

COMMUNITY FOCUS

September 2025



We acknowledge and thank the WSÁNEĆ people on whose traditional territory we live, play, learn and grow.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR COUNCIL

The last few months saw many exciting projects completed by the District and our partner agencies. From the Saanichton water main replacement to the new Keating Flyover, the projects represent our commitment to replacing and modernizing critical infrastructure across our community.

As we look ahead, we're focused on balancing the need for continued investment with the realities of rising costs. Inflation remains the single largest driver of budget increases, a challenge faced by communities across Canada. Minimizing increases to the municipal portion of property taxes remains a top priority of Council.

We're also exploring ways to create vibrant public spaces, with a focus on revitalizing our village cores and supporting businesses. The District is currently updating community planning tools to best implement our Official Community Plan (you can read more about this on page 2). We remain deeply committed to protecting the farmland and natural areas that make Central Saanich such a special place to live, and those values are strongly emphasized in this work.

A special thanks!

Central Saanich comes alive in the summer thanks to the hard work of many. Enjoying locally grown foods and coming together at events through the warmer months is a highlight of the year. We appreciate and thank the farmers, makers and community volunteers who grew the crops, baked the breads, and put on the events that make Central Saanich such a fantastic place to live.

Community input shaping redevelopment plans

Thank you to all those who have offered feedback on plans to replace the Police Station, Fire Station 2 and Municipal Hall. This fall Council will be receiving a summary of public input to date.

LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca/CivicRedevelopment



Bear Horne restores welcome signs

STÁUTW (Tsawout) artist Bear Horne is currently restoring five nine-foot-tall Saanichton Village welcome signs, which he originally worked on with his father, Doug Lafortune, more than a decade ago.

Look for the refreshed artwork standing proudly at the five entrances to Saanichton Village later this year.

Ultra community spirit: \$6,400 raised!

The 2025 Central Saanich Backyard Ultra at Centennial Park was a huge success, raising more than \$6,400 in support of the Saanich Peninsula Youth Clinic (shorelinemedical.ca/youth-clinic)! Organized by Central Saanich Police Service's Sarah Riddell (Board Member) and Corporal Pat Bryant, the 24-hour event saw them run a 4.6 km loop of the park every hour. The event brought together runners, volunteers and supporters for an unforgettable day of endurance and community spirit.



Central Saanich

BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY

Watch for school zones and new speed limits as students head back to school.

Safety tips:

Watch for new speed limits: On Wallace Drive from Brentwood Elementary to just past Hagan Road will be a continuous 30km/hr. Further speed reductions coming soon. [CSaanich.ca/SpeedLimits](https://csaanich.ca/SpeedLimits)

Know the rules of the road: Learn about new road markings in our community at CSaanich.ca/RoadMarkings

Have a road safety concern? Email CSEngineering@csaanich.ca or call 250-544-4210.

Always stop when a school bus has flashing lights: No matter what direction you are coming from, stop for students crossing the street. Youth may be crossing the road in front or behind the bus.

Leave early and focus on the road: Avoid distractions and leave your phone alone.



DID YOU KNOW? Collisions at 30 km/h have a 90% survival rate compared to less than 50% at 50 km/h. Lower speeds allow more time to react, require less stopping distance and reduce the chance of serious injury or death in a crash.



Updating planning tools for Central Saanich's future

If the Official Community Plan (OCP) is like an architect's sketchbook—setting a vision for walkable villages, environmental protection, and thriving businesses—the Zoning Bylaw and OCP Development Permit Area Guidelines (DPA) are the drafting table and ruler. They provide the specifics: what can be built, where, and how it looks and functions.

Central Saanich is updating these tools to align with our recently refreshed OCP and meet new provincial legislation (Bill 44).

Draft Zoning Bylaw updates include:

- Introducing new zones that reflect the OCP's vision, such as reinstating smaller lots for single-family homes, adding a new townhouse zone and more
- Adjusting rural, shoreline, and farm regulations to better balance growth and conservation
- Supporting growth in village cores

DPA Guidelines will be grouped into:

- Environmental Protection DPAs (e.g., marine shoreline, riparian areas, hillsides)
- Form and Character DPAs (e.g., marina, mixed-use commercial, light industrial)

Why now? BC's Bill 44 requires all municipalities to update zoning bylaws by the end of 2025, and our DPA Guidelines have been slated for an update since the OCP was adopted in 2023. Modernizing the documents together is a great way to ensure they complement each other and residents and Council can see how land use, design and environmental protection work together.

Learn more

Visit LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca/CommunityPlanning or join an info session:

- Municipal Hall, 1903 Mt Newton Cross Rd
Thurs, Sept 18, 4–7pm
- Cultural Centre Room A, 1209 Clarke Rd
Sun, Sept 21, 10 am–2 pm



Central Saanich

SHARING THE ROAD

Cycling: Bike in single file going the same direction as traffic. Give yourself room to move (~1 metre from right side of the road). Take the centre of the lane where it's too narrow to share or for vehicles to safely pass

Walking and rolling: Before crossing the street, look both ways and always make eye contact with drivers, even at crosswalks.

Driving: Watch for all road users. If you pass a cyclist, give at least 1 metre (~3 feet, about the length of a golf club) if driving 50 km/h or less. Driving 51 km/h or more, give 1.5 metres (~5 feet, about the length of a hockey stick).

More fun comes to Centennial Park!

The CRD's new multi-sport box in Centennial Park is now open! This project was a partnership between the District, which provided the land and secured a grant, and the CRD, which built, funds and operates this regional facility.

The splash pad also recently opened—in part thanks to a generous \$50,000 donation from the Lions Club.

Come enjoy some fun, exercise and community connection.



FireSmart chipping events boost wildfire resilience

This summer, a mobile chipper came right to residents' driveways in pre-identified wildfire risk zones, making it quick and easy to get rid of woody debris. More than 150 residents registered, resulting in well over 100 cubic yards of chipped material (enough to fill 50 pick-up trucks—three times more than last year!).

This work boosts our wildfire resilience in neighbourhoods where dense vegetation and woody debris pose a threat in summer. Mobile chipping is a safe, accessible and FireSmart alternative to open burning.

Go to CSFireSmart.ca to learn about how you can reduce wildfire risk, sign up for a free, confidential home assessment and find out if you qualify for a \$1,000 FireSmart rebate.



Climate action updates

\$99 EnerGuide Home Evaluation

Central Saanich residents can now save time and hundreds of dollars on a home energy evaluation:

1. Initial evaluation for \$99 + tax (saving over \$400!)
2. Post-retrofit evaluation for \$50 + tax (saving over \$200!)

Why get a home energy evaluation?

Learn where your home uses and loses energy, and which potential upgrades make the most sense. It also helps unlock access to zero-interest loans like Central Saanich's popular Heat Pump Financing Program (up to \$12,000) and the Canada Greener Homes Loan (up to \$40,000).

Learn how your home can be more comfortable quiet efficient (with lower utility bills!) climate-resilient Limited spaces! Apply today at CSaanich.ca/EnerGuide

Questions? Call 250-652-5789 or email climate@csaanich.ca

New heat pump savings for apartments and stratas

Multi-unit buildings are now eligible for BC Hydro heat pump rebates! Take advantage to improve comfort and energy efficiency, while saving on energy costs.



CSaanich.ca/HomeEnergyEfficiency



Central Saanich

Do you have a question or concern about something in your neighbourhood, and you're not sure who to call?

We've assembled some common resources to make it easier to connect to with the appropriate department or agency.

[CENTRALSAANICH.CA/
COMMUNITYRESOURCES](https://centralsaanich.ca/communityresources)

Community learning & events



Fall GoByBike Week

Saturday, Sept. 27, to Friday, Oct. 3
Create a team or go solo, register at GoByBikeBC.ca and track your rides to school, work or around your neighborhood for the chance to win prizes!



National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Tuesday, Sept. 30

Wear an orange shirt to show Every Child Matters and take action for reconciliation.

> Learn from W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council resources: Wsanec.com/learn-settlers

> Learn to pronounce place names: Maps.fpcc.ca.

> Request a Blanket Exercise at your school or workplace: muavae@tsartlip.com



Great ShakeOut earthquake drill

Thursday, Oct. 16 at 10:16 a.m.
Millions of people will practice "Drop, Cover and Hold On" worldwide. Organize a drill at your home, school or workplace: ShakeoutBC.ca



Halloween Bonfire & Fireworks

Friday, Oct. 31, 7:30 p.m. (fireworks at 8:00 p.m.)
Centennial Park, 7500 Wallace Drive



Remembrance Day

Tuesday, Nov. 11, 10:55 a.m. in HEL, HILEĆ Park,
West Saanich at Clarke Road



Emergency Preparedness Workshops

Join us to learn about emergency preparedness at workshops coming up later this year.
Watch CSaanich.ca/GetPrepared for dates.

Connect with Council

Council meetings are open to the public; watch online or attend in person. To view dates and agendas see: CSaanich.ca/CouncilMeetings

Infrastructure Projects

Water system upgrades underway

Before it hits your tap, your water travels through systems from the CRD and District of Central Saanich. There are a few major water transmission projects in Central Saanich coming up to keep the system fresh.

- **Bear Hill water main extension** – East Saanich Road (Wallace Drive to Dean Park Road) - CRD project
- **Central Saanich Road water main #4 replacement** – Central Saanich Road (Mount Newton Cross Road to Lochside Drive) - CRD project
- **James Island Road water main replacement** – James Island Road between Lochside Drive and Turgoose Point - District project

🔗 District updates: CSaanich.ca/InfrastructureProjects

🔗 CRD projects: CRD.ca/Projects

Saanichton water main replacement complete

The project included replacing water main near Saanichton Village, and included extending bike lanes, a new sidewalk, and a signalized crosswalk.



Stay informed with local alerts!



Get alerts from the District of Central Saanich in a local emergency direct to your landline, cell phone or email. Register at CSaanich.ca/SPA



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