

COMMUNITY FOCUS

MAY 2004



NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR CENTRAL SAANICH RESIDENTS

GREETINGS FROM YOUR COUNCIL

We've had a busy spring updating the District's Strategic Plan and finalizing budget planning for our Five Year Financial Plan. We've carefully assessed all expenditures 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 17.

Our third Town Hall meeting will be held on May 26. It's a terrific opportunity to voice your thoughts, ideas and concerns on community issues to Council in an informal setting. See the Community Calendar section for details on timing and location. We hope to see you there.

Here's some interesting library news: Registered users and circulation activity has doubled at our Central Saanich branch since we transferred services to the Greater Victoria Public Library system two years ago. Planning for the relocation of the central library branch in downtown Victoria continues and we will keep you posted on this issue.

There are several exciting new developments and events taking place this year in our community. Council extends special congratulations to The Butchart Gardens, celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. And a warm welcome to two new neighbours – the Brentwood Bay Lodge & Spa, a new oceanfront resort, and Brentwood House, the assisted living housing complex for seniors.

We wish you a wonderful spring and summer season.

CENTRAL SAANICH COUNCIL

LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY AND FEEL GOOD INSIDE

According to the National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating, 88 per cent of British Columbians made financial or in-kind donations to various non-profit causes in 2000. Clearly, we are a compassionate society and nowhere is this more evident than in our own backyard.

Our citizens, business people, groups and organizations are strong supporters of local causes and the Central Saanich Gifting Programme gives people the opportunity to give something back to the community. Would you like to honour a loved one or celebrate an event, individual or family? The gifting programme is the perfect way to both recognize the commitment of citizens, business people, groups or organizations and leave a lasting legacy for all members of the community to enjoy.

There are many ways to show your civic pride. You may contribute toward specific public amenities such as picnic tables, benches, trees, bike racks, drinking fountains, street banners, flagpoles, public art, information kiosks, bus shelters, and park improvements such as playground equipment.

Donors are recognized with a bronze plaque on street furnishings and a donation certificate. All donations are tax deductible.

The District's gifting programme also includes estate and land conserving gifts – a wonderful opportunity to preserve green space for public use and enjoyment.

Recent donations include:

- West Corporation donated \$10,000 to build a footbridge that will span Sandhill Creek in Adam Kerr Park.
- The estate of John and Henry Newman deeded a 16.5 acre heritage farmstead property to District residents last year.
- The Brentwood Bay Rotary Club donated a drinking fountain for the Central Saanich Cultural Centre/Library last year.

The gifting programme has contribution levels from \$100 to \$2,500 and beyond for estate and land conserving gifts. If you would like to make a gift to our community, please contact the Central Saanich Community Services Division at 544-4218 or send an email to municipalhall@csaanich.ca

Your support is greatly appreciated!

HELP FUND LOCAL HERITAGE RESTORATION PROJECTS

Want to preserve a piece of local history? The following projects need your help:

- Butterfield Park, the municipally-owned historic gardens located at 1184 Mount Newton Cross Rd., requires funding and volunteer assistance for its garden development plan. Contact Jenny Hyndman at 652-8166 for more information.
- The Newman Farm property needs donations to assist with conservation efforts. Contact the Central Saanich Community Services Division at 544-4219 for more information.
- Campaigning is underway to raise over \$200,000 for the restoration of West Saanich School (known as the Scout/Guide Hall), the District-owned and heritage designated structure. Pledges of cash or in-kind contributions are gratefully accepted. Contact Sue Myerscough at 652-5775 if you can help.

THIS NEWSLETTER IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY CENTRAL SAANICH COUNCIL



WEST SAANICH RD. REVITALIZATION FIRST STEP IN NEW LOOK OF BRENTWOOD BAY VILLAGE CORE

As part of its revitalization plans for Brentwood Bay's village core, Council has begun the process for undertaking in 2005 municipal infrastructure improvements for the West Saanich Rd. traffic corridor between Verdier Ave. and Wallace Dr.

The improvements are based on the Brentwood Bay Design Guidelines and will make West Saanich Rd. safer and more pedestrian friendly. As an interim traffic safety measure, two flashing lights were recently installed on the sidewalks at both ends of

the mid-block crosswalk in the 7100 block of West Saanich Rd. Council is grateful to Farmer Management, JSF Technologies and Seafirst Insurance for helping fund this project. This is an excellent example of the District and local businesses working together to provide services in our community.

Council and staff are working with local residents, the Brentwood Revitalization Implementation Committee and the Ministry of Transportation to design a streetscape plan along West Saanich Rd. from Verdier Ave. to Wallace Dr. A detailed design of West Saanich Rd. will be prepared showing curbs, sidewalks, landscaping, street lighting and

pedestrian crossing facilities including crosswalk lighting. The plan will also include street "furniture" such as information kiosks, bike racks, benches, planters, and screening for garbage and recycling receptacles.

An open house will be held in June to obtain public input on the draft design drawings, which will help shape the final streetscape plan.

Design and construction cost estimates are expected to be finalized in late September with project tendering slated for late October. Plans call for construction to start in March 2005 and be completed by October 2005.

UPDATE ON PARKS, TRAILS AND GREEN SPACES

District and PSA join forces on Centennial Park project

Teamwork is paying off for local soccer players. Council has given its support for a partnership between the District and the Peninsula Soccer Association (PSA) to expand and improve soccer facilities at Alexander Field at the north end of Centennial Park.

The improvements will assist in meeting community needs for active playfields for youth recreational activities, consistent with the policies of the Central Saanich Parks and Open Space Master Plan and Centennial Park Master Plan.

The preliminary design is underway with construction anticipated to start in the coming year. Council will also continue public consultation regarding a proposed trail connection through Centennial Park to Prosser Rd.

Lochside trail design finalized

Cyclists may soon have their own bike lanes along the Lochside trail. Council recently approved a plan for trail improvements along the District's portion of the trail from Mount Newton Cross Rd. to the North Saanich border. The project, estimated to cost \$228,000, includes designated cycling lanes with left turn areas and a three-way stop at the intersection of Mt. Newton Cross Rd. and Lochside Dr. An application has been made to CRD Parks for \$163,000 to help fund construction and, if approved by early summer, the bike lanes may be complete by September.

Stakeholder consultation included CRD Parks, the Capital Bike and Walk Society and the District's Engineering and Planning departments. CRD Parks will likely play a major role in the development and management of the trail.

District links up with Interurban Rail Trail

Cycling along touring routes is a popular activity in our region, and new directional signage will help point cyclists in the right direction and provide connections to Saanich and North Saanich. The Central Saanich portion of the Interurban Rail Trail was recently marked with 23 new directional signs, most of which follows Wallace Dr. Three map signs will also be installed later this spring. The route provides a handy cycling connection between the Galloping Goose and Lochside trails.

CENTRAL SAANICH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT ON RECRUITMENT DRIVE

Interested in helping fight fires and providing other emergency services in our community? If you have some spare time and would like to help out, the Central Saanich Volunteer Fire Department would like to hear from you. New volunteers are needed on weekdays, weekends and evenings to provide fire, rescue and medical first response assistance.

Interested volunteers must live in the District and be available to attend Monday evening drills as well as occasional evening or weekend training sessions. Although previous experience is not required, training in firefighting or emergency medical response is an asset. Candidates must be in good physical condition and capable of performing such tasks as wearing an air mask, climbing ladders, lifting heavy objects, driving and operating apparatus and using a variety of hand tools and firefighting equipment.

A physical fitness examination and interview is conducted for all candidates, along with a driving and criminal record check.

Applications are taken year round and are available at the Central Saanich Fire Department, Monday through Friday, 8 am - 4:30 pm. For further details call 544-4227 or send an email to municipalhall@csaanich.ca

PROFILE ON DISTRICT COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS: ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION

Curious about the story behind the District's commissions and boards? A new Community Focus feature spotlights the role of these advisory bodies. In this issue we feature the Advisory Planning Commission (APC).

The APC has nine members appointed by Council. Members sign on for either one or two-year terms and meet once a month. Its chair is chosen annually by the Commission members, who come from a variety of business and community backgrounds. Each member offers a different perspective, which is valuable in decision-making on local planning issues.

The APC advises Council and municipal staff on issues related to land use, community planning or proposed bylaws and permits under the *Local Government Act*. Members provide input on all major planning applications (rezonings, Official Community Plan amendments, development permit applications) as well as on environmental and cycling issues. The APC looks at the issues in the context of the District's Land Use Bylaw and OCP and provides recommendations to Council.

"We're consulted on a variety of planning issues from cycling route signage to housing projects and more complex commercial developments," said Peter Parsons, a long time member and current APC chair. "One of our key goals is to ensure that there is a good balance of social and environmental elements incorporated into development proposals."

When the APC considers an amendment to a plan or bylaw, or the issuing of a permit, the applicant is invited to give a presentation. The public is also welcome to attend any APC meeting.

APC members are: David Boag (Vice-Chair), Grant Hilliard, Peter Parsons (Chair), Fred Peet, Dale Quarry, Wayne Quinn, Bob Richardson, Eleanor Richardson and Kryn Zedel. Councillors Rhonda Korol and Robert Thompson are Council's liaisons to the APC.

GOOD CITIZEN ALERT!

One person's trash can be another person's headache!

Please dispose of your unwanted items properly through garbage collection or recycling services. Do not leave recyclable goods such as paint, tires and batteries at the District's Public Works Yard or along community roads or in ditches. For a recycling refresher, visit: www.recycle.crd.bc.ca

Let's all work together to keep Central Saanich beautiful!

Don't let your neighbours get all choked up!

Please be considerate and don't burn your garden waste. All types of garden waste can be composted or dropped off at the CRD Yard & Garden Compost Facility at the Hartland Landfill. For hours of operation call the CRD at 360-3030. If you have no choice but to burn your garden waste, please call the Fire Department first at 544-4238 for burning regulations.

Don't tamper with fire hydrants

There have been numerous reports recently of vandalized fire hydrants, which wastes a good deal of water and can even flood homes. Seconds count when a fire breaks out and all fire hydrants must be in good working order so our firefighters can protect our homes and businesses. If you spot trouble, please contact the Public Works Dept. at 544-4224.

NEW REGS FOR BRENTWOOD AND SAANICHTON DOCKS

Now that the Brentwood Bay and Saanichton docks are under District ownership, please note local regulations when using these facilities:

- Casual daily boaters may come and go at no charge.
- Overnight moorage is not permitted.
- The dock loading zone is to be used strictly for loading and unloading and vessels cannot remain moored for longer than 15 minutes, except for emergency vessels using the area for training exercises or in emergency situations.

The District's wharf regulation bylaw spells out loading zone uses, moorage restrictions, prohibited uses and obstructions, enforcement powers, removal and impoundment of vessels, and fees for impoundment, towing and hauling out.

Docks are important community assets – please use them responsibly. The bylaw will be enforced if we don't use the docks fairly. For further information contact the Planning and Building Services Dept. at 544-4237.

PROPERTY TAX NOTICES ARRIVING SOON!

Look for your municipal property tax notice and the annual Budget Update to arrive in your mailbox the week of May 17. Send your cheque to the Municipal Hall by July 2 – 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 Deferment Program. Further details and application forms are available from the Finance Department at the Municipal Hall.



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 each month from 1 to 4 p.m., 1903 Mount Newton Cross Rd., Saanichton.

Heritage Acres

Open daily September through May 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon; June through Labour Day weekend 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. 7321 Lochside Dr., Saanichton.

Saanich Pioneer Museum

Open every Monday and Saturday from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., 7900 East Saanich Rd., Saanichton.

Town Hall Meeting – May 26

It's your chance to be heard. Chat with the Mayor and Councillors about local government and community issues at our Town Hall meeting at Keating Elementary School on Wednesday, May 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Brentwood Bay Festival – June 5

Celebrate the annual Brentwood Bay Festival at Pioneer Park. Join the parade or just enjoy the good food, music and other festivities.

Peninsula Country Market – June 12 Opening Day

Check out the incredible farm bounty at the popular Saturday market at the Saanich Fairgrounds, June 12 through October 9 (except Sept. 4).

Strawberry Dance – June 19

Kick up your heels to live music provided by "Shaky Ground" at the Brentwood Community Hall. The dance starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and are available at local businesses.

Old Time Summer Fair at Heritage Acres – June 19 - 20

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

Music In The Park all summer long

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

Peninsula Tour of Farms – July 18

Get an up close and personal look at our Peninsula farms during this annual summer event.

Central Saanich Days July 31 – August 2

Great fun for all ages is close to home during three days of fun-filled activities over the B.C. Day long weekend at Centennial Park.

137th Saanich Fair – September 4 - 6

A spectacular end to summer is a visit to 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.csaanich.ca

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
(Municipal Hall office hours Monday 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.)		
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.csaanich.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

EXPRESS YOURSELF!

What's on your mind? We want to hear from you if you have ideas, opinions or thoughts to share.

WRITE A LETTER TO MAYOR & COUNCIL

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 e-mail Councillors directly regarding other District issues. See the adjacent column for phone numbers or send an email to: firstname.lastname@csaanich.ca

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	* 8:05 am
8:40 am	3:00 pm
9:50 am	9:15 am
11:00 am	4:10 pm
1:15 pm	5:20 pm
	11:35 am
	6:30 pm
	1:50 pm

* DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAYS