



## Mayor's Message

At its March 6th meeting, Highlands Council adopted its 2023-2026 Strategic Plan. Next, we will dig into the budget process.

You are invited to get involved and attend these important council meetings. We will be examining the financial details while doing our best to balance the cost of our plans against rising inflation pressures.

As the weather warms and we all emerge from the long cold winds of winter, council wishes you success in all your spring projects.

## Budget Consultation Dates

Monday, March 27, 2023 – Special Committee of the Whole

Tuesday, April 11, 2023 – Committee of the Whole

Monday, April 17, 2023 – Regular Council Meeting

Monday, May 1, 2023 – Regular Council Meeting



## New Caretakers At Caleb Pike Heritage Park



The Highland Heritage Park Society is pleased to announce that Alia and Sheldon have been hired as the new caretakers for the Caleb Pike Heritage Park. They have moved here from the Cowichan area and are enjoying living in the Highlands. Alia and Sheldon bring strong skill sets with experience in building maintenance, horticulture, landscaping, and carpentry. Please stop by and say hello if you see them working outside. Welcome Alia and Sheldon!!

## Backyard Burning

Please note that burn permits are required for ALL outdoor burning, campfires, incinerators etc:

<https://hvfd.burnpermits.com/>



Before resorting to burning:

- Recycle through your local program or at a collection facility.
- Check what other disposal options are available for the material you want to burn.
- Compost instead of burning leaves and clippings.
- Hire tree trimming companies to dispose of land clearing debris.
- Woody material could be turned into wood chips, particle board, wood pellets, or fuel for cogeneration plants.
- Make sure the [weather and venting conditions](#) are appropriate for burning.
- Don't burn prohibited materials. [More Information](#)



## Highlands Broom Bash 2023

**MAY IS BLOOM TIME**

**CUT** anytime at your leisure.

**CUT** only blooming broom – no old woody dead ones.

**DON'T PULL** – that spreads seeds.

We encourage all landowners to cut the broom at their roadside. Involve your neighbours. Make it fun.

**Drop the broom cuttings behind the Community Gardens off Finlayson Arm Road**

**Each Saturday in May – Hrs 8-1**

Contact Paul: 250-478-7885

# Community and Council News

## 2023 Property Taxes and Provincial Home Owner Grants

Property tax notices will be mailed at the end of May. Should you need to update your mailing address, please call the District Office at 250-474-1773 or email [finance@highlands.ca](mailto:finance@highlands.ca) as soon as possible.



Once you receive your tax notice, please claim your Provincial Home Owner Grant before the July 4<sup>th</sup> due date to avoid penalties. Eligible property owners can apply for their grants at [gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant](http://gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant) or by calling toll-free to 1-888-355-2700 to speak with an agent.

## 2023 Provincial Speculation and Vacancy Tax

*Please note that the Provincial Speculation and Vacancy Tax program is separate from the Provincial Home Owner Grant program and that both must be claimed separately.*

The speculation and vacancy tax declaration period is now open.

Declaration letters were mailed in January by the Province. You'll need your letter before you can declare on the Province's website at [gov.bc.ca/spectax](http://gov.bc.ca/spectax). Every owner of a property must declare every year. 99% of owners are exempt. The declaration deadline is March 31, 2023.

If a payment is owed, speculation and vacancy taxes are due July 4, 2023 to the Province.

## Strategic Plan Update

Council has adopted its new [2023-2026 Strategic Plan](#)! The Plan will ensure that the priorities that are in progress from last Council term continue to move forward and will start conversations about how we can improve communications, as well as how we carry out our recreation services including looking at our trails and cycling network plans. It also will result in an organizational structure and capacity review to ensure the District's capacity and ability is in place to provide services that are progressive, effective, efficient, and strongly aligned with the direction of Council and the community. The 5 overarching goals and priorities of the Plan are:

- **CLIMATE EMERGENCY, ADAPTATION & MITIGATION**
- **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RESILIENCY & RECOVERY**
- **WATER RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**
- **RURAL VALUES, PROTECTION & ENHANCEMENT**
- **COMMUNITY WELL-BEING**

## Secondary Suite and ADU Project Update

Secondary suites and additional dwelling units remain unregulated in the Highlands. Council referred the project to the Sustainable Land Use Select Committee (SLUSC), who will discuss it at its March 2023 meeting. It is expected that SLUSC's recommendation and a staff report will go to Council in April or May. Here is a web link to that project: <https://www.highlands.ca/476/Secondary-Suites-and-Accessory-Dwelling->

## South Highlands Local Area Plan (SHLAP)

At its February 21, 2023 Meeting, Council started discussions about the draft plan. The plan has been referred to a future Committee of the Whole Meeting to allow for public discussion. The version being considered by Council can be found at this web link:

<https://www.highlands.ca/DocumentCenter/View/8236/Attachment-1-2023-01-17-SHLAP-LAP-Report>.

Some questions about the plan include: what kind of land uses would be acceptable in each of the proposed "Low-Impact Development" and "Environmental Stewardship" land use designations, and understanding definitions of "net positive" and "net zero" land use outcomes. These topics are discussed on pages 13, 18 and 21 of the draft plan in above web link.

# Community and Council News

## Highlands Easter Egg Hunt



Sunday, April 9th  
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](http://highlands.ca)



## Highlands Music Coffee House

Saturday night, March 11, features singer/songwriter Dave Gallant. 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. Caleb Pike House 699 Caleb Pike Rd.

*Upcoming acts:*

April 15, 2023 Thomas Radcliffe

May 13, 2023 Los Gringos Locos



## Potluck Supper and Country Dance

You are invited to the 12th Annual Spring Potluck Supper and Scottish Country Dance at the Highlands Community Hall, 729 Finlayson Arm Road, Saturday March 18, 2023. Supper begins at 6:00pm with dancing at 7:30 pm. Please bring your own plates, cutlery, drinking vessel, beverage and a delicious dish for the potluck. Tea and coffee provided.

Mary Ross will provide the live music and Bob Anderson will lead us through the dance steps.

Space is limited. Let us know whether you and a partner and any young person want to reserve places to join the fun - supper and dance, supper only or dance only. If you have a friend who might enjoy the occasion, please send one of us their email or phone number, so they can be invited.

Ingo Lambrecht ([ingomail@ymail.com](mailto:ingomail@ymail.com) 250-708-3332)

Bob McMinn ([bobmcminn@shaw.ca](mailto:bobmcminn@shaw.ca) 250-478-4403)

## Highlands Community Garden

"Quivering, shivering, the warm breath of Spring" (G. Lightfoot). Despite the frigid weather and blanket of snow (with more to come), the garden is awakening, with swelling buds on the fruit trees, garlic sprouting, and overwintering vegetables perking up. Plans are in the works for our 2023 season, with opportunities for community involvement. Please stay tuned for events. As always, if you are interested in the garden, please reach out to us at [highlandscommunitygarden@outlook.com](mailto:highlandscommunitygarden@outlook.com).



## 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](http://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  
[www.calebpikeheritagepark.ca](http://www.calebpikeheritagepark.ca) • [www.highlands.ca](http://www.highlands.ca)

## Contact Info:

Mayor Ken Williams  
[kwilliams@highlands.ca](mailto:kwilliams@highlands.ca)  
250-882-5481

Councillor Leslie Anderson  
[leslie.corvidconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:leslie.corvidconsulting@gmail.com)  
778-350-8180

Councillor Ann Baird  
[ann@eco-sense.ca](mailto:ann@eco-sense.ca)  
250-812-5481

Councillor Gord Baird  
[gord.baird@gmail.com](mailto:gord.baird@gmail.com)  
250-818-7986

Councillor Marcie McLean  
[marciemclean@shaw.ca](mailto:marciemclean@shaw.ca)  
250-474-4725

Councillor Karel Roessingh  
[karel@roessong.com](mailto:karel@roessong.com)  
250-727-9808

Councillor Rose Stanton  
[rose26@telus.net](mailto:rose26@telus.net)  
250-474-3403

Fire Chief Ford  
[firechief@highlands.ca](mailto:firechief@highlands.ca)  
250-920-6970

Municipal Office  
[info@highlands.ca](mailto: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

## Taking Care of Our Lime Kiln

Volunteers from the Heritage Select Committee trimmed vegetation on Highlands' portion of the lime kiln at the municipal office. Regular vegetation management is key to protecting and preserving this heritage resource.

Information about the lime kiln can be found at this web link: <https://www.highlands.ca/433/Lime-Kiln>



before



after

## Meeting Dates

### March

Committee of the Whole,  
Monday, March 13 – 7:00 pm (Cancelled)  
Council – Monday, March 20 – 7:00 pm  
Heritage Select Committee –  
Wednesday, March 22 – 7:00 pm  
Special Budget Committee of the Whole,  
Monday – March 27 – 7:00 pm

### April

Council - Monday, April 3 – 7:00 pm  
Good Friday Holiday – Friday, April 7, 2023  
Easter Holiday – Monday, April 10, 2023  
Budget and Committee of the Whole –  
Tuesday, April 11 - 7:00 pm  
Budget and Regular Council – Monday, April 17 – 7:00 pm

### May

Budget and Regular Council - Monday, May 1 – 7:00 pm  
Committee of the Whole – Monday, May 8 – 7:00 pm  
Council – Monday, May 15 – 7:00 pm  
Victoria Day Holiday – Monday, May 22

