

COMMUNITY FOCUS

SEPTEMBER 2009



NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR CENTRAL SAANICH

GREETINGS FROM COUNCIL

As always, the months seem to have flown by and here we are, moving into fall and taking stock of the year that's drawing to a close. There is still lots of activity in our District and we're happy to be able to update you on a number of initiatives that are underway or in the works.

Building and maintaining good relationships with our neighbours remains a priority for our Council. We've had community forums with First Nations, joint meetings with our sister municipalities on shared concerns and we're participating in the first-ever Highway 17 Joint Peninsula Steering Committee to jointly recommend to the Province improvements to the Pat Bay Highway.

We've also been busy within our borders. We passed our Budget, updated our Strategic Plan, held a Town Hall Meeting and hosted various open houses on District engineering projects (some of them are profiled in this issue.) For a complete list of what's happening, visit www.centrialsaanich.ca

The fall is also a time to give thanks and your Council would like to thank the many residents who volunteer their time and energy in a wide variety of activities that make our District such a good place to live.

Several Central Saanich Staff deserve mention here. Congratulations to our new Superintendent of Public Works, Norm Doerksen, who has been promoted from his previous position as Parks Foreman. And congratulations as well to Central Saanich Police Cst. Ondine Easson who won a gold medal in the Triathlon at the World Police and Fire Games held in August in Vancouver. Two other officers, Cst. Pat Bryant (triathlon) and Cpl. Dave Glancie (golf) were also competitors at the Games, which featured 10,000 athletes from 56 countries.

And finally, the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay will arrive in our District on October 30th. The world will be watching.

AQUATIC CENTRE GRAND OPENING



Workers put the finishing touches on the new Aquatic Centre, opening Oct. 24.

Almost one year after voters in Central Saanich voted in favour of participating in the financing of the renovation/expansion of the Panorama Recreation Centre, residents are invited to come out to see the results at the grand opening of the Aquatic Centre on Saturday, October 24th.

The \$9 million, 7,000 sq. ft. expansion features a new leisure/lifestyle pool, a shallow tots' area, two 25 metre leisure swimming lanes, a new hot tub, a 35-foot-high water slide (fully accessible), steam room, sauna, an expanded weight room and new program space.

The cost of the expansion was initially financed by the District of North Saanich and the Town of Sidney. But last fall Central Saanich voters approved a referendum question by a margin of nearly three to one to participate in the financing with their neighbouring municipalities. The cost per household is

estimated to be about \$44.31 in increased property taxes over 15 years.

The official opening events kick off at 10:30 a.m. on Oct. 24 with speeches and ribbon-cuttings, followed by tours of the new structure. Tours will continue throughout the day. There are three public swims (with tickets) during the day at 12:15 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Tickets to the swims are free, but you must pick them up in advance at the pool reception after October 1. There is a limit of five per family.

With the expanded pool facilities, the Panorama Rec Centre is looking for more staff. This fall, they'll be filling 45 Lifeguard/Swim Instructor, Aquafit Instructor and Team Leader positions. If you or a member of your family is interested in training for one of these positions, contact Dustin Ray-Wilks, Aquatic Coordinator, at 250-665-2182 or draywilks@panoramarec.bc.ca.

BYLAW UPDATES

Firearms Bylaw

After consulting with concerned groups, Council has adopted a new Firearms Bylaw which spells out the Permit application process and sets rules for how firearms can be used by landowners for pest control in their crops and orchards. Some of the conditions include: the distance from homes that a shotgun can be discharged (with a valid Permit) is set at 100 metres and 150 metres for bows; only shotguns (not rifles) that fire a single projectile and bows are allowed for Pest Control Permits; the Permit fee has been reduced to \$5, from \$50; and orchard pistols are exempt from the new Bylaw.

Cat Spay/Neuter Bylaw

Council has amended the Animal Control Bylaw to require mandatory spaying and neutering for all cats over six months old. Anyone who allows an unspayed or neutered cat to roam at large is liable to a fine of \$200.

Truck Route Bylaw

After much public consultation, Council has finally passed a Truck Route Bylaw for commercial trucks and tour buses. The new Bylaw takes effect this fall, once signs are posted and some intersection upgrades are complete. A new four-way stop at Mount Newton Cross Rd. and East Saanich Road will be created to facilitate the implementation of the Truck Route Bylaw. Appropriate regulatory signs are ready for installation. Another notable result is that trucks and tour buses will not be allowed on East Saanich Road between Island View Road and Mount Newton Cross Road between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. Fines for breaching the new Bylaw range from \$500 to \$10,000. Copies of Central Saanich Bylaws and Policies are available online at www.centralsaanich.ca.

ENGINEERING UPDATES

East Saanich Road – Island View to Cultra

This three-year project, which has received funding of \$4.7 million under the Canada-BC Municipal Infrastructure grant program, is moving ahead, with public consultations planned for the fall. The project includes roadway upgrades, bike lanes and a separated sidewalk(s). A tendering process to hire an engineering firm to oversee the project was completed during the summer. Information about planned consultations will be posted on www.centralsaanich.ca and in local papers as dates are confirmed.

East Saanich Road

Bike Lanes and Separate Walking Trails

A smaller, but similar, roadway upgrading will be going ahead this fall on another portion of East Saanich Road from Polo Park Crescent to the North Saanich border. The proposed works, which include bike lanes and a separate walking trail, will allow a pedestrian and cycling connection into North Saanich to the new Kelset School. The tendering process is complete and construction is set for the fall.

BC Hydro Beautification Project

The much-talked about plan to underground the hydro and telephone lines along West Saanich Road through Brentwood Bay is going to happen. Council has received a grant for one-third of the cost of burying the lines from BC Hydro, two full years after the original West Saanich Road Revitalization project was completed. The work to switch to underground services along the right of way will be completed this fall.

You can follow the progress of these and other projects at the Central Saanich website at www.centralsaanich.ca.

SLOW DOWN IN SCHOOL ZONES

It's September and that means that once again, children are back in school so motorists need to be sure to watch their speed and obey crossing guards while travelling through school zones.

Speed limits are 30 km/hr in school zones and passing within them is prohibited. And remember that you must stop and not pass any school bus on a District roadway if its red lights are flashing. If the lights are off, proceed with caution while passing a stopped school bus. Also, there are new pedestrian activated lights fronting Brentwood Elementary.

Check your Child's Car Seats.

It's important to be sure your child car seat is installed correctly. So starting this fall, the Central Saanich Fire Department has started the Children's Car Seat Install and Inspection Program. It's a free service provided to residents. For more information, contact the Fire Department at 250-544-4238.

HIGHWAY 17 STEERING COMMITTEE

Regular users of the Pat Bay Highway know how busy this vital road link from Schwartz Bay to Victoria has become. And few would question the need for on-going maintenance and improvements to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of local Districts and communities along its length.

But because Highway 17 is a provincial road, the province has the last say in which intersections are upgraded and where new ones might go. So for the first time ever, the Districts of Central Saanich and North Saanich, the Town of Sidney and the Tsawout First Nation have formed a Joint Peninsula Steering Committee to speak with one voice to the Province about planned changes to the route.

The Committee will review the March 2007 "Highway 17 Corridor Study" done for the Department of Highways, consult with key stakeholders, meet with local MLAs, hold at least one public open house, consult with the public as appropriate and prepare a final report for the four sponsoring local governments/First Nation.



The full Council agenda package is available at the Municipal Hall and the Central Saanich Library.

COMMUNITY SERVICES & PARKS UPDATES

West Saanich School

One of our District's local heritage buildings received some much-needed upgrading this summer.

The West Saanich School received funding in this year's budget (including \$10,000 raised by the Brentwood Bay Old School Hall Society) to upgrade some of the fire safety measures. As well, a more detailed inspection revealed that the school's ducting system was in need of replacing in order to keep the building safe.

Fortunately, contingency funds were available and the ducting, plumbing and electrical systems were all brought up to a safe level, just in time to ensure that Scouts and Guides can keep using the building this fall.

West Saanich School was actively used as a school from 1909 to 1952. It drew students from as far as Prospect Lake up to Mount Newton. With the opening of a modern four-room school (Brentwood School) on Wallace Drive in 1952, West Saanich School began its second phase of service.

Since 1960, it has been used as a community hall by local youth groups. The building continues to provide an important meeting space for Scouts, Girl Guides and 4-H clubs, as well as supporting local events.

Newman Farm Park

The public is now able to visit parts of historic Newman Farm, as work continues at the unique heritage site to preserve and protect the original buildings. The 16.5 acre parcel of land, complete with its original buildings, was turned over to the District in 2003, for use as public parkland.

The Newman Farm remained in family ownership, and relatively unchanged, for 107 years. In 1994, seven of the fifteen buildings on the site were designated as municipal heritage structures. Over the past few years, the District has taken initial steps to stabilize the buildings on site and address immediate safety and security issues.

Over the summer, two boathouses on Ferguson cove were re-roofed and the siding was repaired.

Although much of the original farm is not yet open to the public, access to the eastern end of the property is now available off Lochside Drive. Later this fall, plans call for the main house and barn to receive new roofs and foundation work, although contracts have not yet been awarded.

The work is continuing under the terms of the Newman Farm Master Plan, which was adopted by Council in 2007.

COMMUNITY FORUMS WITH FIRST NATIONS

A continuing priority for the current Council is ensuring that relationships with our neighbours, the Tsartlip and Tsawout First Nations, continue to be positive for both sides. To that end, Council held Community-to-Community Forums with both groups last March. The meetings gave Council members from all groups the opportunity to introduce themselves and talk about shared issues.

At the March 24th Forum, Central Saanich and Tsartlip agreed in principle that they would work towards a "Relationship Agreement" similar to one adopted in 2007 by North Saanich and the Tseycum First Nation. Their respective Councils are currently reviewing that agreement as a prelude to drafting something similar as a basis for their own.

Similarly, Central Saanich and Tsawout have agreed to work towards renewal of the 2001 Saanich Peninsula Protocol Agreement, which was endorsed by both sides at the time but not formally signed.

Councils for all three groups will be considering these new agreements this fall, which are the first steps in establishing effective processes for working through a variety of shared issues, such as traffic safety, animal control, consultation processes, youth at risk and community events.

MIGHT-E TRUCKS BEING TESTED

Residents may notice something new driving along the trails of Central Saanich this fall. The District is testing the Might-E truck, a small all electric pickup truck, manufactured in Nanaimo by Canadian Electric Vehicle Company.

The small pickup truck, which looks similar to the right-hand drive trucks the District rented over the summer, runs entirely on electric power. It was used in Centennial Park for a trial period for trail maintenance, garbage pickup, irrigation services and small turf projects. The vehicle can't be used on District roadways because there is no Bylaw in place to allow this type of vehicle on roadways.

The Might-E truck is already being used in Colwood and Whistler. No decision has been made about whether it might be permanently used here in Central Saanich.



The Block Watch program is a free community-based crime prevention program administered by Central Saanich Police Service. Neighbours form a communication chain, aided by a block map of names, numbers and addresses. They make a commitment to watch out for each other's homes and report suspicious activities to the police and each other. They also keep each other informed about neighbourhood occurrences, burglaries, thefts and other crimes or problems on their street.

If you are interested in learning more about Central Saanich Police Block Watch, please contact the Block Watch Coordinator, Cst. Janis Jean at 250-652-4441.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



Harvest Fair Threshing Weekend Sept 19-20

Don't miss Heritage Acres annual Harvest Fair, Sept 19-20 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 7321 Lochside Dr. This longstanding and popular agricultural themed event features food, music, museums, operating steam and gas engines and train rides. It's a great time for the whole family. Admission is \$6 – youths 16 and under are free. Call 250-652-5522 for more information.

Fire Dept Open House September 27

Stop by the Central Saanich Fire Hall on Sunday September 27, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and meet the people who help keep our District safe.

First Annual Community Ball October 24

Central Saanich Police Services are hosting the First Annual Community Ball at the Saanich Fairgrounds on October 24, featuring music and entertainment by the Timebenders and food from Four Mile Catering. Tickets are \$50.00 each and are available at the Central Saanich Police Station. All proceeds will go to benefit the Saanich Peninsula Hospital Foundation.

Panorama Recreation Pool Grand Opening October 24

The Grand Opening of the new Aquatic Centre at the Panorama Recreation Centre takes place on Saturday, October 24. Events kick off at 10:30 am, and continue right into the evening. There will be free public swims (with tickets) at 12:15 pm, 3:30 pm and 6:30 pm. Tickets will be available at reception after October 1. For more information, phone 250-655-2179. For more information phone 250-655-2179.

Olympic Torch Relay October 30

The eyes of the world will be on Central Saanich Friday, October 30 for Day 1 of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay, which begins here on Vancouver Island. This will be the longest relay ever held in the borders of the host country. In just a few months, the Olympic flame will visit over 1,000 communities and places of interest as 12,000 torchbearers carry it on its 45,000 km journey. Watch for more details about the route the flame will take through our district as the date approaches.

Halloween Howl October 30

Come to Stelly's School, 1627 Stelly's Cross Road on Friday, October 30, from 4:30 p.m. – 6 p.m. for a carnival of games provided by Panorama Recreation and students of Stelly's Secondary School.

It's Creepy! District Halloween Party October 31

Dress up in your scariest costume and come to the annual District-sponsored Halloween party at 7.30 p.m. in Centennial Park.

Peninsula Country Market

Shop for local produce, baked goods, crafts and more every Saturday morning until October 10. Located on the Saanich Fairgrounds 1528 Stelly's Cross Road. This vibrant open air market has more than 50 vendors offering farm fresh products, jams and jellies, honey, homemade bread, cut flowers, assorted fresh meats, organic produce and a fine selection of arts and crafts. Enjoy live music, hot coffee, great munchies and a kid's corral.



DISTRICT OF CENTRAL SAANICH

1903 Mount Newton Cross Road, Saanichton BC V8M 2A9
Tel: 250-652-4444 Fax: 250-652-0135
E-mail: municipalhall@csaanich.ca
Website: www.centralsaanich.ca

COUNCIL

Mayor Jack Mar Chair of Municipal Council & Central Saanich Police Board 250-652-8449

Councillors

Alastair Bryson	Planning & Development Committee	250-544-0668
John Garrison	Administration & Finance Committee	250-544-1033
Ron Kubek	Parks & Facilities Committee	250-544-2929
Susan Mason	Community & Protective Services Committee	250-652-0783
Adam Olsen	Water & Waste Management Committee	250-889-7678
Terry Siklenka	Public Works & Transportation Committee	250-508-8313

Visit www.centralsaanich.ca for additional committee, commission and board positions.

MUNICIPAL STAFF

Gary C. Nason	Administrator	250-544-4201
Sara C. Ribeiro	Municipal Clerk	250-544-4202
Rosalyn Tanner	Director of Financial Services	250-544-4207
Nirmal Bhattacharya	Municipal Engineer	250-544-4210
Hope V. Burns	Director of Planning & Building Services	250-544-4209
Bonnie McKenzie	Manager of Community Services	250-544-4218
Ron French	Fire Chief	250-544-4227
Paul Hames	Chief Constable	250-652-4441

OTHER MUNICIPAL CONTACTS

General Information/Mayor's Office	250-652-4444
Building Inspections/Bylaw Enforcement	250-544-4217
Property Taxes/Utility Billing	250-544-4206
Accounts Payable	250-544-4205
Park Use Reservation	250-544-4218
Municipal Yard/Public Works - 1703 Keating Cross Road	
Public Services & Parks Maintenance	250-544-4224
After Hours Emergency	250-652-4441

GET IN TOUCH WITH MAYOR & COUNCIL

We'd like to hear from you if you have ideas, opinions or thoughts to share. Letters addressed to Mayor Jack Mar and Council are included in the Council meeting agenda. You may also speak to your letter at the meeting. Send your letter by 12 noon on the Wednesday before a Council meeting. Drop off your letter to the Municipal Hall, fax it to 250-652-0135 or e-mail it to: municipalhall@csaanich.ca. Letters should include your name and address.

CALL OR SEND US AN E-MAIL

You're also welcome to call or e-mail Councillors directly regarding District issues. See the adjacent column for phone numbers or send an e-mail to: firstname.lastname@csaanich.ca. Councillor Mason can be reached at clanmason@shaw.ca

CRD ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICE

The CRD provides animal control and pound-keeping services for the District. For more info, call: CRD Animal Control: 250-478-0624 or CRD Animal Shelter: 250-658-5745

BRENTWOOD BAY – MILL BAY FERRY SCHEDULE

Enjoy the most beautiful shortcut on Vancouver Island! Crossing Time: 25 minutes. Fares are payable in cash or travellers' cheques only. Commuter tickets are available. Discount tickets (30% savings) available at Thrifty Foods

Leave Brentwood Bay	Leave Mill Bay
*7:30 am	2:25 pm
8:40 am	3:35 pm
9:50 am	4:45 pm
11:00 am	5:55 pm
1:15 pm	1:50 pm
	*8:05am 3:00 pm
	9:15 am 4:10 pm
	10:25 am 5:20 pm
	11:35 am 6:30 pm

* Daily except Sundays