

Highlands Newsletter

Highlands Council Newsletter
Summer 2019

Mayor's Message

Adaptation, resilience, mitigation and natural assets are terms we all are becoming more familiar with as we deal with the increasing drought conditions we find around us.

Finding ways to adapt to drier summers and wetter winters and mitigating the damage from heavier winter rains will help us through these times.

Our quality of life is blessed by the meaningful gifts of time and talent so generously provided by our wonderful volunteers. Thank you so much!

Council wishes everyone a safe and relaxing summer with family and friends.

20 Year Service Medal Awarded to Longtime Resident Stu Bender



Assistant Fire Chief Jason Shuttinga, Stu Bender, Fire Chief Dean Ford

Highlands firefighter Stu Bender was honoured on Firefighters Appreciation Night for his 20 years of service to the community. The significant commitment by people like Stu is what makes Highlands such a special place. Thank You Stu!

Bear Season – Are you Bear Aware?



The District would like to remind all residents that the number one attractant to bears is household garbage and that it is the responsibility of the home owner to ensure that household garbage is securely stored until the morning of collection day.

Please visit the following websites for more information on bear safety:

wildsafebc.com OR

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/wildlife/human-wildlife-conflict>

Fire Department News

Restrictions Effective May 10, 2019...

Fire Rating is **MODERATE/HIGH**.....

This Means: **No** open, backyard or incinerator burning until further notice.



No Burning Permits will be issued until October 15, 2019. For more information regarding wood burning and back yard burning please visit our website at: <http://www.highlands.ca/472/Wood-Burning-and-Backyard-Burning> and please pay attention to the roadside fire hazard signs at all Highlands entrances.

Chimney Cleaning The British Columbia Fire Code requires that chimneys, flues or flue pipes shall be cleaned as often as necessary to keep them free from dangerous accumulations of combustible deposits.

Emergency Operations Funding

In 2018 the District received a \$25,000 grant to outfit an emergency operations centre and to participate in training opportunities. The District purchased a trailer which can be used at multiple locations depending on the situation.



This mobile Emergency Operations Centre has a stockpile of pre-packed ready to go supplies that will only be used to operate an EOC, and contains supplies needed to operate that EOC (paper, pens, printers, phones, staples, files, maps, whiteboards, etc.).



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

2019 Property Taxes Due Tuesday July 2 By 4:00 pm (Office Closed Monday July 1)

Tax notices were mailed at the end of May. If your mailing address has changed please make sure to let the District Office know. We urge you to read the informative *tax insert* which will accompany the *tax notice* which will highlight the latest tax and budgetary information.

Home Owner Grant (HOG) Program Homeowners must claim their home owner grant each year if eligible – this may be done in person at our office or online. The Province is considering legislation to phase out paper HOG applications by 2020. Should this legislation pass, provisions will be made for home owners who do not have access to a computer.

Further information can be found under our **ONLINE SERVICES** button on the District's website homepage: www.highlands.ca.

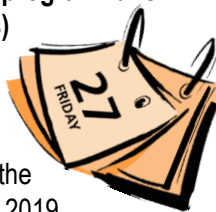
Through **ONLINE SERVICES** you can:

- **claim your HOG**
- **pay your taxes** through your financial institution's website
- **view your tax account** (you must register to gain secure access to your personal information)
- **view property information available to the public**
- **make pre-authorized payments- the prepayment program runs from August 10th through May 10th (for 2020 taxes)**



Mark your Calendars

Highlands Fling The 2019 Community Fair known as the Highlands Fling will be held on Saturday, September 7th, 2019, noon – 5 PM at the traditional location of the Highlands Heritage Park, 1589 Millstream Road. More info: Scott Richardson 250-478-2526.



Local Governments Awareness Week



To mark its 100th anniversary, the LGMA encouraged all local governments in BC to plant a tree in celebration of a century of dedication, hard work, and innovation by local government professionals during Local Government Awareness Week, May 20 - 26, 2019. The District planted this beautiful Eddie's Dogwood right outside of the District Office.

2019 Budget Update

After a series of budget meetings, Highlands Council adopted the 2019-2023 Financial Plan. Tax notices have been mailed out and should have arrived in your mailbox in the first week of June. If you have any questions about the Plan, please contact the District Office.



The District of Highlands Council challenged all local governments in AVICC (Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities) to the Municipal Survivor Climate Challenge.

The goal of the challenge is to initiate a fun and friendly local government competition with members of each participating council and Board measuring their average "One-Planet Living" footprint. Over the next year, those members then take steps in their daily lives to reduce their average footprint.

The calculator we are using is:

<https://www.footprintcalculator.org>. This easy-to-use online tool gives the following data based on subjective inputs by individuals: how many earths you require, your ecological footprint (global hectares), your carbon footprint (CO₂ emissions in tonnes per year), your carbon footprint (% of your total ecological footprint)

Highlands Council average figures are:
2.4 earths 4.14 hectares 6.94 tonnes of CO₂

2019 Participants and Average Results

| Participant | Earth 2019 | Eco Footprint 2019 | Carbon Footprint 2019 |
|-----------------------------------|------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Capital Regional District | 3.2 | 5.2 | 8.9 |
| City of Colwood | 1.6 | | |
| Cornwall Valley Regional District | 2.2 | 3.7 | 5.9 |
| Village of Cumberland | 3.2 | 5.2 | 8.5 |
| City of Duncan | 2.7 | 3.7 | 5 |
| District of Highlands | 2.4 | 4.1 | 6.9 |
| City of Nanaimo | 2.9 | 4.2 | 6.3 |
| District of North Saanich | 3.3 | 5.7 | 10.1 |
| District of Saanich | 2.6 | 3.6 | 6.6 |
| Town of Sidney | 2.5 | 4.3 | 6.3 |
| District of Sooke | 2.7 | 3.1 | 4.9 |
| District of Tofino | 1.8 | | |

Community and Council News

Colquitz/ Gorge/ Craigflower Watersheds Special Management Area Initiative



Songhees Nation is inviting its local government neighbours in the Capital Region to come together to discuss how we can collaborate to build a partnership among Local, Regional, Provincial, Federal and First Nation Governments in greater Victoria, to explore practical, collaborative approaches for protecting and improving sustainability of the salmon and herring runs in the Colquitz/Gorge/Craigflower watersheds. In Highlands, the Craigflower watershed includes Teanook Lake, Fizzle Lake, Eagles Lake and Fork Lake. Emergent Sustainable Solutions, consultants for the project, held their June 11th meeting at the Highlands Community Hall.

Highlands Community Garden



Great progress has been made on the Community Garden this spring. We've more than doubled the available rental boxes including a fully wheelchair accessible box and

several table height boxes. A children's play area has been added complete with a fairy garden, dinosaurs, sand pit and other toys. Kids have been having a great time there, making gardening much easier for parents. The trees and shrubs in the food forest and orchard are thriving despite our colder than normal winter. Our next work party is planned for June 23 at 10:00 am. We'll be planting more shrubs in the food forest, preparing a new area for boxes and of course, weeding. As always there'll be delicious snacks and coffee. Everyone's welcome – come lend a hand or just stop by and tour the garden. For more information on joining the community garden, box rental and work parties, contact highlandscommunitygarden@outlook.com. - Libby McMinn

Foodlands Trust CRD

The Capital Regional District (CRD) Board has received the Regional Foodlands Access Program Feasibility Study containing recommendations to help address farmland access and increase local food production across the region. Highlands Council has voted to support this initiative.

A key short-term recommendation of the feasibility study is to establish a foodlands trust in partnership with a not-for-profit organization using existing publically owned lands historically used for agricultural purposes. Operating as organizations, foodlands trusts maintain land for agriculture and food provisioning activities in perpetuity. This helps secure the future of regional agricultural production by providing an opportunity for new and younger farmers to enter the industry and learn from established farmers.

For more information, please visit

<https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/food-agriculture>

ROVING PLAY PARKS

Join our leaders in a different park each week for FREE outdoor activities. We will play active games and sports, with time for songs and crafts too. Themes and activities change each week.

JULY 2 TO AUGUST 23 **6-12 YEARS**
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Drop off between 10-10:30AM

Due to the popularity of the program, and for safety reasons, the age limits of each group are strictly enforced.
Sign up: No pre-registration is required. Join us at the designated park for that day and sign your child in with our leaders. A completed emergency form is required for each child. Spaces are available on a first come, first served basis. Program closed on school holidays, and may be cancelled due to weather. Rotation park location each week.

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| JULY 2 - 5 | Sangster School 3424 Northcote Rd |
| JULY 8-12 | Centennial Park 3805 Colfax Road |
| JULY 15-19 | View Royal Park 400 Phlox St. E. Suite |
| JULY 22-26 | Twinflower Park 1450 Millbrook Road |
| JULY 29 - AUG 2 | Hans Holgesen Elementary 4062 Rocky Point Road |
| AUG 6-9 | Willway Elementary 2933 Rd. 1 West Drive |
| AUG 12-15 | John Stubbs Elementary 301 Zealous Crescent |
| AUG 19-23 | Westhills Park Westhills Parkway |



**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 on 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.

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

Council and Staff Contacts:

Mayor Ken Williams

kwilliams@highlands.ca

250-882-5481

Councillor Leslie
Anderson

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778-350-8180

Councillor Ann Baird

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250-478-2680

Councillor Gord Baird

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Councillor Rose Stanton

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250-474-3403

Councillor Marcie McLean

marciemclean@shaw.ca

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

Community Calendar June 2019

June 17 **Council Meeting**

7pm School House – Heritage Park

June 19 **Sustainable Land Use Committee**

7pm School House – Heritage Park

June 26 **Heritage Select Committee**

7.30 School House – Heritage Park

July 2019

July 2 **Property Tax Deadline**

July 15 **Council Meeting**

7pm School House – Heritage Park

August 2019

August 12 **Council Meeting**

7pm School House – Heritage Park

September 2019

Sept 7 **Highlands Fling**

Noon-5pm – Heritage Park



Civil Resolution Tribunal

Individuals injured in a motor vehicle accident can use the Civil Resolution Tribunal (CRT) to resolve disputes, including damages and liability claims up to \$50,000, with ICBC instead of hiring a lawyer and going to court. Seventy-five percent of those who have accessed CRT services since April 2018 say they would recommend the CRT to others. The CRT should also lower ICBC's legal expenses and reduce pressure on the provincial court system.

For more information go to: <https://civilresolutionbc.ca>



Volunteers of the Month

Thank you to Paul Henry. Paul, along with assistance from Kevin Peladeau and Brian Irwin took on the tasks of organizing this year's broom bash. Their impressive efforts included re-imagining it as a several week effort rather than a 1 day blitz (enabling us to get more of it in bloom), coordinating storage and drop off location with District staff, and using a variety of types of imaginative road side signage to engage the whole community. Congratulations Paul, Kevin and Brian for the huge haul this year!



Ryder Hesjedal's Tour de Victoria A reminder that on Aug 17th, the 9th annual Ryder's Cycling Society event will be passing through Highlands. Visit tourdevictoria.com for more information

Slow Down and Drive Safely



West Shore RCMP have issued numerous speeding tickets to drivers on District of Highlands roads in the past few months.

Next Coffee House September 14th

Come join us for some fun and lively music!

Time: 7:30pm | **Place:** Caleb Pike House, 1589 Millstream Rd

Charge: \$7.00/person - coffee, tea and goodies provided

Upcoming Events – September 14, 2019 – In the Round Gig

