sanctuary's 6572 tons of carbon sequestering, valued at \$394,370 yearly by international systems. Also not included is the annual \$218,255 value of Ecological Services as determined by the Ecosystem Service Value Database system. Such valuations include services generally taken for granted such as air quality, groundwater protection, gene pool conservation, biodiversity and the services provided by the Sanctuary (Inland Wetlands, Rivers and Lakes and Temperate Forests).

Although still rare, there are examples worldwide of landowners being paid for providing Ecological Services. It is hoped that providers such as the Mary Lake Nature Sanctuary will someday be rewarded financially for its leadership in this regard.

The Sanctuary's trails are open to Highlands residents and the general public on the second Sunday of each month and during special events throughout the year. The Management Plan continues the previous owners' 70 years of conservation ethic to ensure that human activity does not disturb nesting areas and endangered plant communities.

It took the Greater Victoria Greenbelt Society, a non-profit charity based in the Highlands, with regional supporters and dedicated donors, three years of hard work, determination and prayers to pay off the mortgage. The final push, thanks to our partnership with the Tsartlip First Nation, was a last minute grant from the province of BC.

An additional \$40,000 is needed for rezoning and approximately \$250,000 in matching funds for Nature House and septic field upgrade to meet code for public use. With rezoning, use by the public, First Nations and conservation groups will increase. We really appreciate the community support received to date for this unique project.

In summary, the Mary Lake Nature Sanctuary provides an extraordinary opportunity to blend Indigenous knowledge with western science and community action, an inter-generational reconciliation initiative, based on respectful discussion, collaboration, mutual understanding and trust. Truly a priceless asset for the benefit of our community and beyond.

Highlands Community Garden Update

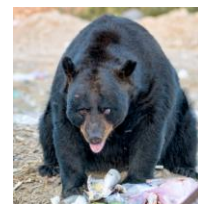


Garden Boxes will be available for 2022. Get on the Wait List by contacting Bonnie, Membership Coordinator, by email Highlandscommunitygarden@outlook.com.

Below Dino, Highlands stone mason of 40 years, builds his last rock wall for the Highlands Community Garden.



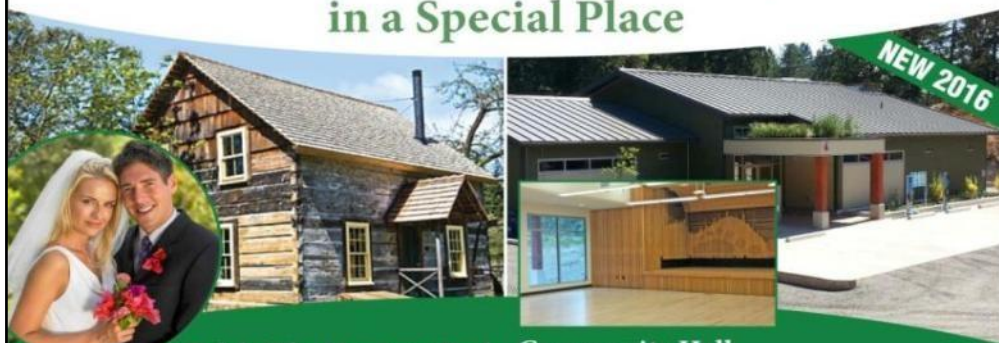
Be Bear Aware



- Remove or secure attractants.
- Do not store garbage or other organic waste outdoors.
- If you have curbside collection, only put the containers out on the morning of collection day - never the night before. Make sure recyclables have been cleaned.
- Pick fruit early and do not let windfall accumulate.
- Avoid feeding birds when bears are most active (April to November) and ensure bird feeders are always inaccessible to non-target species such as squirrels and raccoons. Do not let seed that may attract rats and other rodents accumulate.
- Feed pets indoors and keep pets inside at night.
- Keep your barbecue clean by burning off uncooked food and emptying grease container.
- Ensure your compost is well-managed and refer to Growing in Wildlife Country. You can find this and other info at:

Wildsafe B.C. <https://wildsafebc.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

Contact Info

Mayor Ken Williams

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Councillor Ann Baird

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Councillor Gord Baird

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Councillor Marcie McLean

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250-474-4725

Councillor Karel Roessingh

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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

Meeting Dates*

September

Council - Tuesday, September 7 - 7:00 pm

HSC - Wednesday, September 8 - 7:30 pm

~~CotW - Monday, September 13 - 7:00 pm - cancelled~~

~~SSSC - Tuesday, September 14 - 7 pm - cancelled~~

SLUSC - Wednesday, September 15 - 7 pm

Council - Monday, September 27 - 7:00 pm

October

Council - Monday, October 4 - 7:00 pm

CotW - Tuesday, October, 12 - 7:00 pm

HSC - Wednesday, October 13 - 7:30 pm

Council - Monday, October 18 - 7:00 pm

~~SSSC - Tuesday, October 19 - 7:00 pm - cancelled~~

SLUSC - Wednesday, October 20 - 7:00 pm

November

Council - Monday, November 1 - 7:00 pm

CotW - Monday, November 8 - 7:00 pm

~~SSSC - Tuesday, November 9 - 7:00 pm - cancelled~~

HSC - Wednesday, November 10 - 7:30 pm

Council - Monday, November 15 - 7:00 pm

SLUSC - Wednesday, November 17 - 7:00 pm

December

Council - Monday, December 6 - 7:00 pm

CotW - Monday, December 13 - 7:00 pm

*These meetings are per the 2021 Council approved meeting schedule but are subject to change. Please check our website for the most up to date information including whether the meeting will be held via Zoom or in person.



Volunteer of the Month

We would like to honour Val Fletcher who has recently passed. He was one of Highlands' great volunteers who did so much for the community. His talents as a firefighter and emergency coordinator kept everyone safe and his legacy will live on. We send our condolences to Jeanne and family.



Looking at your phone can keep you from seeing cyclists, pedestrians, and other road users. Even short glances away from the road increase your risk of crashing. Remember to #LeaveYourPhoneAlone while driving. <http://ow.ly/E4pz50DE3WD>



Tip Remember to replace the batteries in any battery-operated smoke alarms on November 7th 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

