

# COMMUNITY FOCUS

MAY 2007



NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR CENTRAL SAANICH

## COUNCIL GREETINGS

*Spring is well underway, and our District is a perfect place to celebrate this season. We have a good deal to look forward to for the balance of this year, including the wrap up of the Brentwood Bay Traffic Corridor Revitalization Project. Our thanks to the many residents, business owners and motorists who showed patience and cooperation during the construction work. We know the results will be well worth the wait.*

*We are also getting underway with our Official Community Plan update, which will guide future development and uses of our precious district land and amenities. This is gratifying and important work, as we preserve and enhance our quality of life here in Central Saanich.*

*In this issue, you will also learn about our dedicated and community-minded Police Service, as we introduce this department to our readers as part of our series on District Departments.*

*We are also very pleased with the results of our "facilities charette", which took an up-close look at District buildings and recommended some very sound next steps. More on this valuable process is found in this issue as well.*

*As with many of our committees and boards, community representatives are front and centre in our work and lend much value and advice along the way. Our thanks to the many community-minded citizens who take time to participate in civic life.*

## OUTCOME OF FACILITIES CHARETTE: PUBLIC SAFETY NUMBER ONE PRIORITY

Taking an in-depth look at the collection of various municipal buildings and spaces – and planning for their future use and upgrades – was the aim of the "facilities charette", or planning session, held November 18th. Council, staff from various municipal departments, community agencies, and four representatives from the public who responded to an advertised call for participants took part in the day long event. Prior to the charette, participants went on a tour of District facilities to get a good look at their location and condition.

Armed with maps, aerial photos and a summary of potential ways in which services could be reorganized, participants rolled up their sleeves and got to work. Public safety emerged as the priority topic during the charette, with public works, police and fire services heading the list.

The main outcome of the charette was the general endorsement of a particular "scenario" of how the District's major facilities might be sited and prioritized in the future so as to better serve the needs of the community. The scenario would provide for:

- **The municipal hall to remain in its current location in Saanichton**
- **The library/cultural centre to remain in its current location in Brentwood Bay**
- **The main fire hall to be relocated to the Keating area to provide better coverage and response times, and possibly be co-located with the Police Service and Public Works at the yard site or another appropriate location in the Keating area**
- **A satellite fire station possibly located in the Saanichton area**
- **Mixed uses – such as housing, commercial parking or retail commercial – to be further explored with any future development of the municipal hall complex**

Next steps include:

- **Holding working sessions with the Police Service, Fire Department and Public Works**
- **Ensuring the public is kept informed of the process**
- **Hiring a project manager to assist in the work ahead**

## OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE SWINGS INTO NEXT PHASE

All hands are now on deck for the next phase of the Central Saanich Official Community Plan (OCP) update.

Two community representatives have been selected to participate in the working group and the consultants who will guide the work have been hired.

Central Saanich residents Eric Lofroth and Victoria Barr are the community representatives who will volunteer their time to the Official Community Plan Steering Committee. Mr. Lofroth is a long-time community volunteer, having served as vice-president and president of the Habitat Acquisition Trust from 1999 to 2005 and, during that time, he developed the municipal stewardship manual. Ms. Barr, a healthy communities consultant for the Vancouver Island Health Authority, has over 15 years of community development, social planning and population health strategic planning experience.

Rounding out the steering committee are Councillors Robert Thompson and Alastair Bryson, Peter Parsons (Chair, Advisory Planning Commission) and District planning staff.

Holland Barrs Planning Group Inc. of Vancouver is the company selected to head-up this work, and was chosen from among six proposals.

The OCP outlines in detail the community's long-term vision for the District. While the current OCP is still relevant, the review provides an opportunity to bring key issues up to date. Numerous opportunities for public input are planned including a number of public open houses\*, a resident survey, public hearings, and through the District website at [www.centralsaanich.ca](http://www.centralsaanich.ca).

\*The first one is on **May 30 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Fire Training Centre.

## WHAT IS THE OCP?

The Official Community Plan guides the District's long-term vision and key planning strategies, and was last updated in 1999. 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.

## MOTIONS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

The District will act locally to take action on climate change.

During its strategic planning workshop March 14 and 15, Council voted to back the need to address climate change during the Official Community Plan update process. The recent Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report "Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis" was forwarded to the OCP Steering Committee so this group could look at how to incorporate the issue of climate change into their work.

The District's Strategic Plan also contains action items on environmental protection initiatives and a report will be prepared on what practices and initiatives, policies and educational opportunities can be undertaken.

Council also passed a motion to request that the CRD amend its website to provide easy access to information on the personal action that people can take to affect climate change and improve the environment. Every action makes a difference!

## STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN ENTERS NEXT PHASE

Dealing with stormwater management, including rainwater and storm drainage, is the focus of a comprehensive District plan and a Stakeholder Advisory Committee is in place to take planning to the next stage. The group will look at issues such as seasonal flooding, for example, and recommend a plan of action to deal with this issue in the best interests of the community. The study will take about a year to complete. Members are:

**Robert Kline,**  
*Regional Operations Ministry  
of Agriculture and Lands*

**Ted Van der Gulik, P.Eng.,**  
*Senior Engineer,  
Ministry of Environment*

**Peter Law,**  
*Ecosystem Biologist*

**Maryanne Sam,**  
*Property Taxation and  
Operations Manager,  
Tsawout First Nation*

**Rex Grant,**  
*Band Manager,  
Tsartlip First Nation*

**Dwayne Halldorson,**  
*Manager, Underground  
Services, District of Saanich*

**Michael Doehnel,**  
*Peninsula Agriculture  
Commission*

**Ian Bruce,**  
*Executive Coordinator,  
Peninsula Streams Society /  
Haig-Brown Fly Fishing  
Association / Hagan Creek  
Working Group*

**Frances Pugh,**  
*Saanich Inlet Protection Society*

**Peter Parsons,**  
*Advisory Planning Commission*

**Dale Green,**  
*Supervisor of Stormwater,  
Harbours, and Watersheds  
Program, Capital Regional  
District*

**Fraser Smith,**  
*Consultant, Urban Systems*

Public at Large	Council	Staff
<b>Brian Berglund</b>	Councillor Alastair Bryson	Nirmal Bhattacharya, Municipal Engineer
<b>John Hannam</b>	Councillor Zeb King	Hope V. Burns, Director of Planning & Building Services
<b>Geoff Krause</b> <b>Rio Sandover-Sly</b> <b>Michael Vantreight</b>		Roland Rocheleau, Senior Engineering Technician

## THANKS FOR THE COFFEE AND WARM RECEPTION!

The hard-working construction staff of Chew Construction, who have been on the scene in the downtown core of Brentwood Bay for several months, were treated one rainy February morning to a warm and friendly coffee break in the basement of the Brentwood United Church.

The community coffee break came about when a member of the congregation learned that the entire Chew crew would only be in place for another few weeks, after which the full complement of staff would not be required any more. Wishing to thank the entire patient and helpful crew for their terrific work and community spirit, a call went out to the church bakers and soon local kitchens were producing an array of home-made treats for the workers. Congregation members then invited the Chew workers for what was probably the tastiest and most enjoyable coffee break they had during the construction project.

## MEET THE CENTRAL SAANICH POLICE SERVICE: DEDICATED TO THE COMMUNITY

*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.*

Central Saanich Police Service is about to get a makeover. A recent community survey revealed that 26 percent of the residents polled didn't know who their police service was – even though it is a sizeable portion of the District's budget.

So, Chief Constable Paul Hames and his staff are planning to raise the service's profile. The new look will begin with two of the 10 patrol cars, painting them black and white to distinguish them from other police services vehicles. The public can comment on the proposed new look on the website: [www.cspolice.ca/news.html](http://www.cspolice.ca/news.html)

"It's rebranding," said Chief Hames. "We'll develop a new crest for our shirts and change the insignias on the cars." This is under the auspices of the Chief Herald of the Governor General.

It takes 21 officers and eight civilians to police the 25-square-mile municipality, with its 15,745 residents (excluding the two Reserves), at a cost last year of \$2.9 million. Chief Hames says this gives the District a ratio of one officer for every 801 residents, while the provincial average is one to 555.

With the last homicide occurring seven years ago, most of the crimes involve

property. There has been one home invasion and several cases of marijuana "grow ops." The Chief is proud that four officers have been seconded to other agencies, dealing with the 2010 Olympic Games, road safety, weapons enforcement and organized crime.

Chief Hames, a veteran Mountie, said he and his officers find job satisfaction on a small force because they can see the investigation of a crime through from the first call to the scene to the day in court. Officers enjoy the support that is developed with community members.

The police force is overseen by the Central Saanich Police Board, whose newest member is municipal appointee Steven Garner.

Garner resists any idea of amalgamating the force with a larger community, such as Saanich. "Central Saanich would suffer. There would be no cost savings and a reduction in service."

Garner points to school liaison officer Corporal Len Nolan as proof of the success of community-based policing the District enjoys: "I often see him walking down the street, and stopping to play with the kids," said Garner, whose home office is just steps from the police station on Mt. Newton X Road at Wallace Dr.

## SECONDARY SUITES BYLAW AMENDED

Secondary suites in the District may now be permitted on lots that have a minimum area of 660 square metres (7,105 square feet). All other Land Use Bylaw requirements for secondary suites remain unchanged.

Council also looked at potentially requiring the parking spaces provided for secondary suites to be constructed of permeable materials. According to the District's Land Use Bylaw, single-family homes must provide two parking spaces and, for those with a secondary suite, three are required.

## NEW VOLUNTEERS ON BOARD

Central Saanich is a community that cares, and the volunteers who help out on civic committees, boards and commissions are living proof. Here is our latest list of new and outgoing members.

- The **Saanich Peninsula Water Commission and Wastewater Committee** welcomes **Murray Matheson**. Thanks to outgoing member Larry Sluggett.
- The **Advisory Planning Commission** has appointed three new members: **Harminder S. Dhanowa, Rhonda Korol, Michael P. Robinson and Richard Isner**. Outgoing members are Grant Hilliard, Dale Quarry, Wayne Quinn, and Bob Richardson.
- **Central Saanich Heritage Commission** welcomes **Dale Quarry, Mavis Henry, John Creviston and Barry Kelsey**. Outgoing members are Greg Sam and Don Chambers.
- The **Police Board** has appointed **Steven Garner** as the municipal appointee. Bruce Underwood leaves as the provincial appointee having completed his maximum number of terms.

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Bowls Club Ready for New Season** The Central Saanich Lawn Bowls Club is looking for new members. The clubhouse is at 1800 Hovey Rd. in Centennial Park. For more information, call Liz Garlick at 655-0699. New members get free coaching and a warm welcome!

**Fire Department Open House** A great opportunity to meet local firefighters and take an up-close look at the trucks and equipment that save lives and protect our properties. May 27 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Fire Hall, 1901 Mount Newton X Rd., Saanichton.

**Council's Town Hall Meeting – May 17** Come speak your mind May 17 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Stephen's Church, 7921 St. Stephen's Rd., Saanichton.

**Brentwood Bay Festival – June 9** Annual community festival at Pioneer Park with parade, food, music and more.

**Father's Day Fair at Heritage Acres – June 16 & 17** Great annual event, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., 7321 Lochside Dr. Call 652-5522.

**Music In The Park is Summer Magic** Settle in for a musical treat Wednesday evenings in July and August, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. in Brentwood Bay's Pioneer Park.

**Central Saanich Days – August 4, 5 & 6** Enjoy summer activities over the B.C. Day long weekend at Centennial Park.

**139th Saanich Fair** Annual community festival at Pioneer Park with a parade, food, music and more.

**Peninsula Country Market Opens June 16** This open-air Saturday market at the Saanich Fairgrounds (1528 Stelly's X Rd.) offers fresh produce, preserves, arts and crafts, and more, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Live music is on tap from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

## 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 every month from 1 to 4 p.m. 1901 Mount Newton X Rd., Saanichton.

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

## Saanich Pioneer Museum

Open every Saturday and Sunday from 12 noon – 4 p.m. Call 658-8347 or 656-2471 to arrange tours for other times, 7910 East Saanich Rd., Saanichton.

## Visit the Central Saanich Senior Citizen's Centre

Check out the Central Saanich Senior Citizen's Centre, 1229 Clarke Rd., Brentwood Bay. For more information call 652-4611.



## 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) 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 652-0135 or e-mail it to: [municipalhall@csaanich.ca](mailto: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](mailto:firstname.lastname@csaanich.ca) Please note Councillor Mason can be reached at [clanmason@shaw.ca](mailto:clanmason@shaw.ca) and Councillor King at [kingzeb@shaw.ca](mailto: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** or **CRD Animal Shelter: 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 and Payless gas stations.*

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	652-8449
<b>Councillors</b>		
Alastair Bryson	Public Works & Transportation Committee	544-0668
John Garrison	Administration & Finance Committee	544-1033
Christopher Graham	Water & Waste Management Committee	652-2828
Zeb King	Community & Protective Services Committee	652-4642
(Municipal Hall office hours: Monday 4:30 – 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

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

## 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