

# COMMUNITY FOCUS

SEPTEMBER 2005



NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR CENTRAL SAANICH

## GREETINGS FROM CENTRAL SAANICH COUNCIL

*The municipal election will be held in November and our sincere thanks go to District residents and business people for their support and input over the past three years. We are particularly grateful for the many hours of volunteer work for District committees and activities. Our wonderful corner of the world is all the better because of your efforts.*

*We're pleased to welcome our new Community Focus readers from the Tsartlip and Tsawout First Nations. We hope you enjoy reading about local projects and events. We'd like to remind non-First Nations residents on Tsawout reserve lands that tax bills must still be paid at the band office. Non-First Nations residents on Tsartlip reserve lands must continue to pay their tax notices to the Municipality.*

*Thank you to everyone who attended the District's Town Hall meetings held for the general public on May 25 and our first youth forum at Stelly's Secondary School on May 10. These meetings provide an opportunity to discuss community issues in an informal setting and we very much appreciate your thoughts and suggestions.*

*Don't forget to vote on Sat., Nov. 19. See the story inside for details on polling station locations, including dates for advance polls. If you are interested in getting involved in local government, why not run for office? It's a chance to make a difference in our community. Call the Municipal Hall for more information.*

*We wish everyone a wonderful fall season.*

## TRAFFIC ALERT: SHARE THE ROAD AND STAY SAFE

It's that time of year again: back to school, work and fall activities and that means more traffic. So whether you walk, cycle, drive or take the pony express, make sure you get around safely.

Central Saanich is a largely rural municipality and our road network serves a diverse group of users. Everyone has a role to play in the courteous and safe use of our roads. Here's a quick refresher guide on how to share the road:

### Motorists:

- Observe reduced speed limits in school zones between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday.
- There are many slow moving vehicles such as tractors on our roads. Be patient and pass only when it can be completed safely.
- The District has more 4-way stops than traffic lights. Come to a complete stop at the marked line and only enter the intersection when it's safe to do so.

### Cyclists:

- Cyclists have the same rights and duties as drivers of vehicles.
- Do not cycle on sidewalks.
- Cycle single file, not abreast of another cyclist, and as close as possible to the right side of the road.

- Come to a complete stop at stop signs.
- Use proper hand signals when turning right or left.
- Wear a bicycle safety helmet.
- When riding at night, use a headlight and an illuminated red rear light.

### Pedestrians:

- Where there are no sidewalks, pedestrians should walk facing traffic if walking on the road.
- Wear fluorescent or reflective clothing when walking along roadways at night.

### Equestrian alert:

Here are some simple rules to follow when encountering a horse and rider on roads or trails:

- **Motorists** – Please pass slow and wide. If you are driving a large or noisy vehicle or pulling a trailer, please take special care.
- **Cyclists/Pedestrians** – Give warning when approaching a horse and be prepared to stop if a rider asks – for your safety and theirs. Please pass single file and to the outside. Never pass between two horses.
- **Dog owners** – A horse may perceive a loose or running dog as a predator. If you see a horse approaching, please put your pet on a leash.

*(continued next page)*

## NEW PUBLICATIONS HOT OFF THE PRESS

Get informed. Check out these District publications at [www.centrialsaanich.ca](http://www.centrialsaanich.ca) Click on the "Residents" section, followed by "Publications".

- District's 2004 Annual Report (See Financial Statements)
- Ipsos-Reid Quality of Life Survey
- Tsunami Awareness (See "News & Advisories" section)

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#### **Equestrians:**

- Ride in single file and keep to the right side of the road.
- Obey traffic laws and yield to pedestrians.
- Signal for right and left turns – the signals are the same as those for riding a bicycle.
- Be alert and courteous; always acknowledge drivers when they slow down to pass you.
- Make sure you are dressed for safety and always respect private property.

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## **BRENTWOOD BAY'S VILLAGE CORE MAKEOVER SOON UNDERWAY**

Brentwood Bay will have a safe, attractive and pedestrian-friendly village core thanks to considerable effort by local volunteers and intensive public input.

Improvements to the traffic corridor along West Saanich Rd. between Verdier Ave. and Wallace Dr. are proposed to start later this fall, with completion anticipated by early summer 2006. Construction activity will cause some disruption to traffic and we ask for everyone's patience during this period. Although we don't anticipate any road closures, some lanes may be temporarily blocked during the rebuilding of the roadway.

The historic West Saanich School, (known locally as the Scout/Guide Hall), is also undergoing a makeover. The restoration of this municipally-owned heritage building in Pioneer Park is being overseen by the Brentwood Bay Old School Hall Society. Recent first phase improvements included roof replacement, window replacement, siding repair/replacement, insulation and new gutters/down spouts. If you'd like to make a donation or in-kind contribution towards the restoration efforts, please contact Sue Myerscough, president of the Brentwood Bay Old School Hall Society at [smyersco@shaw.ca](mailto:smyersco@shaw.ca) or 652-5775.

## **SNOW AND ICE CONTROL ALERT**

Luckily our snowbanks don't ever get too high, but it doesn't hurt to be prepared for the occasional snowfall. The District has a prioritized program to clear snow from all emergency establishments and help keep our 130 kilometers of roads safe. Police and fire stations, ambulance station and the hospital and surrounding routes are up first, followed by arterial and bus routes, then collector roads and, when resources permit, from as many residential streets as possible.

Residents and business owners are reminded to keep sidewalks clear of snow and ice in front of their property and to lend a hand to elderly or physically challenged neighbours.

For further information about the District's snow and ice control program please call the Public Works Department at 544-4224 or pick up a copy of the District's "Snow and Ice Control" booklet at the Municipal Hall.

## **CENTENNIAL PARK MASTER PLAN DUE FOR AN UPDATE**

A master plan update for Centennial Park is under consideration due to significant demands on the District's major community park brought on by competing demands from a diversity of park users. The park provides recreational facilities for activities such as tennis, soccer, baseball, skateboarding, lacrosse, lawn bowling, horseback riding, walking, jogging and picnicking.

The development and use of Centennial Park is guided by a master plan which was prepared in 1989. In light of increasing demands on the park's system and changes to sport participation, the Centennial Park Master Plan will require updating over the next couple of years. As part of the planning process, Council and staff will consult with local interest groups and the general public to guide future use and development of Centennial Park.

The Centennial Park Master Plan update will get underway in 2006 as part of the District's Five Year Financial Plan for 2006.

Our feature story provides a snapshot of some of the rules of the road. For more information please go to: ICBC - road safety and safe driving tips [www.icbc.com](http://www.icbc.com)

Ministry of Transportation (for drivers and cyclists) [www.th.gov.bc.ca](http://www.th.gov.bc.ca)

Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition [www.gvcc.bc.ca](http://www.gvcc.bc.ca)

Horse Council BC [www.horsecouncilbc.com](http://www.horsecouncilbc.com)

## **SAANICHTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EARMARKED FOR POSSIBLE CLOSURE**

The future of Saanichton Elementary School is uncertain due to a steady decline in student enrollment over the last several years. After public consultation held in the fall of 2004, the Board of Trustees of School District 63 received recommendations that resources be concentrated in fewer and larger elementary schools. Saanichton Elementary was identified as one of the smaller, under capacity schools.

A new elementary school, to be built adjacent to the Panorama Recreation Centre, and intended to serve the populations in the McTavish and Saanichton Elementary Schools catchment areas, is expected to open in September 2007.

The earliest time frame for closure of Saanichton Elementary School would be June 30, 2007. The Board's policy is to provide at least six months notice for all school closures, during which time the Board will consult with the community. If Saanichton Elementary School were to close, the students' nearest schools will be the new school in North Saanich or Brentwood Elementary School, which has capacity for additional students. Parents have been given assurances that relocated Saanichton students would be able to attend Bayside as their choice for Middle School, and Stelly's as their choice for Secondary School.

Council will continue to monitor the situation. Watch for further announcements from School District 63 regarding continuing public consultation over the next couple of years.

## CENTRAL SAANICH SCORES HIGH IN QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY

Life seem pretty good in Central Saanich? If you agree, you're not alone.

Residents rate living in the District highly, according to an Ipsos-Reid survey on Quality of Life in Central Saanich. The telephone survey was conducted in April and was the first commissioned by the District in ten years. Its primary objective was to provide an overview of residents' satisfaction levels, needs and priorities.

Overall, the quality of life in Central Saanich was rated as "good" or "very good" by 98% of respondents, a far higher score than in other municipalities.

The two main reasons why residents stated Central Saanich offered a good quality of life were the small town atmosphere and the enjoyment of living here. Growth and transportation were the leading concerns expressed by residents.

Residents are also very satisfied with the services provided by the District. Most residents indicated that they receive good value for their tax dollars – better than in other municipalities.

*Want the whole story?*

*Visit [www.centrialsaanich.ca](http://www.centrialsaanich.ca) and click on the "Residents" section, followed by "Publications".*

## DISTRICT GAUGES PUBLIC OPINION ON SECONDARY SUITES

Council is considering amending the District's Land Use Bylaw to allow secondary suites in rural estate and residential zones, provided certain conditions are met.

As part of its secondary suite review process, the District conducted a public survey and held two public information meetings to assess public opinion on the potential legalization of suites in single-family dwellings. Over 500 questionnaires were returned. Approximately 200 people attended the June 8th open house in Brentwood Bay, and 70 people came to the June 15th open house at the Municipal Hall.

The survey outlined the possible conditions if suites were to be allowed in Central Saanich, including a minimum lot size; the suite or home must be owner-occupied; an additional off-street parking space must be provided; and a business licence may be required.

A shortage of affordable housing options and the existence of a large number of suites have resulted in some municipalities legalizing secondary suites. If suites are allowed, the District will be in a better position to ensure safety conditions are met through the application of the building code.

If Council decides to proceed with allowing secondary suites, there are a number of regulatory options that will need to be addressed. Council will be holding a town hall meeting on Wed., Sept. 21 at 7 p.m. in the Fire Training Center at the Municipal Hall for further public consultation.

## MUNICIPAL ELECTION NOV. 19

District polls will be open from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. on Sat., Nov. 19 at the Municipal Hall and the Central Saanich Cultural Centre. Advance polls will be open on Wed., Nov. 9 and Wed., Nov. 16 from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. at the Municipal Hall. Electronic voting will be used again this year.

Are you eligible to vote in the municipal election? To find out, check the voters' list at the Municipal Hall. Eligible voters can also register on election day. If you're considering running in the election, please note that the nomination period is Oct. 4 to 14. Nomination papers can be picked up at the Municipal Hall.

For further information on voter eligibility and general election proceedings, contact Trish Flanders, Chief Election Officer, at 544-4202 or Wendy Vanderford, Deputy Chief Election Officer, at 544-4205.



## PROFILE ON DISTRICT COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS: PENINSULA RECREATION COMMISSION

*This story is part of our ongoing profile on District Commissions and Boards.*

The Peninsula Recreation Commission is comprised of elected and appointed representation from Central Saanich, North Saanich and Sidney. The Commission's objective is to provide recreation and leisure activities and facilities for all residents of the Peninsula municipalities. The Capital Regional District (CRD) Board delegates administrative powers to the Commission to oversee the daily operations of the Panorama Recreation Centre, including the equipping, maintenance, management and staffing of the facility. The Commission also establishes admission charges and determines policies and procedures. In November

of each year the Commission approves an annual budget which then becomes a part of the overall CRD budget.

The commission is comprised of nine members – three from each Peninsula municipality – Mayor, one Councillor and one community at large representative. Community at large representatives serve two-year terms, and the Mayors and Councillors serve one-year terms, all of which are renewable. The current Chair is Tim Chad, Councillor with the Town of Sidney. Meetings are held once a month (excluding the summer) and other times when necessary. Regular monthly meetings

normally take place on the fourth Thursday at the Panorama Recreation Centre and are open to the public.

"It's important to have community representation on the Commission in order to reflect local needs and priorities in establishing recreational policies", said Pauline Penner, the Central Saanich community at large representative on the Commission.

Central Saanich members for 2005 are: Mayor Allison Habkirk, Councillor Michele Haddon, and Community at Large Representative Pauline Penner.

**CLICK ON [WWW.CENTRIALSAANICH.CA](http://WWW.CENTRIALSAANICH.CA) TO KEEP UP TO DATE ON THE LATEST DISTRICT NEWS!**

# C O M M U N I T Y C A L E N D A R

## 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 Oct. 1 – May 31, 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon; June 1 – Sept. 30, 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. 7321 Lochside Dr., Saanichton.

### Log Cabin Museum

Open every Saturday and Sunday from 12 noon – 4 p.m. Call 658-8347 or 656-2471 to arrange tours for other times. 7900 East Saanich Rd., Saanichton.

## Music for all at Brentwood Folk Night

Bring your favorite musical instrument to the “open stage” held at 7p.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 – Sept. 17 – 18

Enjoy the Steam Threshing Show, amazing steamed corn, collection of steam and gas operated equipment Sept. 17 – 18, 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.

## Harvest Tea and Silent Auction – Oct. 16

Sit by the fire and enjoy the Saanich Pioneer Society’s “Harvest Tea and Silent Auction” at the Log Cabin Museum on Sun., Oct. 16 from 1:30 – 4:00 p.m. For more information please contact Bea Johnson at 658-8347.

## Goblins gather at Stelly's Halloween party Oct. 31

Ghoulish fun, including a haunted house, games and costume parade, takes place at Stelly's Secondary School Oct. 31, 4:30 – 6 p.m. Organized by Stelly's recreation leadership program students and Panorama Recreation Centre staff.

## 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 the bonfire and the Sea Cadet Corps provide traffic control.

## Keating Elementary Fall Fair – Nov. 4

Fall fun gets underway at Keating Elementary School, 6843 Central Saanich Rd., on Fri., Nov. 4 from 5 - 9 p.m. Enjoy the bake and book sale, games, petting farm and autumn harvest dinner. For more information call Sheila Taylor at 652-4273 or Michele Gibbs at 544-0204.

**Cast your ballot in the municipal election on November 19:  
Please see previous page for complete election details.**



## 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) Web site: [www.centrialsaanich.ca](http://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 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](mailto:municipalhall@csaanich.ca)

## CALL OR SEND US AN EMAIL

You're also welcome to call or email Councillors directly regarding other District issues. See the adjacent column for phone numbers or send an email to: [firstname.lastname@csaanich.ca](mailto: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 | * 8:05 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 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.centrialsaanich.ca](http://www.centrialsaanich.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 |