

COMMUNITY FOCUS

MAY 2005



NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR CENTRAL SAANICH

GREETINGS FROM CENTRAL SAANICH COUNCIL

We've had a busy spring updating the District's Strategic Plan (the updated Corporate Strategic Plan is available at www.centralsaanich.ca) and finalizing budget planning for our Five Year Financial Plan. All expenditures have been carefully reviewed to minimize tax increases. Details on this year's plan will be in the Budget Update, scheduled to arrive in your mailbox along with tax notices the week of May 16.

Our first Community to Community Forum was held Feb. 8 and 9 to discuss issues of mutual interest between the District, Tsartlip and Tsawout First Nation Councils. Our feature story reports on the outcome of this important forum.

We are delighted with news that the Province has provided \$1.7 million in funding for the Brentwood Bay Revitalization Project. Final design work for the water line replacement and electrical components of the project is now being completed, with the commencement of construction targeted for late August. Our thanks to the many community volunteers who have helped make this happen.

Our next Town Hall meeting will be held May 25 at the Saanich Fairgrounds. You are invited to come and voice your thoughts, ideas and concerns on community issues in an informal setting. A Town Hall meeting for youth will be held at Stelly's Secondary School on May 10. See the Community Calendar for details.

Council extends best wishes to Norm King, Senior Mechanic with Public Works, on his retirement after 22 years service to the District.

We wish everyone a wonderful spring and summer season.

COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY FORUM BRINGS NEIGHBOURS TOGETHER

Council representatives from the Tsawout and Tsartlip First Nations and the District of Central Saanich came together in a spirit of cooperation at the first Community to Community Forum on Feb. 8 and 9. Though the three councils have met before, this meeting was held to discuss broad areas of common interest, build relationships and initiate closer working partnerships. Funding for the Forum and in-kind services were provided by the Union of BC Municipalities, the District, and the Tsawout and Tsartlip First Nations.

Two evening sessions were held at the Tsawout and Tsartlip First Nations respectively. Approximately 25 people attended each session to share in a meal and collaborative dialogue.

The first evening focused on relationship building and creating greater personal connections between the councils. Participants got to know one another by sharing their background and cultural

information, their vision for the community and important local issues.

Participants agreed overwhelmingly on the need for improved communication, greater awareness and understanding, increased cooperation and collaboration and closer community ties and relations.

The purpose of the second evening was to work out a process for the three Councils to address issues of common concern on a continuing basis. The need for ongoing communications was identified, and a number of practical strategies were developed.

All participants expressed the desire to maintain the momentum initiated at the Forum and proposed to meet again in approximately six months' time.

**See recommendations
from the Forum
on the next page.**

DISTRICT RECEIVES \$1.7 MILLION FOR BRENTWOOD REVITALIZATION PROJECT

Central Saanich will receive just over \$1.7 million in provincial funding from the provincial government for the long-awaited Brentwood Bay Revitalization Project.

The funding consists of \$1,503,973 for village core revitalization along West Saanich Rd. between Verdier Ave. and Wallace Dr. and \$200,000 toward the cost of upgrading the water line along the same stretch of road.

The purpose of this project is to create a safe, attractive and pedestrian-friendly village core. It is the result of considerable effort by local volunteers and intensive public input. The District hopes to wrap up final design details by June and start construction in late August.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY FORUM

- Create a community contacts list
- Establish orientation sessions on topics of local interest
- Consider holding community-wide forums
- Hold periodic tri-Council meetings
- Use widespread information-sharing mechanisms such as web sites, newsletters and joint news releases
- Have regular council-to-council meetings involving staff
- Establish informal opportunities to get together
- Revisit the service-sharing protocol agreement
- Consider a proclamation ceremony to celebrate consensus

CAT OWNERS ALERT: ID TAGS NOW NEEDED!

The next time you let Fluffy out for her evening stroll, make sure she's wearing her identification. According to the CRD's animal control bylaw, all feline citizens must now wear identification that allows anyone who finds a cat running at large to identify and contact the owner. This can include a collar with an identification tag, a traceable tattoo or microchip. Licences are not required – simply purchase a collar and tag at pet supply stores or veterinarian's offices.



UPDATE ON PARKS, TRAILS AND GREEN SPACES

Saanichton Green Phase II improvements finalized

Following an extensive community participation process, Phase II improvements for Saanichton Green have been designed. District staff distributed over 900 questionnaires to neighbouring property owners in March 2004 and interviewed representatives from the Saanich Pioneer Society to gather suggestions for park improvements.

Three concept drawings were then prepared and displayed at a public open house held June 16 at the Saanich Pioneer Museum, which is located on Saanichton Green. The drawings then moved to the municipal hall for further public review and comment. The final plans include:

- Improved security lighting and low maintenance landscaping for the Saanich Pioneers Museum and Centennial Building
- Signs and plantings
- Lighting for pathways
- An expanded children's play area
- A youth activities court with basketball hoop and two skateboard obstacles
- A park bench acknowledging financial support for Phase II
- A description of future park amenities such as entrance signage, benches, picnic tables, plantings and a tricycle track that could be funded through the Corporate Gifting Programme

Lighting and signage will be completed later this spring, the children's play area and youth court by summer, and landscaping in September.

District now owns significant Newman photo collection

The District has received a substantial historical gift in the form of an extraordinary collection of photographs by John Newman, an amateur photographer and farmer who lived at the Newman farm in Saanichton all of his life.

A meticulous photographer, the collection consists of a large number of colour transparencies and black and white negatives that depict an array of local subjects. Newman focused primarily on the natural landscape, capturing images of birds, farm animals, mushrooms, insects as well as coastal steamships, ocean liners, railways, ferries and landscapes. A dedicated rower, Newman would take his boat out to shipping channels to capture images of ships. The photographs are of excellent quality and date from the 1940s, 50s and 60s. Newman often won prizes for his work and his photographs were published in several books.

The photographs were donated to the District by Pat Morrison, a longtime friend. It is part of a continuing commitment to record the District's history through the preservation of the original Newman farm, which was donated to the District in 2003.

Picnic shelters and parks available for group bookings

Summer is just around the corner – a perfect time for a family reunion, staff picnic or softball game. District picnic shelters and park facilities are available for group reservations by calling 544-4218.

BC Hydro helps spruce up our parks

Our thanks to BC Hydro for their \$10,000 donation toward new plantings in District parks.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Earlier this year Council appointed several local residents to fill vacancies on municipal commissions and committees. Our thanks go to:

Advisory Planning Commission: Grant Hilliard, Dale Quarry, Wayne Quinn, Bob Richardson and Rachel Sexton were appointed as members to Dec. 31, 2006.

Heritage Commission: Greg Sam, Michael Rice (Vice-Chair), Wayne Watkins and Don Chambers were appointed as members to Dec. 31, 2006.

Saanich Peninsula Water Commission and the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Committee: Jason Adams was appointed as the community-at-large member to Dec. 31, 2005.

PROPERTY TAX NOTICES ARRIVING SOON!

Municipal property tax notices and the annual *Budget Update* are due to arrive in your mailbox the week of May 16. Please contact the Property Tax department if you haven't received your tax notice by May 27. Send in your cheque to the Municipal Hall by July 4. A 10 per cent penalty will be added to any outstanding balance after this date.

Check with your banker to see if you can pay your taxes through your financial institution or via online banking. Please note that the Homeowner Grant application, however, must be sent directly to the Municipal Hall.

Two other important reminders: Don't forget to fill out the Homeowner Grant application, which is on the back of the tax notice at the bottom of the page. Homeowners aged 60 and over are also eligible for the Provincial Property Tax Deferral Program. Further details and application forms are available from the Finance Department at the Municipal Hall.

HWY. 17 REPAVING PROGRAM NEARING COMPLETION

The repaving of Hwy. 17 between Mount Newton Cross Rd. and Sayward Rd. began in late March and is expected to be complete by June 3. Although not a major redevelopment of Hwy. 17, this will complete the repaving program initiated by the Ministry of Transportation in 2002.

The paving work is taking place during

the evening hours to minimize the impact on traffic – Sunday to Friday from 7 pm to 6 am (Friday evening and Sunday evening starting at 9 pm). The concrete dividers along the highway median are being removed for paving and will be replaced.

Motorists are reminded that minor intersection changes will be implemented as part of this paving program. Please observe construction zone speed limits and watch for maintenance personnel and vehicles.

For updates on the paving schedule and lane closures call 652-9211 from 7 am to 5 pm. From 5 pm to 7 am call the Ministry of Transportation at 604-660-9470.

TRANSIT REVIEW RECOMMENDS COMMUNITY BUSES

Community Bus service as well as new routes may be hitting the streets of Central Saanich by September following the local transit service review by the Victoria Regional Transit System.

Transit service is expected to improve in some neighbourhoods with the introduction of Community Bus service, which uses smaller, more flexible and lower-cost 20-passenger vans.

The smaller buses will extend local service or replace existing bus service where ridership does not warrant the cost of large vehicles. These smaller buses are quieter and less intrusive to neighbourhoods and offer more flexible routing as they can operate on smaller streets.

Transit service here will remain focused on two routes: the 70 Swartz Bay/Downtown connecting downtown, Royal Oak, Saanichton, Sidney and Swartz Bay; and the 75 Brentwood/

Downtown, linking downtown, Royal Oak, Keating industrial area, Butchart Gardens and Brentwood Bay. Community Bus service will also provide other connections between Peninsula communities.

For further details visit www.bctransit.com/regions/vic and click on "Saanich Peninsula Community Bus Plan update".

YOUNG FIREFIGHTERS LEARN VALUABLE LESSONS

Members of the 2nd Tsartlip (Brentwood) and 10th Tsartlip (Saanichton) Boy Scouts of Canada are learning about much more than fire-fighting when they sign up as Fire Service Venturers in Central Saanich.

Sponsored by the Central Saanich Volunteer Fire Department, "Venturing" is a long-standing tradition in the community. The program helps young people gain valuable life experiences and inspiration for the future through six key areas: social/cultural, fitness, exploration, personal interest, service and vocational. Ours is the only Fire Department in Greater Victoria to provide this service.

Venturers gain tremendously from the experience. The young men and women, aged 14 to 17, are able to consider a fire service career as they gain an understanding of the complexities of the firefighter's job. At the same time, they have the opportunity to help their community in areas such as fire prevention, safety and community service. In the 18 years that Central Saanich has sponsored Venturing, many members have been hired for Emergency Services positions.

PROFILE ON DISTRICT COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS: BOARD OF VARIANCE

This story is part of our ongoing profile on District Commissions and Boards.

The District's Board of Variance has the power to grant property owners minor variances on the siting, size or dimension of a building. A property owner may submit an application if an undue hardship has been caused by:

- A Land Use Bylaw regulation concerning the siting, size or dimension of a building; or
- The prohibition against structural additions or alterations to a legal non-conforming use

The board has three voluntary members, all appointed by Council. They serve three-year terms and meet once a month.

The board reviews applications by property owners for minor variances to the District's

Land Use Bylaw. Subject property owners and tenants, and adjacent property owners are notified in writing and are welcome to attend the meeting. Board members may also visit the site in question.

The board may grant a minor variance provided it does not:

- result in inappropriate development of the site
- adversely affect the natural environment
- substantially affect the use and enjoyment of adjacent lands
- vary a registered covenant
- vary permitted uses or densities under the Land Use Bylaw
- defeat the intent of the Land Use Bylaw

"We provide an impartial, non-political avenue for the community to address zoning issues," said Clarence Bolt, a ten-year board veteran and current Chair. Typical requests include variances to height, setbacks and out-buildings.

"We can't change zoning, but we can relax the rules within a zone if the applicant demonstrates that the request is minor and that the issue causes hardship," Bolt explained.

Members are: Clarence Bolt (Chair), Elaine Hodgson and David Marlor. Councillor Robert Thompson is Council's liaison to the Board.

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.

Invitation to visit Central Saanich Senior Citizen's Centre

There's a lot going on at the Central Saanich Senior Citizen's Centre. For more information call 652-4611.

Town Hall Meeting for Youth – May 10

District youth are invited to chat with Council at Stelly's Secondary School, Multi-Purpose Room, May 10 at 1:30 p.m.

Town Hall Meeting – May 25

An open discussion on local issues with Council at the Saanich Fairgrounds, Poplar Room, May 25 at 7 p.m.

Brentwood Bay Festival – June 4

Annual action-packed festival at Pioneer Park with parade, great food, music and other festivities.

Peninsula Country Market – Opening Day June 11

Check out the incredible farm bounty at the popular Saturday market at the Saanich Fairgrounds, June 11 - Oct. 8 (except Sept. 3).

Strawberry Dance - June 18

Enjoy live music by "Shaky Ground" at the Brentwood Community Hall, 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at local businesses.

Old Time Summer Fair at Heritage Acres – June 18 - 19

Bring Dad and the rest of the family, too, to this annual Father's Day weekend event, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., 7321 Lochside Dr. Call 652-5522 for more information.

Music In The Park all summer long

Settle in for a musical treat on Wednesday evenings in July and August, 6:30 – 9 p.m. in Brentwood Bay's Pioneer Park.

Central Saanich Days – July 30 - August 1

Enjoy fun-filled activities over the BC Day long weekend at Centennial Park.

137th Saanich Fair – September 3 - 5

Visit B.C.'s oldest fall fair – a Labour Day weekend tradition at the Saanich Fairgrounds.



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 email 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	* 8:05 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 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
<i>(Municipal Hall office hours Monday 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.)</i>		
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