

COMMUNITY FOCUS

JANUARY 2005



NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR CENTRAL SAANICH

GREETINGS FROM CENTRAL SAANICH COUNCIL

Welcome to a new year – we wish everyone health and prosperity in the months ahead. Our first order of business in 2005 is completing budget planning for the District's Five Year Financial Plan. Our first Community to Community Forum will be held Feb. 8 and 10 to discuss issues of mutual interest between the District, Tsartlip and Tsawout First Nation Councils.

Thank you to all who attended the District's Town Hall meeting Nov. 24. We appreciated your participation at this important community forum.

The District recently purchased 26 sets of locally designed Central Saanich licence plate holders for municipal vehicles in support of a fundraiser for the Saanich Peninsula Hospital Foundation.

We'd like to thank volunteers, residents and businesses for their support of the 80th anniversary celebrations for the Brentwood Bay – Mill Bay ferry held Nov. 27. B.C.'s longest, continuously-operated saltwater ferry service plays an important role in our transportation network.

Special thanks to The Butchart Gardens and Brentwood Coiffures for their generous donations for our float in Sidney's Santa Claus parade, the Saanichton Christmas Tree and Ostrich Farm for the festive greenery, and the Henry family of the Paquachin Band for the welcome totem pole. Many thanks to Norm Doerksen, Norm King and Randy Munro and other Public Works volunteers (and helpful elves) who built the float. Our thanks also to the Brentwood Bay Revitalization Committee and Horizon Power for organizing the "Christmas in Brentwood Bay" events.

DISTRICT'S NEW WEB SITE A MODEL FOR MUNICIPAL COOPERATION

The District's new web site, developed as a joint effort with the District of North Saanich and the Town of Sidney, will be showcased at an upcoming municipal information technology conference as a model of what can be accomplished through partnership services projects.

Joining forces with the two other Peninsula municipalities resulted in savings of approximately \$36,000 in development and hosting costs for Central Saanich. There are additional savings for ongoing hosting costs as well.

Launched last fall, the District's interactive web site welcomes residents, business owners and visitors with a colourful home page. The new web site is easier to navigate, more user friendly and has features that makes getting information a snap.

The home page features a map of the Saanich Peninsula with links to all three municipal web sites. There's a photo gallery of District scenes, tide tables for the Greater Victoria region and weather

buffs will appreciate the information on current weather conditions including a five-day forecast.

The web site's content is designed to serve the needs of residents, businesses and visitors more efficiently. Residents and business owners can access information on key municipal services such as property taxes, utilities and bylaws. There are also guidelines for licences and permits, and licencing application forms can be downloaded. The site also features handy information for visitors on local attractions, transportation facilities and other amenities.

Do you have some bright ideas or, better yet, a digital camera? The web site has been designed to be a community-friendly "encyclopedia" of District news and information that involves all residents. Add your own personal touch by submitting local photos – outdoor scenes, recreational activities, special events (i.e. Central Saanich Days) and

HANDY COMMUNITY INFORMATION JUST A CLICK AWAY!

Click on www.centralsaanich.ca to access information about District projects as well as other community, regional and provincial resources.

- Bulletin Board: Up-to-the minute notices, such as updates on Hwy 17 traffic advisories (lane closures during construction); municipal burning regulations; District projects (i.e. West Saanich Road traffic corridor revitalization)
- Meetings and Calendar: Council and Committee meetings schedule, including agenda and minutes (notices of special meetings also posted)
- Bylaws: District bylaws (i.e. OCP, Land Use, Business Licence) can be downloaded
- Postings: Description of municipal job postings
- Website Info: Suggestions for improvements and other frequently asked questions
- Feedback: An on-line form for comments and suggestions for web site improvements
- Links: Links to resources, including other levels of government; Agricultural Land Commission; Greater Victoria Public Library; Panorama Recreation Centre; Homeowner Protection Act; Residential Tenancy Act; and more

THIS NEWSLETTER IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY CENTRAL SAANICH COUNCIL

(continued from front page)

historical photos are all welcome. See the Photo Gallery page for instructions on how to send in your photos.

The District's web team meets frequently to improve the web site and review content, feedback and site statistics. As the site evolves, new features will be added, including a directory of District businesses. A handy feedback form is included on the web site and comments are welcomed.

Check it all out at www.centrialsaanich.ca

UPDATE ON PARKS, TRAILS AND GREEN SPACES

Conservation Covenant in place for Oak Haven Park

Oak Haven Park, one of our nature parks, now has a conservation covenant in place, thanks to an agreement between the District, the TLC (The Land Conservancy of British Columbia) and the HAT (Habitat Acquisition Trust). The District recently granted a conservation covenant over Oak Haven Park in a unique partnership with the two organizations, both known for their environmental stewardship. The covenant, registered on title to the land in perpetuity, requires that it be kept in its natural state. This is the first "third party" conservation covenant registered on municipal parkland in B.C. and may serve as a model for other municipalities.

Oak Haven Park is home to rare plant species and Garry Oak meadows and the conservation covenant will ensure the ecological protection of these valuable natural resources.

The picturesque park provides designated hiking trails for nature observation and an opportunity to enjoy the spectacular natural scenery and views of Saanich Inlet, Mount Newton, Central Saanich farmlands and Mount Baker.

Community pitches in to help restore Butterfield Park gardens

A group of community volunteers are making good progress on the restoration of Butterfield Park, a 5.2-hectare (13-acre) municipally-owned park at 1184 Mount Newton Cross Rd., which includes a heritage house and gardens developed in the early 1900s. The restoration is being overseen by the Central Saanich Heritage Commission and Central Saanich Parks and Community Services staff.

The volunteers, who have included Stelly's High School students, members of the Pathfinders (Girl Guides of Canada) and numerous neighbours, have been successful in implementing the first phase recommendations outlined in the "Butterfield Gardens Inventory and Assessment" report, commissioned by the District in 2002. Removal of invasive species has begun and tree pruning has brought more light into the gardens.

If you'd like to help out with the restoration of this unique historic garden, please call Jenny Hyndman at 652-8166 or email rjhyndman@shaw.ca. For additional information visit www.islandhosting.com/~butterfd/welcome.htm

Willow Way footbridge open for business

The Willow Way footbridge was recently rebuilt, providing a wider and more solid footing for the walkers, joggers and horseback riders who use the neighbourhood trail network. The new stone bridge, located on the south side of Wallace Dr. opposite the Stelly's Secondary School playing field, replaces a worn and narrow wood and metal footbridge.

"Plant-a-tree" program takes root

Our thanks to community volunteers for participating in the District's recent neighbourhood "plant-a-tree" events held at Adam Kerr Park and Saanichton Green. Local neighbours participated in the "greening" of their neighbourhood parks by planting a number of donated trees.

Interested in participating in future "plant-a-tree" events? Contact the Community Services office at 544-4218 for more information. The District welcomes donations of trees to help beautify our neighbourhood parks.

A LOOK AHEAD TO THE 2005 FINANCIAL PLAN

It'll soon be budget time, with work on the District's 2005 - 2009 Financial Plan now underway. Council is working hard to control expenditures while maintaining needed services in our community.

Interested in the budget process? Taxpayers are invited to attend Financial Plan meetings, held between January and May, and provide input at a public open house before the plan is adopted in May. Please check www.centrialsaanich.ca for meeting dates and times.

COMMUNITY ENDORSES BRENTWOOD TRAFFIC CORRIDOR REVITALIZATION PLANS

A new look for Brentwood Bay's village core has received widespread community support, following a year of extensive public consultation. Close to 90 per cent of those attending the October open house showed their support for the project.

Proposed safety improvements and traffic calming measures will create a more pedestrian-friendly village core along West Saanich Rd., between Wallace Dr. and Verdier Ave. Improvements will include a roundabout at Verdier Ave. and West Saanich Rd., mid-block crosswalks, wider sidewalks, landscaping, decorative street lighting, and street "furniture" such as benches, planters, bike racks and litter receptacles.

The planning phase for the Brentwood traffic corridor improvements has almost wrapped up. The project's consultants are preparing final working drawings and detailed construction estimates. The District is awaiting the outcome of a federal-provincial infrastructure grant application to help fund the improvements.

Council thanks everyone who attended the open house sessions and provided feedback on the revitalization plans. Your input was very much appreciated.



REMINDER: BUSINESS LICENCE FEES ARE DUE BY JANUARY 31, 2005

HWY. 17 UPGRADES UNDERWAY

The Ministry of Transportation is taking on several upgrades to Hwy. 17, including replacing or removing underground and surface utilities, widening highway shoulders and grading, and intersection improvements at Tanner, Martindale, East Saanich and Island View Roads.

Repaving the highway between Mount Newton Cross Rd. and Sayward Rd. will take place in April or May, completing the repaving program initiated in 2002. The paving work will take place in the evening hours to minimize impact on traffic. In conjunction with the repaving, left turns from Tanner Rd. and Gliddon Rd. will be eliminated.

The ministry is continually upgrading the technology at signalized intersections on Hwy. 17 and other major routes to reduce wait times and improve signal reliability. Motorists are advised to watch for maintenance vehicles at intersections and proceed with caution.

DISTRICT UPGRADES MUNICIPAL PHONE SYSTEM

It's smooth calling, now that the District has upgraded its telephone switching, voicemail and 911 systems to better handle incoming calls. The number of incoming lines has been increased, which has reduced busy signals. The upgraded phone system is supported 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It can be expanded and is capable of running IP telephony (voice and video calls over the computer network).

Major improvements have also been made to incoming calls to the Public Works Department. When phone lines are particularly busy, such as during periods of heavy rain or snowfalls, the phone system can now switch calls to an automated attendant to relay important service information to callers immediately, while routing urgent service requests to the appropriate contact. These improvements will result in fewer missed calls and provide easier access to Public Works services.

REPORT FROM PUBLIC WORKS

Keep an eye on your water meter

Please keep the area around water meters free and clear of debris and report any water meter leakage at the municipal water connection to the Public Works Department. Clear access to meters ensures efficient recording of water consumption and detection of any water meter leakage.

Keep your walk clear of snow and ice

It can be slippery when it snows, so be prepared and remember it's the property owner's responsibility to clear snow and ice from the sidewalk in front of their property. Don't forget to lend a helping hand to your elderly or physically challenged neighbours.

The District clears snow from major arterial and collector streets and, when resources permit, from as many residential streets as possible. A brochure outlining policies and procedures on snow and ice removal is available at the Municipal Hall or the Public Works yard.



PROFILE ON DISTRICT COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS: HERITAGE COMMISSION

In our ongoing profile on District Commissions and Boards, we feature in this issue the role of the Heritage Commission.

Central Saanich has a rich historical past that helps define our beautiful corner of the world. The District's Heritage Commission is the advisory body to Council that works to ensure that our heritage resources are protected and conserved for future generations. The Commission has seven members appointed by Council for two-year terms and meets once a month in the Municipal Hall Council Chambers. The public is welcome. The chair is chosen annually by Commission members, who come from a variety of backgrounds in the community.

The primary goals of the Heritage Commission are to preserve the District's heritage and raise public awareness on heritage issues. The Commission advises

Council and municipal staff on heritage issues related to structures, properties and roadways that are considered to be of historical significance. It is consulted when demolition or alteration permits are requested for historically significant structures, or heritage alteration permits are required for renovations to designated heritage properties.

The Commission takes on several projects throughout the year, including nominating owners of heritage properties in the District for Hallmark Society awards. Walking enthusiasts can look forward to a heritage walking tour brochure, expected to be available early this year.

"We get involved in a variety of issues, ranging from heritage designations for

significant historical structures to restoration projects of heritage resources, such as the Butterfield Park gardens," said Trevor May, a long time member and current Chair. "It's important that we preserve the cultural, social and architectural heritage of Central Saanich to maintain a connection with our past and a sense of continuity into the future."

Heritage Commission members in 2004 were: Eileen Gray (Secretary), Alexander Hunter, Jenny Hyndman, Trevor May (Chair), Michael Rice (Vice-Chair), Sue Stroud and Wayne Watkins. Council will be reviewing new member applications this month to fill vacancies. Councillor Zeb King is Council's liaison to the Commission.

C O M M U N I T Y C A L E N D A R

Council Meetings Schedule

Regular Council meetings: 7 p.m. on the first and third Monday of the month.
Regular Committee meetings: 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday of the month. The public is welcome to attend Council and committee meetings. An agenda package is available on the Friday before each meeting.

Museum Operating Hours

Central Saanich Volunteer Firefighters Historical Museum

Open for tours the last Saturday of each month from 1 to 4 p.m., 1903 Mount Newton Cross Rd., Saanichton.

Heritage Acres

Open daily October 1 – May 31, 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon; June 1 – September 30, 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 7321 Lochside Dr., Saanichton.

Log Cabin Museum

Open every Saturday and Sunday from 12 noon – 4 p.m. Call 658-8347 or 656-2471 to arrange tours for other times. 7900 East Saanich Rd., Saanichton.

Renewal time for Rover

Dog licence renewals are in the mail and fees are due Jan. 31. A \$5 penalty will be applied to all overdue accounts. Please contact the Finance Department at 544-4205 for more information.

Plan ahead and prepay your taxes

Taxpayers can earn interest on property tax prepayments made before March 31. For further information please call the Property Tax Department at 544-4205.

Keep organized with pre-authorized payments

Save time with convenient pre-authorized payment programs for both property taxes and utility bill payments. Please call the Finance Department at 544-4205 for more information.

Annual flush coming up

Water mains and hydrants will be flushed January through March. Temporary discoloration of water and/or low water pressure may occur and is not a health hazard. If you notice murky water from your taps, fill your

laundry or bathtub and re-use the water for a non-drinking purpose such as watering plants. The water department will provide advance notice of flushing on request to anyone with special requirements for water clarity. Flushing will not take place during freezing temperatures. Call 544-4224 for more information.

Learn how to be Firesmart

Learn how to protect your home and property against the threat of wildfires. Come to a presentation at the Central Saanich Fire Hall Training Room on Thurs., March 31 at 7 pm. For more information call 544-4225 or 544-4240.

Eggstravagant time at Centennial Park

The Central Saanich Lions Club hosts its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, March 27 at Centennial Park. The hunt begins at 12 noon and three categories from small fry to age 12 can sign up. Spot two golden eggs and win a special prize!



DISTRICT OF CENTRAL SAANICH

1903 Mount Newton Cross Road
 Saanichton, BC V8M 2A9
 Tel: 652-4444 Fax: 652-0135
 Email: municipalhall@csaanich.ca Web site: www.centralsaanich.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 Allison Habkirk 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. You can drop off your letter to the Municipal Hall, fax it to 652-0135 or email it to: municipalhall@csaanich.ca

CALL OR SEND US AN EMAIL

You're also welcome to call or e-mail Councillors directly regarding other District issues. See the adjacent column for phone numbers or send an email to: firstname.lastname@csaanich.ca

CRD ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICE

The CRD provides animal control and pound-keeping services for the District. Here are some handy numbers to call if you have any concerns regarding dogs: **CRD Animal Control: 478-0624 • CRD Animal Shelter: 658-5745**

BRENTWOOD BAY – MILL BAY FERRY SCHEDULE

Enjoy the most beautiful shortcut on Vancouver Island!
Discount tickets (30% savings) available at Thrifty Foods and Payless gas stations.

Crossing Time: 25 min. Fares are payable in cash or travellers' cheques only. Commuter tickets are available.

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

* DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAYS

COUNCIL

Mayor Allison Habkirk Chair of Municipal Council and Central Saanich Police Board 652-9955

Councillors

Christopher Graham	Administration and Finance Committee	652-2828
Michele Haddon	Parks and Facilities Committee	652-5727
Zeb King	Community and Protective Services Committee	652-4642
(Municipal Hall office hours Monday 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.)		
Rhonda Korol	Water and Waste Management Committee	652-0216
Susan Mason	Public Works, Transportation and Economic Development Committee	652-0783
Robert Thompson	Planning and Development Committee	652-4691

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

MUNICIPAL STAFF

Administrator	Gary C. Nason	544-4202
Municipal Clerk	Trish Flanders	544-4202
Director of Financial Services	Ed Sykora	544-4205
Municipal Engineer	Nirmal Bhattacharya	544-4210
Director of Planning and Building Services	Hope V. Burns	544-4209
Manager of Community Services	Bonnie McKenzie	544-4218
Fire Chief	Ron French	544-4227
Chief Constable	Paul Hames	652-4441

OTHER MUNICIPAL CONTACTS

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