

COMMUNITY FOCUS

May 2023



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

MESSAGE FROM YOUR COUNCIL

With summer around the corner we look forward to the many outdoor activities we are afforded living in Central Saanich, which this year includes welcoming back the popular Brentwood Bay Festival and opening the gates of historic Newman Farm for public tours. Many hands make light work, and local volunteer organizations would appreciate help putting on the events we are fortunate to enjoy. See CSaanich.ca/Volunteer for opportunities to make a contribution to your community.

The warm weather will also bring hot and dry spells and we encourage you to start planning now. In this newsletter you will find information on how to reduce the risk of wildfires through our FireSmart program, how to prepare for extreme heat and the District's 0% financing program to help homes using fossil fuel heat sources convert to heat pumps.

As we set priorities for 2023-2027, we are drawing on the recent Community Satisfaction Survey results and what we heard from residents during the election period, as well as utilizing staff input. Through the community survey, 97% of residents reported the overall quality of life in Central Saanich was good or very good. While we know our community is an exceptional place to live, there is always room for improvement, and the results of the survey support what we generally hear from residents and businesses, such as focusing on active transportation (see full results at CSaanich.ca/Survey).

The 2023 budget has been finalized and incorporated public feedback. The total tax increase to the average home is 5.29% or \$118 and a large portion is being directed to new infrastructure and savings for future replacement of existing assets. The budget also increases funding for the District's Emergency Program and accelerates the Active Transportation Plan. It will also see a water splash pad added to Centennial Park playground in 2024.

Over the last few years, a number of significant plans were completed, and we are excited to see the implementation now underway.



More ways than ever to do business in Central Saanich!

We're adding more online services to our website all the time. The latest additions are plumbing permits and tree removal applications. Building permits, planning, business licence applications and building inspection requests are coming soon, too! Check out CSaanich.ca/permits

Wondering about a proposed development? Watch for updates on the Development Tracker at CSaanich.ca/rezoning

District receives fund to improve climate resiliency

Preparing our community for future climate emergencies

We're receiving \$270,000 from the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaption program to help reduce risks from future disasters related to natural hazards and climate change. This project will better equip the community to plan for and respond to climate-related emergencies like floods and extreme weather.

Central Saanich has also received a grant from The Union of British Columbia Municipalities to develop a strategy to help identify and understand risks of extreme heat, decrease vulnerabilities and improve capabilities for the District and its residents.

Prepare for summer heat!

With summer approaching, extreme temperatures are becoming more common. Emergencies can happen at any time and without warning. Make your emergency plan today, learn more: CSaanich.ca/GetPrepared Register for alert notifications at CSaanich.ca/SPA



Infrastructure Projects Keep the District Running

Water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure projects may not be as exciting as a new park or recreation facility, but they are vital to keep a district running. The Brentwood Bay sewer system has reached the end of its lifecycle; it handles approximately half of the municipality's wastewater, including flows from the Tsartlip First Nation. Replacement is expected to start this fall. This project has the added bonus of creating new bike lanes along Wallace Drive, an active transportation win!

This project is one of the biggest capital projects undertaken by the District, with partial funding provided by the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Green Infrastructure – Environmental Quality Project.



Stay up to date on Infrastructure Projects: [CSaanich.ca/Projects](https://csaanich.ca/projects)

Understanding Waste Reduction in Central Saanich



The District is studying options for garbage, kitchen scraps and yard waste disposal. In 2022, a high-level analysis of options and cost implications was conducted, in 2023, we met with local waste hauling businesses, gauged residents current methods and their interest in exploring other options (through the Community Satisfaction Survey mailed to all homes), and are now conducting a detailed analysis of options before going out to the community to discuss and to receive resident input. [LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca/Waste](https://lets-talk-central-saanich.ca/waste)

Working to Create an Age-Friendly Community

More than one quarter of the District's residents are 65 years or older and our community is aging. We want to ensure Central Saanich is an age-friendly community that can support our senior residents. Thanks to a \$25,000 grant from PlanH, we're in the process of creating an Age-Friendly Community Plan. The Plan will provide Council and staff with an understanding of where the municipality can support seniors through buildings and infrastructure, services and health care, policies, and communications practices.

Get involved at [LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca/AgeFriendly](https://lets-talk-central-saanich.ca/agefriendly)



Climate Action Updates

Limited spaces for Heat Pump Financing

Register today and stay cool this summer

The District is providing interest-free loans of up to \$12,000, which is then repaid on property tax bills over 10 years. This program is offered for a limited time on a first-come, first-served basis with limited spaces remaining – reserve your space today!

Learn more by emailing our Climate Action Specialist at climate@csaanich.ca or phoning 250.652.4444. See [CSaanich.ca/HomeRebates](https://csaanich.ca/HomeRebates) for details.

Program made possible by a grant from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.



Get advice from an expert

Free support service is available to help homeowners navigate the complex world of home energy retrofits.

[HomeEnergyNav.ca](https://homeenergynav.ca), email info@homeenergynav.ca or call 1-866-381-9995

New Grants help local businesses thrive

EV Charger Grant

Central Saanich's new *Business Electric Vehicle (EV) Charger Grant* helps businesses install EV chargers for public use. Participants are encouraged to combine this grant with other rebates that may be available. Participating businesses may also choose to charge drivers for the time they spend hooked up to the charger.

To learn more about EV chargers, whether your site is suitable and how to seek pre-approval for grant eligibility, visit CSaanich.ca/EVchargergrant

Commercial Frontage Program

Are you a business owner that wants to beautify your storefront and help elevate our streetscapes? The Commercial Frontage Program provides grant funding to improve building frontages.

Learn more and apply at CSaanich.ca/Frontage-Program

Business Bike Rack Program

New this spring/summer! We will have a limited stock of public bike racks available to eligible businesses and organizations at no cost. Help ensure bike parking is an option for your customers/visitors. Contact us at climate@csaanich.ca or 250.652.4444 ext. 2224 if you are interested.

Planning for the Future

We're creating a new Parks Master Plan that will ensure that the District's parks, trails and beach accesses serve the existing and future needs of our community for the next 10 years.

Early planning is underway and will involve a comprehensive community engagement strategy. Stay informed and register for updates at LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca.



Let's make a splash!

Did You Know – the recently adopted 2023 Financial Plan included a new splash pad in Centennial Park playground in 2024? It will be a great addition to the park during those hot summer days.



Car Sharing is easy with MODO

Considering getting rid of your car?

Car sharing may make it possible for you. Did you know most privately owned vehicles sit idle 95% of the time? Car-sharing spreads the use of a few vehicles between a number of drivers and helps to reduce the number of cars on the road.

Shared cars are ideal for those who don't own a vehicle, or a household that needs an extra one on occasion. Two MODO vehicles are located in Saanichton Village (why two in one location? It's important to ensure the users have access to a vehicle when they need it. If this site is successful, MODO will consider expanding).

Members receive a fob for the vehicles, and simply pick up and return them to the same location. To learn more or join MODO, visit www.modo.coop and take a survey at LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca to help us better understand your vehicle needs and habits.

Central Saanich residents get \$50 in free drive time upon signing up!



Central Saanich

Mark your calendar
June 3 is a busy one!



Celebration Station at Newman Park Beach Access



Join us along the Lochside trail on June 3 from 11-1 for an e-bike demonstration, snacks and a chance to win prizes, while taking part in **Spring GoByBike Week (May 29 – June 4)**. Be sure to Register and track your kilometers at gobybikebc.ca.

Peninsula Country Market



The 2023 season runs June 3 to October 7, on Saturdays from 9 am to 1 pm, at the Saanich Fairgrounds. peninsulacountrymarket.ca

Brentwood Bay Festival



Who's excited for the return of the Brentwood Bay Festival?! Pancake Breakfast starts at 8 am, followed by a parade at 10 am and a day of musical performances and vendors. brentwoodbay.info

Property Tax Deadline

PROPERTY OWNERS: PAY BY JULY 4

Please expect your tax notice by mail around the end of May; if you have not received it by early June, contact us at 250.544.4206. Pay by **July 4** to avoid a 10% penalty.

Set up monthly pre-authorized withdrawals for next year!

You can pre-pay your next year's property taxes with monthly payments debited from your bank account. To register visit CSaanich.ca/PropertyTax or visit Municipal Hall and fill out the Pre-authorized Payment Plan Agreement application (and return it to the Hall).

PROPERTY TAX DEFERMENT

The province has a low interest loan program that helps qualified BC homeowners pay their property taxes on their principal residence. You must apply online: Gov.bc.ca/propertytaxdeferral or call 250.387.0555 or toll-free 1.888.355.2700

REMINDER - HOME OWNER GRANT

Apply for the grant directly to the Province at Gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant or call the provincial office at 1.888.355.2700.

What else is happenin' around town

Indigenous Peoples Day - June 21



The Summer Solstice celebrates Indigenous peoples' culture and heritage through a variety of events, learn more at: Wsanec.com

Wildfire Simulation Exercise - June 21



To better prepare the community in the event of a wildfire, the Emergency and Wildfire Program will be conducting an exercise. Learn more csfiresmart.ca

Music in the Park Concert Series



Brentwood Bay Community Association proudly presents Music in the Park Wednesday nights in the summer! Watch BrentwoodBay.info/music-in-the-park for the schedule!

Newman Farm Open House



We will open the gates at Newman Farm on Sat, August 19 and 26 from 12-3pm to give the community a chance to enjoy this gem- a farm from 1897 in much its original state. Access Newman Farm from 8116 Central Saanich Rd. CSaanich.ca/Newman



Scan this code to see more [Community Events](#)

Bylaw 101 - Parking

Did you know?

There is no "residential parking" in Central Saanich.

- Street parking is limited to 72 hours and property frontage.
- Parking on a boulevard is permitted when there is no curb and at least 1.5 m of clearance from the edge of the road to the car.
- Parking is not permitted on a curbed boulevard.

If you have a parking concern, please contact bylaw@csaanich.ca. Parking is regulated under Traffic & Highways Bylaw No. 2018 (CSaanich.ca/Bylaws)



250.652.4444



Municipal.Hall@CSaanich.ca



CentralSaanich.ca



[LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca](#)



@DistrictCentralSaanich



@CSaanich



Central Saanich