

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Have a heart? It's time to pay tribute to our community volunteers. Organizers of the Hearts of the Community Volunteer Awards are seeking nominations of individuals and groups who volunteer to serve seniors, children and families, and the overall community on the Saanich Peninsula. There also are awards for youth aged 14 to 19 and for lifetime service. Visit www.beaconcs.ca for forms and information. Nominations close Feb. 2, with an awards luncheon on Feb. 13 at 11:00 a.m. for all nominees.

Music in the Bay A potpourri of jazz, blues, Celtic tunes. Third Saturday of each month. 7:30 p.m. Brentwood Bay United Church, 7162 West Saanich Rd. \$5 cover. Call 652-1758.

Books from the heart Just in time for Valentine's Day the Central Saanich library is introducing some quirky love stories and wild

characters. The librarian will show how the Internet can link readers to some new authors. February 12, 7:00 p.m.: 652-2013

Celebrate Heritage Week In her latest book, *For the Love of George*, Central Saanich resident Muriel Ackincklose offers a loving portrait of her father, an ordinary man who lived in extraordinary times. She will read from her book on Feb. 26, 7:00 p.m. Call 652-2013 to register.

Heritage Week starts February 26, and the library will be displaying heritage items lent by the Saanich Pioneer Museum.

Heritage Acres: Open daily, 9:30 a.m. to noon.
7321 Lochside Dr. Saanichton

Saanich Pioneer Museum: Open weekends from noon to 4:00 p.m.
7910 East Saanich Rd. Saanichton. 658-8347

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

Don't forget your best friend's license
Dog license renewal fees are due Jan. 31. A penalty will be applied to overdue accounts. Call 544-4205 for more information.

Prepay your taxes and earn interest
Taxpayers can earn interest on property tax prepayments made before March 31. Call 544-4205 to find out more.

Stay on track with pre-authorized payments
Save time with convenient pre-authorized payment programs for both property taxes and utility bill payments. Call 544-4205 for more information.

It's time to get 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 non-drinking purposes. 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 eggscitement
Take your youngsters to the annual Easter Egg Hunt organized by the Central Saanich Lions Club at noon on Easter Sunday at Centennial Park.



DISTRICT OF CENTRAL SAANICH

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

COUNCIL

Mayor Jack Mar	Chair of Municipal Council & Central Saanich Police Board	652-8449
Councillors		
Alastair Bryson	Public Works & Transportation Committee	544-0668
Zeb King	Community & Protective Services Committee	544-1033
(Municipal Hall office hours Monday 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.)		
John Garrison	Administration & Finance Committee	652-2828
Christopher Graham	Water & Waste Management Committee	652-4642
Susan Mason	Parks & Facilities Committee	652-0783
Robert Thompson	Planning & Development Committee	652-4691
Visit www.centrialsaanich.ca for additional committee, commission and board positions.		

MUNICIPAL STAFF

Gary C. Nason	Administrator	544-4201
Sara C. Ribeiro	Municipal Clerk	544-4202
Rosalyn Tanner	Director of Financial Services	544-4207
Nirmal Bhattacharya	Municipal Engineer	544-4210
Hope V. Burns	Director of Planning and Building Services	544-4209
Bonnie McKenzie	Manager of Community Services	544-4218
Ron French	Fire Chief	544-4227
Paul Hames	Chief Constable	652-4441
Brian Shields	Public Works Coordinator	544-4224 ext. 222

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. Drop-off your letter to the Municipal Hall, fax it to 652-0135 or e-mail it to: municipalhall@csaanich.ca

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 email to: firstname.lastname@csaanich.ca Please note Councillor Mason can be reached at clanmason@shaw.ca and Councillor King at kingzeb@shaw.ca

CRD ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICE

The CRD provides animal control and pound-keeping services for the District. For more information, call: **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.

Crossing Time: 25 minutes. 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
	9:15 am
	10:25 am
	11:35 am
	1:50 pm

* DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAYS

COMMUNITY FOCUS

JANUARY 2007



NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR CENTRAL SAANICH

NEW YEARS' GREETINGS FROM COUNCIL

The New Year is already off to a busy start as we begin several new projects that will enhance community life in the District. The upcoming review of our Official Community Plan is an important task this year and we invite all residents and business owners to participate. This plan reflects community vision and values, and there will be many opportunities to get involved in this public process to review and update the plan.

The Brentwood Bay Traffic Corridor Revitalization Project will wrap up later this spring, and we are very grateful for your cooperation and patience during the construction along West Saanich Rd. We are very much looking forward to enjoying a pedestrian friendly and attractive village centre.

In October, several members of Council attended the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) annual convention in Victoria. This is an opportunity for us to raise local concerns with our provincial elected officials and we continue to lobby for issues such as badly needed upgrades to the Pat Bay Highway, the Brentwood Bay/Mill Bay ferry service and local agricultural issues.

Welcome to two new District staff: Rosalyn Tanner is our new Director of Financial Services and Sara C. Ribeiro was appointed to the position of Municipal Clerk.

Our warm wishes to you and your families for a happy and prosperous year ahead.

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE TO REFLECT COMMUNITY VALUES

The Central Saanich Official Community Plan (OCP) update gets into full swing this year, and you will be asked for your opinion on what makes a livable community.

The OCP, which guides the District's long-term vision and key planning strategies, was last updated in 1999, so the time is right for a review. The *Local Government Act* recommends that municipalities review their OCPs every five years.

The OCP covers many aspects of community life, including agricultural and rural land use, residential growth management and housing, economic development, heritage, parks, public open space and recreation, the environment, transportation and municipal utilities.

The District has struck an advisory committee to guide the review process, which includes Councillors Robert Thompson and Alastair Bryson, District planning staff, Peter Parsons (Chair, Advisory Planning Commission) and representatives from the public. A consultant will be hired in the New Year to coordinate the review process, which includes organizing public input via information sessions and focus groups.

While the original OCP, which outlines in detail the long-term vision for District planning, is still timely and relevant, the review provides an opportunity to bring key issues up-to-date. For example, the District's housing capacity analysis, which sets out where new housing can be developed, will be examined. Environmental protection strategies will also be reviewed.

It is expected the public consultation portion of the review will take place in the spring, so stay tuned to the May issue of Community Focus for an update, or check the District's web site at www.centrialsaanich.ca.

GOOD PROGRESS FOR BRENTWOOD BAY REVITALIZATION

Construction crews have been on the scene since September as part of the Brentwood Bay Traffic Corridor Revitalization Project and progress has been steady with major tasks on track.

Revitalizing the village core will make this area safer and more pedestrian friendly. Work underway includes traffic "calming" measures, a pedestrian crosswalk, a narrower roadway along West Saanich Road, wider sidewalks and more on-street parking.

Significant landscaping and more green space is a major component of the project and includes new trees, street lighting, bicycle racks and benches.

Future undergrounding of the existing power lines located on the eastern side of West Saanich Road will occur upon redevelopment of these properties at the developers' cost.

Public input and feedback were a key component in shaping this project. The first public information session was held in 2002 and resulted in the adoption of the Brentwood Bay Design Guidelines in the Brentwood Bay Area Plan. The detailed design phase of the Brentwood Bay Traffic Corridor Revitalization Project began in March 2004. Work will wrap-up by this spring.

NEW FIRE TRUCK A FIRST FOR THE PENINSULA

A new CAFS (Compressed Air Foam System) fire truck arrives at the Fire Department in February and is the first of its kind on the Peninsula. The \$230,000 truck is specially designed to fight "interface" fires in residential buildings located in forested areas.

It's a small but powerful truck that emits foam to quickly and efficiently douse fires and will be invaluable in rural areas. It can respond to other municipalities if the need arises.

If you live in an area with brush or forest close by, take the time to find out how to keep your building safe from fire. Thin brush from around buildings and make sure fire extinguishers and smoke detectors work properly.

BE NICE, CLEAR YOUR SNOW AND ICE!

When the snow starts to fly – and stick – property owners and residents are reminded that bylaws require you to clear snow and ice within 24 hours from in front of your property. Please take the time to lend a hand to your elderly or physically challenged neighbours. The municipality will make every effort to keep major streets open and to clear snow from as many residential streets as possible. More information is available by calling 544-4224.

TRI-COUNCIL TALKS

The District of Central Saanich is flanked by two First Nations reserves, so it makes sense that the community governments would have close links. For two years now, Central Saanich Councillors have been meeting representatives from the Tsawout and Tsartlip bands, to discuss items of common interest.

Recent talks resulted in a request for a pedestrian crossing at Central Saanich and Mount Newton Cross Roads. The District has hired a traffic consultant to see if a crosswalk is feasible at this intersection. If so, funds are available and it could be installed next year, say District officials.

The District has recently initiated a process to develop an Integrated Stormwater Management Plan including Sand Hill Creek which flows through the Tsawout Reserve. "This provides another valuable opportunity for our communities to cooperate in addressing common environmental concerns," explained Councillor Alastair Bryson, Chair of Council's Public Works and Transportation Committee.

ALL HANDS TO THE BROOM

Thirty eager hands chopped and pulled and cut and dug, until Oak Haven Park was freed of hundreds of invasive Scotch Broom plants.

The park, off Benvenuto Avenue near Butchart Gardens, is indeed a haven for the endangered Garry Oak and for the rare wild plants, including the brilliant blue camas and chocolate lilies, that appear under the oaks each spring.

The Scotch Broom shades out the flowers, explained Kate Emmings, who organized the broom pull last September for the Habitat Acquisition Trust.

"The municipality has been very supportive and the volunteers are terrific, highly enthusiastic," she said. Call Kate at 995-2428 if you want to help this year.

MEET THE CENTRAL SAANICH FIRE DEPARTMENT

This is part of a series of articles on District departments. Community Focus will introduce you to each department and describe what's on the horizon.

Interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter?

Did you know that when you call the Central Saanich Fire Department for help, the person who shows up at your door is usually a volunteer? This busy department, which answers 900 to 1,000 calls every year, relies heavily on volunteers from the community.

There are four paid staff and 36 volunteer firefighters who look after the District's fires and emergencies and there is a need for more recruits, said Fire Chief Ron French.

"We really need people who can come out to calls during the day," Chief French said. All paid staff, including the Chief, respond to daytime calls, but more people are needed as many volunteers work outside the District during the day.

Though taking on the role of volunteer firefighter is a big commitment, there are many benefits. The fire department provides all accredited training free of charge, which includes written and practical tests administered by Assistant Fire Chief John Robertson. The comprehensive training takes about one year.

"We also provide ongoing training and many of our firefighters find the knowledge they gain really useful in their personal lives and careers," Chief French said.

Are you a healthy male or female in good physical condition? Consider joining the District's Volunteer Firefighters. Drop by the Fire Department, located in the Municipal Hall building, and pick-up an application form or call 544-4227.

Volunteer Firefighters' Association president Doug Smart says being a volunteer firefighter helps him stay fit while contributing to the community:

"It's a way to give back to the community. I have a job where I sit at a desk all day so it's a chance to get out and help people." Doug responds to about 300 calls a year, and has been a volunteer with Central Saanich for six years.

A LEGACY OF LAND

Central Saanich's parklands have grown by one acre with the donation of an addition to Cooperidge Park, off East Saanich Road at Shady Creek. The gift came from the children of long-time resident Helen Brazier, as a memorial to their mother. She had lived on the over 10-acre property for over 30 years and loved the land, the deer and birds and squirrels who came to visit. At her death at 84, last July, the house and property was sold and an acre reserved for parkland.

For years, Jim and Helen Brazier ran Brentwood Typewriters so were well known in the community. Later in life Helen Brazier also worked at the University of Victoria and eventually, through taking one course a year, earned her B.Sc. degree at the age of 73. It was a bittersweet success because convocation came a few days after her husband died.

Her degree was in psychology and linguistics – ideal for a couple who played Scrabble almost every night, said her daughter Diane Braithwaite, one of five Brazier siblings who combined to donate the land. District staff said the land will help in the future development of a walking trail in Cooperidge Park.

DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES COVER A RANGE OF TASKS

- Maple Leaf Day is just one of a number of "green" initiatives taken on by the District.
- Any trees that are blown down or removed are milled into lumber; smaller branches and wood waste go into mulch or wood chips for park pathways.
- The police department has acquired a hybrid vehicle, to cut down on gasoline emissions. The District plans to purchase more hybrid vehicles as the need arises for new equipment.
- Most District trucks and service vehicles are now equipped with LED warning lights so they no longer have to run their motors to operate the flashing lights.
- The District scrapes out grass and debris from sidewalks, reducing the need for herbicides.
- Dirty water from the street sweeper is sent down the sanitary system, to protect the environment.
- All asphalt and concrete construction waste goes back to the production plant for recycling.
- Integrated Pest Management is the order of the day, reducing the use of pesticides.
- For all major redevelopment projects, it is recommended that portions of major parking surfaces are permeable so run-off drains properly and that native planting is shown on the landscape plans.
- Owners of lands to be subdivided or for redevelopment projects must prove that stormwater flow does not exceed pre-development levels.
- Native planting and tree retention through registration of restrictive covenants are encouraged in new developments. In addition, the District has a tree protection bylaw to protect Garry Oak, Arbutus and Pacific Dogwood trees.
- A "no unnecessary idling" policy is in place for all public works vehicles to reduce emissions and reduce harmful emissions.
- A fuel additive is added to the diesel and gas to reduce emissions and add lubrication to reduce maintenance costs.
- The District has received a Federal grant to test biodiesel in the Central Saanich fleet in an attempt to reduce air pollution and consumption of fossil fuels. This involves the installation of a 2,000 litre double hulled biodiesel tank, with 20% canola oil and other additives, and 80% diesel.

MAPLE TREES FOREVER

Fifty excited school children helped kick-off Central Saanich's first Maple Leaf Day this September by planting several eight-foot high maples and alders in Adam Kerr Park, at the corner of Central Saanich and Keating Cross roads.

The children from Keating Elementary School joined Councillor Susan Mason and District staff in the tree planting.

The tree planting was part of a Canada-wide recognition of the importance of urban forests, sponsored by the Tree Foundation. It wants all Canadians to appreciate and understand the economic and environmental value of trees and get involved in the planting and care of trees.

Mason said the children learned they mustn't swing on trees, breaking off limbs. They also found out that trees purify the air, help reduce the effects of global warming by "filtering" carbon dioxide emissions, improve the aesthetics of urban areas, vacant lands and recreational sites, create and enhance wildlife habitats, and conserve energy by reducing heating and cooling costs in residential areas.

AN AFTERNOON TO REMEMBER HONOURING OUR VETERANS

Lieutenant-Governor Iona Campagnolo, with the help of veteran Curtis Nason and children from a local Beaver troop, recently unveiled a plaque honouring our veterans in Pioneer Park, Brentwood Bay. It was a memorable afternoon, which included a musical walk down memory lane with music from World Wars I and II performed by the Commodores and Leslie Gentile and the Swell Tones.

The plaque – sponsored by the Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans and the Municipality – is mounted on a beautiful piece of stone. This sits next to a sculptured pad designed and sculpted by District parks staff in concrete generously donated by Butler Brothers. The plaque and pad both feature the poppy and maple leaf symbol, marking the Year of the Veteran.

This Municipal event was made possible with the support of the Brentwood Revitalization Committee and our local businesses that so generously donated materials and services to make this an outstanding afternoon.