

BUSINESS NEWSLETTER

December 2025



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

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New wayfinding signage program coming soon!

The District’s Wayfinding Signage Program is getting a major upgrade

This refreshed initiative will improve visibility, navigation, and branding for local farms and businesses. Expect modern designs, clearer directional signs, and distinct visual identities—including unique colours and logos for agricultural and commercial sectors. These updates will better showcase the diversity and character of our community.

Stay tuned for details on our website, including application openings in late 2026!

Support student success with School District 63

Welcome a student volunteer into your workplace!

Help empower students with diverse needs by offering meaningful, hands-on work experience. Your support builds their confidence, develops valuable skills, and opens doors to future career opportunities.

Contact: Cathy Vigni
Employment Exploration
Coordinator

250-544-0121

cvigni@saanichschools.ca



Thinking of altering your parking stalls?

Making changes without proper approvals could lead to fines or the need to undo the work. We can help!

If you’re considering modifying the number, size, layout of parking stalls or installing electric vehicle (EV) charging stations—at your commercial property, check Central Saanich regulations first.

The District’s zoning bylaw (Part 6: Off Street Parking Regulations) outlines parking stall requirements—including the number of stalls, dimensions, design and accessibility standards. It is available online. Before starting any changes, contact 250-544-4209 or email planning@csaanich.ca to ensure your plans align with current regulations.

Fire safety tips for businesses:

- Address fire hazards such as flammable materials, exposed wires, and overloaded outlets
- Test fire protection equipment annually
- Ensure smoke alarms meet BC Fire Code standards
- Clear access to hydrants and fire department connections
- Ensure kitchen exhaust system is clean
- Consider installing a lock box for emergency access

If a fire broke out after hours, could the Fire Department quickly enter?

Fire department lock boxes securely store building keys, allowing first responders to enter quickly without damage. The department holds a master key for these boxes.

For details, contact:

250-544-4238
fdadmin@csaanich.ca

False fire alarms: What business owners need to know

The District has updated its Fire Prevention and False Alarm Bylaw to enable the Fire Department to take action on repeat false alarms. Now, after three false alarms in a year, a warning is issued; the fourth and subsequent incidents incur a \$200 fee each, and additional charges apply if contacts fail to respond quickly or forced entry is needed. These changes aim to enhance life safety, clarify responsibilities, and reduce unnecessary emergency responses.

Emergency preparedness tips for businesses

Winter weather can bring unexpected challenges. Take these proactive steps to stay safe, minimize disruptions, and protect property:

- Protect pipes from freezing
- Develop a snow and ice removal plan
- Prepare a winter weather emergency plan and kit



Stay informed with emergency alerts

Are you and your employees registered for our emergency alert system? Registrants can choose notifications for multiple areas across the Saanich Peninsula. Register at CSaanich.ca/SPA



Speed limit changes coming to Central Saanich

No changes anticipated for truck and tour bus routes

In response to a road safety review, the District of Central Saanich is updating speed limits for several roads and residential areas.

What's changing?

Starting late 2025, speed limits will be reduced for sections of several collector roads. In 2025, most residential streets will default to 30 km/h.

Why lower speeds?

Research shows that:

- Collisions at 30 km/h have a 90% survival rate, compared to less than 50% at 50 km/h.
- Lower speeds give drivers more time to react, reduce stopping distances, lessen crash impact and create a quieter, more livable community.



What's next?

Enforcement will begin after new signage is installed

Learn more and see maps at: LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca/SpeedLimits

Join us as we celebrate 75 years of community!

It's our birthday! Central Saanich was incorporated on December 12, 1950, after seceding from the District of Saanich, and the fire and police services were created the year after. Plans are underway for a major community celebration this July, and we encourage local businesses to get involved in your own way. Maybe you want to launch a special menu item, offer discounted admission, or create a unique promotion to help celebrate our incredible community? Visit CSaanich.ca/75 to learn more!

Save money on energy costs



Have you heard about BC Green Businesses?

Businesses big and small, this program was built for you!

BC Green Business helps find affordable, practical ways to reduce your environmental impact over time with one-on-one coaching and industry specific checklists. Local businesses are already members, like Graphic Office Interiors, Schneider Electric, Truffles Catering and Victoria Butterfly Gardens.

Find out more: BCGreenBusiness.ca

Thinking of joining? Please email us: climate@csaanich.ca

Building owners join forces for energy efficiency

Owners and managers of around 50 commercial buildings are local members of Districts 2030. Their goal is for members to have equal access to the support and resources needed to find operational efficiencies and save money—while reducing energy use, water use and transportation emissions for our largest commercial spaces.

Learn more: 2030districts.org/greater-victoria.

Have your membership covered! Please email us: climate@csaanich.ca

Business trends in transportation

Rising costs, climate resilience and competitiveness are top-of-mind lately. Here are four ways to help cut your business transportation costs and support your staff:

Did you know?

The vehicles we drive for work and personal use are the highest contributor of our greenhouse gas emissions in Central Saanich.



Federal tax incentive for an EV

Buying a vehicle? Canadian businesses can get a big tax break the year they buy a zero-emission vehicle, including some hybrids! Take advantage in 2025 for a 75% deduction and before 2028 for a 55% deduction.

Ask your accountant and learn more:

Canada.ca → Search "motor vehicle expenses CRA"



CleanBC rebates for charging stations

Installing an EV charger? Apply for a rebate before March 1, 2026! BC businesses can get up to 50% of costs. That's up to a maximum of \$2,000 per Level 2 charger and \$300,000 for a Direct Current Fast Charging project.

Find out more:

Pluginbc.ca/charging-infrastructure-incentives



Free bike rack for your business

Get a free bike rack from the District to make commuting easier for your staff and a convenient stop for your customers. Limited supply!

Request a bike rack today!

Please email: climate@csaanich.ca



BC Transit discount for your staff

ProPASS is free for employers and gives five or more of your staff a 15% discount on unlimited public transit. Staff get payroll deductions, helping them save money and freeing up parking for your business.

Email: tlstewart@bctransit.com



Butler Pit area transitions to light industrial land

Rezoning to add more industrial and employment lands and support long-term economic resilience

The Butler Pit, nearing the end of its gravel extraction life, is under consideration to transition to light industrial zoning to support the growth of the Keating Business District. This rezoning initiative aligns with the Official Community Plan and aims to unlock economic potential by enabling uses such as manufacturing, warehousing, and innovation-based industries. It will foster job creation, attract investment, and ensure sustainable development through modern site design, stormwater management, and transportation connectivity.

Help shape the 2026 budget!

The District of Central Saanich's Draft 2026 Financial Plan will be released in early 2026, and your input is invaluable! Keep an eye on our website for opportunities to share your feedback. Together, let's make a difference!

Did you know? Central Saanich has one of the lowest business property tax rates in the region.

By the numbers

1,028 businesses in Central Saanich

An increase of **137**

November 2024-2025

Meet your Council

Join us for a casual New Year's Open House! Chat with members of Council and municipal staff about what matters most to you.



WHEN: Saturday, January 24, 2026, drop in 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

WHERE: Municipal Hall, 1903 Mount Newton Cross Road

Business licences made easy!

Whether you're starting a new venture or updating an existing one, managing your business licence in Central Saanich is now more convenient than ever.

Apply, renew, and manage your business licence online.

Visit CSaanich.ca/Business-Licence to get started.

Moving or changing ownership?

If your business moves or changes ownership, you'll need to apply for a new business licence.

Closing your business?

Let us know by emailing bylaw@csaanich.ca to close your account.

Supporting local business is a priority in Central Saanich—thank you for being part of our thriving community!

Connect with us

1903 Mount Newton Cross Road, Saanichton, BC V8M 2A9

250.652.4444

Municipal.Hall@CSaanich.ca

CentralSaanich.ca

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