

COMMUNITY FOCUS

January 2024



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

MESSAGE FROM YOUR COUNCIL

Happy New Year! What does 2024 have in store for Central Saanich? 2024 is the first year of this Council's four-year strategic plan, a road map that guides the activities during Council's term in office and beyond. The plan moves the community towards the vision outlined in the Official Community Plan (OCP), and was informed by community feedback garnered from the recent OCP update and the Community Satisfaction Survey. The 2024-2027 Strategic Priorities include:

- Invest in Infrastructure and Active Transportation
- Expand the Supply of Affordable, Attainable, and Rental Housing
- Foster a Community of Inclusion, Diversity, and Accessibility
- Cultivate a Resilient Economy and Thriving Agricultural Sector
- Champion Climate Adaptation, Mitigation, and Preparedness
- Demonstrate Organizational Effectiveness

In 2024, approximately 50 new projects related to one—or in most cases, many—of these priorities are expected to kick off. These include replacing significant amounts of water and sewer infrastructure, electrifying our fleet vehicles, constructing bike lanes, pedestrian pathways, updating bylaws and much more. [CSaanich.ca/Plans](https://csaanich.ca/plans)

We invite you to learn more about the year ahead at a New Year's Open House!

Drop by the Central Saanich Municipal Hall on January 20, 2024, anytime between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., for afternoon refreshments and a chance to chat with members of Council and municipal staff. Information boards will display the Strategic Plan and topics such as active transportation, policing, emergency preparedness, and housing (including what we know about the incoming housing legislation).



Municipal Hall Tea & Tour

Come meet your elected officials and District staff, and learn about what your local government is working on!

Saturday, January 20, 2:00-4:00 p.m. (drop in)
Central Saanich Municipal Hall
1903 Mt Newton Cross Road

HEL,HILEĆ Park

HEL,HILEĆ (pronounced hul-he-look) means "place of gladness" in SENĆOŦEN

The District renamed Pioneer Park to HEL,HILEĆ following a request from WSÁNEĆ youth. Indigenous place names recognize the WSÁNEĆ peoples connection to the land, and play a role in revitalizing the SENĆOŦEN language and WSÁNEĆ culture. Scan for pronunciation →



Check out the new mural at the Cultural Centre in Brentwood Bay created by local artists Chazz Elliott, Jesse Campbell and Matt Elliott.

New sign coming soon: Welcome to Brentwood Bay

The much loved, and now much weathered, Welcome to Brentwood Bay sign is being replaced this year. The District and partners are working with the original artist on a new sign. This sign will incorporate the District's recent Wayfinding Strategy and celebrate the culture of the District and local First Nations.



Central Saanich

Learn about the 2024 budget

The Draft 2024 Financial Plan plays a significant role in shaping the future of the municipality as it lays the foundation for implementing the new Official Community Plan and Council's 2024-2027 Strategic Plan. The budget is also a service plan for the year—it dictates whether services are maintained at existing levels and how much room there is for new projects. Just maintaining existing levels of service costs a little more each year; however investments, grants and debt availability create opportunities.

When developing the budget, we work hard to ensure the taxpayer is getting good value such as creating efficiencies—for example, building a bike lane while a watermain replacement is underway.

We are in the final stages of preparing our Draft 2024 Financial Plan—and we want your input once it's published later this month. That draft will then be presented to Council in a series of public meetings; it's at this point each year when Council can assess what grants the District has received, how investments are performing, and the extent to which new projects can be funded.

Did you know?
Central Saanich's budget is approximately \$40M a year. In 2023, we were awarded \$7M in grants.

Please watch **CentralSaanich.ca** for the Draft 2024 Financial Plan—or stop by Municipal Hall in late January—we want to hear your feedback!

Changes to Provincial housing legislation



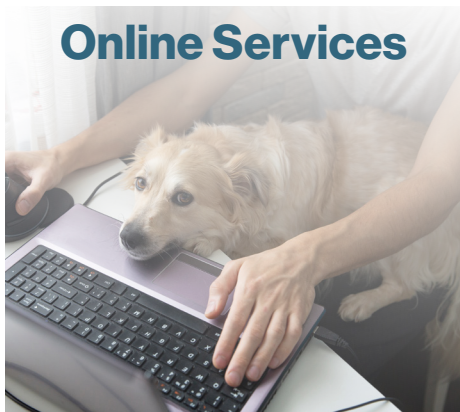
As B.C. faces a housing crisis, many are wondering how Central Saanich will be shaped by upcoming changes to Provincial housing legislation. The purpose of the changes is to deliver more small-scale, multi-unit housing such as townhomes and triplexes. These changes will allow three to four units on lots currently zoned 'single-family'.

the Official Community Plan (OCP). Instead, there will be more frequent opportunities for people to be involved in shaping the community's earlier in the process when the OCP is updated.

These changes should, in many ways, complement Central Saanich's proactive approach to addressing the housing crisis. The District adopted infill and densification policies in 2021 and addressed housing diversity and density in our updated OCP. The OCP supports residential growth within the Urban Containment Boundary and on the main corridor development areas. Infill policies support smaller scale development in other areas of the District.

When well-managed, growth can help ensure greater physical and social health amongst residents, preservation of agricultural lands and natural areas, efficient use of existing infrastructure, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, increased energy efficiency of buildings, and respect rural and small-town character and quality of life. **CSaanich.ca/Housing**

The Province notes it will require municipalities to streamline permitting by updating community plans and zoning bylaws on a regular basis, to ensure they have enough housing to meet the needs of both their current and future residents. We will no longer see public hearings for rezonings that are consistent with



Online Services

Looking for a permit? Apply online

Building permit applications can now be submitted online, along with the existing plumbing and tree permits. **CSaanich.ca/onlineservices.**

Business licence renewals

New for 2024 - no charge for annual renewal fees!

Make sure to fill out the online form as soon as you receive your notice so as not to get a late fee. **CSaanich.ca/BLRenewal**

Updated development tracker

Stay up to date on development applications with the improved tracker. **CSaanich.ca/DevelopmentTracker**



Central Saanich

Firesmart your property

The FireSmart Program is in its second year and Coordinator Ryan Vantreight is looking forward to continuing to support residents in reducing their risk of wildfire.

The best time to FireSmart your property is now, please visit csfiresmart.ca for event updates, resources, to book an assessment and find practical tips to make your home more resilient to wildfires.



Prepare for winter

As we move into the storm season, residents are reminded to prepare themselves for snow, wind storms and heavy rains.

How to prepare:

- Ensure a supply of basic essentials is in your home for at least 72 hours
- Plan for safe snow clearing
- Keep an eye out for neighbours who may be at risk in severe conditions
- Clear gutters/drains and inspect your chimney/flue
- Stay informed by monitoring weather updates.

See CSaanich.ca/GetPrepared for more tips.

Register for alert notifications
at CSaanich.ca/SPA



Volunteer spotlight & opportunity

Peninsula Emergency Measures Organization (PEMO) plays an important role in supporting Search and Rescue, Emergency Support Services, Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program and emergency communications on the Peninsula. Interested in volunteering? Call 250-544-4231 or email emergencyprogram@csaanich.ca

Centennial Park Multisport Box

The District of Central Saanich and Peninsula Recreation Commission are entering into an agreement for the construction and long-term programming of the new multi-sport facility coming to Centennial Park. Panorama Recreation will manage the facility as well as the Centennial Park fieldhouse and picnic shelters.

The facility will host a variety of sports and recreation programs and accommodate many user groups. Boasting 17,000 square feet of surface, a roof and lighting, the facility will increase access to year-round all weather outdoor recreational activities for the Peninsula. This project is made possible in part by a \$2M grant from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.



Central Saanich



Climate Action Update

Community emissions

2022 community emissions data from the CRD shows where emissions are improving and where we need to double down on our efforts. A notable decrease in emissions in the residential and waste sectors show action taken by the District and individuals can make a difference! Total GHG emissions were 111,246 Tonnes CO₂e for 2022—an increase of 10.4% from 2007.

The significant increase in transportation emissions likely relates to the increase in business activity in our community and presents

the largest challenge to address for the District to meet 2030 goals. CSaanich.ca/Climate



Heat Pump Financing Program

We're happy to help community members switch to an energy efficient heating and cooling system with zero % financing. Contact us at climate@csaanich.ca or 250.652.5789. CSaanich.ca/HomeHeating



We are very grateful to the Central Saanich Heat Pump Financing Program. It helped us finance the cost of installing our heat pump, interest-free!

- Shelley & Gurdave Sundher
Central Saanich



Free Home Energy Navigator

An Energy Concierge can give local expert advice and help you navigate the complex world of home energy retrofits and rebates. HomeEnergyNav.ca

Reminders



Watermain flushing

Every year we flush our watermains to remove sediment and maintain good water quality. This takes place from January to May. You may notice temporary low water pressure or discoloured water – [CSaanich.ca/Notices](https://www.csaanich.ca/Notices)



Dog licence renewal

A friendly reminder that dog are due. Pay before March 1 and receive a \$10 discount. [CSaanich.ca/Dogs](https://www.csaanich.ca/Dogs)



Snowfall information

In the event of snowfall, you are required to clear snow and ice within 24 hours of the accumulation from the sidewalk bordering your property. If you're able, please assist your neighbours. [CSaanich.ca/Winter](https://www.csaanich.ca/Winter)

Community resources

9-8-8: New crisis support

A new service in Canada provides help for people who need immediate crisis support. 9-8-8 is there for anyone who is having thoughts of suicide or experiencing emotional distress, or if you are worried about someone you know. This helpline is available for free, and you can call or text for help.

Coming Soon: Beacon Community Office

Referral support services will soon be available at the Cultural Centre community office in the library foyer through Beacon Community Services.

Are you looking for assistance or have a question about something in your neighbourhood, and you're not sure who to call? Check out:

[CSaanich.ca/CommunityResources](https://www.csaanich.ca/CommunityResources)

Connect with Council

Meetings of Council are open to the public and are conducted in a hybrid in-person and virtual format. To view meeting calendar, agendas, watch or participate in meetings, see: [CSaanich.ca/CouncilMeetings](https://www.csaanich.ca/CouncilMeetings)

Project Updates

Accelerating active transportation

Over the next five years the District is completing the first phase of the Active Transportation Plan to improve the interconnectedness between Brentwood Bay, Saanichton, the Lochside Trail, W̱JOḺE̱LP (Tsartlip) and STÁUTW (Tsawout) First Nations and Tanner Ridge.

Projects planned for 2024 include improvements along Wallace Drive as part of the Brentwood sewer project, a path on Mt Newton between Saanichton and the highway, the Saanich Cross Road sidewalk, and infrastructure in Saanichton Village.

Brentwood sewer replacement

Construction is anticipated to start in February 2024 and will continue into early 2026 on the District's largest capital project to date to replace an aging sewer system.

Accessibility & Age-Friendly Plans

Making Central Saanich a more accessible and age friendly community is an ongoing priority. By adopting these plans the District is taking steps to become a more inclusive community that supports inclusion, equity, accessibility and diversity.

Parks & Trails Master Plan

The Parks and Trails Master Plan is well underway with more than 500 residents providing valuable input already, including our youngest!

A summary of what we heard will be presented to Council, and initial directions for the Plan will be shared for public input this spring.



Connect with us

1903 Mount Newton Cross Road
Saanichton, BC V8M 2A9
 250.652.4444
 Municipal.Hall@CSaanich.ca
 [CentralSaanich.ca](https://www.CentralSaanich.ca)

Engage with us

[LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca](https://www.LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca)
 @CSaanich
 @CSaanich
 @DistrictCentralSaanich