



COMMUNITY FOCUS

MESSAGE FROM YOUR COUNCIL

Happy New Year! It has been a challenging time recently, and Council wishes to thank all residents and businesses for supporting each other. We also want to thank those on the front lines every day in the grocery stores, health care sector and essential services for providing services to us all.

What better time than now, at the start of a new year, to reflect on what we've learned and what we want our new normal to look like.

As your Council, we recently met to identify our goals for the remainder of the Council term (2021 and 2022). After much discussion about what we have heard from the community, our goals are:

- Invest in Road Safety, Transit and Safe, Accessible Active Transportation
- Invest in Climate Action and a Healthy Environment
- Focus on Strong Local Economy and Supporting Agriculture
- Manage Responsible Growth

These are areas that we heard are important to you. While we will see some quick wins, we also recognize these are large, long-term goals that take time to develop, especially given the reality of limited resources in a small community.

This year, the District also begins consulting the community on the Official Community Plan (OCP) update. The OCP presents the long-



LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca/OCP

term vision for our community and guides planning and land use management decisions; therefore it needs to reflect what our community cares about and what we strive to be as a community for present and future

generations. We acknowledge the input that community members have already provided through other projects recently, and will build on what has been heard.

We look forward to what is ahead in 2021, and we wish you good health and the enjoyment of your loved ones and community.



Photo: Peninsula News Review, 11/19/20

COVID-19 RESPONSE: WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- The **Saanich Peninsula Lions Food Bank** is in urgent need of donations. If you are able, please consider donating online or by phone 250-655-0679.
- **Beacon Community Services** is working to provide information and assistance to seniors and other vulnerable local residents. If you are looking to volunteer during this time, please consider contacting Beacon Community Services at 250-656-5537 to volunteer.
- **Mount Newton Centre** offers services for seniors. The centre has pivoted its usual services and is providing clients with three hot meals a week delivered to their home, staff will grocery shop for clients and the day program has gone virtual with more than 50 people registered. To learn more or to make a donation, visit mountnewtoncentre.org.
- **Support local businesses** and keep our local shops open; these hardworking businesses support our community with jobs, entertainment, services and donations.



COVID-19 INFORMATION

Stay up to date on COVID-19 related information and resources available at centralsaanich.ca/covid19

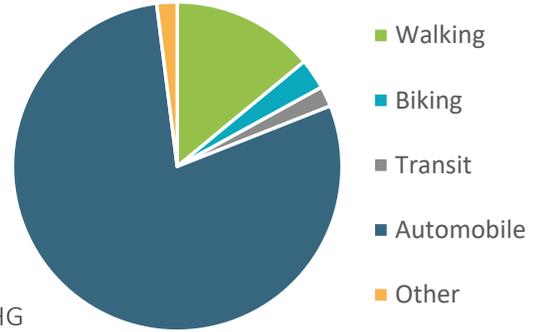




Reach your goals and help Central Saanich meet our climate goals!

Do you have a New Year’s resolution to stay healthy or improve your health and wellbeing? If so, your goal aligns well with the District’s climate action goals.

While only 21% of all trips in the District are taken sustainably by active transportation and transit right now, we’re aiming for 50% by 2050! What trips could you do by foot, bike or bus this year?



Transportation accounts for two thirds of our total community GHG emissions, and driving is by far the biggest contributor. During the pandemic, more of us have been learning and working from home, hitting the trails for exercise and fresh air, and travelling less to do our part to flatten the curve. In 2021, let’s continue some of these habits by committing to driving less and using active transit more.

We are looking forward to sharing the draft of the District’s first Active Transportation Plan, which will be presented to the community for feedback soon. Once finalized, the plan will guide our investment in key projects and support our work on grant applications as we start connecting our walking and cycling networks.

PROJECT UPDATES

- **Tree Protection Bylaw:** We have drafted a new Tree Management Bylaw that would see stronger protection of permit trees and include replacement measures for trees that are removed. The goal of the new bylaw is to maintain the current level of tree canopy coverage. Please see LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca/TreeBylaw to review the highlights and offer feedback.

Learn more at a virtual open house: Thursday, January 28 or Saturday, January 30, from 10 to 11 am. Registration for these events is available on our website.

- **Infill Housing Regulations:** Draft regulations will soon be presented to Council for infill housing (small lots, accessory cottages & carriage houses, panhandle lots, duplexes, pocket neighbourhoods, small scale townhouses). These will help meet the community’s evolving housing needs in a manner that is sensitive to the character of Central Saanich. Staff have been consulting the community on the regulations and will be returning to Council in February with a draft revision of the Land Use Bylaw. Learn more and view a recording of the info session at LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca/Housing where you can submit comments until January 17.

- **Saanichton Village Design Plan Approved:** The core of Saanichton Village now has an official Design Plan that will help shape the design for redevelopment of buildings, public spaces, and transportation routes for pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles over the long term. The plan and highlights are available at LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca/Saanichton.

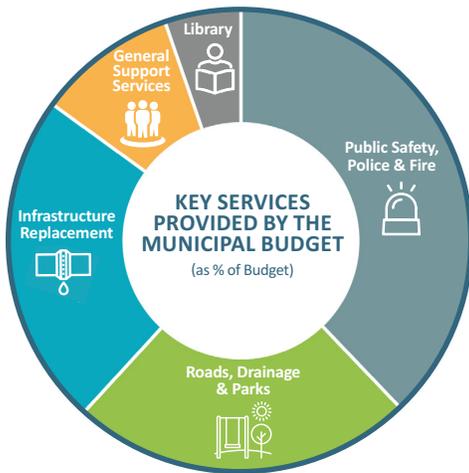
- **Mt. Newton Trail gets extended—again!** A beautiful forest path to Thomson Cove waterfront is now complete and open to the public, offering a waterfront access for residents and visitors. The parking lot is located off Senanus Drive.



Learn more about the 2021 budget

Take our pre-budget survey and tell us about your priorities for the District: [LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca/Budget2021](https://www.letstalkcentralsaanich.ca/Budget2021).

Survey closes January 20. This year's draft budget will be published by February on our website and will be presented and reviewed by Council in February.



How to watch and participate in Council meetings

In light of the ongoing and evolving COVID-19 pandemic and to ensure social distancing, Council meetings and Public Hearings will now be conducted virtually and live-streamed on our website. All Council meetings are being broadcast live at centralsaanich.ca.granicus.com.

If you wish to submit a comment or question to Council for the meeting, you can email to municipal.hall@csaanich.ca or deliver via the drop box at the front door prior to noon on the day of the meeting.

If you wish to speak at a Council meeting or Public Hearing, you can register to speak via Zoom or phone by emailing municipal.hall@csaanich.ca or calling 250-652-4444 prior to noon on the day of the meeting.



ELECTRIFICATION STATION



DID YOU KNOW?

Even now, when the days are short and rainy, the solar panels on top of Fire Station #1 are generating renewable power. In 2020, we generated 135 MWh of energy – enough energy to power the equivalent of 7 homes!

WE'RE CHARGING FORWARD

Our Electric Vehicle & E-Bike Strategy is now finalized and available to read at [LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca/Climate](https://www.letstalkcentralsaanich.ca/Climate). It includes over 30 actions to support EV and E-Bike uptake in the District – and we have completed a few already! For example, in September the District adopted requirements for new developments to ensure access to charging. The District is also planning to install more public charging stations in the community this year. Thanks again to our EV Committee members for their time and expertise!

The province has doubled existing CleanBC "Go Electric" rebates for installing EV charging at home and at work, and is providing a bunch of new rebates through their "EV Ready" program to support EV plans and installation in multi-unit housing. Learn more at electricvehicles.bchydro.com/incentives/charger-rebates.

SUPPORT FOR HOME ENERGY RETROFITS IS HEATING UP!

Planning a renovation? Take advantage of the many existing rebates for heating, hot water and insulation projects. Learn more using cleanBC's Rebate Search Tool at cleanbc.gov.bc.ca. *Is your home heated using oil? If so, stay tuned for details about our PACE Pilot Program, an exciting new energy retrofit financing opportunity we are launching later this year!*

NEW PROGRAM MAKES NAVIGATING HOME REBATES EASY

Central Saanich is proud to partner with the CRD to launch the *Bring It Home 4 the Climate* program. Visit bringithome4climate.ca to learn more, and register to get access to:

- Free Virtual Home Energy Check-Up
- EnerGuide Home Evaluation Subsidies
- Free Educational Workshops and Special Offers
- Plus, along with all CRD residents, access to the Free CleanBC Energy Coach Service and online resources

Plus! Central Saanich is offering an additional \$350 rebate for residents who switch from a fossil fuel-powered (oil, natural gas, or propane) heating system to an electric air-source heat pump. That brings the total rebates available to Central Saanich residents to up to \$4,200!



Be a snow angel

In the event of snowfall, a reminder you are required to clear snow and ice within 24 hours of the accumulation from the sidewalk bordering your property, and if you're able, please assist elderly or physically challenged neighbours. The municipality will make every effort to keep major arterial and collector streets open and to clear snow from as many residential streets as possible.

Watermain flushing

From January to May, Public Works will be flushing the watermain to remove sediment and maintain good water quality. You may notice temporary low water pressure or discoloured water – the flushing schedule is available at CentralSaanich.ca/notices. If you have special requirements for water clarity, please contact the Municipal Yard at 250-544-4224 ext. 3221.

Dog & Business Licence renewals

A friendly reminder dog and business licences are due March 1. Please pay on time to receive your \$10 discount.

Open burning

Improving air quality creates a healthier community for residents and protects our natural environment.

The burning season is October 16 to May 15 and all types of fires (with exception of small recreational fires) require a permit from the fire department and are only permitted when the Venting Index reads "Good" or "Fair" for Southern Vancouver Island. To obtain a permit or see the venting index go to CentralSaanich.ca>Programs and Services>Fire Programs and Services>Fire. If you have any questions, please contact the Fire Department at 250-544-4238.

Please remember: Beach fires at Island View Beach are not permitted.



ACCESSING MUNICIPAL HALL

Municipal Hall is open and many services are available online or over the phone.

- **Payments** (along with your remittance slip) can be done online, mailed or place in our secure drop box.
- **Building Permit** applications can be arranged by contacting the building department at 250-544-4217.
- **Planning, development and tree permits applications** can be emailed with digital plans and documents to planning@csaanich.ca.
- **Engineering applications** can be submitted via email to engineering@csaanich.ca.
- **For general inquiries**, please call 250-652-4444.

NEW! PAY YOUR ACCOUNTS BY CREDIT CARD ONLINE

You can now pay your Utility Bill, Dog Licence and Business Licence by credit card. Just register for e-billing and make payments through the *My Central Saanich* online web portal.

1. Visit mycentralsaanich.ca.
2. Create account or log in.
3. Click on your account or register a new one.
4. If you have a balance outstanding, there will be a Pay Now button.



Please call us at 250-544-4205 if you have any questions.

 250.652.4444

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