


Mayor's Message



Kathy Gose said it best on the day of our incorporation, Dec. 7th, 1993. "Small is beautiful!" "Green is powerful". Highlands is the place to be. Highlanders are self reliant, savvy to the ways of the world, and very creative when it comes to getting things done. A great example of this is the renewal of the Superior Shuttle Accreditation certificate which lowers the fire insurance rates for our homes. Kudos to our Fire Department and Highlands staff for their hard work. Thank you to the community volunteers and committee members for your time and efforts. On behalf of Council, I wish everyone a full and enjoyable summer in our beautiful Highlands.

Highlands Fire Department Receives Another 5 Year Superior Shuttle Accreditation Certificate



The Fire Department has completed the requirements for another five year certificate from the Fire Underwriters Survey. The FUS approved Superior Shuttle Accreditation for both fire halls.

After a day long visit from a FUS representative last month, it was determined that with our excellent practical test in 2017 and consistent level of yearly training in water shuttling, combined with the District's commitment in maintaining the required level of fire equipment and water sources, the practical portion of the accreditation was not required this time. ~ Fire Chief Ford

South Highlands Local Area Plan Update

The Task Force had its last meeting in May, and the Project Team is now developing the full draft local area plan that will have community engagement before being provided to Council for consideration. Detailed information is available at:

<https://www.highlands.ca/504/South-Highlands-Local-Area-Plan>

Step Code

At Council's March 7 meeting, it referred the STEP CODE staff report to the Sustainable Land Use Select Committee (SLUSC), which considered the report on March 23. SLUSC resolved to encourage Council to select an approach for Step Code in Highlands that is ahead of the Building Code implementation of the Step Code and is in line with the higher steps adopted in the leading municipalities. Council had further discussion and invited public comment at the April 11 Committee of the Whole meeting. The recommendation that was adopted at the subsequent Council Meeting was:

That staff prepare a report on the implications of implementing the following BC Step Code approach:

- Require Step 3 as a condition for new standard (Part 9) residential buildings less than 75m²
- Require Step 4 as a condition for new standard (Part 9) residential buildings 75m² to 300m²
- Require Step 5 as a condition for new standard (Part 9) residential buildings greater than 300m²

including alignment with applicable District of Highlands bylaws, provincial legislation, and incorporation of low carbon energy systems (LCES) incentives.

Community and Council News

2022 Property Tax Notices and Financial Plan Update

In May, Highlands Council adopted the 2022-2026 Financial Plan. Please contact the District Office with any questions that you may have regarding the Financial Plan. You can view the final 2022 budget online: [2022 – 2026 Financial Plan](#).

2022 Property Tax Notices have now been mailed to property owners in the District of Highlands. Payment is due by July 4, 2022 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. Please be advised that home owner grants are no longer 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.



Mount Work Regional Park Management Plan Process

CRD is finalizing its first management plan for Mount Work Regional Park that will provide both strategic and specific management direction and will guide environmental conservation, cultural heritage management, visitor use and park development over the next 15 years. Approximately half of the park is in Highlands. Council provided initial input in 2020. This topic was further discussed at the May 9, 2022 Committee of the Whole meeting where CRD's Park Planner provided a presentation and responded to questions. Council resolved to provide the CRD with a letter that summarized community and council comments providing a low level of support for the draft plan. Key points included: need for ecological inventory, enforcement plan, and commitment regarding decommissioning unsanctioned cycling trails.



Living Roof atop Ann and Gord Baird's Cob House

Protecting Birds Pamphlet

The Spring Newsletter included advice on how to protect birds from cats and collisions with glass. An expanded version of that advice, including new information about how to design a new building to minimize bird strikes, will soon be available in a pamphlet at the District office and on the District Website. ~ Allan Roger

Rezoning of 587 / 499 Millstream Road

The applicants are seeking additional residential density in exchange for conserving some of the land that is currently used as managed forest. The property contains the historic Mitchell Cottage. It is a complicated application because the land is currently classified as Managed Forest through BC Assessment. The application is headed to the Heritage and Sustainable Land Use Select Committees for recommendations.

Secondary Suites and Accessory Dwelling Units Project

In the spring, Council considered updates to the draft policy and staff is now drafting a zoning bylaw amendment and any companion policy(ies) for Council consideration.

Be Bear and Cougar Aware

It is a contravention of the Wildlife Act to knowingly put out attractants to predatory wildlife. The BC Conservation Officers note that households should put their garbage out on the morning of scheduled pick up. People may be ticketed by Conservation Officers if garbage is put out the night before pick up. These tickets start at approximately \$275.00 and go up to \$575.00 for a second offence.

The outcome for the wildlife can sometimes be deadly due to Provincial Policy in the Wildlife Act directing the Conservation Officers. Let's help the animals by doing our part to protect them.



Community and Council News

Highlanders Helping Ukrainians Get Support (or Highland HUGS)

On April 27, a group of Highlanders met to discuss ways we could support Ukrainian refugees coming to Vancouver Island. Bryan Melnyk from the Ukrainian Cultural Centre gave a talk on the hosting program in Victoria, which was followed by an interactive workshop on ideas for supporting hosts. There was great enthusiasm amongst the group, and we adopted the name Highland HUGS and agreed to explore ways Highlanders could help support Ukrainians.

My husband and I were among the first Highlanders to host a family through HelpukraineVI. Our Ukrainian family arrived May 2 and were with us for almost three weeks. They are a lovely family with a 12-year-old daughter and are extremely motivated to find jobs and improve their English.

Before long though, we realized that hosting a family without access to public transport would significantly impair their ability to get to jobs and social activities. Reluctantly, we realized we needed to find them another host closer to the bus system and found them a wonderful family at Bear Mountain.

We learned a tremendous amount during our preparations and hosting, which I am happy to share with anyone interested. For starters, you will find our summary of “lessons learned” in an article on the HDCA Facebook page.

What can Highlanders do if they can't host a family? I think that Highland HUGS can continue to support hosts. We can be available to help families that do make the decision to host a family. Highland HUGS is planning to host a picnic at Caleb Pike Heritage Park this summer for Ukrainian newcomers. Anyone interested in helping with that can contact me at doonew@hotmail.com. ~ Doone Watson, Director, HDCA

Community Garden Update

There is one garden box still available for rent this season. All Highlanders are welcome to become communal members by paying \$10 per individual/family to join the Highlands Parks and Recreation Association (for insurance purposes) and to join in at the work parties and share in the communal garden bounty (fruit and berries and soon to be more). Children are welcome and are provided with a play area and garden tools and toys. To rent the last available garden box, become a communal member or get yourself put on the wait list to rent a garden box next year contact Bonnie, our membership coordinator by emailing Highlands Community Garden garden@outlook.com. ~ Marlene Tyshynski





ROVING PLAY PARKS

JULY 4 TO AUGUST 26
10:30 AM TO 2:30 PM
\$25/week
Our West Shore Parks & Recreation Leaders will be in a different park each week for a low-cost outdoor summer camp experience. We will play active games and sports with time for crafts and creations too. Themes and activities will change each week.
You must pre-register to come out to play.

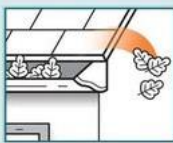
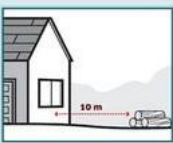


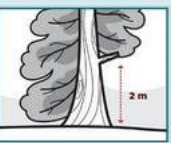
JULY 4 - 8	Centennial Park 2805 Carlow Road
JULY 11-15	Sangster School 3325 Metcoun Rd
JULY 18-22	Twinflower Park 1560 Millstream Road
JULY 25-29	View Royal Park 607 Presque Lane
AUG 2-5	Hans Helgesen Elementary 4983 Rocky Point Road
AUG 8-12	Lakewood Elementary 2363 Setchfield Ave
AUG 15-19	John Stubbs Elementary 301 Zealous Crescent
AUG 22-26	Centennial Park 2805 Carlow Road

Register at explore.wspr.ca or call 250-478-8384
Registration opens on April 12, 2022 at 6:00 AM.

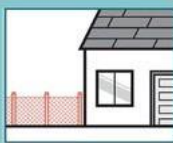

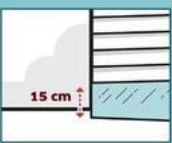
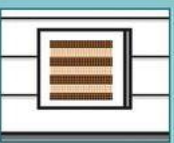

THREE STEPS TO COST-EFFECTIVE WILDFIRE HOME PROTECTION

Complete these 3 steps to reduce the risk of a wildfire spreading to your home. For items listed under step 3 check with your municipality about any permit requirements and the availability of subsidies. Give decks, sheds and outbuildings within 10 m of your home the same FireSmart consideration as you do your home.



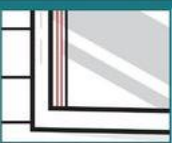
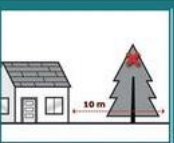
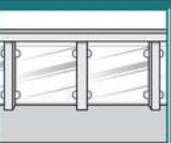
STEP 1: MAINTAIN WHAT YOU'VE GOT AT LEAST TWICE PER YEAR

\$0 - \$300	 <p>Remove needles, leaves and other debris from gutters, roof surfaces, decks and balconies. Regularly clean vents.</p>	 <p>Remove combustible materials (firewood and lumber) stored within 10 m of the house perimeter and under decks.</p>	 <p>Remove all combustible ground cover (mulch and plants) within a 1.5 m of the house perimeter.</p>	 <p>Mow the lawn to <10 cm and plant low-growing, well-spaced shrubs and other vegetation.</p>	 <p>Prune trees to create a 2 m clearance from the ground to the lowest tree branches.</p>
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STEP 2: COMPLETE SIMPLE UPGRADES

\$300 - \$3,000	 <p>Install non-combustible fencing within 1.5m of the house (cement fibre, metal, chain link or stone).</p>	 <p>Install non-combustible ground surfaces within 1.5 m of the house (mineral soil, rock, concrete or stone).</p>	 <p>Create a 15 cm ground-to-siding non-combustible clearance (e.g., install cement board or metal skirting).</p>	 <p>Add a non-combustible 3 mm screen to all external vents, except dryer vents.</p>	 <p>Replace worn or missing weather stripping on all doors, including garage doors.</p>
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STEP 3: COMPLETE MORE COMPLEX UPGRADES

\$3,000 - \$30,000	 <p>Install Class A fire-resistant roof covering (e.g., cement fibre, metal or asphalt shingles).</p>	 <p>Install non-combustible siding (stucco, metal, stone, cement fibre board).</p>	 <p>Install multi-pane or tempered glass windows and exterior fire rated doors.</p>	 <p>Remove conifer trees that are within 10 m of the house.</p>	 <p>Retrofit all deck components to be fire-rated, with a continuous surface.</p>
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NOTE: Not all actions will be applicable to each home. Completing these steps does not guarantee the prevention of fire.
• Cost estimates are based on a 2,500 sq ft home.

INTACT CENTRE
ON CLIMATE ADAPTATION

For additional resources visit:
FireSmartCanada.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

2022 General Local Election – October 15, 2022

Are you thinking of running for District of Highlands Council? General Local Elections are this Fall.

A person qualified to be nominated, elected, and to hold office as a member of local government must meet the following criteria:

- Canadian citizen
- 18 years of age or older on general voting day – October 15, 2022
- Resident of BC for at least 6 months immediately before the day nomination papers are filed
- Not disqualified under the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment from voting in an election in BC or being nominated for, being elected to or holding the office, or be otherwise disqualified by law.

The period for candidates to submit their nominations to local election officials is Tuesday, August 30, 2022 – Friday, September 9, 2022, and General Voting Day is Saturday, October 15, 2022.

Please stay tuned for more information on the 2022 General Local Election. More information can be found by visiting the Ministry of Municipal Affairs website at: [Thinking of Running for Local Election](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov2/thinkingofrunningforlocalelection/).

Upcoming Events:

- June is Pride Month
- June is National Indigenous History Month
- June 6 Council Meeting, 7pm, In Person, Community Hall
- National Indigenous Peoples Day – June 21
- July 18 Council Meeting, 7pm, In Person, Community Hall
- July 18-22, 2022 West Shore Parks and Recreation Roving Play Park at Twinflower Park
- August 15 Council Meeting, 7pm, In Person, Community Hall
- Check out West Shore Parks and Recreation's free planned activities for Pride Month and National Indigenous History Month at <http://www.westshorerecreation.ca/>