

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays



Mayor's Message

The District of Highlands deeply appreciates the contributions of individuals and families who have made significant impacts on our community. On behalf of the council, it is a pleasure to recognize and honour the outstanding commitment and dedication of Daphne Allen and Barry Ford. Both have over 40 years of experience of service to the community.



Highlands Honours Daphne Allen

At the October 16th Council Meeting, Daphne was honoured with the highest recognition from the Highlands municipality – the Freedom of the District. This prestigious accolade was bestowed upon her in recognition of a lifetime devoted to community service and numerous contributions to Highland's cultural tapestry.

Daphne's remarkable commitment includes serving as Treasurer for the Highlands Heritage Park Society since its inception, contributing historical articles to the Highlander, co-writing "Beautiful Rocks," and co-organizing the Heritage Fair, which later evolved into the iconic Highlands Fling. Her involvement in the Heritage Task Force and subsequent Heritage Select Committee since 2011 highlights her ongoing dedication.

From creating community quilts to crafting the unique Mayor's Chain of Office in 1993, Daphne's multifaceted contributions extend to meticulous documentation and preservation of Highlands' rich history. Her legacy is etched in the fabric of Highlands, a testament to a lifetime devoted to community enrichment.

Barry Ford Receives 2nd Gold Bar

Barry Ford, a stalwart in firefighting, joined the East Highlands Fire Society in 1978 and ascended to Fire Chief in 1981. His remarkable career includes pivotal achievements like fundraising for their first fire truck in 1978 and overseeing the construction of the first fire hall in 1982.

Barry's community contributions extended beyond firefighting. He initiated the Highlands Santa run in 1987 to aid the less fortunate during Christmas. He addressed a logistical challenge for firefighters when he assigned official addresses in the early '90s. Recognitions include the 2005 CFA 9-1-1 award and the 2009 Governor General of Canada Long Service award. Barry retired in 2009 but returned in 2013 and now has accumulated over 42 years of exemplary service.

At a community hall ceremony on Dec 9th, Barry's son, Fire Chief Dean Ford, presented a second gold bar to his father on behalf of the Governor General of Canada.

Secondary Suites and ADUs

At the December 4, 2023 Council Meeting, Council adopted [Bylaw No. 438](#) that amended the Highlands Zoning Bylaw.



Starting June 1, 2024, many but not all residentially zoned properties in Highlands will be allowed to have one “accessory dwelling unit” either in a home (“secondary suite”) or in an accessory building (“detached secondary suite”). Just like the “principal dwelling unit,” property owners will be required to obtain an Occupancy Permit for the accessory dwelling unit.

All outside regulations like the *BC Building Code*, the *BC Drinking Water Protection Regulation* and the *BC Sewerage System Regulation* still apply. For information:

1. Here is a web page outlining Island Health’s information regarding wells serving anything more than one single family home: <https://www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/drinking-water/drinking-water-legislation-approval>. If you want to have an accessory dwelling unit either as a secondary suite (in a home) or as a detached secondary suite (in an accessory building), you will need to apply to Island Health for a water supply / drinking water system. Here is the application form: <https://www.islandhealth.ca/sites/default/files/2018-04/drinking-water-system-application.pdf>.
2. Here is Island Health’s web page regarding Onsite Sewage Disposal: <https://www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/environment/sewage-subdivision>

We expect ancillary changes to other bylaws including the Building Regulation Bylaw. Stay tuned!

Newly enacted Provincial legislation changes the way secondary housing will be accommodated throughout BC. How this new legislation may affect or require changes to the District of Highlands’ Secondary Suites and Accessory Dwelling Unit program has not yet been determined, and more information will be provided through this web page in the coming months. Information about the Provincial initiative can be found at this web link:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/housing-tenancy/local-governments-and-housing/housing-initiatives>.

Now Recruiting Volunteers for Select Committees

Are you interested in volunteering to contribute to decision making on matters affecting the District of Highlands? Community members wishing to participate are encouraged to apply by **December 29th 2023**.



The following Boards and Committees are seeking volunteer members: For terms ending

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| • Highlands Heritage Select Committee | December 31st, 2025 |
| • Highlands Social Sustainability Select Committee | December 31st, 2025 |
| • Highlands Sustainable Land Use Select Committee | December 31st, 2025 |

The District of Highlands is interested in learning what may encourage community interest for increased committee membership for its Social Sustainability Select Committee. Please forward your ideas to mmiles@highlands.ca

Terms of Reference for the Board of Variance and Select Committees are available on the District’s website at: <https://www.highlands.ca/367/Select-Committees>.

For More Information: Please contact the District office at 250-474-1773

Application Deadline: Friday, December 29th, 2023

How to Apply: Please submit a letter outlining details of relevant background information by the application deadline to Melisa Miles, Corporate Officer, by mail or drop box to 1980 Millstream Road, Highlands, BC, V9B 6H1 or by email to mmiles@highlands.ca

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

Community Garden Notes

From dark rain-soaked winter soils to golden frost-tipped fall leaves, we watched our garden's beautiful transit through the season. Just short months ago, we saw pale green-silvered buds swell on the fruit trees, bright green shoots of all manner of seeds spring up from the warming soils, and berries take on their ripe reds of various shades. Apples were weighing heavily in the orchard, and gardeners picked and shared the bounty. Boxes were rampant with tomatoes, cucumbers and beets of all colours, while the squash plants in the community bed made a run up the rock face, throwing out loads of zucchinis and Hubbard squash as they went. The summer garden has been put to bed now and the over-winter crops are tucked in for the season. We can now give thoughts to the year ahead.

The community garden welcomes new members from the Highlands and if you are interested or would like more information, please contact us at

highlandscommunitygarden@outlook.com



Highlands District Community Association (HDCA)

Who are we and what do we do?

The HDCA is a volunteer community group that organizes activities for all Highlands residents, including the following:

- AGM and special presentation
- Broom Clearing
- Coffee Music Houses
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Emergency Preparedness Planning Meetings
- Highlands Fling
- Roadside Cleanup
- Speaker Series
- Improve public awareness through environmental education and community meetings
- Summer Produce Markets

Our membership is more than affordable, and we encourage all Highlanders to support the Association and become annual or lifetime members.

Memberships are sold at our various activities - look for the HDCA Table! We are also always receptive to new ideas and welcome volunteers. Contact email: doonew@hotmail.com

2024 Grant-In-Aid Funding

The Highlands office is accepting applications for grant-in-aid funding for 2024. Organizations wishing to apply must submit a completed application prior to the deadline, February 29, 2024. Application forms and District policy are available at <https://www.highlands.ca/163/Grant-in-Aid>.

RECYCLE YOUR HOLIDAYS

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

<https://www.crd.bc.ca/education/rethink-waste/reduce-and-reuse/make-memories-not-waste>

BikeMaps.org

BikeMaps.org is a great idea that uses a crowd source data technique to map your cycling experience to make cycling safer. Your knowledge of cycling safety, hazards and even bike thefts are analyzed using GIS to identify valuable information, not only locally, but from across the planet. Check out the bikemap.org expandable/collapsible map starting from our area: <https://bikemaps.org/@48.5086157,-123.4832811,14z>

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://hvf.d.burnpermits.com/>. Burning in woodstoves does 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.





Highlands Music Coffee House 2024

Meeting Schedule

Contact Info:

2024 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING DATES
Community Hall – 729 Finlayson Arm Road – 7:00 pm

| Month | Weekday | Date |
|-----------|---|---------------------------|
| January | 2 nd Monday 4 th Monday | January 8 January 22 |
| February | 1 st Monday 3 rd Tuesday | February 5 February 20 |
| March | 1 st Monday 3 rd Monday | March 4 March 18 |
| April | 2 nd Monday 4 th Monday | April 8 April 22 |
| May | 1 st Monday 3 rd Tuesday | May 6 May 21 |
| June | 1 st Monday 3 rd Monday | June 3 June 17 |
| July | 3 rd Monday | July 15 |
| August | 2 nd Monday | August 12 |
| September | 2 nd Monday | September 9 |
| October | 1 st Monday 3 rd Monday | October 7 October 21 |
| November | 1 st Monday 3 rd Monday | November 4 November 18 |
| December | 2 nd Monday | December 9 |

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

District Office Winter Closure

Please be advised that the District Office will be closed as of noon Dec. 22nd, 2023 and will re-open on Tuesday, January 2nd, 2024.



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.



Here are the dates and feature presentations for 2024:

January 2024 TBA On Zoom

February 2024 TBA On Zoom

Please wait for our Zoom invite by email.

LIVE at the Caleb Pike House
1589 Millstream Rd. Doors open at 6:30PM

March 9, 2024 Ken, Sherry, Al & Friends

April 13, 2024 Ryton Rigg

May 11, 2024 Ukes Misbehavin'

June 8, 2024 Hank Cramer

July 13, 2024 Steluta

August 12, 2024 Karel Roessingh & Friends

September 21, 2024 Shinndig

October 12, 2024 B flat

November 11, 2024 Terry Boyle Band

December 14, 2024 Co-Conspirators



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.

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!

