



Mayor's Message

I am inspired by the strength and courage of our community in the battle against the COVID-19 virus. Your patience and steadfast resolve are appreciated by everyone.

I am seeing glimmers of hope on the horizon and my New Year's prayer is that this plague soon becomes a distant memory. On behalf of Highlands Council and Staff, I extend our warmest regards and best wishes to all. May the spirit of this wonderful season be with you and your loved ones throughout the holidays.

District of Highlands COVID-19 Update

Highlands remains committed to the safety of public and District staff and the District's response to COVID-19 continues to evolve along with the changing situation. While access to the District Office is by appointment only, provision of service and operations continue using alternative and safe approaches. Staff is ready to assist you if you call 250-474-1773 or email info@highlands.ca.

The District is continuing to monitor the situation and following the directions of the Province and Island Health. We thank you for your patience and understanding during these challenging times and we appreciate your efforts to flatten the curve in our community.

South Highlands Local Area Plan Update

16 people participated in the Nov.30th workshop. It started with a presentation of the community survey results, and then broke into two working groups with interactive discussions providing ideas for a future South Highlands. The workshop results will be used to inform further Task Force discussions towards writing draft plan directions. These will be available on both the www.LetsTalkSHLAP.ca and <https://www.highlands.ca/504/South-Highlands-Local-Area-Plan> websites in the near future.

Highlands Fire Department Santa Run 2020

Santa Claus will once again be visiting the District of Highlands on

Update: Event Cancelled for 2020

The volunteers from the Highlands Fire Department will be driving Santa around on a fire truck so that he can meet all of you. Due to COVID-19 safety concerns to ensure that Santa can still deliver gifts on Christmas Eve, Santa will be remaining in the Fire Truck at all times. He will still be handing out candy canes, personally sterilized by the elves, via a Candy Cane Chute. This year we are asking people to donate to a GoFundMe campaign set up for the Goldstream Food Bank in place of a physical donation. We will still be collecting non-perishable food donations for the Goldstream Food Bank but we ask all residents, even if they are out waiting for Santa, to have these donations bagged and left at the end of their driveway.

With the increase in our population, please note that Santa will not have the time to go up and down every street; therefore, please see the list below for scheduled locations where we will be stopping.

East Highlands Route

9:30 Start at East Fire Hall
9:35 Woodridge / Robb
9:45 Woodridge / Munn
10:00 Munn / Bukin E
10:10 Munn / Rolla
10:30 Munn / Compton
10:40 Munn / Fork Lake
10:50 Davies Rd
11:00 Millstream Lake / Millstream



West Highlands Route

12:00 Start at West Fire Hall
12:15 White Pine / Red Cedar
12:25 Millstream / Martlet
12:30 Caleb Pike North / Millstream
12:45 Caleb Pike Homestead
13:00 Highland Park Terrace / Skyview
13:15 Lorimer / Lorimer Place
13:30 Blacktail / Quail
13:45 Up Stewart Mountain
14:00 Up Finlayson Arm to Past Rowntree
14:30 Taylor Way/Millstream
14:45 Hawkins/ Hanbury
14:50 Hannington/ Danby
15:00 Millstream/ River Road
15:15 Bear Mountain Parkway – Rivers Crossing



*Note: All times are approximate.
Listen for the sirens to hear when Santa and the Fire Fighters are getting close to your stop.*



District of Highlands Climate Leadership Plan

Climate change has resulted in the occurrence of frequent extreme weather events including droughts, floods, heat waves, fires, and high winds. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports these conditions could increase over the coming decades and urges governments to significantly reduce green house gas emissions to net zero by 2050.

In March 2019 Council adopted a motion to declare a climate emergency. They further identified climate action as a key strategic priority and directed staff to develop a Climate Leadership Plan. The draft Plan was released in October 2020 and public input was sought in November. The Plan is intended to serve as a guide for working towards carbon neutrality by 2030.

The Climate Leadership Plan identifies six climate leadership areas with eight associated priority actions. Implementation of the Plan will be considered at Council's next strategic planning session to be held early in 2021 and Council will be seeking your input.

The Climate Leadership Plan is available online at <https://www.highlands.ca/195/Sustainable-Highlands>.

Coming Soon - Highlands Select Committee Recruitment



Highlands will shortly be undertaking a recruitment process for volunteer members for its Select Committees. Select Committees have specific mandates for areas including heritage, sustainable land use, and social sustainability. Serving as a select committee member requires just a few hours of your time each month (excluding July, August, and December) and appointments are generally for two year terms. If you are interested in participating in municipal government decisions while serving your community, why not consider submitting a letter of interest? Information on how to apply will be forthcoming and available at: <https://www.highlands.bc.ca/367/Select-Committees>.

Come Join Us At The Community Garden in 2021

We did not increase our garden box rentals in 2020 due to COVID health restrictions. The current gardeners maintained their garden boxes and took responsibility for keeping the entire garden weed-free. We obtained funding and installed a solar powered electric fence (to protect the fruit, nuts and berries now flourishing).



A small group of volunteers installed a composting bin system and a grant was obtained for building trellising. There will be garden boxes available for rent in 2021. Get your name on the Wait List FAST by contacting membership secretary Monika Carless at mccoyotel@gmail.com



New Composting Bin

2021 Grants-in-Aid

The Highlands office is accepting applications for grant-in-aid funding for 2021. Organizations wishing to apply must submit a completed application prior to the deadline, February 28th, 2021. Application forms and District policy are available at <https://www.highlands.ca/163/Grant-in-Aid>.

Storm Preparedness – Are You Ready?

With recent weather conditions you can't help but ask yourself "Am I ready for a serious storm?" You can find helpful tips and a checklist on the Highlands website here:

<http://www.highlands.bc.ca/183/Emergency-Preparedness>

Community and Council News

Mount Work Regional Park Master Plan

The CRD is preparing to develop a park master plan for Mount Work Regional Park. This Plan will help to guide the activities within the park over the next 15 – 20 years. The first phase of consultation occurred earlier in the fall and included a presentation to Highlands Council Committee of the Whole. Some of the concerns raised at the meeting included unsanctioned trail building, parking and traffic safety, the protection of Fork Lake as a source of drinking water, ecological preservation, and trespassing on private property. The information gathered from that meeting was provided to CRD staff for inclusion in the initial consultation phase.

CRD staff will begin drafting the management plan and the next round of public consultation is tentatively scheduled to occur in Fall 2021. To stay informed about the development of the park management plan, please visit

<https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/mount-work-management-plan>.



Traffic Safety

In response to traffic safety concerns from residents, Highlands Council requested that Councillor Anderson work with staff and a community representative to compile a list of comments, concerns and suggested actions and forward them to the RCMP for consideration. That work has been ongoing, and options for actions are currently being discussed with the West Shore RCMP. Councillor Anderson will be reporting to Council with an update on this process in the coming months.



Please continue to report speeding and aggressive driving to the West Shore RCMP by calling 250-474-2264.

Highlands Capital Works: Culvert Replacement

Thank you to Highlands residents for your patience with traffic disruptions as we undertook four culvert replacements in various locations and paving along a portion of Munn Road. The new culverts are made of steel reinforced polyethylene and replaced the old metal culverts. These projects were undertaken as part of the District's Asset Management Plan, which outlines a long-term approach to capital renewal investment, to ensure ongoing provision of services to the community. You can review the Asset Management Plan at

<https://www.highlands.ca/480/Asset-Management>.



Woodridge Pl/Munn Creek upstream before replacement



Woodridge Pl/Munn Creek upstream after replacement



Outdoor Burning – Do you have a permit?

There is no longer an open season for burning so permits are now required for all outdoor burning. Permits are free and can be obtained online at: <https://hvfd.burnpermits.com/>. Burning in woodstoves do not require a permit. If you need help completing the permit process, please contact District staff for assistance at 250-474-1773 or by email at info@highlands.ca.

RECYCLE
YOUR HOLIDAYS

If you are looking at ways to recycle this season please visit:

<https://www.crd.bc.ca/education/campaigns/list-of-current-campaigns/holiday-recycling/holiday-recycling-tips>



Warmest Wishes of the Season from the
Highland Heritage Park Society
Be Kind, Be Calm, Be Safe

District Office Winter Closure

Please be advised that the District Office will be closed at noon on December 24, 2020 and will re-open on Monday, January 4, 2021.



Winter Road Maintenance?

Duty Phone: 250-893-1773

The District's duty phone will become active when hazards such as ice and snow conditions are apparent on Highlands' roads. The Duty phone is monitored 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Residents can report winter road conditions to this number and actions will be taken as appropriate to the circumstances. Please do not report road conditions or submit requests for winter maintenance to the Fire Chief as he does not have the authority to direct the roads contractor to respond.



Did you know that the District of Highlands is a partial owner of West Shore Parks and Recreation (WSPR)? West Shore Parks & Recreation offers wonderful facilities for a variety of recreational opportunities.

WSPR is working hard to offer modified services during this time of pandemic and their safety protocols and list of services are available on their website: <http://www.westshorerecreation.ca/>.

Meeting Schedule



Council will be considering the 2021 annual schedule of Council meetings at their meeting on December 7, 2020. Once approved, it will be available online at www.highlands.ca. Council meetings continue to be held electronically and Committee and Select Committee meetings will be held if and when necessary.

Members of the public are encouraged to provide written comments on agenda items to Council by emailing info@highlands.ca, or by delivering them to the drop box at the District Office at 1980 Millstream Road. If you would like to attend an electronic meeting, please contact District staff at 250-474-1773 or info@highlands.ca for instructions.



West Shore Christmas Hamper Fund Society

The West Shore Christmas Hamper Fund Society, located at 761 Station Ave (basement) provides Christmas hampers, toys, gift certificates and clothing to those individuals requiring assistance. Up to 650 hampers of various sizes are issued. The goods are either purchased by the society or provided as gifts-in-kind by individuals, groups and businesses. Names are provided to the Society by the Christmas Bureau of Victoria, or by sponsors. Individuals, groups, service clubs, schools and businesses donate money each year to purchase the goods.

Please contact 250-391-9627 for more information.

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
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

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!

