

# COMMUNITY FOCUS

SEPTEMBER 2007



NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR CENTRAL SAANICH

## COUNCIL GREETINGS

*It has been a very busy year to date, and we expect more of the same as the calendar draws to a close. There are some major projects underway, and we are pleased to report good progress on a number of fronts.*

*The Integrated Stormwater Management project, the truck route study, the development of Chatterton Park and ideas for the park at the Newman farm, looking at our major municipal buildings as part of our facilities renewal project, and updating the Official Community Plan – our work touches on almost every aspect of District life. All of these projects are underway, and the public will continue to be consulted.*

*We had a wonderful town hall meeting on May 17 at St. Stephen's Church, which was launched in grand style by Louise Rose and her choir of inspirational singers. Donations accepted at the door went to charity, and we thank everyone who came out that night. It was a terrific community event.*

*We've also just finished our District's strategic plan and annual report and we invite you to peruse these documents on our recently updated website, which is designed with our residents and business owners in mind. Please go to [www.centralesaanich.ca](http://www.centralesaanich.ca) to find out everything that's in the works here in the District.*

*Fall is typically a time to give thanks, and we would like to extend sincere appreciation to everyone who has provided input, feedback and assistance to our community endeavors. It certainly reminds us how fortunate we are to live here.*

## CENTRAL SAANICH COUNCIL: SAFETY FIRST IS AIM OF DISTRICT'S NEW FIREWORKS REGS

The District of Central Saanich, along with its neighbouring municipalities, is enacting tougher laws on fireworks displays – so check what's allowed before planning your Halloween party.

Beginning immediately the District is banning the sale of fireworks and firecrackers. There is an absolute ban on the possession of firecrackers and no one can own fireworks without a permit. Families or organizations who want to have a fireworks display on Halloween must apply at least two weeks beforehand for a permit, at the Fire Hall, 1903 Mount Newton Cross Road, weekdays from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. An applicant must be aged 18 or older.

Fire Chief Ron French said permits could be considered for other events, such as Chinese New Year's or Guy Fawkes Day, but each event will be assessed depending on the time of year and the dryness of the surroundings. "Family fireworks are not toys," warns the information bulletin issued by the District. Anyone applying for a permit will be required to adhere to rules governing safe storage and use of fireworks. Anyone who breaches the fireworks bylaw risks a fine of \$100 to \$10,000. The permits also impose fees: it will cost \$10 for family fireworks and \$75 for a display or pyrotechnic permit.

## DISTRICT OFFERS HELP WITH SMOKE ALARMS

Smoke alarms serve as the seat-belts of your home. They save lives. And that is why the District of Central Saanich Volunteer Fire Department is teaming up with Seafirst Insurance Brokers, in Brentwood Bay, to make sure every home has a working smoke detector.

Just days after the program began, a young Central Saanich family lost all their possessions when fire broke out and the smoke detectors did not work. There also was no detector installed in the basement, where the fire started. "It was a near tragedy," said Fire Chief Ron French.

The department has a two-part program: Volunteer firefighters will help change smoke alarm batteries for elderly and disabled residents who shouldn't or can't climb ladders; firefighters will install smoke detectors at no charge. The District has 200 smoke detectors available, supported by a donation from Seafirst. "We provide the funding; they provide the manpower," said Seafirst President Doug Strong.

Experts recommend residents test their smoke alarms once per month and change their batteries twice a year – when the clocks change. This year, that's Oct. 28. But don't wait until then if you have no smoke alarm or can't change its battery. Residents can call the Fire Department at 544-4225.

## SWEET NEWS FOR SUITE OWNERS

First, Central Saanich voted to permit secondary suites.

Second, Council suggested that municipal staff help make prospective suite owners aware of a program providing financial help from the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to cover construction costs.

It's all aimed at encouraging more affordable housing in Central Saanich.

A homeowner wanting to create or upgrade a suite can receive up to \$24,000 in forgivable loans from the CMHC provided the first tenant is a senior or person with a disability, with income under \$27,500. Rent may not exceed \$667 a month, including utilities, for a one-bedroom unit.

Money for the program comes from the CMHC's Residential Adaptation Assistance Program. Anyone interested can apply through the Vancouver CMHC office, toll-free, 1-800-639-3938.

Applicants from across B.C. are treated on a first come, first served basis, until the funding runs out.

Loans are not retroactive and can only be applied to legal suites that get zoning and building permission from the District. So far, since Council amended the Land Use Bylaw to allow suites in May 2006, 35 building permit applications by homeowners have been received to legalize an existing suite or construct a new one.

The District hopes the CMHC program for suites might provide funding to help create more affordable housing for seniors and low-income people in our community.

## COMMUNITY ENERGY PLAN IN THE WORKS

The District of Central Saanich has received \$60,000 in grants to help it become more energy efficient.

The money will help hire a consultant to advise the District on ways to reduce emissions and lower energy costs. This could include such things as retro-fitting District buildings or buying vehicles that use alternate fuels.

A primary objective is to build new homes that are more energy efficient, reducing average energy consumption by 32 per cent.

Central Saanich will also increase energy efficiency of municipal buildings.

The consultant will draw upon the CRD Community Energy Plan and develop a Central Saanich plan that could include public education, changes to bylaws and policies, and offer incentives for energy efficiency.

The District hopes to have the consultant selected by the end of September, and the project underway by Thanksgiving.

The financing comes from two provincial grants – \$50,000 from the Community Action on Energy Efficiency Program and \$10,000 from the Local Government Infrastructure Planning Grant Program.

## MEET THE FINANCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT: TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

*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.*

Most District residents and business owners know the Financial Services Department as the source of their annual tax and sewer/water bills, but staff here do much more than collect money.

Financial services staff, led by Director of Financial Services Rosalyn Tanner, provide advice and guidance to all District departments in preparing their budgets, so they are involved in everything from parks to fire services to planning. They calculate the tax and sewer/water rates, based on the District's priorities and as directed by Council. Managing the District's payroll, accounts payable, cash processing and collections, investing and banking, dog licenses and asset management are other key tasks. Other department staff includes the Assistant Treasurer, Information Technology (IT) Coordinator as well as one part-time and three full-time accounting clerks.

They also manage the annual tax sale for properties that are in arrears with taxes for more than three years. Luckily, this happens very infrequently – there have only been a couple of cases in the past 15 years where properties have had to be sold.

This department is also responsible for the District's IT needs, which includes the phone system, the integrated network of computers and hardware/software used by all departments, and the municipal website. They also support the police department's operating requirements of the Province's PRIME software including the vehicles' data terminals and related communications equipment.

Staff are also involved in a major capital asset management project, which tracks all infrastructure investments from roads to sewers to municipal buildings. This is part of a province-wide mandated initiative that protects the long-term viability of our municipal infrastructure. It will help ensure our services and structures are safe and healthy for all the people who use them.

Taxpayers can get information and advice on a number of services including provincial programs such as the Homeowner Grant (the application is now available online) and the property tax deferral program. You may also set up pre-authorized payments from your bank account to pay your taxes and utility bills.

*Questions? Drop in to the Municipal Hall, or check the contact information for the Financial Services Department on the back page.*

## OCP UPDATE: YOUR INPUT COUNTS!

Your feedback to the District's Official Community Plan (OCP) process is now being folded into a comprehensive list of next steps as the updating process continues to take shape.

Holland Barrs Planning Group Inc., the consultants working on this project alongside the Official Community Plan Steering Committee, will take information gathered this past spring, including public open houses, a resident survey, public hearings, and through the District website and map out recommendations.

The OCP outlines in detail the community's long-term vision for the District. While the current OCP is still relevant, this review allows the District to bring key issues up to date. Issues such as 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 are all encompassed in the OCP.

A public hearing will be held after the draft is received and incorporated into a bylaw. Focus groups will be meeting in the fall to review the proposed revised policies and updates to the current OCP.

Check the District's website at [www.centralsaanich.ca](http://www.centralsaanich.ca) for updates.

## DISTRICT WEBSITE GETS A USER-FRIENDLY UPDATE

If you haven't visited the District's website lately, take a look. Great information is just a couple of clicks away as recent upgrades mean you can get what you need more quickly and easily.

The whole idea behind the revamping of the website is to provide information that the community needs front and centre. This has been done by making the site easier to navigate, with fewer "clicks" needed to get where you want to go. So, instead of having to hunt around for key information such as bylaws and policies, how to claim the homeowner grant, community events and job postings – this information is now easier to find.

A new feature is the ability for anyone interested to get e-mail notices for Council Meetings, Committee Meetings and Public Hearings. Simply go the website at [www.centralsaanich.ca](http://www.centralsaanich.ca) and go to the "Meetings of Council" page. There is a "subscribe/unsubscribe" button on that page, and by providing your e-mail address as instructed, you will automatically be sent a weekly e-mail

advising which pages have been updated. You will receive this e-mail by 10 a.m. on the Friday before Monday's meeting, and it will include a link to each page that received an upgrade. Regular Council Meetings are held on the first and third Monday of each month.

Want to know what is happening with the Official Community Plan, the Newman Farm Park Project, the Integrated Stormwater Management Plan or the Community Energy Plan? Just go to District Projects, located on the home page, and information is there at your fingertips. As projects are finished, or new ones begin, updated information will be posted.

The District's website is a great way to stay in touch with what is happening in our community and access information on services available to residents and business owners.

## STRENGTH THROUGH COMMUNITY: WHAT'S NEW WITH OUR LOCAL POLICE SERVICES

*Traffic safety a key priority for the community and local police*

An informal local committee, consisting of interested residents, has been formed to work with our new Community Police Officer, Corp. Dave Glancie. This group will look at traffic issues with a view to improving safety and raising awareness with motorists and pedestrians. Interested in joining in? Call Corp. Glancie at 652-4441.

Best wishes to Corp. Len Nolan, who retired after serving as Community Police Officer in Central Saanich for 12 years.

Community volunteers also work hard to keep our roads safe. The speed watch, speed gun and speed trailer programs (that large board parked at the side of the road that shows how fast you're driving) are all steered by volunteers, so keep a close eye on your speedometer when out and about on District roads!

*Quick stats on traffic violations*

Did you know that Central Saanich police officers handed out 211 tickets for traffic violations and 212 written warnings between Jan. 1/07 and June 12/07?

*New motto captures community spirit*

Central Saanich Police will soon have a new motto that will appear on squad cars and alongside the police crest. "Strength Through Community" will replace the former "Land of Plenty" motto, which more clearly reflects our community-minded police force that prides itself on relationship building and teamwork.

The new motto was developed in consultation with the Central Saanich Police Board as part of an ongoing re-branding initiative which includes the development of a new police coat of arms under the authority of the Chief Herald, Governor-General's office, Ottawa.

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Peninsula Country Market** Shop for local produce, baked goods, crafts and more every Saturday morning until Oct. 8.

**Music in the Bay** Every third Saturday beginning Sept. 15 at the United Church in Brentwood Bay. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the "open stage" kicks off at 7.30. Come support your favorites.

**Harvest Fair at Heritage Acres – Sept. 15 & 16** This longstanding and popular agricultural themed event features a scarecrow decorating competition and lots of great farm memorabilia – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 7321 Lochside Dr. Admission is \$6 – youth 16 and under are free. Call 652-5522 for more information.

**It's creepy! District Halloween party Oct. 31** Dress up in your scariest costume and come to the annual District-sponsored Halloween party at 7.30 p.m. in Centennial Park with refreshments courtesy of the Central Saanich Lions Club. The Central Saanich Volunteer Fire

Department and the Boy Scouts' Ventures group light the bonfire and the Sea Cadet Corps provide traffic control.

**Stelly's Halloween party Oct. 31** Stelly's Secondary School Oct. 31, 4:30 to 6 p.m. organized by Stelly's recreation leadership program students and Panorama Recreation Centre staff.

**Good 2 Go rewards healthy acts!** The Central Saanich Volunteer Fire Department and Central Saanich Police Services have teamed up with Thrifty Foods and the Panorama Recreation Centre to deliver the Good 2 Go Program. Fire and police services staff will hand out Good 2 Go cards to children and youth who demonstrate healthy habits, such as wearing helmets while skateboarding and cycling, crossing the street at crosswalks and healthy behaviour such as basketball and soccer. The cards are redeemable for water bottles and fruit bars at Thrifty Foods or one free admission to the Panorama Recreation Centre. For more information, call 544-4225 or 652-4441.

## 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. Call 544-4240 or 544-4225 to arrange tours for other times. 1901 Mount Newton X Rd., Saanichton.

**Heritage Acres**  
Open daily October 1 – May 31, 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon; June 1 – September 30, 9:30 a.m. to

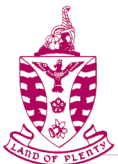
4 p.m. 7321 Lochside Dr., Saanichton.

## Saanich Pioneer Museum

Open every Saturday and Sunday from 12 noon to 4 p.m. For more information, call 658-8347 or 656-2471. 7910 East Saanich Rd., Saanichton.

## 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 <a href="http://www.centralsaanich.ca">www.centralsaanich.ca</a> 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