

# COMMUNITY FOCUS

JANUARY 2006



NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR CENTRAL SAANICH

## GREETINGS FROM CENTRAL SAANICH COUNCIL

*It's a new year and a new council for the residents of Central Saanich. November's municipal election resulted in some changes to your council, including a new mayor and two new councillors. Jack Mar is mayor and two new councillors are John Garrison and Alastair Bryson. Returning to council are Christopher Graham, Zeb King, Susan Mason and Robert Thompson.*

*Our thanks and warm wishes go to outgoing Mayor Allison Habkirk, who served two terms as councillor and one term as mayor. Mayor Habkirk championed many significant community initiatives during her service with council, and her contributions are greatly appreciated. Thanks are due as well to two outgoing councillors who did not run in the last election. Michele Haddon served for three terms and Rhonda Korol for one term – we wish them all the best with their future plans.*

*We look forward to working with the residents of Central Saanich on both new issues that affect community life, and ensuring essential services are in place and there when we need them. To get the job done, each councillor chairs a municipal standing committee and acts as District appointee or liaison for a number of boards and commissions. It's a busy slate of activities, and we will work hard to maintain the quality of life we all enjoy here.*

*We'd also like to express our gratitude to the numerous volunteers who help keep our District a vibrant and healthy community. Council's work is just a small part of the activity that keeps things running smoothly and we appreciate the time volunteers spend on our boards, commissions and committees. Thanks as well to district citizens for voting in the election.*

*Our very best wishes for a safe, healthy and prosperous new year!*

## PENINSULA STREAMS TAKES ON WATER QUALITY PROTECTION AT KEATING INDUSTRIAL PARK

The Peninsula Streams Society is working with businesses in Keating Industrial Park to protect the water quality of our local streams. Part of the Hagan Creek Watershed Project, the goal of this effort is to ensure that storm water entering creeks and groundwater resources is as clean as possible.

Businesses are encouraged to prevent pollution by:

- Recycling oil and solvents
- Cleaning up spills using absorbent materials
- Keeping dumpster lids closed and containers leak-free
- Avoiding use of acids, harsh cleaners or phosphate detergents when cleaning parking lots

When rain falls on surfaces such as driveways and roads, it carries pollu-

tants from those surfaces into the water system. Private stewardship and local action helps ensure our local streams stay pollution-free so we have a clean environment with sufficient quantities of water for domestic and agricultural needs.

This project is operated with funding from the District of Central Saanich and Environment Canada through the Georgia Basin Action Plan. Peninsula Streams is providing information directly to local businesses on what they can do to play their part. For more information, contact Brian Shields, the District's Public Works Coordinator, 544-4224, ext. 222 or Mary Steel, Stewardship Coordinator, Peninsula Streams Society, via email at [steelm@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:steelm@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca) or by phone at 363-6821.

### JOINT WEBSITE PROJECT A WINNER!

The Peninsula's joint website project – in which Central Saanich, Sidney and North Saanich pooled resources to develop their respective sites – received special recognition at the recent Municipal Information Systems Association of B.C. (MISABC) annual conference. The joint website project received a "2005 People's Choice Award" for the best application of information technology in local government. Check out the District's site at [www.csaanich.ca](http://www.csaanich.ca)

THIS NEWSLETTER IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY CENTRAL SAANICH COUNCIL

## DISTRICT PARKS UPDATE

### Planning underway for Woodward and Tanner parks

The public was invited last fall to provide input on the development of Woodward and Tanner parks. Woodward Park is located on the south-west corner of Woodsview Place and Woodward Dr. and Tanner Park is located in the 6200-block of Rodolph Rd. It is proposed the parks be developed as neighbourhood tot lots, with amenities for children such as play equipment, open green space, a sports court, pathways, plantings and picnic areas. The District invites funding from interested community groups and individuals to develop these parks for everyone to enjoy.

### Veterans honoured at Pioneer Park

Our veterans have been honoured with a special memorial in Pioneer Park. The year 2005 was proclaimed "The Year of the Veteran" and a plaque and six dogwood trees pay tribute to those who served our country in times of war, military conflict and peace.

## BE PATIENT AND SHARE THE ROAD WITH FARM EQUIPMENT

Farm equipment is a regular sight on District roads and motorists are reminded to use care and common sense when passing any slow-moving vehicle.

Operators of farm and construction vehicles are legally entitled to drive on roads and are not required to keep to the far right as this can be hazardous when driving large vehicles. Motorists are asked to be patient and pass only when it is safe to do so – when the road is flat and there is no oncoming traffic.

Sharing the road with care keeps things moving safely on District roads.

## DISTRICT PLANNING UPDATE

### SECONDARY SUITES REVIEW

Based on policy direction provided by Council, District staff are preparing a bylaw that would propose to allow secondary suites in certain residential zones in Central Saanich. The bylaw will outline conditions that must be met to allow for secondary suites and it will then be forwarded to a public hearing. It is anticipated the public hearing will be scheduled for the first quarter of the new year.

### AGRI-TOURISM UPDATE

A bylaw is also being being drafted that will govern certain agri-tourism activities and accommodation in Central Saanich. Its content has been developed based on recommendations made by the Agri-Tourism Task Force and policy direction from Council. After Council reviews the draft bylaw, the next step will be to hold a public hearing to allow public input on the proposed bylaw.

### REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY

The Capital Regional District adopted a Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) in 2003 that outlines future development and land uses, and each municipality has a role to play in planning how growth takes place. As required under this process, Central Saanich has prepared a Regional Context Statement that outlines how the RGS affects our Official Community Plan (OCP). This statement is part of our OCP and has been approved by the CRD Board. This unified planning helps ensure all municipalities have a voice in the CRD's planning process and that our local vision stays intact.

# POWER LINE SAFETY WORK UNDERWAY

Trees and vegetation growing close to power lines are being trimmed or removed along Wallace Dr. and the edge of Centennial Park as part of a safety program by the BC Transmission Corporation (BCTC). This is part of a province-wide program to improve public and worker safety, deliver reliable electric service and reduce potential fire hazards. Only trees that are absolutely necessary to be removed will be affected and a replanting program, conducted in consultation with District staff, is part of the process. The District also received \$22,000 from BCTC to aid with replanting other trees in Centennial Park and Saanichton Green Park. The work began in mid-December and is expected to take about two months to complete. For more information, contact Brian Shields, the District's Public Works Coordinator, 544-4224, ext. 222.

# NEW PROGRAM SAVES ENERGY AND MONEY ALL UNDER ONE ROOF

Interested in learning about making your home more energy efficient, and saving money at the same time? Then check into the Harmonized Energy Efficiency for Residential Homes Program, which will soon be launched in Central Saanich.

A joint effort between the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum and City Green, the program targets homes built prior to 1990.

District homeowners will be eligible for financial incentives and information on how to make their homes more energy efficient. The goal is to provide "one-stop shopping" for homeowners on incentives available from federal and provincial governments as well as utility

companies. Local awareness-raising workshops to be conducted by City Green will also be offered. Other partners in this project include the federal government's EnerGuide for Houses program, BC Hydro and Terasen Gas.

Information on how to participate in this program, scheduled to run until March 2007, will be available later this winter through City Green and the Municipal Hall.

# EMERGENCY PLANNING STEPPED UP

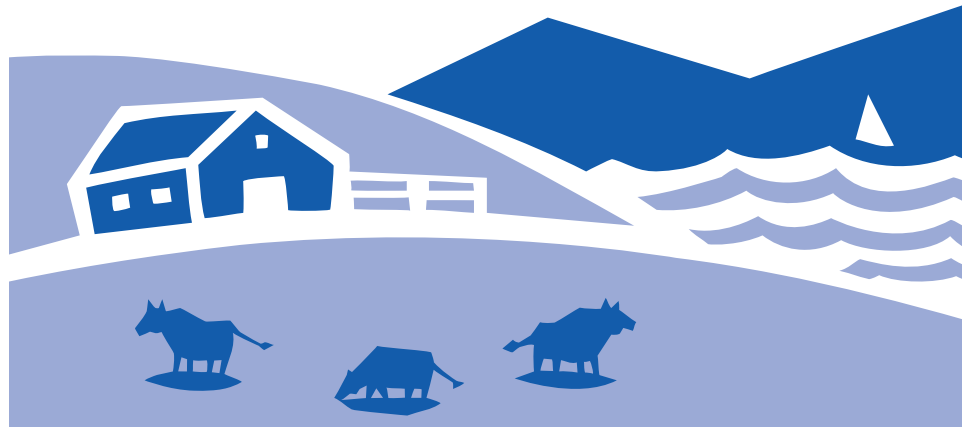
Central Saanich will be better equipped to cope with emergencies, thanks to a new tsunami planning project as well as an upgraded emergency management plan.

The provincial government's Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) provided the District with a \$10,000 grant to prepare public education material on tsunami awareness. This will include a brochure and map that outlines what to do if a tsunami occurs and which areas are most vulnerable. Part of the grant will also be used to upgrade the District's Emergency Operations Centre, which can be set up to be mobile if required in the case of an emergency. An additional \$5,000 provincial grant will be used to augment the District's emergency management training for municipal staff.

# REGIONAL CONTEXT STATEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

The District's Regional Context Statement aims to preserve the rural heritage and agricultural character of Central Saanich with development taking place in existing settlement areas. The main points are:

- 1**  
Keep urban settlement compact
- 2**  
Protect the integrity of rural communities
- 3**  
Protect natural green and blue spaces
- 4**  
Manage natural resources and ensure environmental sustainability
- 5**  
Build complete communities
- 6**  
Improve housing affordability
- 7**  
Increase transportation choice
- 8**  
Strengthen the regional economy



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## 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 Oct. 1 – May 31, 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon; June 1 – Sept. 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.

## Don't forget your best friend's license

Look for your dog license renewal in the mail – fees are due Jan. 31. A \$10 penalty will be applied to all overdue accounts. Please contact the Finance Department at 544-4205 for more information.

## Prepay your taxes and earn interest

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

## Stay on track 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.

## We'll be getting flushed

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 ext. 221 for more information.

## Easter eggstravaganza at Centennial Park

The popular annual Easter Egg Hunt organized by the Central Saanich Lions Club takes place on Easter Sunday, April 16 at Centennial Park. The hunt begins at 12 noon and three categories from small fry to age 12 can sign up. The Easter Bunny hides two golden eggs and the children who find them get 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](mailto:municipalhall@csaanich.ca) Web site: [www.centralsaanich.ca](http://www.centralsaanich.ca)

### COUNCIL

Mayor Jack Mar	Chair of Municipal Council and Central Saanich Police Board	652-8449
<b>Councillors</b>		
Alastair Bryson	Public Works & Transportation Committee	544-0668
John Garrison	Community & Protective Services Committee	652-5113
Christopher Graham	Administration and Finance Committee	652-2828
Zeb King	Water & Waste Management Committee	652-4642
(Municipal Hall office hours Monday 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.)		
Susan Mason	Parks & Facilities Committee	652-0783
Robert Thompson	Planning & Development Committee	652-4691

Visit [www.centralsaanich.ca](http://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

### 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. You can drop off your letter to the Municipal Hall, fax it to 652-0135 or email it to: [municipalhall@csaanich.ca](mailto:municipalhall@csaanich.ca)

### CALL OR SEND US AN EMAIL

You're also welcome to call or email Councillors directly regarding other District issues. See the adjacent column for phone numbers or send an email to: [firstname.lastname@csaanich.ca](mailto: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	* 8:05 am
8:40 am	9:15 am
9:50 am	10:25 am
11:00 am	11:35 am
1:15 pm	1:50 pm
2:25 pm	3:00 pm
3:35 pm	4:10 pm
4:45 pm	5:20 pm
5:55 pm	6:30 pm

\* DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAYS