

COMMUNITY FOCUS

September 2023



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

MESSAGE FROM YOUR COUNCIL

Buoyed by wonderful local summer activities, we look towards fall with a sense of renewed focus about the evolution of the community. Community spirit was alive and well at local businesses, the market, farm stands, and events. We were thrilled to see the community response to the launch of the Meet Your Street program, which supported eight block parties in its inaugural summer season. The program was designed to help build and sustain neighbourhood connections of all ages and abilities, and make us more resilient during emergencies—and have some fun together.

As this is our first year as a Council, we adopted a new strategic plan for our term that will guide service delivery, investment decisions, and areas of focus.

The plan outlines six strategic areas:

- Invest in Infrastructure and Active Transportation
- Expand the Supply of Affordable, Attainable, and Rental Housing
- Foster a Community of Inclusion, Diversity and Accessibility
- Cultivate a Resilient Economy and Thriving Agricultural Sector
- Champion Climate Adaptation, Mitigation, and Preparedness
- Demonstrate Organizational Effectiveness

As the community evolves, we want to ensure it is in the direction our community wishes to see, which was developed during the update to our Official Community Plan earlier this year. There are many exciting projects on the horizon that will help ensure people of all ages and abilities can be engaged and happy as residents of Central Saanich.



Submit feedback on the Age-Friendly Plan before September 15



Age Friendly Plan available for comment

The District has drafted an Age-Friendly Plan to determine how to support the growing number of older adults in our community through age-friendly services and infrastructure.

The draft is based on what we heard from the community to date, committee feedback, and discussions with local service organizations. The work is funded by a grant provided by Plan H.

Review the draft at [LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca/AgeFriendly](https://www.lets-talk-central-saanich.ca/agefriendly), or pick up a copy from Municipal Hall or the Library, or phone 250.544.4240 to learn more.

Central Saanich focuses on accessibility

We are proud to have laid two important foundations to improve accessibility in our community. First, Central Saanich is part of a recently formed Saanich Peninsula Accessibility Advisory Committee made up of members of the community that provide comment and recommendations to Saanich Peninsula local governments on policies, programs, services and more. Committee agendas, minutes and webcast information can be found at [CentralSaanich.ca](https://www.CentralSaanich.ca).

The second critical component is establishing an Accessibility Plan for the District. Did you see our team popping up around the peninsula this summer talking accessibility? We thank everyone who participated in this important work for sharing your ideas and experiences. Learn more about our Accessibility Plan at [LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca](https://www.lets-talk-central-saanich.ca).



Central Saanich

Brentwood Sewer Project begins this fall

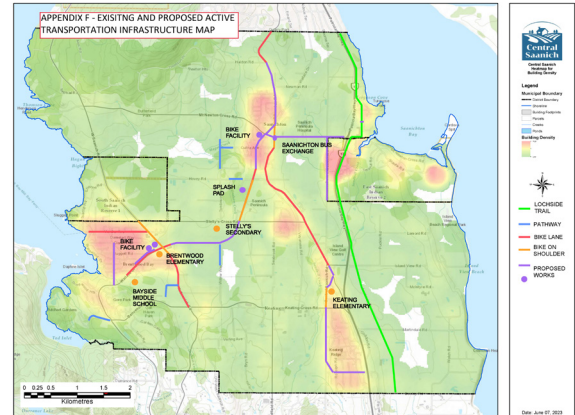
Construction will begin this month on the District's largest capital project to date as we replace aging sewer pipes in Brentwood Bay and upgrade the Brentwood sewer pump station. The project will take approximately 18 months to complete.

This project will allow for the addition of bike lanes along Wallace Drive, which was identified as a top priority in the Active Transportation Plan. For traffic impacts and more information, please see our website.

Speeding up the Active Transportation Plan

The District is planning for \$10.4 million in new active transportation infrastructure over the next five years thanks to a \$5.5 million grant from the Province's Growing Communities Fund. The projects are high priorities from the Active Transportation Plan and complete connectivity between Tsawout/ STÁUTW First Nation and the core areas of Saanichton, Brentwood as well as network improvements in Tanner Ridge.

See the plan at CSaanich.ca/ActiveTransportation.



Keating Overpass Update



Ensuring safety for motorists, pedestrians, cyclists and construction workers is a key priority during construction and the overall goal of the overpass project. For the duration of the project, we ask residents and motorists to take extra care while travelling in the area.

Some highlights to improve safety:

- Improvements to the intersection at Keating Cross Road and Central Saanich Road intersection.
- A temporary crosswalk on Tanner Road, with a permanent one to be constructed when the Keating Overpass project is completed.



Housing in our community

Housing quality, choice, and affordability are essential for a healthy, diverse, and prosperous community. Central Saanich recognizes we have gaps in our housing options, and we are working to ensure the housing we add to the community meets our community's needs. This includes encouraging more secondary suites, rental housing, more missing middle housing types (carriage houses, apartments, townhomes, duplexes, etc.), below-market housing, and more.

Owning a home has become unattainable for many. According to the 2020 Central Saanich Housing Needs Report, a household would need an income of nearly \$150,000 for their housing costs to be affordable; property values have continued to rise significantly since. In fact, it is estimated that most homeowners in Central Saanich wouldn't qualify for a mortgage on their current home if they had to purchase it at today's market value.

The District's housing strategy is to increase and diversify our housing stock through the infill and densification policies of the Official Community Plan. This strategy should serve our housing needs until 2036. Carefully managed growth can ensure greater physical and social health, preservation of agricultural lands and natural areas, efficient use of infrastructure, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and improved quality of life.

Read about our Housing plans and policies at CSaanich.ca/Housing.



Parks & Trails Master Plan kicks off!

Central Saanich is home to a bounty of beautiful parks, trails and beach accesses. This fall, we're preparing to launch public engagement as we embark on drafting a new plan to guide parks and trails planning and development for the next 10 to 20 years, enabling the District to plan and budget for park and trail improvements. The process will involve analyzing our existing parks and trails, their natural and physical assets, how we use these spaces, and identifying priorities for improvements and upgrades.



The plan will build on existing work done through the Official Community Plan review, the Active Transportation Plan, the Saanichton Village Design Plan, Age-Friendly Community Plan, and others. Following on the heels of these projects ensures we understand demographics, where development will be focused, accessibility opportunities and future active transportation linkages.

The project will involve substantial community engagement.

Follow the project at LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca/Parks

Online services & inspections

Central Saanich has launched a new online service to simplify and streamline your building, plumbing, tree and development permit process! Apply for permits and schedule inspections at CSaanich.ca/Permits



Did you know?

MyCentralSaanich.ca is a convenient way for residents to view and make payment online for utility bills, business licences, and dog licences—all in one place.

Volunteer opportunity at Oak Haven Park

A new group "Friends of Oak Haven Park" has recently formed and is seeking additional local volunteers to help restore this amazing natural area. The first invasive species removal event will take place at the end of September. If interested or if you want to learn more, please contact us at climate@csaanich.bc.ca or volunteers@hat.bc.ca.



Climate Action updates



2030 climate goals

To prepare our community for the impacts of changing climate, the District is taking steps to identify significant risks and actions to build resiliency. Watch CSaanich.ca/Climate to find out when and how you can be involved.

Home heating rebates

Sign up today — only a few spaces remain!

Ask us about zero % financing to help you switch from fossil fuel heating to a heat pump! Consider registering before our pilot program ends this year. Please contact us at climate@csaanich.ca or 250.652.5789, or learn more at CSaanich.ca/HomeHeating

Reducing and recycling at home - Did you know?

- Hartland accepts over 80 items for recycling and collects green waste and reusable items (e.g., appliances, clothing)
- Return-It Sidney accepts many items for recycling, including foam packaging and flexible plastics.
- Organics (e.g., kitchen scraps, garden trimmings) are banned from the landfill. Try backyard composting to make valuable compost for your garden or consider curbside pickup.

Check out myrecyclopedia.ca for a complete list of service providers.



Watch for updates:
CSaanich.ca/Climate



Central Saanich

Around town

Tree Appreciation Day

September 24, 11:00 a.m.
Residents are invited to learn about and help plant Garry Oak trees at Adam Kerr Park.



National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

On September 30, all Canadians are encouraged to wear orange to raise awareness of the tragic legacy of residential schools and to honour survivors.



Great ShakeOut

On October 19, millions of people worldwide will practice how to “Drop, Cover and Hold On” during Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills. shakeoutbc.ca



Halloween Bonfire

October 31, 7:30 p.m. (Fireworks at 8:00 p.m.)
Centennial Park, Wallace Drive



Remembrance Day

November 11, 10:50 a.m.
Pioneer Park in Brentwood Bay



Scan this code to see more community events



Community mural unveiled

We are thrilled to announce the unveiling of a mural in Brentwood Bay at the Cultural Centre by local artists Chazz Elliott (TEMOSENG) and Jesse Campbell.

The mural depicts a scene from the area before settlement, as told by Chazz's uncle John Elliott: “The whole area was used for grouse hunting, picking salmon and salal berries, and for gathering fern roots, oregon grape roots, and bark for medicinal uses like alder, yew, willow and cascara. Families camped around there while picking and harvesting. I suppose if you'd have to call it a specific name, our people would just refer to that area in conversation as KELÁJENEÇ, camp ground area. There were camps all around where young people were sent for training. To become good providers for community, for families. Sometimes sent out alone without any kind of weapon, they were to create their own way of trapping and hunting but were expected to bring their catch back to share.”

Connect with Council

Meetings of Council are open to the public and are conducted in a hybrid in-person and virtual format. To view meeting calendar, agendas, watch or participate in meetings, go to: CSaanich.ca/CouncilMeetings.

Connect with us

1903 Mount Newton Cross Road
Saanichton, BC V8M 2A9
 250.652.4444
 Municipal.Hall@CSaanich.ca
 CentralSaanich.ca

Summer highlights

Central Saanich proudly celebrated diversity and inclusion with events that culminated in taking part in this year's Pride Parade in Victoria.



Wednesday nights during the summer at the Brentwood Performance Stage were fun for the whole family.



The District hosted a wildfire training exercise in June; it provided valuable training to local emergency personnel and provided public education about how to be better prepared in a wildfire situation.



Bylaw 101

What to expect when you have a bylaw concern

Bylaw enforcement focuses on education and problem solving first. When you file a complaint, the bylaw officer will determine if there is a violation and then work with the owner / occupier on compliance. Bylaw cannot disclose the progress of the active file, but ideally you see results and know it's being resolved.

Complaints must be submitted in writing by either someone who lives within 100m of the subject property or by two (unrelated) residents of the District. If you have a concern, please contact bylaw@csaanich.ca.

Engage with us

LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca
 @CSaanich
 @CSaanich
 @DistrictCentralSaanich