

COMMUNITY FOCUS

May 2026



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

MESSAGE FROM YOUR COUNCIL

Join us for a celebration to remember this summer!

This year marks a significant milestone for our community: the 75th anniversary of the District of Central Saanich. On July 25, join your neighbours at Centennial Park for a full day of fun for all ages as we celebrate Central Saanich’s past, present and future.

Enjoy live local music all day long, food trucks, interactive exhibits from community groups, classic cars and an incredible Kid Zone featuring photos with a unicorn, face painting, balloon animals, obstacle courses and more! For a planet-friendly party, stay tuned for easy ways to get there (like free bike parking) and rethink event waste (like water bottle refill stations).

The 75th anniversary celebration is a collaboration with the whole community, and Council thanks all those who are working to make it a memorable event.

Visit CSaanich.ca/75 for more information and stay tuned for updates on a day you won't want to miss!



Mark your calendar

Saturday, July 25
Centennial Park
Noon to 8 p.m.

A day of homegrown music



All the musical acts at the 75th anniversary proudly feature musicians raised right here in Central Saanich, making this a true celebration of local talent.

Headliner: Nick La Riviere & The Best Laid Plans

Also featuring: Victoria Rock Choir, Vanilla Riot, Madi and The Dads, Luke Lampard

Plus local emerging young artists: Emergency Exit, Kingston Weesa, Wet Knees and more!

Fifty years on the front line

We thank Rob Nelson for 50 years of service to the community

When Rob Nelson joined the Central Saanich Fire Department in 1976, the Fire Department looked very different. Through five decades of change—new policies, new leaders, new teammates—Rob has been a constant. For his entire adult life, he has been responding to emergencies at all hours, supported by a family that has shared in his deep commitment to the community.

“Fifty years of service is an achievement that speaks volumes about Rob’s character and commitment to the job and the people of this community,” says Fire Chief Stacey Lee. “His practical, unassuming leadership, mentorship and steady presence have had a lasting impact on our team and those we serve.”

Rob held the Deputy Chief position for 25 years and has stepped in when needed to act as Fire Chief. He continues to play a key role in emergency response, departmental operations, and fostering strong

relationships with community partners across the district.

Rob will be formally recognized on July 25 at Centennial Park. The event will celebrate the history and legacy of the Central Saanich Fire Department and the dedication of its members—past and present.

The District extends its sincere thanks to Deputy Chief Nelson for outstanding service, leadership and commitment. His legacy is woven into the fabric of Central Saanich and into the fire department he has served with distinction for half a century.



Central Saanich

Welcome our new deputy chiefs

We are pleased to welcome our new Deputy Fire Chief, Stephanie Dunlop, who will lead Central Saanich's Fire and Emergency Services with Fire Chief Stacey Lee. We are also thrilled to welcome Deputy Police Chief Paul Douglas, leading alongside Chief Constable Ian Lawson. These dedicated, community-minded leaders will keep our fire and police services strong.



Ready to serve your community?

Join the Central Saanich Fire Department as a Paid On-Call firefighter. No experience required—paid training provided.

Information session:

- **Monday, August 10, 6:00 p.m.**
Fire Station 1, 1512 Keating Cross Road

Learn more at CSaanich.ca/Fire



Your community, your vote

Voting Day in Central Saanich is **Saturday, October 17, 2026**, when residents will elect a Mayor and six Councillors for a four-year term.

Thinking about running for office?

The candidate nomination period runs September 1–11, 2026. Nomination packages will be available in July, along with a candidate information session.

Want to be part of election day?

Central Saanich is recruiting election officials to work on October 17 and advance voting on October 7 and 14. This is paid, meaningful work with training provided. Students welcome! Please email elections@csaanich.ca if you are interested and we will notify you when applications are available later this spring.

Learn more at CSaanich.ca/Election2026

ELECTION 2026

Updating planning tools: See the drafts!

Following initial public engagement this past fall, staff have incorporated early public feedback from public open houses into drafts of the Zoning Bylaw and Development Permit Areas (DPA) Design Guidelines.

The drafts align with current Official Community Plan (2023) policies, provincial regulations, and best practices, including the Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing requirements, Agricultural Land Commission policies, FireSmart principles and protecting sensitive environmental ecosystems.

Open Houses

Review the draft materials and ask staff questions:

- **Thursday, May 28, 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**
Fire Station 1, 1512 Keating Cross Road
- **Saturday, May 30, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**
Municipal Hall, 1903 Mt Newton Cross Road

Presentation and opportunity to speak to Council

- **Monday, June 15, 6:00 p.m.**
Municipal Hall, 1903 Mt Newton Cross Road

What are the Zoning Bylaw and DPA Guidelines?

Zoning bylaws: set regulations for use and density of land and control development including building height and setbacks.

DPA guidelines: guide the form and character of new development, while ensuring land alteration and construction addresses hazards and follows environmental practices.

Together, these tools help shape vibrant, resilient, and well-designed communities.

Learn more at LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca/CommunityPlanning



Central Saanich

Infrastructure project updates

Upcoming projects will renew core infrastructure to maintain reliable services. Projects are funded through reserves built over many years along with some grants and debt helping stabilize taxes and utility rates.

Projects are posted at [CSaanich.ca/InfrastructureProjects](https://www.csaanich.ca/InfrastructureProjects)



Highlights include:

- paving and road rehabilitation
- accessibility upgrades to the Centennial Park playground
- pickleball court expansion at Centennial Park
- start of the Tanner Ridge water main replacement project
- completion of the Brentwood Bay sewer replacement

Municipal facilities

In 2026, the focus remains on advancing replacement planning to ensure Council, staff and the public have safe, accessible and functional spaces for the delivery of local services.

About the new municipal facilities: The new facilities are planned to be built on Hovey Road across from Centennial Park with a potential recreation centre. Council selected the Hovey Road concept after considering a range of options, financial implications, community feedback and how the project complements the District's Official Community Plan and Saanichton Village Design Plan. Construction is expected to begin by the end of 2026.

What about 1903 Mt Newton Cross Road: The four-acre site on the corner of Mt. Newton Cross Road and Wallace Drive, the current site of the municipal building, is being reimagined with a mixed-use development. The District will be receiving proposals for development, which will be evaluated by Council for fit with the community.

About the Municipal Yard: We are looking at the best way forward to complete the redevelopment of the Municipal Yard, with the optimal financial outcome for taxpayers. The buildings are past useful life and the site is larger than is needed. The site's "industrial" zoning is currently in high demand and of high value. The District is considering whether a portion of the property may be surplus to operational needs and, if appropriate, could be sold to help offset a portion of overall project costs. We are currently working on site preparation and building designs while exploring potential development agreements.

Follow along at [LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca/CivicRedevelopment](https://www.lets-talk-central-saanich.ca/civic-redevelopment)



Budget 2026: supporting balance and essential services

The 2026 Financial Plan is balanced at \$75.5 million; it maintains existing service levels and increases cover essential costs such as wages, inflationary increases and mandated expenses.

For a typical residential property in Central Saanich, the 2026 municipal increase sees a \$103 increase for municipal services, including fire services; \$45 for police services; \$9 for library services; \$34 for annual infrastructure replacement savings and \$14 for annual new and active transportation infrastructure funding.

The 2026 Financial Plan is available at [CSaanich.ca/Budget](https://www.csaanich.ca/Budget)

Did You Know?

Municipal taxes make up about half your total property tax bill. The rest is collected for other agencies, including the CRD, Provincial School Tax, BC Assessment, Hospital District and others.



Central Saanich

Yard waste & wildfire risk reduction

We're gearing up for this year's FireSmart community chipping events! Residents in select areas may register ahead for free curbside chipping of highly flammable branches and woody debris. For locations and details, visit [CSFireSmart.ca](https://www.csaanich.ca/CSFireSmart.ca)

Central Saanich's Emergency Program is also conducting a 5-minute survey to better understand how residents manage yard waste such as leaves, branches and grass clippings. Visit [CSFireSmart.ca](https://www.csaanich.ca/CSFireSmart.ca) or scan this QR code!

Your feedback will help us:

- Identify current practices and challenges
- Improve yard waste services and programs
- Reduce wildfire risk across our community



Banners brighten up our streets

Our streets are coming alive with colour thanks to community banners designed by local artists Erica Solberg, Annelly So and Douglas "Bear" Horne. These vibrant artworks aim to brighten main travel corridors



and village centres, refreshing the look and feel of our public spaces while celebrating the creativity that makes our community unique.

Connect with Council

Council meetings are open to the public. Watch online or attend in person. [CSaanich.ca/CouncilMeetings](https://www.csaanich.ca/CouncilMeetings)

Enjoy summer FUN!

Meet Your Street returns

Team up with a neighbour and apply for \$250 to host a block party! Priority given to emergency preparedness and FireSmart themes. Apply: [CSaanich.ca/MeetYourStreet](https://www.csaanich.ca/MeetYourStreet)

May 30 - GoByBike Celebration Station

Stop by on two wheels for snacks, games and prizes to kick off GoByBike Week, May 30 to June 5, 2026! Saturday, May 30 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Lochside Regional Trail (in front of McDonald's on Mount Newton Cross Road). [CapitalBike.ca](https://www.capitalbike.ca)

June 6 - Brentwood Bay Festival

Lions pancake breakfast, a parade, live entertainment, display booths and vendors! All day at HEL,HILEÇ. [BrentwoodBay.info](https://www.brentwoodbay.info)

June 6 - Oct. 10 - Peninsula Country Market

Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Fairgrounds. [PeninsulaCountryMarket.ca](https://www.peninsulacountrymarket.ca)

July & August - Music in the Park

Bring a lawn chair and have a picnic or check out the food vendors! Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at HEL,HILEÇ. [BrentwoodBay.info](https://www.brentwoodbay.info)

July & August - Play in the Park

Join the summer fun with games and a giant obstacle course! Thursdays from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m., at HEL,HILEÇ. [PanoramaRecreation.ca](https://www.panoramarecreation.ca)

July 25 - Central Saanich 75th Anniversary

Join us for day of fun to celebrate Central Saanich's past, present and future. [CSaanich.ca/75](https://www.csaanich.ca/75)

Reminder

2026 property taxes are due July 2

Property owners: please expect your tax notice by mail the end of May. If you have not received it by early June, contact us at 250.544.4206. To learn more about ways to pay, the property tax deferral program and how to claim your home owner grant, visit the Municipal Hall or [CSaanich.ca/PropertyTax](https://www.csaanich.ca/PropertyTax)



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