

# COMMUNITY FOCUS

## January 2026



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

### HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM CENTRAL SAANICH COUNCIL

As we welcome a New Year, Council extends warm wishes to you and yours! This is a time to reflect, celebrate our community's achievements and look ahead.

Some highlights of 2025 include adding new recreation amenities, providing more rental housing and replacing significant amounts of underground infrastructure.

We know this past year has brought passionate conversations and, at times, division within our community. These discussions show how deeply we all care about Central Saanich and our community's future. While Council's decisions can't always please everyone, we aim to balance the diverse needs of residents of all ages and walks of life and create the best possible outcomes for the whole community.

As we step into the new year, let's continue building a thriving, connected, and caring community—together.

### New Year's Open House

 Join us at Fire Station No. 1 for a chance to casually meet your Council and neighbours, learn about plans for 2026 and enjoy refreshments.

**WHEN:** Saturday, January 24, 2026, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Fire Station No. 1, 1512 Keating Cross Road

### The District of Central Saanich is turning 75

We're planning a celebration to remember this summer!

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, July 25, 2026**, and come to Central Saanich's Centennial Park for a day of festivities.

Join us for a public artwork unveiling, live music and cultural performances from local talent, delicious food, a community market and tons of activities for all ages.

Visit [Cسانich.ca/75](https://Cسانich.ca/75) for more information and stay tuned for updates on a celebration that will be truly special!



**See more 2025 highlights at [Cسانich.ca/YearinReview](https://Cسانich.ca/YearinReview)**



### New municipal facilities

The District is relocating municipal services to a new site on Hovey Road and is working with Peninsula Recreation Commission on designs for a 10,000 sq ft recreation facility. This move will make four acres in Saanichton Village available for mixed-use development, including housing, commercial space, and community amenities and aims to improve traffic flow and pedestrian and cyclist safety within the village core.

The District is preparing to rezone the 1903 Mount Newton Cross Road property from Institutional to Mix-Use Commercial to attract the strongest proposals from developers. Once a developer is selected, they will be required to consult the community on concepts. Follow [LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca/Redevelopment](https://LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca/Redevelopment) to receive email updates.



**Central Saanich**

# 2026 capital projects

## Resilience, connectivity, and quality of life drive investments in infrastructure

Are you noticing more road work? New sidewalks and crosswalks? Recreational amenities? Major upgrades are underway due to the need to replace much of our infrastructure built in the 60s to 80s.

The District is combining necessary underground replacement with improvements above ground where possible.

### Upcoming projects

- **Master plan updates:** This includes the Water Master Plan, Sewer Master Plan, Transportation Master Plan, and Engineering & Development Servicing Standards.
- **Infrastructure replacement:** We continue to replace aging water and sewer systems, with the most significant work taking place in 2025 and 2026.
- **Drainage improvements:** Projects at TIKEL (Maber Flats) and Martindale Valley are critical for managing stormwater, protecting agricultural lands, and meeting obligations under previous environmental agreements.
- **New active transportation infrastructure:** With community input, designs will get underway for a new multi-use pathway on Mount Newton Cross Road from the highway to Saanichton Village and improvements on Tanner Road.



### How are these improvements funded?

- **Infrastructure Levy**  
To build reserves to fund future infrastructure, the District introduced a 1.25% annual levy in 2018—about \$35 per homeowner—for asset renewal.
- **Grant Funding**  
From 2023 to 2025, the District secured \$20 million in grants, most of which supported major capital projects.
- **Utility Fees**  
Water and sewer improvements are funded through utility fees paid by users.
- **Development Charges**  
Local governments apply Development Cost Charges to offset the infrastructure impacts of new development.

# Planning for Central Saanich's future

## Zoning review aims to foster businesses and services

The District is working on updating our Zoning Bylaw Update to develop vibrant commercial activity.

Key focuses include:

- creating Small Commercial Hubs through mixed-use development in Moodyville, Turgoose, and the East Saanich–Island View area, which could allow new uses including arts, recreation, breweries and tourism
- modernizing zoning regulations in the Keating Business District, improving flexibility for businesses while ensuring compatibility with surrounding land uses.

Additionally, the Butler Pit site, nearing the end of gravel extraction, is being considered for rezoning to light industrial use in alignment with the Official Community Plan. Plans for this site include modern design standards, stormwater management and transportation connections to support long-term economic activity.

See [LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca/CommunityPlanning](http://LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca/CommunityPlanning) to follow the Zoning Update.

## Speed limit update ahead . . . . .

In response to community concerns and a road safety review, Central Saanich is updating speed limits for several collector roads and many residential streets.

### What's changing?

In 2025, speed limits were reduced for sections of several collector roads. **Starting in 2026, most residential streets will default to 30 km/h.** This update will roll out neighbourhood-by-neighbourhood. Enforcement begins after signs are updated.



### Why lower speeds?

- Research shows that survival rates drop sharply as speeds rise. Collisions at 30 km/h have a 90% pedestrian survival rate, compared to a less than 50% chance of survival 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.

Learn more and see maps at:

[LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca/SpeedLimits](https://LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca/SpeedLimits)

### What is a residential street?

Residential streets (or local roads) mainly provide access to homes. They typically have lower traffic volumes at lower speeds. Collector roads, by contrast, have higher traffic volumes and help move people to the arterial roads between neighbourhoods.



## Climate action . . . . .

### \$99 EnerGuide Home Evaluation



This program saves Central Saanich residents time and hundreds of dollars:

- initial evaluation for \$99 + tax (saving over \$400!)
- post-retrofit evaluation for \$50 + tax (saving over \$200!)

**Why apply?** Learn where your home uses and loses energy, and which potential upgrades make sense for a more comfortable, quiet and energy-efficient home—with lower utility bills.

Limited spaces! Apply today: [Csaanich.ca/EnerGuide](https://Csaanich.ca/EnerGuide)

### Questions?

Call 250.652.5789 or email [climate@csaanich.ca](mailto:climate@csaanich.ca).

### Do you rent or own your home?

Please join us for a free workshop to learn about energy- and cost-saving opportunities for your home!

### Got your EnerGuide home evaluation?

This workshop can help turn it into an action plan.

See "Workshops" on reverse to register.

## Housing and growth management

For the past 10 years, we have seen roughly 100 new units of housing added a year (a unit could be any type of home, whether a large single family home or a studio apartment). Recent provincial housing targets aim for about 100-175 units a year. Since the five-year housing target set by the Province was implemented, 314 new homes were completed in the first reporting period (summer 2024 to summer 2025). While this is more than required, 235 of the units were in the Marigold development and this pace of growth does not occur consistently.

Recent projects bolstered our rental stock, and the District continues to work on fostering affordable housing (the top priority of residents in our Community Satisfaction Survey). An upcoming project on Verdier Avenue is planned to add 110 affordable housing units in the next few years.

Growth continues to be concentrated within the Urban Containment Boundary to protect agricultural land and natural areas, while supporting village centers in Brentwood Bay and Saanichton.

See [Csaanich.ca/Housing](https://Csaanich.ca/Housing) for reports and more.

## Workshops

Join us for a series of free, practical workshops!



### Home Energy Improvements 101

Saturday, March 7, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Coffee, conversation, and energy tips! Join us, whether you rent or own, want DIY fixes or plan upgrades like solar. Register: [CSaanich.ca/Climate](http://CSaanich.ca/Climate)



### Resilient Gardening & FireSmart

Sunday, April 19, 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Is your garden ready for wildfire season? Learn design tips and plant choices from a resilient gardening expert and Wildfire Mitigation Specialist. Register: [CSaanich.ca/FireSmart](http://CSaanich.ca/FireSmart)



### Extreme Heat & FireSmart

Wednesday, May 13, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Join us for a complimentary lunch and valuable tips to prepare ahead for extreme heat and wildfire season. Register: [CSaanich.ca/GetPrepared](http://CSaanich.ca/GetPrepared)

## Volunteer spotlight

Meet Roger Hebert, a driving force behind the Brentwood Bay Marine Community Society and organizing cleanups in the Saanich Inlet.

Thank you for all you do!

Interested in volunteering? [CSaanich.ca/Volunteer](http://CSaanich.ca/Volunteer)



## Your municipal budget

The Draft Budget will be published in early February, along with opportunities to provide feedback and attend Council's budget meetings.

[LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca/Budget2026](http://LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca/Budget2026)

## Connect with Council

Council meetings are open to the public; watch online or attend in person.

[CSaanich.ca/CouncilMeetings](http://CSaanich.ca/CouncilMeetings)

## Project information sessions



### Mount Newton pathway - Phase 2

Throughout January, you are invited to give feedback on design options for the next phase of the Mount Newton pathway, along Mount Newton Cross Road from Highway 17 to East Saanich Road. [LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca](http://LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca)



### Tanner Ridge water main replacement

People who live, visit or travel through Tanner Ridge are invited to a project information session. *This project will not begin until the Keating Cross Overpass Project is complete.* [CSaanich.ca/WaterMain](http://CSaanich.ca/WaterMain)

## Reminders



### Water main flushing

Each year we give our water mains a good rinse to keep your water fresh and clean. You might notice temporary low pressure or discolouration. [CSaanich.ca/Notices](http://CSaanich.ca/Notices)



### Attention paw-rents

Dog licences are due—renew by March 1 and fetch a \$10 discount!

[CSaanich.ca/Dogs](http://CSaanich.ca/Dogs)



### Business licence renewals

If you renew your business licence on time, there is no annual fee! It's easy and online.

[CSaanich.ca/BLRenewal](http://CSaanich.ca/BLRenewal)

## Stay informed with local alerts!



Are you registered yet? Get important local information from Saanich Peninsula Alert in case of an emergency. Register at [CSaanich.ca/SPA](http://CSaanich.ca/SPA)



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

250.652.4444 | [Municipal.Hall@CSaanich.ca](mailto:Municipal.Hall@CSaanich.ca)

[CentralSaanich.ca](http://CentralSaanich.ca) | [LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca](http://LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca)

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