

COMMUNITY FOCUS

SEPTEMBER 2010



NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR CENTRAL SAANICH

GREETINGS FROM COUNCIL

Once again, summer has flown by and we find ourselves looking ahead to the fall and winter months. It has been another busy season in our District and we're happy to be able to update you on a number of initiatives underway and in the works.

In May, the 2010 Budget was approved by Council and a Budget Update document was distributed to all homeowners. Also in May, Council held its bi-annual Town Hall Meeting, which focused on densification issues. Our thanks to all those who attended and shared their views on this important topic.

In July, your Council was also pleased to participate in the official opening of the East Saanich Road Bicycle Lane/Walkway Project. This project, which added bike lanes and a separate walking trail along East Saanich Road from Polo Park Crescent to the North Saanich border, creates a pedestrian and cycling connection into North Saanich.

We were pleased to participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony with our counterparts from North Saanich, who partnered in this joint project by creating a connecting bike lane walkway system on their side of our border. We share the view that improved bike lanes and walkways are a great way to showcase the natural beauty of our area. They will also allow pedestrians, joggers and school children to safely commute between Saanichton, Panorama Recreation Centre and Kelset School. And with the completion of new upgrades to East Saanich Road from Cultra Avenue to Island View Road, scheduled for 2012, we will soon have a safer route for all travellers along East Saanich Road.

Finally, remember that children are back in school, so keep your speed down to 30 km/hr when passing through our school zones.

Have a great fall season.

MAJOR PROJECTS UPDATE



The official ribbon-cutting for the East Saanich Road Bicycle Lane/Walkway Project: (l to r) Jack Mar, Mayor, District of Central Saanich; MLA: Hon. Murray Coell, Saanich North & the Islands; Alice Finall, Mayor, District of North Saanich.

East Saanich Rd. Reconstruction

Plans are moving ahead for the renewal of East Saanich Road, which will be one of the largest roadway improvement projects undertaken by the District in recent years. The proposed upgrading includes adding sidewalks, bike lanes and improving bus stops along a 2.7 kilometre stretch of East Saanich Road, from Island View Road to Cultra Avenue.

The final design stage was completed after a public consultation process which concluded this summer. Some construction is scheduled to begin later this fall, but the majority of work will take place in the summer and fall of 2011 with construction completed by March 2012. Construction will be undertaken in stages along the route to minimize disruption for residents.

The East Saanich Road Renewal Initiative is funded by the federal and provincial governments and Central Saanich. The total cost is estimated at \$7 million, with \$4.66 million from the Build Canada Fund – Community Component and the remaining third from Central Saanich.

Tennis Courts

The proposal to replace the tennis courts

at Centennial Park is now underway. The existing tennis courts, which due to their age have become a safety concern and an ongoing maintenance challenge for the District, have been the subject of a consultation process. Centennial Park user groups, adjacent land owners and local residents have all provided input with respect to options, including the relocation of the tennis courts when rebuilt.

Earlier this year, Council approved proceeding with a proposal to build new facilities on a portion of Centennial Park located at the southeast corner of Wallace Drive and Hovey Road. As a result of a further process of community consultation, input, and design refinement, a detailed design plan has now been finalized.

Three new double courts are planned. The plan incorporates re-orientation of the courts and vehicle access, fewer parking spaces, landscape buffering, and storm water management, and provides for finalizing such details as fencing and screening measures. The project has gone out to public tender and it is anticipated that construction will commence in the fall.

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Integrated Stormwater Management Plan Wins Awards

Central Saanich's Integrated Stormwater Management Plan (ISMP), the first of its kind on Vancouver Island, has been recognized with two environmental awards.

In June, The 2010 CRD (Capital Regional District) EcoStar Community Environmental Award for Integrated Watershed Management was awarded to Central Saanich. The CRD annually recognizes the top environmental stewards in nine categories, thereby celebrating green practices and showcasing municipalities across the Region.

In May, Central Saanich was one of six Canadian municipalities to receive a Watershed Municipal Award of Excellence from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). The newly launched Watershed Awards were presented by the Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) and FCM to Canadian municipalities that have demonstrated leadership in their efforts to adapt to climate change by reducing their vulnerability to flooding and water damage.

Implementation of the ISMP has already commenced. One of the recommendations is to use best management practices for the maintenance of watercourses. Early in 2010, the District partnered with Saanich to

develop a watercourse maintenance manual. Many of its practices are now in place and should result in healthier watersheds and lower maintenance needs in the long term.

This fall, the focus will be on initiating a Healthy Watershed Committee which will oversee the implementation of many of the Plan's short-term recommendations and will monitor the progress of the goals over the next five to 20 years. Central Saanich is the first municipality on Vancouver Island to develop a progressive, cost-effective ISMP following the guidelines and recommendations of the BC Stormwater Planning Guidebook.

ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES UPDATES

Pesticide Use Control Bylaw and Integrated Pest Management Policy

The District of Central Saanich has now adopted a new Pesticide Use Control Bylaw, which further demonstrates its commitment to being a pesticide-free municipality. The new bylaw is aimed at reducing the use of chemical controls for cosmetic purposes. While it doesn't apply to private property, signage has been erected at the Municipal Hall and Rodolph, Chatterton, Rom Knott and Centennial Parks with information about the new guidelines.

The new Pesticide Use Control Bylaw complements the District's Integrated Pest Management Policy, which replaces chemical pest control with biological controls and good stewardship practices. The policy incorporates best management practice 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.

Community Energy Plan

In 2008, the District adopted a Community Energy Plan (CEP), which has become its long-term plan to guide the adoption of improved energy practices in all the District's activities. Since

then, there has been steady progress on implementation of the plan and a number of actions have resulted so far, including:

- the promotion of energy efficiency programs
- the promotion of energy-efficient transportation
- support for community-based initiatives related to energy
- a green buildings policy for new construction (municipal buildings only)
- energy efficiency retro-fits to selected municipal buildings
- an idling reduction policy for municipal vehicles and equipment
- purchase of hybrid municipal vehicles
- testing of biodegradable hydraulic oil for all municipal equipment working in sensitive areas.

These initiatives are just the first of many that will flow from the CEP. Each year, the CEP is reviewed and further recommendations will be considered by Council. To read the complete Community Energy Plan and review the actions taken to date, visit the Central Saanich website at www.centralsaanich.ca.

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

HIGHWAY 17 STEERING COMMITTEE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

A unique steering committee, created by the Districts of Central Saanich and North Saanich, the Town of Sidney and the Tsawout First Nation, has delivered its final recommendations for the Peninsula section of Highway 17.

The committee was formed in 2009 to come up with a unified set of recommendations on the future planning for Highway 17, to be conveyed to the provincial government. The Province is responsible for undertaking improvements and upgrades to the highway. The final report was delivered to

The Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, in July.

The committee met seven times over eight months, during which time it consulted with key stakeholders and the public, conferred with technical staff from the Ministry, and met with the local MLA and MP to keep them apprised of the committee's progress. The resulting prioritized list of project recommendations for the corridor was unanimously endorsed by the four jurisdictions represented on the committee. The complete report is available for viewing at www.centralsaanich.ca.

Here are a few highlights:

Short Term Priorities:

- Pedestrian overpass at Beacon Avenue and Highway 17
- Improve awareness of traffic signals at Beacon Avenue

Long Term Major Project Priorities:

- Full interchange at Keating Cross Road
- Interchange for access to Tsawout First Nation Reserve
- Park & Ride facility at Island View or Keating interchanges



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

NEW FIRE HALL LOCATION CONFIRMED

The District of Central Saanich is ready to move forward on its plan to build a second fire station to provide improved safety coverage and response times particularly for the south half of the district.

To that end, the District has completed negotiations to purchase land for a new main fire hall on Keating Cross Road, close to the intersection with West Saanich Road. The location was one of three possible sites identified in the 2009 "Fire Hall Location Review".

An architect has been engaged and is preparing a site design for the new fire hall. A public open house to solicit public input and comments on the proposed design will be held later this fall. Details of the location and timing of the open house will be posted on the Central Saanich website at www.centralsaanich.ca.

Overall, the costs for the land and the new building is expected to be in the range of \$7 to \$7.5 million. Much of the funding for this project will come from external borrowing, and there will be a Loan Authorization Bylaw / Counter-petition public process after design and cost estimates have been refined, and before final approval is given for the construction. However, the District is also actively exploring other revenue opportunities to offset the costs. To this end, the District has identified a surplus vacant municipal property in the 1700 block of Verling Avenue which it proposes to sell.

HERITAGE BC AWARD (2010)

A Heritage BC Certificate of Recognition (2010) has been awarded jointly to the District of Central Saanich, Jonathon Yardley, Architect, and Rick Thom Construction for the restoration of West Saanich School. A familiar landmark within Pioneer Park in Brentwood Bay, this building is owned by the District and operated by the Brentwood Bay Old School Hall Society. Built in 1908 and expanded in 1916, it is the oldest public schoolhouse on the Saanich Peninsula remaining on its original foundation. In August, 2003, the building was designated as a municipal heritage site. It continues to provide important meeting and event space for the community.



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 traveling 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, watch for pedestrian activated lights at crossings near schools.

Check your Child's Car Seats

It's important to be sure your child car seat is installed correctly. That is why the Central Saanich Fire Department has created 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 250-544-4328.

Block Watch Program

The Block Watch program is a free community-based crime prevention program administered by the Central Saanich Police Services. 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, Cpl. Janis Jean at 250-652-4441.

REGULATORY BYLAW UPDATES

Secondary Suites Basic Water Charge Exemptions

Homeowners who add a secondary suite to their property will no longer be charged twice for their basic water charge. Council has approved an amendment to the Water Rate Bylaw that will remove the second charge. Previously, homeowners who added a legal, secondary suite were being charged for a second basic water connection, which was counter-productive to Council's wish to encourage the construction of legal secondary suites. The bylaw changes mean that the fixed rate water charge of \$46 on the secondary suite will be waived once the construction passes final occupancy for the suite.

This follows changes passed by Council

in 2009, which eliminated the building permit fee for legalization of existing secondary suites and for the construction of new suites in existing single family homes.

Regulation Updates for Municipal Wharves

There have been a few changes to the regulations for boaters who are using the municipal wharves in Brentwood Bay and Saanichton. While the changes are not major, they are designed to allow for more consistent enforcement, especially in cases where over-sized vessels have damaged the existing wharves.

The changes include better signage on the wharves and loading areas, yellow lining on wharves, updated enforcement on time limits to unload passengers, moorage on

floats only and stronger enforcement of the ban on overnight stays.

Animal Control Bylaw Amendments

Central Saanich has amended its Animal Control Bylaw to bring it more into line with regulations currently in effect in other Capital Region municipalities. The changes include a number of wording changes as well as allowing for one free licence when a dog is spayed or neutered within the first 12 months of its life, to encourage control of unwanted pets. This is consistent with neighbouring municipalities.

You can check out these amended Bylaws on the Central Saanich website at www.centralsaanich.ca under Quick Link – Bylaws and Policies.

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Harvest Fair Threshing Weekend September 18 & 19

Don't miss Heritage Acres annual Harvest Fair, Sept 18-19 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.

Peninsula Country Market

Shop for local produce, baked goods, crafts and more every Saturday morning until October 9th. 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 a country morning among friends, live music, hot coffee, great munchies and a kid's corral.

Central Saanich Police Community Ball October 23

The second annual Central Saanich Police Community Ball will be held on Saturday, October 23 at the Saanichton Fair Grounds, with entertainment by the Timebenders. Proceeds will go to the Saanich Peninsula Hospital Foundation. Tickets are \$75 and seating is limited. Call 250-652-4441.

Emergency Operations Exercise October 28

There will be lots of excitement in Central Saanich on October 28, as municipal staff and emergency services stage a full-scale mock-up of a major emergency. There will be students standing in for crash victims, a mock evacuation of the affected area and the establishment of an evacuation centre. The area selected for this exercise is Brentwood Bay. It's going to be exciting and residents are encouraged to play a role. If the police knock on your door, remember that it is just an exercise. While you are not obligated in any way to participate, feel free to head over to the evacuation centre and see what's happening. And remember that during this exercise, services

at Central Saanich's Municipal Hall will be reduced – most of the staff will be taking part in the exercise.

Saanich Pioneer Museum

Open to the public every Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4:00 p.m. at 7910 Polo Park Crescent, Saanichton. A public ceremony to mark the designation of the Saanich Pioneer Museum as a municipal heritage site is planned for mid-September. For more information call 250-658-8347 or visit www.saanichpioneersociety.org

Halloween Bon-fire October 31

Dress up in your scariest costume and come to the annual District-sponsored Halloween festivities at 7:30 p.m. in Centennial Park. Fireworks start at 8:00 p.m.

Volunteer Opportunities

Citizens who are interested in volunteering to serve on Advisory Bodies should watch for upcoming notice of positions available. Starting in mid-October, information will be advertised and posted on the website concerning the application process.



DISTRICT OF CENTRAL SAANICH

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E-mail: municipalhall@csaanich.ca
Website: www.centrialsaanich.ca

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, mailing it in advance, 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.

Town Hall Meetings

Watch for notice of Council's next bi-annual Town Hall Meeting later this year. All members of the community are invited to bring their curiosity and concerns to this informal question-and-answer session.

Email Notification Service

Did you know that you can subscribe to receive electronic notification whenever a new posting is made to the District's Website in relation to Council and Committee meeting agendas and minutes? Just go to the "Meetings of Council" page on the District's website at www.centrialsaanich.ca and select "subscribe".

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.

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	250-514-4217
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.centrialsaanich.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