

# COMMUNITY FOCUS

JANUARY 2009



NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR CENTRAL SAANICH

## NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS FROM COUNCIL

*Greetings from your new Council for a very happy and prosperous 2009!*

*The municipal election is now over, and we have some new council members to introduce to you. Residents were asked on their ballots if they supported the Panorama Recreation Centre new swimming pool project as well as priorities for spending of your tax dollars, and we have those results to report to you. For a list of the referendum questions and numbers of responses for each one, please go to [www.centrialsaanich.ca](http://www.centrialsaanich.ca)*

*Thank you to residents and business owners who responded to the referendum and provided input during the public open house which was held prior the election. We very much appreciate your feedback and input for this important process.*

*We'd also like to thank outgoing Council members Christopher Graham, Zeb King and Robert Thompson. Thank you very much for your time and dedication. A warm welcome to new Councillors Ron Kubek, Adam Olsen and Terry Siklenka.*

*Mayor Jack Mar and Councillors Alastair Bryson, Susan Mason and John Garrison return to office.*

*We very much look forward to the work ahead as we start our schedule of Council and committee meetings and take on key issues and projects that shape District life.*

*Our best wishes to Randy Benn, who retired as the District's Water and Sewer Foreman for over 30 years of service!*

*Please get in touch with us if you have any issues or concerns. We invite you to attend Council meetings and if there are other ways you would like to get involved in District issues, please let us know. We look forward to working with you.*

## CENTRAL SAANICH OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN GETS GREEN LIGHT

*"There is nowhere else like Central Saanich. Areas of great natural beauty, rolling rural landscapes, active agriculture and defined settlement areas co-exist in harmony with one another – all within a growing metropolitan region."*

– Central Saanich Official Community Plan

The District's Official Community Plan (OCP) update was approved by Council on November 3rd and encompasses a philosophy of supporting a healthy sustainable community for all of our residents. It's an update to the 1999 OCP and is meant to act as an essential guide for residents, businesses, community organizations and governments that provides the vision and the direction related to land use, building and the environment. New environmental development permit areas have been designated, specifically along the foreshore, and includes sensitive terrestrial areas as well as identified riparian areas.

The OCP builds on the long-term vision originally described in the previous plan and addresses such key issues as sustainability and climate change. Other areas the plan encompasses include housing affordability, an aging population, capacity for new residential growth, protecting the environment, the importance of preserving agricultural lands and local food systems, encouraging social diversity and building on the relations with First Nations.

The OCP updating process involved comprehensive public input and we thank residents and business owners for their valuable contributions.

To read the District's full OCP, please go to [www.centrialsaanich.ca](http://www.centrialsaanich.ca)

## WINTER'S HERE: DON'T FORGET TO BE NICE, AND CLEAR YOUR SNOW AND ICE!

When the snow starts to fly – and stick – property owners and residents are reminded that District 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.

Do you want to know how to be fully prepared in the case of an emergency this winter? Full details are available through [www.centrialsaanich.ca](http://www.centrialsaanich.ca): type the word 'winter' into the search box and follow the link to winter weather preparedness. More information is available by calling 250-544-4224.

# DISTRICT ADOPTS COMMUNITY ENERGY PLAN

The Central Saanich Community Energy Plan is now a reality. In 2007, the District signed on to the BC Climate Action Charter and has pledged to be carbon neutral by 2012.

Both community residents and businesses can play a part in helping to achieve this goal. As part of the plan, District-owned buildings and its fleet of vehicles including police, fire and public works, will move toward greater energy efficiency. The District has already been using a bio-diesel fuel mix in its vehicles since July 2007.

The Community Energy plan will focus on how to be more energy

efficient and reduce greenhouse gases throughout the district. According to the CRD, Central Saanich emitted 62,255 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2004, 49% of which came from buildings.

The aim of the plan is to improve energy efficiency of buildings, educate and engage residents and businesses in becoming more energy efficient in their day-to-day activities and demonstrate leadership.

To find out more about the plan, and what you can do to help us become more energy efficient, go to [www.csaanich.ca](http://www.csaanich.ca)

## PUBLIC WORKS/ ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT UPDATE

### *Drivers – watch for 40 km/hr speed signs in Brentwood Bay*

Traffic is always a driving concern in Central Saanich, and new mileage signs will help point people in the right direction when it comes to speed limits.

As recommended by the Brentwood Bay Traffic Committee Working Group, five new “Welcome to the Neighborhood” signs have recently been posted at each entrance to Brentwood Bay, directing drivers to respect a 40 km/hr speed zone in all parts of the village core.

It’s not a regulatory sign – the District hopes drivers will pay attention to the signs and slow down voluntarily. The police will monitor the situation and see how drivers respond to the new signs.

The five entrance points where drivers will find the signs are:

1. **W. Saanich Rd. at Keating X Rd.**
2. **Benvenuto Ave. at W. Saanich Rd.**
3. **Wallace Dr. at Benvenuto Ave.**
4. **Wallace Dr. at Silverdale Rd.**
5. **W. Saanich Rd. at Stelly’s X Rd.**

So please slow down to 40 km when traveling in and around Brentwood Bay, and help keep our roads safe for everyone who uses them!

## DISTRICT AWARDED \$575,000 LOCALMOTION GRANT

Good news for cyclists, walkers and joggers: The BC government has granted the District a \$575,000 Localmotion grant to expand our network of bicycle and walking paths.

The grant will be used to fund construction of a generous length of bicycle lanes on both sides of the road along East Saanich Rd. between Polo Park and the North Saanich border. In addition, a separate walking path will be constructed along the same stretch of road, but just on one side. The District will go to tender on the construction of the project this spring.

## TREE PROTECTION BYLAW GETS UPDATE

They say that money doesn’t grow on trees, but have you ever checked into the cost of replacing a mature tree? Protecting this valuable resource makes sense for many reasons, and the District’s new tree protection bylaw will help.

In its first update since 2002, the District’s tree protection bylaw has been expanded. On the advice of a consulting arborist, the definition of “protected tree” has been expanded.

The new bylaw states that the cutting down and removal of any protected tree continues to be regulated and prohibited and a tree-cutting permit must be obtained.

As before, the bylaw applies to all public and private lands in the District with the exception of The Butchart Gardens and lands in the ALR. If you have questions, or would like to obtain a permit, please call the planning department at 250-544-4209. To view the full bylaw, including a list of protected trees, go to [www.centralsaanich.ca](http://www.centralsaanich.ca) to view the full bylaw.

## LOCAL CREEK IS RENAMED

Sandhill Creek, which runs through the lands of the Tsawout First Nation, has been renamed Tetayut Creek to properly reflect its First Nations origin.

Tetayut (pronounced teTAY ut) is the name traditionally used by Tsawout First Nation, and means “the water that goes deep within.” The creek flows north into Saanichton Bay, on the east side of the Saanich Peninsula.

This name change was proposed by the Tsawout First Nation and the Capital Regional District and was endorsed by the District of Central Saanich and the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Committee.

## PLASTICS DEPOT NOW PERMANENT

The pilot soft plastics recycling depot has been a hit with local residents, so it has now become a permanent service. The mobile depot is open on the grounds of the Municipal Hall the fourth Saturday of each month from 9 am to 12 noon.

So be sure to collect all those plastic bags, styrofoam and milk cartons and bring them to the depot for recycling. We don’t want these items clogging up our landfill sites! The depot is staffed by volunteers and paid staff under the coordination of Pacific Mobile Depots.

## POLICE DISPATCH SERVICES UNDERGOES REORGANIZATION

Central Saanich Police Services dispatch is now being handled by the RCMP Communications Centre based in Langford in a reorganization of communications that took place last fall at the request of the Police Board.

“Everything has gone very smoothly,” reports Chief Constable Paul Hames. “Staff and officers are very pleased with the way it’s been working.”

Central Saanich Police used to staff a 24-hour dispatch centre, with one person handling the responsibility of dispatching fire and police. Management of risk was becoming an issue with this arrangement, particularly in the case of 911 calls as it is difficult for one person to shoulder this responsibility. The department undertook a comprehensive review of how to still provide exceptional service to District residents while ensuring the safety of everyone involved.

Central Saanich Police Services maintains its local reception service at police headquarters in the Municipal Hall building Monday to Friday from 8 am to 6 pm. After hours calls are routed through the RCMP Communications Centre, where staff look after the phone lines and dispatch responsibilities.

A further benefit to this arrangement is that the dispatch system, which also serves North Saanich and Sidney, is now linked with Central Saanich so that officers on duty can monitor what is happening in those communities.

“This is very convenient in the case of a suspected impaired driver, for example.” Chief Hames said. “We can listen in on these calls and be ready to respond if the vehicle heads in our direction.”

An emergency phone that is linked directly to the dispatch centre is located in the Municipal Hall building, just inside the first set of glass doors, and is available for use 24 hours a day. Someone can even take refuge in the building if required, bolt the door behind them, and then use the phone to call police. This area is also monitored by video surveillance.

A mailbox is also provided in this area if residents wish to make a comment in writing or send correspondence to the police department.

“I’m very proud of how this plan was developed,” he added. “Civilian staff and police officers worked together to create these recommendations and think of everything local residents need.”

**Central Saanich Police Services has a new website:  
[www.cspolice.ca](http://www.cspolice.ca)**

## DISTRICT PROTECTS FUTURE DEVELOPMENT ALONG BRENTWOOD BAY’S TRAFFIC CORRIDOR

Brentwood Bay will retain its fresh, updated design with new works and services standards. The standards outline that all future development must be in keeping with the revitalization work that has recently taken place along the main traffic corridor on West Saanich Rd. between Wallace Ave. and Verdier Ave.

Works and services standards are now in place to guide any new businesses that develop along this corridor, or existing business that take on renovations.

It’s all part of making and keeping Brentwood Bay beautiful!

## OLDER CITIZENS TO GET SPECIAL PREVENTION EDUCATION

Central Saanich Fire Department and Beacon Community Services were awarded scholarships to send two staff to a special training session in Boston in December on educating seniors on falls prevention and fire hazards. Called “Remembering When – A Fire and Fall Prevention Program for Older Adults”, the conference was developed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

A total of 41 two-member teams were selected by NAFPA from across the country to attend the conference. Teams are made up of one fire department member paired with a community agency representative that services older adults. Our local representatives will now offer training sessions and educate seniors here on what they learned.

Seniors are reminded that issues such as trip hazards, overloading sockets with too many electrical appliances and general clutter including stacks of newspapers can all lead to accidents. Of course, these are important messages for people of any age!

For more information visit [www.nfpa.org/rememberingwhen](http://www.nfpa.org/rememberingwhen)

## FARM LAND ECONOMIC VIABILITY REVIEW COMMITTEE RELEASES SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

Creating a nurturing and inclusive community environment for supporting sustainable agriculture in Central Saanich is the goal of the Farm Land Economic Viability Review Committee, and its first report has a number of ideas on how to do just that.

The continued sustainability of farming is an important local issue. Farm taxation, land-use planning strategies and exploring options for alternative land ownership/farm enterprise models are all ideas that can be examined to guide future uses.

The District has a long history of farming and a commitment to the preservation and protection of high capability agricultural land. A number of “made in Central Saanich” recommendations were developed by the committee to guide future action:

- Creating an Agricultural Area Plan, as outlined in the recommendations of the recently updated Official Community Plan
- Exploring alternative and innovative land ownership and long-term tenure models
- Establishing a regional/municipal land trust
- Developing farm land acquisition models
- Providing municipal tax incentives

The committee also recommended policy changes to incorporate into the District’s OCP.

As part of the work undertaken by the committee, The Land Conservancy of BC prepared a comprehensive tool kit for implementation of next steps and ideas.

To read the committee’s full report, including a draft of the tool kit, please visit [www.csaanich.ca](http://www.csaanich.ca)

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Council Meetings Schedule

### Regular council meetings

7 pm on the first and third Monday of the month.

### Regular committee meetings

7 pm 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.

### Central Saanich Volunteer Firefighters Historical museum

Open for tours the last Saturday of every month from 1 to 4 pm at 1903 Mount Newton X Rd., Saanichton.

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

Dog license renewal fees are due January 31. A penalty will be applied to overdue accounts. Call 250-544-4206 for more information.

### Prepay your taxes and earn interest

Taxpayers can earn interest on property tax prepayments made before March 31. Call 250-544-4206 for more information.

### Stay on track with pre-authorized payments

Save time with convenient pre-authorized payment programs for both property taxes and utility bill payments. Call 250-544-4206 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 a non-drinking purpose. 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 250-544-4224 ext. 221 for more information.

### Easter eggstravaganza

It's happening again. Take your kids 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: 250-652-4444 Fax: 250-652-0135  
E-mail: [municipalhall@csaanich.ca](mailto:municipalhall@csaanich.ca) Website: [www.centralsaanich.ca](http://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 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 250-652-0135 or e-mail it to: [municipalhall@csaanich.ca](mailto:municipalhall@csaanich.ca). Letters should include your name and address.

### 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](mailto:firstname.lastname@csaanich.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	* 8:05 am	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

### 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
<i>Councillor Mason can be reached at <a href="mailto:clammason@shaw.ca">clammason@shaw.ca</a></i>		
Adam Olsen	Water & Waste Management Committee	250-889-7678
Terry Siklenka	Public Works & Transportation Committee	250-508-8813

Visit [www.centralsaanich.ca](http://www.centralsaanich.ca) for additional committee, commission and board positions.

### MUNICIPAL STAFF

Gary C. Nason	Administrator	250-544-4201
Sara C. Ribeiro	Municipal Clerk	250-544-4202
Rosalyn Tanner	Director of Financial Services	250-544-4207
Nirmal Bhattacharya	Municipal Engineer	250-544-4210
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

### 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