



Mayor's Message

I am pleased to announce the new acoustic panels for the Highlands Community Hall have been installed. The difference in sound is amazing. Instead of a cavernous echo chamber there is much more warmth and clarity. They look cool too. Thanks to staff for a great job!

South Highlands Local Area Plan

Survey #2 results are in! Have a look at
What We Heard:

tinyurl.com/kcmdwwjm

Round 2 of engagement activities was designed to develop and gather feedback on the directions of the Local Area Plan. This round included seven Task Force meetings and the Directions Survey, which received 281 responses. There was also on-going input and interviews (e.g., email and phone).

Next Steps

MARCH 2022

Task Force meets to discuss early draft SHLAP content.

SPRING 2022

Project team develops full draft SHLAP.

SPRING 2022

Community engagement on the draft SHLAP.

SPRING/SUMMER 2022

SHLAP is finalized and presented to Council for consideration.

For more information, please contact the project team:

LAURA BECKETT

Municipal Planner

District of the Highlands

lbeckett@highlands.ca | (250) 474-1773

The 2021 Census

Highlands population and dwelling counts from the 2021 census have been released. Our population rose from 2,225 from 2016 to 2,482, an 11.6% increase from the 2016 census (2,225) population. Our number of dwellings increased by 65 in the past five years.

Highlands Fire Smart Talk



On April 7th, Highlands Fire Service will be co-hosting a Fire Smart Talk with the HDCA Watch for more details at highlands.ca

Emergency Program Update:

During the atmospheric river events of November 2021, the Emergency Operations Centre was opened for a brief time. In relation to those flooding events, emergency repairs were performed on the West Fire Hall driveway, which was washed out, along with repairs to portions of Ross Durrance Road that were also damaged by flooding from the heavy rainfall. Thank you to all involved who helped to ensure a swift resolution to the damage.

Sid Sidhu Honoured By Having Asteroid Named After Him



Photo by Darren Stone TC

The International Astronomical Union announced last month that the 9.4 km wide asteroid formerly known as 10109 will be named Sidhu in honour of Sid Sidhu. The long time Highlands resident moved here with his family for the clear and dark night skies. He is a passionate member of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada and has inspired many Victorians, especially generations of children from grades 1-6, with his presentations and love for astronomy.

COVID 19 Information

The District Office is now open to the public, and Community Hall rentals are now being accepted subject to Public Health regulatory changes. Please note, Provincial Health guidelines continue to be observed in all District owned facilities. We would like to thank everyone for their ongoing efforts in keeping Highlands residents and visitors safe.

Community and Council News

2022 Home Owner Grants

The Home Owner Grant is a property tax assistance program offered by the Province. The Province introduced legislation to enable centralization of the Home Owner Grant Program in 2021. This means that all Home Owner Grant applications must now be submitted directly to the B.C. Government online or over the phone. **Applications can no longer be accepted at the District Office.**



Eligible property owners can apply for their grants at gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant or by calling toll-free to 1-888-355-2700 to speak with an agent. Applications for the 2022 grants will be processed when property tax notices are issued at the end of May. If you apply early, your application will be held until taxes are levied. Residents are encouraged to wait for their tax notices to arrive before applying for the 2022 grant.

Cats and Birds

How can I make My Home and Yard Bird-Safe?

An Environment Canada study estimates that cats kill between 100 and 350 million birds each year in Canada alone. The best way to reduce this carnage is to keep your cats inside, in outdoor enclosures or on a leash with you. This is also much safer for your cat. According to the Ontario SPCA, outdoor cats have an average life expectancy of 2-5 years while indoor cats live 12.5 years, on average.



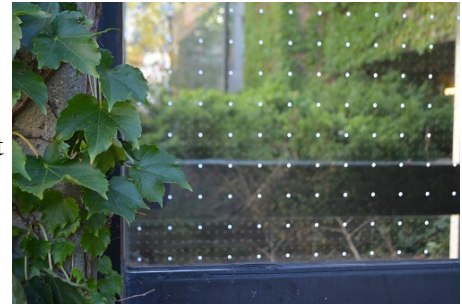
Other ways to limit your cat's ability to kill outdoors are:

- remove bird feeders that spill seeds to the ground where the birds are easy prey, and
- make your cat more visible to birds by using a bird-safe collar cover, available at some pet stores in Victoria and online. These have been shown to be 87 % effective in reducing bird catches <https://www.birdsbesafe.com>. Collar bells are ineffective in preventing cats from catching and killing birds.



Glass and Birds

It is estimated in Canada 16 to 42 million birds are killed or injured by collisions with windows and glass railings every year. Buildings can be designed to significantly reduce the risk of bird collisions.



The Highlands District Sustainable Land Use Select Committee is preparing a pamphlet with guidelines for new homebuilders which will be available at the District office in the coming months. Existing homeowners can reduce bird deaths with the use of decals which are available at pet stores, online and from the SPCA at <https://spca.bc.ca/news/striking-bird-window-collisions/> and <https://shop.spca.bc.ca/collections/wild-arc> ~Allan Roger

- Remove or secure attractants.
- Do not store garbage or other organic waste outdoors.
- If you have curbside collection,

Are you Bear Aware?

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 birdfeeders are always inaccessible to non-target species such as squirrels and raccoons. Do not let seed that may attract rats and other rodents accumulate. For more information: Wildsafe B.C. <https://wildsafebc.com/>



**CHECK YOUR
SMOKE
DETECTOR**

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on Sunday, March 13th for daylight savings time. It is recommended that you test your smoke alarms and replace the batteries to ensure that they are functioning properly.

Community and Council News

Highlands Easter Egg Hunt



Sunday April 17th

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

At the Caleb Pike Heritage Park

1589 Millstream Road

The Easter Bunny is once again coming to the Highlands!

Come enjoy this outdoor event with family and friends and watch the kids scramble for candy.

Please bring some **nut-free** treats to hide.

Further details will soon be available on your local bulletin boards and on the District web site at highlands.ca ~photos Genny Holt



Cut Broom in Bloom
BroomBusters.org
Join us!

ICBC Road Safety Distracted Driving Safety Tips



#LeaveYourPhoneAlone #EyesFwdBC

Even if you're not using your phone, you may still be distracted. Anything that takes your attention away from driving, like chatting with passengers, eating or drinking, or adjusting radio or vehicle settings, can contribute to distracted and inattentive driving. We all play a part in making our roads safe. When you're behind the wheel, focus on the road.

If your activities involve drinking, plan ahead for a safe ride home. Arrange a designated driver, call a taxi, a friend, or a ride-hailing service, or take transit. If you've been drinking at home, stay home and don't drive.

To Think of Gardening

There are still a few garden boxes available for rent. For \$50 a year you get a garden box in the fenced community garden, access to fruit from the communal fruit trees and berry bushes, gardening tools, water, compost, little garden library, play tools and area for your children and new gardening friends. To rent a garden box contact Bonnie, our membership coordinator by emailing.

Highlandscommunitygarden@outlook.com

by Marlene Tyshynski



HIGHLANDS BROOM BASH ALL OF MAY

Cut Broom in bloom. Don't pull.

Deliver your cut broom to the field behind the Community Garden off Finlayson Arm Rd.

Drop off open every Saturday in May from 8-1pm.

We encourage all landowners to cut the broom at their roadside. Take ownership of your section of road.

Contact Paul Henry: 250-478-7885

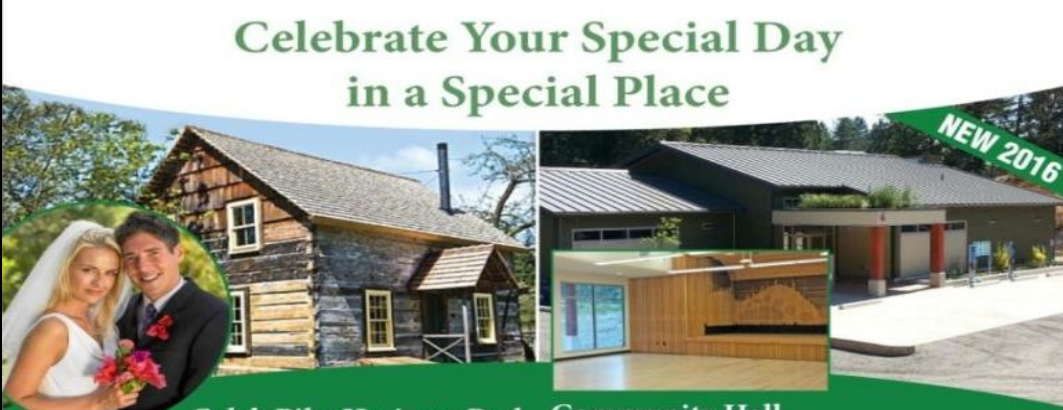
Highlands Information at your fingertips!

You simply sign up for items such as: agendas, minutes, news alerts and events posted to 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.




Notify Me®
Sign up to receive notifications

**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:

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Councillor Leslie Anderson
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Councillor Ann Baird
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Councillor Marcie McLean
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Councillor Karel Roessingh
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Councillor Rose Stanton
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Fire Chief Ford
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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 Council and Budget Consultation Schedule

- Monday, March 7, 2022 – Regular Council and Special Budget Committee of the Whole
- Monday, March 14, 2022 – Committee of the Whole
- Monday, March 21, 2022 – Regular Council Meeting
- Monday, March 28, 2022 – Special Budget Committee of the Whole
- Monday, April 4, 2022 – Regular Council Meeting
- Monday, April 11, 2022 – Committee of the Whole
- Tuesday, April 19, 2022 – Regular Council Meeting
- Monday, May 2, 2022 – Budget and Regular Council Meeting
- Monday, May 9, 2022 – Special Budget Council Meeting
- Monday, May 16, 2022 – Regular Council Meeting



Public Meeting Attendance

Council meetings are being held electronically using the Zoom platform. The link is provided on the meeting agenda cover page, which can be found on the District website: www.highlands.ca. Electronic attendance is encouraged for safety reasons. Members of the public wishing to attend meetings in person may do so at the Community Hall located at 729 Finlayson Arm Road, where they will be able to hear the electronic meeting in real time.

We encourage any comments regarding agenda items to be:

- emailed to info@highlands.ca or
- mailed to District of Highlands, 1980 Millstream Road, Victoria B.C., V9B 6H1 or
- dropped off in the mail slot at the District Office

EBird in the Highlands

On April 20th, the HDCA will hold a brief AGM, recapping activities of last year, providing a preview of the year ahead, and appointing volunteer directors to support the existing team. That will be followed by a talk on birding in the Highlands, given by Ann Nightingale, director of Rocky Point Bird Observatory. The talk will include how to use and contribute to a new online tool “EBird in the Highlands”. For more information contact: Scott Richardson hdcacontact@gmail.com