

Highlands News

Highlands Council Newsletter
Summer 2023

Mayor's Message

West Shore Parks and Recreation proudly inaugurated their world-class skatepark on May 13th. The JDF Recreation Centre now

houses a state-of-the-art concrete haven for skaters of all levels, from novices to virtuosos.



Westshore Skatepark Coalition President, Jimmy Miller (centre) and WSPRS's Community Development Coordinator, Bobbi Neal (left) are seen above cutting the ribbon with Westshore dignitaries and sponsors. This skatepark is a testament to ingenuity and inclusivity.



BE BEAR AND COUGAR AWARE

A mother black bear and her two cubs dropped by our Highlands municipal office recently. 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 16th, 2023 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 Coordinator Dean Ford 250-920-6970

FIRECHIEF@HIGHLANDS.CA

Sign up for emergency alerts: www.WestshoreAlert.ca



Wildfire Season is Upon Us



Is Your Home FireSmart?

What can you do now?

FireSmart Awareness Workshop - June 14th

Join Highlands Fire and HDCA in person or online to learn how to:

- Assess your home's wildfire risk.
- Simple ways to reduce your home's wildfire risk this summer
- Prepare for emergencies and evacuations

Watch for more details on Facebook: HighlandsFireDept / HDCA



Community and Council News

2023 Property Tax Notices and Financial Plan Update

In May, Highlands Council adopted the 2023-2027 Financial Plan. Please contact the District Office with any questions that you may have regarding the Financial Plan. You can view the final 2023 budget online: [2023 – 2027 Financial Plan](#).

2023 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 4, 2023 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).

2022 Highlands Annual Report

The 2022 Annual Report for the District of Highlands will be available for viewing at the District Office on Monday, June 5, 2023 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 19, 2023 at 7:00pm at the Highlands Community Hall. 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: mmiles@highlands.ca



SPRING MARKET

The Highlands Market Returns!
Sunday, June 11th 10 am - 1 pm

There will be veggies, plants, baking, eggs, garden sculpture, embroidered items, crocheted animals, wood products, soaps, driftwood hearts, local wool blankets & shawls, and much, much more!



Caleb Pike Heritage Park
1589 Millstream Rd

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

Volunteer of the Month

Highlands resident Mike Craycroft, known as the passionate broom-cutting man, is being recognized as the Volunteer of the Month. Mike's unwavering dedication to removing broom has made a significant difference in the community. Not only does he personally invest his time and energy into cutting broom,



but he also hires others to assist him in this important task. Thanks to Mike's relentless efforts, Millstream Road now boasts a nearly broom-blossom-free environment. His commitment to maintaining a pristine landscape is truly commendable. Thanks to Paul Henry for the nomination.

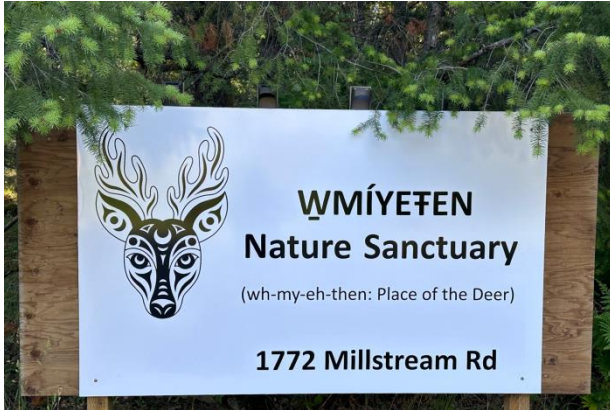


Community and Council News

Mary Lake Renaming Ceremony

A beautiful ceremony took place at the W̱MÍYEFEN (wh-my-eh-then) Nature Sanctuary – Place of the Deer, under the guidance of Tsartlip Elder Tom Sampson. The sanctuary was officially designated as a natural Sacred Site for Indigenous cultural and spiritual practices. The ceremony bestowed upon Mary Lake the SENĆOTEN name XÁXOĆE, EETE XOĆETENOT, which signifies "the sacred lake of the sacred woman" in translation. This name carries a profound message, urging us to recognize the sacredness of women and their vital role in fostering harmony and facilitating healing, particularly in response to the profound impact of the tragedies surrounding murdered and missing Indigenous women (MMIW).

The Greater Victoria Greenbelt Society has been diligently collaborating with a Council of 12 W̱SÁNEĆ (wh-say-nich) Matriarchs, who serve as Knowledge Keepers and Respected Teachers. These esteemed individuals emphasize the critical need for their communities, especially women, to have access to culturally safe natural spaces. Such spaces are essential for carrying out the ceremonies necessary for community well-being and preserving cultural heritage for future generations.



Aerial View of W̱MÍYEFEN Nature Sanctuary

Community Garden Update

The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul." —Alfred Austin

With the abrupt transition from a cold Spring to hot temperatures, our garden has taken off! Garden boxes are burgeoning with all manner of greens, berries are making an appearance, and the orchard is a froth of blossoms. Our Open House, on May 28th, allowed visitors to see the oasis many hands have created out of a virtual wasteland. Work parties continue this Spring with a focus on updating the irrigation to the orchard. These get-togethers are perfect opportunities to learn skills, share gardening tips and recipes, and enjoy homemade refreshments. Look for our table at the Highlands Farmers Market on June 11th 10am-1pm at the Caleb Pike Heritage Park, 1589 Millstream Road. For more information about the Community Garden, please reach out to us at Highlandscommunitygarden@outlook.com ~Meaghan Symes



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 grants for switching from wood heat to a heat pump or addition of solar energy.

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

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

www.calebpikheritagepark.ca • www.highlands.ca



*New Pergola installed
at Highlands Community Hall*

Contact Info:

Mayor Ken Williams

kwilliams@highlands.ca

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Councillor Leslie Anderson

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Councillor Rose Stanton

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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 10, features Plus One.

Admission is free for those under the age of fifteen and for the rest, we suggest a donation of \$10.00 or whatever you can afford. Doors open at 6:30 and the music starts at 7:00 PM

Caleb Pike House, 1589 Millstream Rd.

Upcoming acts:

July 15, 2023 Southbound and Friends

Aug.12, 2023 Mufaro Marimba

PLUS ONE

Saturday, June 10



Wayne Dupuis



Christa Brennan



Helen Davies



Mike Regimbal

*An evening of delightful fun, delectable music,
desirable dancing and darling deer!*

CALEB PIKE HOUSE

1589 Millstream Rd./Highlands

Doors: 6:30 / Music: 7:00

*This event may be outside, weather permitting.
Please dress accordingly and bring blankets or concert chairs.*

Contact: Zhinoos219@gmail.com

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 17-21
- Check out West Shore Parks and Recreation's free planned activities for Pride Month and National Indigenous History Month at <http://www.westshorerecreation.ca/>

Meeting Dates

June

Council – June 5 – 7:00pm

Sustainable Land Use Select Committee –

June 7 – 7:15pm

Committee of the Whole – June 12 – 7:00pm

Social Sustainability Land Use Select

Committee – June 13 – 7:00pm

Heritage Select Committee –

June 14 – 7:30pm

Council – June 19 – 7:00pm

July

July 3 – Office Closed

Council – July 17 – 7:00pm

August

August 7 – Office Closed

Council – August 14 – 7:00pm