

COMMUNITY FOCUS

SEPTEMBER 2004



NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR CENTRAL SAANICH

GREETINGS FROM CENTRAL SAANICH COUNCIL

It's been a busy year, and we've accomplished a number of major tasks including updating the District's Strategic Plan, which maps out major decisions for the year. We've made substantial progress on Brentwood Bay's West Saanich Rd. traffic corridor revitalization project and we've applied for a Canada – BC Infrastructure grant to help fund the improvements.

We extend our sincere sympathy to the family of Diane Moen, a former two-term District councillor who passed away in June. Diane left her mark on the District with numerous achievements accomplished during her six years on Council (1996 – 2002), including the development of the Mount Newton and Lochside trails and guidance in obtaining a Crown grant for Heritage Acres. As a dedicated civil servant, Diane was also involved in provincial park acquisitions, including Gowlland-Tod Provincial Park. Diane will be greatly missed by Council and her many friends and colleagues in the community.

Thanks to all who attended the May Town Hall meeting. We'll be holding our second meeting of the year on November 24. It's a terrific opportunity to voice your thoughts, ideas and concerns on community issues in an informal setting. We welcome the public's help in organizing these meetings – if you're interested in helping, see Community Calendar for contact details.

We wish you a wonderful fall season.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT HELPS BUILD BRIDGES

A simple cedar footbridge became the symbol of giving this past July as Central Saanich Council and West Corporation launched the District's Gifting Programme at Adam Kerr Park on Keating Cross Rd.

The footbridge, which spans Sandhill Creek, was built with a \$10,000 donation from West Corporation and symbolizes how the community can come together to create an environment that both attracts new business activity and enriches our quality of life. Council greatly appreciates the generosity of West Corporation in making this contribution.

In Central Saanich we're blessed with an abundance of parks, trails and green spaces. Whether you're a parent, dog owner, hiker or ball player, there's something for everyone in our 34 municipal parks, 32 beach accesses and two municipally-owned docks. Our green spaces total an impressive 67.46 hectares or 166.6 acres.

Our parks inventory, which also includes Central Saanich Cultural Centre and other community facilities, has been cultivated through acquisitions and donations. As budgets allow, the inventory is increased bit by bit.

However, acquiring land is just half the battle. Plantings, benches and play equipment are an integral part of what makes a community park enjoyable, and for this we look to the community to get involved.

Local residents and business owners can help develop and enhance our parks, trails and public facilities through the Central Saanich Gifting Programme. Honour a loved one, celebrate an event or make a corporate donation. Donors are recognized with a bronze plaque on street furnishings and receive a donation certificate.

The gifting programme has contribution levels from \$100 and up. Estate and land conserving gifts are also welcome.

HANDY GIFT GIVING IDEAS

Looking for holiday gift ideas for the person who already has everything? Start a new tradition by forming your own family "giving" foundation. Here are a few donation ideas to help beautify our parks or revitalize West Saanich Rd. in Brentwood Bay's village core:

- \$100 - \$500: sidewalk planter, flower bed or bike rack
- \$1,500: specimen tree
- \$1,500 - \$1,700: park bench

Donations are also welcome for children's play equipment in Seabrook Park, development of Tanner and Woodward parks and a permanent skate park.

If you would like to make a gift donation or obtain a copy of the Central Saanich Gifting Programme brochure, please contact the Community Services Division at 544-4218 or via email at municipalhall@csaanich.ca

THIS NEWSLETTER IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY CENTRAL SAANICH COUNCIL

UPDATE ON PARKS, TRAILS AND GREEN SPACES

Centennial Park Lacrosse box makes the grade

Local lacrosse players have scored an improved lacrosse box at Centennial Park. The \$10,000 upgrade by the Peninsula Lacrosse Association (PLA) included replacement of the scoreboard. PLA members donated the labour and Central Saanich Public Works assisted with excavation work for installation of the scoreboard supports.

Neighbourhood provides input on Saanichton Green

Local residents had their say on plans for phase two improvements at Saanichton Green, the neighbourhood park located immediately north of the Saanichton village centre. More than 900 questionnaires were distributed this spring to residents living in the vicinity of the park and 123 responses were received. This feedback was used to prepare three preliminary design options for public review at an open house held on June 16.

The District received a \$50,000 contribution toward play equipment and park amenities. Council is reviewing the design options and will decide this fall on specific park improvements. Initial work will likely start this winter.

Temporary skate park opens in Centennial Park

Local youth can now practice their carving techniques and do a few kick flips closer to home at a temporary skate park located on one of the Centennial Park tennis courts. The District's first community skate park has modular equipment, suitable for beginner to intermediate skill levels, and can be moved as required.

Council is monitoring use of the temporary park and supports a permanent installation to be built within the next couple of years once a location has been selected and funding is in place.

The Brentwood Youth Committee and Island Farms have joined forces to help pay for a permanent skate park. The "Daisy Dollars" campaign will contribute three cents from the redemption of each UPC code from any Island Farms product. Chip in and drop off your codes at the Brentwood Art Gallery or at the home of Alice Johnson at 1780 Keating Cross Rd. For further information please contact Alice Johnson at 652-3650 or alijohnson@shaw.ca

Lochside Regional Trail cycling lanes complete

Hop on your bike and check out the new cycling lanes along a two-kilometre section of the Lochside Trail, from Mount Newton Cross Rd. to the North Saanich border. The 1.5 metre wide cycling lanes, located on both sides of Lochside Dr. and Mt. Newton Cross Rd. (the section east of Hwy. 17), provide cyclists with a safe designated route.

Funding from CRD Parks and the Provincial Capital Commission (PCC) was contributed toward the \$228,000 improvement cost, which includes designated cycling lanes and a four-way stop at the intersection of Mt. Newton Cross Rd. and Lochside Dr.



STRONG TURNOUT AT OPEN HOUSE FOR WEST SAANICH RD. REVITALIZATION PLANS

More than 150 residents and business owners attended a public open house on June 23 to take an up-close look at plans for the revitalization of West Saanich Rd. between Verdier Ave. and Wallace Dr.

The proposed improvements are based on the Brentwood Bay Design Guidelines, and form a key element in the overall revitalization of the village core. Plans show safety improvements, traffic calming measures and an improved "streetscape", all designed to make the village core more pedestrian friendly.

Highlights of the plan include a central landscaped median with "U" turn opportunities, new pedestrian crosswalks, wider sidewalks, trees, decorative street lighting, and street "furniture" such as benches, planters, bike racks and litter receptacles. The plan also includes a proposed roundabout at Verdier and West Saanich Rd., which will act both as a welcoming gateway to the north end of Brentwood Bay's village core and serve as a traffic calming measure.

Design and construction cost estimates will likely wrap up in late September with project tendering taking place the following month. Construction is proposed to start in March 2005 and be complete by October 2005.

Council thanks those who attended the open house. Your valuable input is very much appreciated.

FIRE DEPARTMENT GETS TOP MARKS FOR COMMUNITY PROTECTION

A new 75-foot ladder truck will boost the Central Saanich Volunteer Fire Department's reputation as one of the best vehicle-equipped volunteer firefighting services in the region.

In addition, the department has a new pumper truck on order, with delivery expected by March 2005. New pumps and forest

firefighting equipment and increased training levels will improve bush firefighting capabilities.

A fundraising program will soon get underway to raise \$45,000 to purchase thermal imaging cameras to enable firefighters to see through smoke to pinpoint fires and identify structural dangers to prevent

injuries or deaths. Cameras can also be used in water rescue and land searches.

Interested in helping protect our community? The Central Saanich Volunteer Fire Department is always on the lookout for new volunteers and a new recruitment class starts this month. Call Fire Chief Ron French at 544-4227 for more information.

AGRI-TOURISM TASK FORCE REPORT STRESSES BALANCE

Agriculture forms a vital part of the District's identity and economy, having been a major activity in Central Saanich for more than a century, and the Agri-Tourism Task Force hopes its work will help sow some seeds for the future.

Council established an Agri-Tourism Task Force in the fall of 2003 to review and make recommendations on possible regulations for agri-tourism activities and accommodation units on land in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). The intent is to look at ways of facilitating agri-tourism and ensuring there is a balance between farming and agri-tourism without adversely impacting neighbouring properties.

The task force presented its findings and recommendations to local residents, business people and members of the agricultural community at a public open house held on June 3. The open house provided an opportunity to review and comment on the recommendations developed by the task force in its report *The Agri-Tourism Industry and Local Government Regulation: Finding the Right Balance for Central Saanich*.

The report includes recommendations and criteria for municipal regulations for bed and breakfast and farm stay accommodation, camping and agri-tourism activities. Council will be reviewing the recommendations in early Fall after reviewing comments and feedback from the ALC (Agricultural Land Commission), APC (Advisory Planning Commission), PAC (Peninsula Agricultural Commission), Direct Farm Marketing Association, Saanich Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, and the Ministry of Agriculture.

REPORT FROM PUBLIC WORKS

District combats West Nile

The District received an \$8,000 provincial grant this past spring to respond to the threat of West Nile, a mosquito-borne virus. Central Saanich has been proactive in developing a program to deal with the virus, in conjunction with the District's existing mosquito abatement program.

New lighting a bright idea

Traffic lights and pedestrian crossings have a bright new look thanks to a switch from standard filament bulbs to Light Emitting Diodes (LED) technology, part of the Power Smart program.

The change will result in cost savings of up to 85% (almost \$4,000 yearly) on electrical consumption. LED lighting only requires replacement once every seven years – standard incandescent bulbs must be changed annually.

BC Hydro pays for half the cost of the conversion and provides an interest free loan to pay for the remainder.

Important reminder: keep areas around utilities tidy

Residents and business owners are reminded that it is their responsibility to keep the area around utilities up to the property line free and clear of debris and weeds. So get out your weed whacker

and gardening tools and follow these handy tips:

- Scrape the weeds from the cracks in your sidewalk
- Keep the area around fire hydrants clear and accessible
- Do not bury manholes while landscaping your front or back yards
- Do not bury your water meter box and keep it clear of growth
- Keep ditches clear of leaves from the trees on your property

Thank you – your cooperation both helps ensure a quicker response to emergencies and helps lessen the need to use chemicals to combat weeds.

Keep sewer and storm service connections clog-free

Property owners are reminded that it is their responsibility to maintain the storm and sanitary sewer underground service connections from their homes to the property line/inspection chamber. The District's maintenance responsibility begins from the property line to the sewer/storm mains.

Please remember to remove blockages caused by tree roots or other debris. If your system drains into an open ditch, ensure the outlet is clear of debris. Your cooperation is appreciated.

PROFILE ON DISTRICT COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS: CENTRAL SAANICH POLICE BOARD

In our ongoing profile on District Commissions and Boards, we feature in this issue the role of the Central Saanich Police Board.

Community participation is an integral component of the Central Saanich Police Board, a governing body appointed under the Police Act of B.C. to provide strategic direction and overall governance to our local police service.

The Central Saanich Police Board consists of five members appointed by the Province and Council. The provincial appointees are made in consultation with the Mayor and Council. The Mayor serves as the chair and four members of the com-

munity serve on the board. Members sign on for one or two-year terms and meet once a month in the Central Saanich Municipal Hall Council Chambers. The public is welcome to attend any board meeting. The Central Saanich Police Board and Council also hold joint meetings approximately four times per year on issues of mutual interest.

The Central Saanich Police Board operates independently of Council, although the board submits its annual budget to

Council for approval.

"It's important to have citizens on the Police Board to help identify local needs and priorities in our community," said Mayor Allison Habkirk, chair of the Central Saanich Police Board.

Police Board members are:

Mayor Allison Habkirk, chair;
Gordon Irving, municipal appointee;
John Currie, Cathie Ounsted and Bruce Underwood, provincial appointees.

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

Music for all at Brentwood Folk Night

Bring your favorite musical instrument to the “open stage” held at 7 p.m. every

third Saturday of the month, September through May, at Brentwood United Church, 7162 West Saanich Rd. Enjoy entertainment by a featured band or performer. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for students and children. For more information call Leslie Gentile at 652-1758.

Fall Threshing at Heritage Acres September 18 - 19

Don't miss the Steam Threshing Show, amazing steamed corn and collection of steam and gas operated equipment. Ride the miniature train or jump on a hayride around the scenic grounds. Sept. 18 – 19, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at 7321 Lochside Dr. Admission is \$6 – youth 16 and under are free. Call 652-5522 for more information.

Frightful fun at Stelly's Halloween party – Oct. 29

Ghoulish festivities for junior ghosts and goblins take place at Stelly's Secondary School Oct. 29, 4:30 - 6 p.m. Organized by Stelly's recreation leadership program students and Panorama Recreation Centre staff, the party tricks and treats include a haunted house, games and costume parade.

Fireworks and bonfire at District Halloween party – Oct. 31

Don't miss the annual District-sponsored Halloween party at 7:30 p.m. in Centennial Park. Enjoy refreshments courtesy of the Central Saanich Lions Club. The Central Saanich Volunteer Fire Department, assisted by the Boy Scouts' Ventures group, will light a toasty bonfire and the Sea Cadet Corps provide traffic control.

Town Hall Meeting – Nov. 24

Chat with the Mayor and Councillors about community issues in an informal setting at the School House building at Heritage Acres, 7321 Lochside Dr. on Wed., Nov. 24 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. If you'd like to help organize the meeting contact Councillor Thompson at 652-4691 or robert.thompson@csaanich.ca

Holiday magic in Brentwood Bay

Celebrate the festive season with a twinkling light display, holiday sailpast in the bay and a photo session with Santa. Help Santa's elves decorate the M.V. Mill Bay ferry. Watch for further announcements from the Brentwood Bay Revitalization Committee and downtown merchants.



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
<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.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

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 e-mail 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
8:40 am	3:35 pm
9:50 am	4:45 pm
11:00 am	5:55 pm
1:15 pm	
	* 8:05 am
	3:00 pm
	9:15 am
	4:10 pm
	10:25 am
	5:20 pm
	11:35 am
	6:30 pm
	1:50 pm

* DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAYS