

# BUDGET UPDATE



DISTRICT OF CENTRAL SAANICH

## CAREFUL PLANNING NETS GOOD VALUE FOR DISTRICT TAXPAYERS

*After carefully examining all budget areas, we are pleased to report that this year's tax rates show the lowest percentage increase since 1999. Part of this success can be attributed to working hard to obtain alternative funding for special projects, such as grants that have helped fund several infrastructure projects.*

*We continue to face pressures for funding core budget items while working to keep operational expenditures at a reasonable level. We have allocated, where appropriate, the Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing Grant and the GST rebate to reduce operational costs specifically related to public safety and infrastructure.*

*The District is making good progress in moving toward long-term financial sustainability. Our financial position is generally positive, and property tax rates are among the lowest in the Capital Regional District.*

*Our priority this year is to focus on infrastructure projects. Construction is expected to get underway in late August for the Brentwood Bay Traffic Corridor Revitalization project on West Saanich Rd. between Verdier Ave. and Wallace Dr. Other noteworthy projects include drainage improvements, the construction of a sidewalk on Wallace Dr. from Sluggett Rd. to the Community Hall, the Saanichton Bay Park erosion protection project, upgrades to the Hagan Bight beach access, Mount Newton Cross Rd. bicycle lane development and implementation of Saanichton Green Phase II improvements. Other bicycle route and pedestrian facilities projects identified in the 2003 Transportation Planning Study have also been prioritized.*

*Assessment growth has contributed additional tax revenue, which has helped minimize property tax increases. The strength of the District's accumulated reserves and surplus will allow Council to internally finance the Brentwood Revitalization project.*

*Our thanks to residents and business owners for their comments and suggestions throughout the budget process.*

Central Saanich Council

## TAX RATES AT A GLANCE

### DISTRICT OF CENTRAL SAANICH PORTION OF TAXES

- The municipal portion of taxes paid by residential property owners will increase by 5.75 per cent or \$55.39 (\$16.61/\$100,000 assessed value) for the average residential property assessed at \$333,519 (\$277,800 in 2004).
- The municipal portion of taxes will increase by 7.58 per cent or \$236.96 (\$47.32/\$100,000 assessed value) for the average business assessed at \$500,800 (\$410,050 in 2004).
- Water consumption rates will remain unchanged, but the basic water fixed charge will increase by \$2.80 per billing period or \$8.40 for the year and the average sewer user charge will increase by \$3.64 per billing period or \$10.92 for the year. Customers who pay their utility accounts in full on or before the thirtieth (30th) day following the billing date receive a discount of ten per cent (10%).

### CAPITAL REGIONAL AND HOSPITAL DISTRICT PORTIONS OF TAXES

**F**or properties connected to water and sewer, the total CRD and CRHD portions of the tax bill have

increased by 4.14 per cent or \$21.95 for the average residential property and 5.93 per cent or \$102.27 for the average business property.

### DISTRICT USES INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO REDUCE COSTS

**T**he District constantly explores ways to offer services that are cost effective, efficient and minimize tax increases. The District has been very successful this past year in obtaining third party funding, including grants, to assist in funding a number of projects. Examples include:

- Brentwood Bay Traffic Corridor Revitalization Project – \$1,700,733
- Wildfire Protection Education – \$2,500
- Tsunami Preparedness Planning – \$10,000
- New tree plantings in municipal parks – \$10,000
- West Nile Risk Reduction – \$15,000
- Stormwater Management Planning – \$20,000
- Funding assistance for parks and special projects – Partnering with government agencies, community organizations, businesses and citizens helps fund projects such as the West Saanich School (Scout/Guide Hall) restoration, the proposed Alexander Field and Saanichton Green Phase II improvements, and other community initiatives.

### BOTTOM LINE PROPERTY TAX IMPACT ON RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES

- Total net taxes will increase by 5.17 per cent or \$102.69 for the average residential property (5.51 per cent or \$89.42 for properties not on water and sewers).
- Total net taxes will increase by 12.02 per cent or \$1,165.00 for the average business. Approximately 70% or \$810.72 of the tax increase is because school taxes increased by 18.43%, BC Assessment increased by 18.05%, and the Regional Transit levy increased by 11.43%.

## WHAT NEW PROJECTS WILL TAKE PLACE THIS YEAR?

The District strives to fund as many new projects as possible from sources other than District taxation. Listed below are some of the projects that will take place this year which will have a modest tax impact:

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

• Staff training \$4,000

### PARKS/TRAILS

• Newman Park Building maintenance \$2,500

### PLANNING

• Butterfield Gardens restoration \$2,500

• Staffing increase for Building Inspection Services \$12,500

### PUBLIC SERVICES

• Additional road maintenance \$20,000

• Additional drainage projects \$21,600

The following one-time projects and equipment upgrades will also go ahead (with no direct impact on tax rates as they are paid for out of reserves or accumulated surplus):

### ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE

• Technology upgrades \$156,000

### FACILITIES

• Cultural Centre roofing and flooring \$22,000

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

• Thermal imaging cameras (public/private funding) \$33,000

### PARKS/TRAILS

• Beach access (public/private funding) /Park and playground equipment improvements \$108,200

### POLICE SERVICES

• New community policing vehicle \$25,000

### PUBLIC SERVICES

• Wallace Dr. sidewalk from Sluggett to Community Hall (public/private funding) \$85,000

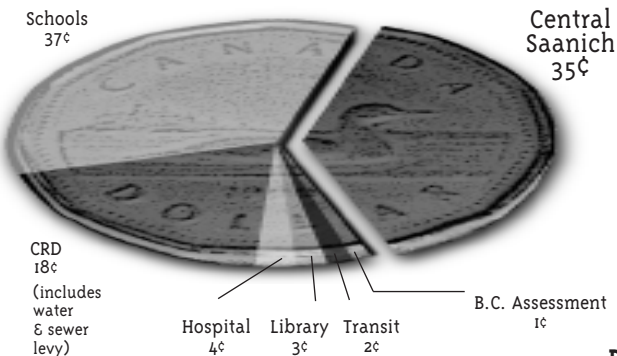
• Mount Newton Cross Rd. bicycle lane (subject to grant) \$100,000

• Saanichton Bay Park erosion protection (public/private funding) \$251,000

## 2005- 2009 FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN

REVENUES	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
Property Taxes	\$10,536,500	\$11,243,000	\$11,457,900	\$12,013,500	\$12,448,300	\$57,699,200
Parcel charges	700	82,200	700	700	700	85,000
Fees and charges	3,714,300	3,839,200	3,839,200	3,839,200	3,839,200	19,071,100
Other Revenue and Interest	3,771,000	2,299,800	1,881,700	1,965,600	1,812,000	11,730,100
Transfers from Reserves, Surplus & Other Funds	3,174,800	1,685,600	1,642,600	1,181,000	840,600	8,524,600
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$21,197,300</b>	<b>\$19,149,800</b>	<b>\$18,822,100</b>	<b>\$19,000,000</b>	<b>\$18,940,800</b>	<b>\$97,110,000</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>						
Debt Interest	\$32,600	\$9,500	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$58,600
Debt Principal	42,400	48,300	0	0	0	90,700
Capital Expenditures	5,288,400	1,915,400	1,945,700	1,619,100	1,088,200	11,856,800
Other Municipal Purposes						
General Municipal	5,192,400	6,036,500	5,493,500	5,673,100	5,809,500	28,205,000
Police Protection	3,182,400	3,277,900	3,376,200	3,477,500	3,581,800	16,895,800
Fire Protection	631,500	662,500	686,100	706,400	727,300	3,413,800
Greater Victoria Public Library	561,200	589,300	618,800	649,700	682,200	3,101,200
Water	3,123,000	3,216,700	3,313,200	3,412,600	3,515,000	16,580,500
Sewer	2,303,900	2,372,700	2,443,600	2,516,600	2,591,800	12,228,600
	14,994,400	16,155,600	15,931,400	16,435,900	16,907,600	80,424,900
Transfers to Reserves, Surplus & Other Funds	839,500	1,021,000	939,500	939,500	939,500	4,679,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$21,197,300</b>	<b>\$19,149,800</b>	<b>\$18,822,100</b>	<b>\$19,000,000</b>	<b>\$18,940,800</b>	<b>\$97,110,000</b>

### WHERE DOES YOUR TAX DOLLAR GO?



### HOW CENTRAL SAANICH SPENDS ITS 35¢ SHARE OF YOUR TAX DOLLAR



### PAYING YOUR TAX BILL

Tax bills are due and payable at the Municipal Hall by July 4, 2005. A 10 per cent penalty of the outstanding balance will be charged to late payments. You can pay your property tax bill through most financial institutions or internet banking. Please check with your financial institution to ensure this payment

method can be accepted for property taxes. If you make your tax payments through your financial institution or a mortgage company, the Homeowner Grant must still be claimed and submitted before July 4, 2005. Please call 544-4205 for more information.