

COMMUNITY FOCUS

MAY 2008



NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR CENTRAL SAANICH

GREETINGS FROM COUNCIL

This is the season when the District celebrates the start of our glorious growing season, so it's truly a time to celebrate and take advantage of the local fairs, markets and activities that showcase our best producers, artisans and craftspeople.

We are joining many global, provincial and local efforts to protect our environment, because that's what everyone who lives here values so highly. We have signed on for the BC Climate Action Charter and Central Saanich participated in "Earth Hour" on March 29. Little things add up to one great effort that makes a difference, so we hope you are inspired to do your part as well.

We had our annual Strategic Planning session at the end of January, which gave us an excellent opportunity to look at what's on the horizon. A step we are taking later this year is to ask District ratepayers, through a referendum, what your priorities are in terms of investing in capital infrastructure. There will be a question on the expansion and new pool at the Panorama Recreation Centre. The referendum will be held in conjunction with the upcoming civic election this fall, and you will be hearing more on this in the months to come. We will be looking for your input and feedback.

We look forward to seeing you at the Town Hall Meeting on May 28 at 7 p.m. at Keating Elementary School. Please bring your questions, ideas and concerns to this informal community forum.

Finally, a warm thank you to our community volunteers and everyone who serves on our District committees and commissions. It is with your help that we have such a wonderful and caring community.

DISTRICT SIGNS ON TO CRD'S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

The District will join the Capital Regional District and other municipalities in the Climate Action Plan.

Central Saanich has already signed on to the provincial strategy, the BC Climate Action Charter, and has pledged to be carbon neutral by 2012.

In February 2007, the BC government announced that the target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) is 33% below current levels by 2020, which will place emissions 10% under 1990 levels. The CRD will follow these provincial targets.

Local governments will measure and report on their community's GHG emission profile and create complete and more compact and energy-efficient communities.

As reported in the January 2008 issue of Community Focus, the District's Community Energy Plan is already well underway. The plan's goals are, in part, to:

- Improve the energy efficiency of buildings
- Educate and engage residents and businesses
- Demonstrate local government leadership

Three targets have also been set:

Target #1:

All new municipal buildings must demonstrate energy performance that is 25% better than the Model National Energy Code for buildings.

Target #2:

Retrofit buildings (equivalent to 50% of the existing building floor space) with energy efficiency improvements that provide paybacks of seven years or less through energy savings.

Target #3:

Achieve an EnerGuide for New Houses rating of 80 by 2010, reducing average energy consumption in new homes by 32%.

The plan also contains a "green building policy" that outlines how to construct and maintain an efficient building. The District has committed to building new civic facilities in an energy efficient manner. This includes looking at a new structure's location and site, and its interior and exterior features to ensure the design is as "green" and energy efficient as possible.

LOOK TO LEED

The optimum model to follow when building new structures is LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), a points-based system in which buildings must achieve a minimum level of points to become certified under LEED.

LEED uses five principal categories:

- Sustainable Sites
- Water Efficiency
- Energy and Atmosphere
- Materials and Resources
- Indoor Environmental Quality

MEET THE CENTRAL SAANICH POLICE BOARD

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.

Setting the strategic direction for our local police services is the responsibility of the Central Saanich Police Board. Board meetings are open to the public and are held monthly at the Municipal Hall.

The Police Board establishes standards and guidelines for the level of policing in Central Saanich in accordance with the provincial government *Police Act*. Day-to-day operations, however, are the direct responsibility of the Police Chief. The police budget is the responsibility of the Board with final ratification by Council.

Police Chief Paul Hames reports to the Board and, in turn, members of the force report to the Chief. The Board is chaired by the Mayor and has four volunteer members, three of which are appointed by the Province and one by the municipality. Members are

all local residents and can serve a maximum of six years on the Board. Current members are Steven Garner, Cathy Ounsted, John Currie and Andrew Harcombe. When a seat becomes vacant on the Board, the Province or municipality runs an advertisement seeking applications.

Central Saanich has one of only four police boards on Vancouver Island. The others are in Oak Bay, Saanich and Victoria/Esquimalt. The rest of Vancouver Island has police services provided by the RCMP.

If you have an issue you'd like to bring before the Board, contact Chief Hames at 652-4441.

PETER PARSONS:

Tribute to an outstanding local citizen

A dedication ceremony at a much-loved local park was a fitting tribute to the late Peter Parsons, a true champion of local issues.

Diamond #1 at Centennial Park is now known as Peter Parsons Diamond. A plaque and sign were erected in his memory at a heartfelt ceremony on April 12.

Mr. Parsons, who served on numerous District committees, died on December 5, 2007. His community involvement was legendary and wide-ranging. He was most recently Chair of the Advisory Planning Commission, Central Saanich's representative on the Victoria Airport Authority and he participated on District Steering Committees for two Official Community Plan Updates. He was also involved in the Brentwood Bay Traffic Corridor Revitalization Project and the Integrated Stormwater Management and Facilities Planning projects.

"His sense of service to the community and his unselfish dedication of his time and skills was truly unparalleled. He will be sorely missed," said Mayor Jack Mar.

NEW COMMITTEE EXAMINES ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF FARMLAND

A new District temporary ad hoc committee will examine the issue of the economic viability of our local farmland, Council has decided.

People in the District strongly support maintaining farmland, and it is an essential component of the vision described in the Official Community Plan. However, the rising cost of land is making farming less economically viable, even on well established multi-generational farms.

Developing community solutions and inspiring people to become aware and take

action is the impetus for this action, said Councillor Alastair Bryson.

This committee will review and report out on ideas that could support long-term agricultural production in the District, placing an emphasis on strategies that would improve the availability of farmland at a cost which is economically viable for producers.

Committee members will consist of two members of Council, and representatives from the Peninsula Agricultural Commission and the Ministry of Agriculture.

NEW VOLUNTEERS WILL SERVE DISTRICT

New volunteers will serve District

Welcome to the District's newest group of volunteers, and our sincere thanks to those who have served us so well in the past.

Advisory Planning Commission

Three residents have been appointed for a two-year term: David Hall, Carl I. Jensen and Dale Quarry. Outgoing members are Paul Sam and Dr. David Boag. The APC greatly appreciates the work and dedication of the late Peter Parsons, who was Chair.

Central Saanich Police Board

Steven Garner has been re-appointed as the municipal appointee.

Peninsula Recreation Commission

Carl I. Jensen has been re-appointed as Council's community representative for a two-year term.

Saanich Peninsula Water Commission and Wastewater Committee

Murray Matheson has been appointed for a second one-year term.

The Heritage Commission

The Heritage Commission has been temporarily stood down for one year due to a lack of applicants at this time. Thanks to members Sue Stroud, Dale Quarry, John Creviston, Mavis Henry, Sylvia Olsen and Brian Wildman who served on this committee.



PLANNING UPDATE

OCP Review

The first draft of the District's revised Official Community Plan (OCP) was presented to Council March 31. The OCP outlines the District's long-term vision for our community including land use and development. The public had an opportunity to provide comments on the proposed changes to the draft plan at an open house on May 7, 2008. The draft OCP will undergo further revision as may be required and then will be prepared as a Bylaw and referred to a public hearing.

Secondary Suites

The requirement that homes with secondary suites must be located on lots of a certain size has been dropped. There is now no minimum lot size requirement for owners of residential single-family homes who wish to have a secondary suite, subject to meeting certain parameters which include obtaining a building permit from the municipality.

Land Use Bylaw Signage

Additional signage requirements are now in place for Land Use Bylaw amendment applications:

- For major OCP or Land Use Bylaw applications (rezoning), a "Notice of Application" sign must be posted by the applicant within five weeks of making the planning application.
- Notice of public hearing signs, entitled "Notice of Public Hearing", must be posted a minimum of 10 days prior to the hearing.
- For development variance permits and temporary commercial use permit applications, signs must also be posted that state "Notice of Council consideration."

PENINSULA STREAMS SOCIETY TAKES ON NEW PHASE OF WORK

The Peninsula Streams Society is working toward the restoration of Sandhill (Tetayut) Creek and has applied to the Pacific Salmon Foundation for its next phase of work. The work will be undertaken in three phases over the next two to three years and will include channel and riparian area restoration in Adam Kerr and Sandhill Parks. Confirmed partners in this work are the District of Central Saanich, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Tsawout First Nation and the Friends of Sandhill Creek.



FARM ASSESSMENT REVIEW UNDERWAY

Council has wholeheartedly endorsed the Farm Assessment Review recently announced by the BC government. This review has come about in response to concerns expressed by the farming community, local governments and other stakeholders.

The Review Panel will be examining issues related to property assessments on farm lands, including simplifying and streamlining regulations, while ensuring farm assessments remain fair and equitable. Panel members will include representatives from local and provincial governments, the agricultural community and BC Assessment.

The panel will provide the provincial government with a report and recommendations by July 31, 2009, for consideration for the 2010 Assessment Roll. The panel has also been given the option to provide government with interim recommendations.

For more information, go to www.gov.bc.ca/sbr/ and click on Farm Assessment Review. If you'd like to make a submission to the Review Panel, send an e-mail to farmassessmentreview@gov.bc.ca

SOFT PLASTICS DEPOT FINDS HOME IN CENTRAL SAANICH

Help keep more materials out of our landfill sites. Residents can now recycle soft plastics, such as all those mountains of plastic bags that collect in many kitchens, as well as styrofoam and milk cartons, at a handy local depot. A soft plastics recycling depot is now available on the grounds of the Municipal Hall on the fourth Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

The mobile depot is staffed by volunteers and paid staff under the coordination of Pacific Mobile Depots. Go to www.centralsaanich.ca for more information.

DISTRICT READY TO RESPOND TO HAZARDOUS INCIDENTS

Central Saanich is hosting the CRD's HAZMAT program, which responds to hazardous incidents such as fuel and chemical spills. Central Saanich Fire Chief Ron French heads the effort on behalf of the District, and will supervise the storage of HAZMAT materials at the Central Saanich Fire Department.

A 28-foot trailer will house special equipment such as suits, breathing apparatus and material required to mitigate hazardous incidents. The equipment is for the use by all of the CRD. When a hazardous incident occurs, firefighters trained as technicians will be dispatched to the scene. HAZMAT will have 30 firefighters trained as technicians who are able to respond to hazardous incidents. Central Saanich will have two technicians, trained from the ranks of local firefighters.

The District will receive funding from the CRD to manage and operate the program.

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 every month from 1 to 4 p.m. at 1903 Mount Newton X Rd., Saanichton.



May 28

Council's Town Hall Meeting

Have your say at the May 28 Town Hall meeting, 7 p.m. at Keating Elementary School.

June 7

Brentwood Bay Festival

Join this community celebration at Pioneer Park. There's a parade, food, music and local produce and crafts.

Opens June 14

Peninsula Country Market

What's your food "footprint"? Do you want to eat more quality, local produce? Look no further than this popular market, held every Saturday at the Saanich Fairgrounds (1528 Stelly's X Rd.) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

June 14 & 15

Father's Day Fair at Heritage Acres

Bring dad and the whole family for the annual Father's Day weekend event, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 7321 Lochside Dr. Call 652-5522 for more information.

June 21

Annual Strawberry Dance

The Annual Strawberry Dance, featuring Shaky Ground, will be held on June 21 at 8:30 p.m. at the Brentwood Community Hall.

July & August

Music In The Park

Bring your lawn chair and enjoy music every Wednesday evening in July and August, 6:30 to 9 p.m. in Brentwood Bay's Pioneer Park.

July 5

Come to the Heritage Fair

After its long-awaited reopening on March 30, the Log Cabin Museum is now open every Saturday and Sunday from 12 noon to 4 p.m. The museum is celebrating its 75th anniversary and will host The Peninsula Heritage Fair on July 5. The fair will showcase historical artifacts and live demonstrations, providing a fascinating glimpse of what life was like on the peninsula over 100 years ago. For more information, go to www.saanichpioneersociety.org

August 2, 3 & 4

Central Saanich Days

Come for fun for the whole family at Centennial Park over the long weekend.

Labour Day weekend

141st Saanich Fair

BC's oldest fall fair is 141 years old this year and will have lots to celebrate at the Saanich Fairgrounds, 1528 Stelly's X Rd.



DISTRICT OF CENTRAL SAANICH

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Tel: 652-4444 Fax: 652-0135

E-mail: municipalhall@csaanich.ca Web: www.centrialsaanich.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

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 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** 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

Leave Brentwood Bay		Leave Mill Bay	
* 7:30 a.m.	2:25 p.m.	* 8:05 a.m.	3:00 p.m.
8:40 a.m.	3:35 p.m.	9:15 a.m.	4:10 p.m.
9:50 a.m.	4:45 p.m.	10:25 a.m.	5:20 p.m.
11:00 a.m.	5:55 p.m.	11:35 a.m.	6:30 p.m.
1:15 a.m.		1:50 p.m.	

* DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAYS

COUNCIL

Mayor Jack Mar	Chair of Municipal Council & Central Saanich Police Board	652-8449
Councillors		
Alastair Bryson	Public Works & Transportation Committee	544-0668
John Garrison	Administration & Finance Committee	544-1033
Christopher Graham	Water & Waste Management Committee	896-0451
Zeb King	Community & Protective Services Committee	652-4642
<small>(Community chats held Thursdays at 7 p.m. at the Fresh Cup Café, 1931 Mt. Newton Cross Rd. and Fridays at 7 p.m. at JJ's Café in Brentwood Bay For more info, contact kingzeb@shaw.ca)</small>		
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/Utility Billing	544-4206
Accounts Payable	544-4205
Park Use Reservation	544-4218
Municipal Yard/Public Works - 1703 Keating Cross Road	
Public Services & Parks Maintenance	544-4224
After Hours Emergency	652-4441