

COMMUNITY FOCUS

MAY 2010



NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR CENTRAL SAANICH

GREETINGS FROM COUNCIL

Volunteers are an integral part of the District's operations and we are pleased to announce some re-appointees, as well as several new members of various committees, boards and commissions. They include:

- Roni Anderson, David Hall, Carl Jensen, Michele Morson (new) and Roger Tucker (new) to the District's Advisory Planning Commission (APC).
- Robert Thompson (Chair) and Roni Anderson (Vice-Chair) were elected to their respective positions with the APC.
- Murray Matheson is the District's community representative on the Saanich Peninsula Water Commission and the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Committee.
- Carl Jensen is the community representative on the Peninsula Recreation Commission.
- Michael Doehnel, Larry Sluggett and Robert Thompson (representing the APC) and Robert Maxwell (representing the Peninsula Agricultural Commission) were appointed to the newly formed Agricultural Area Plan Steering Committee.

To those appointees who did not seek re-appointment for this term, thank you for volunteering your time and for your service to this community.

A series of public meetings were held this spring on the 2010 Budget and Five Year Financial Plan. The discussion and results are detailed in the 2010 Budget Update being delivered to residents in May. And in March, Council formally approved the District's 2010 Strategic Plan, which can be found at www.centrialsaanich.ca.

Finally, Council would like to welcome two new staff. Susan Brown has assumed the position of Municipal Clerk for a one year term and Tony Bousquet is the District's new Manager of Information Technology, having previously been the Information Technology Coordinator.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP IN CENTRAL SAANICH

Central Saanich residents may have come across some District staff on the roadside with what looks like an oversized power washer or sprayer of some kind. In fact, what they are likely looking at is the latest environmentally-friendly option in the District's weed reduction program.

The small unit uses high-pressure steam to knock down and control weeds without any of the potential worries caused by chemical alternatives. The operation takes time but is an effective control for smaller weeds, especially along roadsides and park fence lines, and on sidewalks. The pressure washer is also effective for removing graffiti, and cleaning bus shelters, guardrails and street signs quicker and in a more sanitary method than conventional cleaning alternatives.

The new steam cleaning unit is the latest example of the District's on-going commitment to setting an example for residents and other municipalities in responsible environmental stewardship.

The District's Public Works Division has 30 full-time employees and hires another six to 10 temporary workers in the summer. They are responsible for maintaining the District's vehicles, controlling weeds, maintaining parks, roadways and water/sewer lines, and cleaning District properties, among other duties. And in almost every aspect of their job, reducing the impact of their duties on the environment is a key consideration.

Energy Alternatives

For example, diesel powered vehicles have been powered by a biodiesel alternative for the last three years. A strict no-idling policy is enforced year-round. Energy efficient LED lights have been installed on District vehicles so that they can keep their flashing lights on without running



Eco-friendly tools in action

the engines. (Police vehicles have also been equipped with LED lighting.)

District staff have also begun changing over inefficient gas-powered sanding units (which are installed in trucks to spread sand and salt) to hydraulic units powered by the trucks. While the change might seem insignificant, each of the gas-powered spreaders can emit 7,000 kg of CO₂ annually.

Virtually everything is sent to be recycled, including oil, anti-freeze, batteries, tires, glass, cardboard and paper. On-going training for staff in how to reduce their personal energy use, through driving smarter and working more efficiently is

(continued on following page)

a key part of the District's environmental stewardship program.

Weeds an ongoing issue

Finding the right balance while maintaining the District's extensive parks system is an ongoing challenge. For example, how many weeds in a public area are acceptable? What kind of measures can be employed to battle invasive weeds in the woods and what can be done to remove them?

For the last nine years, local volunteers have worked with District staff to battle invasive plant species in District parks, like Centennial Park. The work involves removing invasive plants by hand. Students from the Environment Technology program at Camosun College take part each year as part of their educational component.

Local land stewardship groups also participate with District staff in maintaining undeveloped road rights of way to keep them from becoming unmanageable.

The District has adopted an Integrated Pest Management Plan which incorporates best practice management strategies and encourages a partnership between landowners and the District. The District is committed to raising the bar on environmental considerations when working on problems like weed and pest control.

While the use of chemical weed killers is virtually non-existent, biological controls, such as releasing lady bugs to control aphids and organic measures to counter root weevil are employed by District staff. Council is consulting with stakeholders on a proposed new Pesticide Use Control Bylaw, which is aimed at reducing the use of chemical controls for cosmetic purposes. The new Bylaw does not apply to private property but will focus on District-owned properties and the local groups that are responsible for their upkeep.

Every Tree is Replaced

During a busy construction season, residents often notice if one or more trees are removed. But what they may not be aware of is that every tree removed from public property is replaced with a new one, in a suitable location. Trees are vital to the health of our community and it's important to keep them healthy.

In the past 12 months, District staff have planted 857 trees, including maples, firs, cedars and oaks. They have also planted 3,683 native shrubs.

In addition to regular activities, special tree-planting programs, like the Trees for Tomorrow program, (*see the related story in this issue*) encourage people to participate in conservation efforts and raise awareness of the importance of maintaining trees throughout the District.

ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES

Integrated Stormwater Management Plan

After a two year consultation process, Council has endorsed an Integrated Stormwater Management Plan (ISMP) for the District that follows the guidelines and recommendations of the BC Stormwater Planning Guidebook - the first municipality on Vancouver Island to do so. The three year project featured extensive research, a Stakeholders Advisory Committee formed with members of government agencies, area farmers, local interest groups and District staff, open houses, public consultation and recommendations for action.

The goal of the project was to "integrate ecological, social, agricultural and cultural considerations along with engineering ones, to develop stormwater management policies, more correctly termed 'rainwater management,' that will be more holistic and sustainable."

The District anticipates the use of innovative design approaches in the ISMP to restore the dispersal of rainwater flows to near predevelopment levels. The reduction of stormwater flows may substantially reduce the size of the required conveyance works, damage caused by erosion, extreme variability of flows, and degradation of water quality.

The three major watersheds considered in the plan cover an area of approximately 3900 hectares (ha), contain 32 km of creek and receive approximately 858 mm of precipitation each year. They are among the District's most important assets.

The report recommends certain integrated drainage and watercourse improvements.

Surface Water Management Plan Bylaw adopted

After endorsing an Integrated Stormwater Management Plan last fall, Council has begun implementing some of the recommendations from that report. To that end, Council adopted the Surface Water Management Plan Bylaw at its March meeting.

As far as possible, Council considers that surface water runoff and storm water from impervious surfaces should, to the greatest extent possible, be returned to the soil on the land from which it originates or on which it falls. The Bylaw applies to new construction except for "exempt agricultural buildings" as outlined in the bylaw.

Complete details are available at www.centrialsaanich.ca.

Construction Updates:

East Saanich Road Renewal Project – Preparation for the upgrading of a 2.7 km stretch of East Saanich Road, from Island View Road to Cultra Avenue, continued this spring. A public open house was held in March, with a second scheduled for June. Construction is planned to start in late fall with the bulk of the construction happening during 2011, for a March 2012 completion.

The planned work includes adding sidewalks and bus lanes, upgrades to intersections and possibly adding bus pullouts. The planned work complements a smaller but similar roadway upgrading completed earlier this year on another section of East Saanich Road from Polo Park Crescent to the North Saanich border. That project added bike lanes and a separate walking trail to allow for a new pedestrian and cycling connection to North Saanich.

Benvenuto Ave Restoration Study – An open house was held in March for public input into the options for restoration and roadway improvements to traffic and pedestrian safety along Benvenuto Avenue. A report and final recommendations are expected by mid-year.

Benvenuto Avenue is the main entrance to Butchart Gardens and is recognized in the District's Official Community Plan as a "proposed heritage road." The study is intended to evaluate options for upgrading the roadway for modern traffic and pedestrian uses.



The full Council agenda package can be viewed at the Municipal Hall and the Central Saanich Library.

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATES

Heritage Designation for Pioneer Museum

A Heritage Designation Bylaw for the Saanich Pioneer Museum has been approved by Council. The bylaw designates the Saanich Pioneer Museum, located within Saanichton Green (Park



as a municipal heritage site. A heritage designation means that any structural changes including demolition or alteration require District consent, thereby offering long term protection of this historic building.

The Saanich Pioneer Museum celebrated its 75th Anniversary in 2008. It represents the 'last remaining structure associated with the former Saanich Fairgrounds and its use as a museum and archives for the Saanich Peninsula continues to serve a valuable purpose in the community.

Other buildings located on District-owned properties which have received heritage designations include: Newman Farmhouse and Outbuildings, Butterfield Residence and Outbuildings, Temperance Hall (aka

Lions' Hall) and West Saanich School.

Agricultural Area Plan

Work on an Agricultural Area Plan (AAP); as outlined in the District's Strategic Plan, continues to proceed towards a target date for a final plan by late 2010. The purpose of the AAP is to establish a clear

set of priority actions for the Municipality to undertake to support our farming community. The development of the plan is being guided by a Steering Committee, composed of local representatives appointed by Council and assisted by Zbeetnoff Agro-Environmental Consulting.

Public consultation with members of the farming community and interested residents is an important part of the process. Watch for opportunities to provide your input through advertisements in the local newspaper and notices on the District website.

Centennial Park Tennis Court Replacement

The Centennial Park tennis courts, which are approaching 50 years in age, have become a safety concern and an ongoing maintenance challenge for the District. Last year, a public consultation process was held for Centennial Park users' groups, adjacent landowners and local residents. Comments were received at that Open House, as well as in response to the display of design

drawings at the Municipal Hall for three weeks and the posting of information on the District's website. The comments and drawings were then worked into a report that was received by Council early in the year. Detailed design drawings for the new tennis courts at 1859 Hovey Road across from Centennial Park are being prepared.

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

Canoe Club finds new home

Members of the Tsawout Nation Canoe Club will be storing their canoes in the historic Newman Farm Boathouses this year, thanks to an agreement between the District and the Tsawout First Nation. Last September, Council asked local community groups for ideas on how to make the best use of the recently restored boathouses. Council called for proposals, from which the Tsawout Nation Canoe Club's proposal was selected.

During their 2010 competitive season, the Tsawout Nation Canoe Club will be using the boathouses, which are located near their training area.



TREES FOR TOMORROW

If you've had the pleasure of enjoying the new bike ways and trails along East Saanich Road near the North Saanich border, you can thank some of the students from the Camosun College Environmental Technology Program and nearby Kelset Elementary School for the greenery along the path.

Back in March, the college volunteers and about 25 students from Kelset spent a couple of hours planting trees and native shrubs along the new bike lane corridor, which was completed this spring.

The construction of the bike ways and trails last year necessitated removing some of the

existing hedgerow in the area. So the District of Central Saanich applied for, and received, funding from the provincial government's Trees for Tomorrow program to replace the greenery. One of the goals of the program is to involve the local community and raise awareness of the benefits provided by trees and native plants.

In February, volunteers from the Camosun College Environmental Technology Program planted more than 450 trees along the corridor. In addition to the bikeways project, trees were also planted in other areas of Central Saanich as part of the program.



Police Newsletter

Central Saanich Police Service has produced a Police Community Newsletter to enhance communication with our most valuable stakeholders; the citizens of Central Saanich. We hope you take time to read about some of the new programs and services we provide. We welcome your feedback. Also, visit our website: www.cspolice.ca Paul Hames, Chief Constable

Click on the District's user-friendly website at www.centrialsaanich.ca to check out the latest news

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Brentwood Bay Festival

June 5

The day begins with a parade, followed by an all-day community celebration at Pioneer Park. There's local produce, crafts, food, music and much more. www.brentwoodbay.info

Annual Strawberry Dance

June 19

The Annual Strawberry Dance will be held at the Brentwood Community Hall. The proceeds raised at the Strawberry Dance go to support Music in the Park. www.brentwoodbay.info for details.

Father's Day Fair at Heritage Acres

June 19 & 20 - 9am - 4pm

Fun for Dad and the whole family. The annual Father's Day weekend event is held at Heritage Acres, 7321 Lochside Drive. Call 250-652-5522 for more information.

Peninsula Country Market

The first market of the year runs on June 5 from 9 am to 1 pm and continues every Saturday morning until October 9. Shop for local produce, baked goods, arts and crafts and more every week from more than 50 vendors. It's located at the Saanich Fairgrounds, 1528 Stelly's Cross Road.

Music in the Park - July & August

Bring your lawnchair and enjoy music every Wednesday evening in July & August, 6:30 to 9 pm in Pioneer Park, Brentwood Bay.

Blithe Spirit - Peninsula Players

Peninsula Players, in collaboration with the Central Saanich Senior Citizens Association, proudly presents the Noel Coward play *Blithe Spirit*. Three performances will be held at the Senior Citizen's Centre in Brentwood, June 11 & 12 at 8 pm and June 13 at 2 pm. For more information and to order tickets, visit www.peninsulaplayers.bc.ca or call the box office at 250-656-0275.

Central Saanich Days

July 31 to August 2

Held at Centennial Park over the August long weekend, festivities include pancake breakfasts, hay rides, face painting, children's games, a petting farm, a slowpitch tournament ... and lots more!

Saanich Fall Fair

Labour Day Weekend - September 4 - 6

BC's oldest fair, now in its 143rd year. Features prize-winning produce and livestock, farm and crafts displays, live entertainment and a midway. Come join the fun at Saanich Fairgrounds, 1528 Stelly's X Road.

Saanich Pioneer Museum

Open to the public every Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4:00 p.m., 7910 Polo Park Crescent, Saanichton. For more information call 250-658-8347 or visit www.saanichpioneersociety.org



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
Susan Brown	Municipal Clerk	250-544-4202
Rosalyn Tanner	Director of Financial Services	250-544-4207
Tony Bousquet	Manager of Information Technology	250-544-4239
Nirmal Bhattacharya	Municipal Engineer	250-544-4210
Norm Doerksen	Superintendent of Public Works	250-544-4224
Hope V. Burns	Director of Planning and 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
Clayton Pecknold	Deputy 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 and Council will be considered at a Council meeting (except correspondence relating to a pending bylaw which has been the subject of a public hearing.) Submit your letter by 12 noon on the Wednesday before a Council meeting, by dropping it off at the Municipal Hall, faxing it to 250-652-0135 or e-mailing it to: municipalhall@csaanich.ca. Letters must include your name and address. Please clearly indicate in your letter if you do not want it to be considered at a public Council meeting.

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

* Daily except Sundays