

COMMUNITY FOCUS

May 2022



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

MESSAGE FROM YOUR COUNCIL

As we welcome spring and the warmer, sunnier weather, we are looking forward to the community spirit that comes alive at farmers markets and events—please see a list of some of these events on the back page. Council wishes to sincerely thank our hardworking community organizations and dedicated volunteers behind these events.

Council would also like to celebrate the beginning of the farming season. With 185 local farms in Central Saanich, our community is unique in offering incredible access to local farm products. We encourage you to take advantage of the bounty of the season around the corner!

A draft of Central Saanich’s Official Community Plan (OCP) was published in January for public review—and the engagement period ends soon. Council welcomes you to come to an upcoming open house or reach out to staff to learn more about the updates to the OCP. The OCP plays a key role in shaping our community, and Council wants to hear from you.

District exploring regional food processing facility

Thanks to a grant from the Ministry of Agriculture, the District is in the early stages of a study examining opportunities for a regional food processing facility in Central Saanich. “Food hubs” as they’re commonly referred to can take any number of forms, depending on the needs of the community; they foster growth and innovation in the processing sector through improved industry access to facilities, equipment, technology, technical services and business supports. Learn more and get involved at [LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca/FoodHubStudy](https://www.lets-talk-central-saanich.ca/foodhubstudy).



☀️ Welcoming the active farming season

Many of the qualities people enjoy about country living result directly from farming—the scenery, rural lifestyle, and availability of fresh food are wonderful benefits of living near farms. In Central Saanich, 60 per cent of land is in the Agricultural Land Reserve! The District plays a big role in regional food security, but farming is similar to other industries in that it can come with disturbances such as odour, noise, dust and can be a source of other nuisances.

Farming is an important local livelihood and is helping address food security concerns for the community. To strengthen farming locally, public education is needed to understand the needs of farmers and help avoid conflict between farms and their neighbours.

As the active farming season gets underway, you may have questions or concerns about farming activities.

Questions?

DISTRICT OF CENTRAL SAANICH
Staff can often explain legislation and local bylaws or refer residents to the right place for more information.

B.C. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
AgriServiceBC 1 888 221-7141
AgriServiceBC@gov.bc.ca
[gov.bc.ca/agriservicebc](https://www.gov.bc.ca/agriservicebc)

AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSION
604 660-7000
Toll free 1 800 663-7867
[alc.gov.bc.ca](https://www.alc.gov.bc.ca)

BC FARM INDUSTRY REVIEW BOARD
250 356-8945
firb@gov.bc.ca
[gov.bc.ca/BCFarmIndustryReviewBoard](https://www.gov.bc.ca/BCFarmIndustryReviewBoard)

Your Draft Official Community Plan is ready for public feedback

Public input period open until May 20 – see inside for details!

Your Draft Official Community Plan is ready for public feedback



Public input period open until May 20

The Draft OCP is based on extensive research, including input received from the community, stakeholders and the OCP Advisory Committee; approximately 500 individuals have taken part in the project to date. Now it's time for a final review!

How to Participate:

Visit [LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca/OCP](https://lets-talk-central-saanich.ca/OCP) for documents and videos, or stop by Central Saanich Municipal Hall at 1903 Mount Newton Cross Road to get a copy of the Draft OCP and corresponding survey.

1. WATCH A PRESENTATION ONLINE (30 mins)
2. TAKE THE SURVEY
3. READ THE DRAFT OCP (1+ HOUR)
4. ATTEND AN OPEN HOUSE (1+ HOUR)
 - Saturday May 14, 10am-2pm, Cultural Centre—Room B (by entrance to the Centre for Active Living 50+), 1209 Clarke Rd
 - Tuesday May 17, 3-7pm, Fire Station 1, 1512 Keating Cross Rd
 - Thursday May 19, noon-4pm, Fire Station 1, 1512 Keating Cross Rd

View draft OCP policies and learn more:
[LetsTalkCentralSaanich.ca/OCP](https://lets-talk-central-saanich.ca/OCP)

Residents are also welcome to contact planning staff by phoning 250.544.4209 or emailing OCP@CSaanich.ca.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROJECT UPDATES

Current Projects

- **Benvenuto pathway** – From Wallace to the base of Benvenuto, this pathway will improve safety of those traveling from the bus stop or walking this portion of the road.
- **School zone improvements**—The proposed work includes the construction of new crosswalks with flashing lights, as well as several hundred metres of sidewalk extensions at Wallace/ Marchant between Brentwood Elementary and Bayside Middle School and at Central Saanich Road by Keating Elementary.
- **New bus shelters** – Each year the District works to upgrade bus shelters—a list of priority locations is available on our website.



Follow projects: CSaanich.ca/ActiveTransportation

We are grateful to the Province of British Columbia for two major grants to make the work possible, and to BC Transit for partnering on bus stop improvements.



The next General Voting Day in Central Saanich is Saturday, October 15, 2022. Eligible voters are asked to elect the Mayor, six Councillors and two School Board Trustees for Saanich School District 63. Our elected officials are entrusted with making decisions that directly affect the daily lives of you, our residents, families, local business owners and others in our community. If you are interested in running for office, learn more about voting opportunities or working the election see: CSaanich.ca/Election.



Central Saanich



Just launched: Native plant video series

We're excited to launch a new video series hosted by our Parks staff. Learn about the successful restoration of Centennial Park and native plants you can use in your own garden.

Watch the series [CSaanich.ca/NaturalEnvironment](https://www.csaanich.ca/NaturalEnvironment)

CLIMATE ACTION


Upfront costs of heat pumps paid back on property taxes

Nineteen homeowners in Central Saanich are replacing their oil heating systems with an electric heat pump thanks to 0%-interest financing through the District, made possible by a grant from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. The District provides a loan of up to \$12,000 to help homeowners install a heat pump. The interest-free loan is then repaid on property tax bills over 10 years.

Homeowners can also take advantage of available rebates. If you are a homeowner in the District currently using heating oil and would like to take part in this program, please let us know by contacting us at support@CSHeatPumpFinancing.ca or 250.652.4444.

[CSaanich.ca/OiltoHeatPump](https://www.csaanich.ca/OiltoHeatPump).

This program is offered for a limited time on a first come first served basis with the next intake deadline mid-May.



Space heating is the largest use of energy in homes. A properly installed heat pump is 2-3X more efficient than other alternatives.

Interested in a heat pump but not on oil?

There are many rebates programs available from BC Hydro, Clean BC and the federal government to help you make the switch off of fossil fuels; see [BetterHomesBC.ca](https://www.betterhomesbc.ca) and/or contact a Clean BC Energy Coach at: 1-844-881-9790.



The District is offering a \$350 top-up to CleanBC Better Homes and Home Renovation Rebate Program participants that switch from a fossil-fuel (oil, natural gas, or propane) hot water tank to a more energy efficient electric heat pump water heater. Learn more about this program at [BetterHomesBC.ca](https://www.betterhomesbc.ca).

Property tax deadline Monday, 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 on time to avoid a 10% penalty on your property taxes.



Set up monthly property tax payments for future tax years!

The property tax pre-authorized withdrawal program allows you to pre-pay your next year's property taxes. A flat amount is automatically withdrawn from your bank account on the 15th of each month from July through May. To register visit:

[CSaanich.ca/PropertyTax](https://www.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

What is property tax deferment? The province has a low interest loan program that helps qualified BC homeowners pay their property taxes on their principal resident.

You must apply online for property tax deferment or renewal: [gov.bc.ca/propertytaxdeferment](https://www.gov.bc.ca/propertytaxdeferment) or call 250.387.0555 or toll-free 1.888.355.2700.

REMINDER - HOME OWNER GRANT

All homeowners must apply for the grant directly to the Province at [Gov.BC.ca/homeownergrant](https://www.gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant) or call the provincial office at 1.888.355.2700.



Saanichton Bike n'Ride



The Saanichton Village Bike N'Ride is now complete! This covered facility includes public seating and will provide a resting spot for residents and visitors as well as a tune up and e-bike charging station. An official opening will take place during GoByBike week, May 30- June 5.

Watch for event details on SaanichtonVillage.com or on Facebook [@SaanichtonVillageAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/SaanichtonVillageAssociation)

Community Garden takes bloom

Thanks to the Central Saanich Community Garden Society, a new community garden is taking shape in Brentwood near the library. This space will provide a gathering space where members can grow healthy



food options, socialize, get physical exercise, and educate and enable more people to become local food growers. Watch their Facebook page and website for updates on events and workshops throughout the growing season. See CSGardens.org.

Go paperless!

Receive your utility bill and this newsletter by email, view other bills and make many payments by credit card (Utility Bill, Dog Licence and Business Licence).

1. Visit mycentralsaanich.ca
2. Create account or log in
3. Click on your account or register a new one

Do you have a question or concern about something in your neighbourhood, and you're not sure who to call?

We've assembled some common resources to make it easier to connect with the appropriate department or agency.

[CENTRALSAANICH.CA/
COMMUNITYRESOURCES](http://CENTRALSAANICH.CA/COMMUNITYRESOURCES)



What's happenin' around town



Exploring Indigenous Perspectives Self-guided walk

Visit CRD cultural programmer, Leslie McGarry, at Island View Beach for a self-guided walk to learn about the cultural significance of plants, animals and the seasons to the First Peoples. Drop by May 21, 10am-2pm, at the grassy area adjacent to the picnic shelter off Homathko Drive.



GoByBike Week is May 30 – June 5, 2022

Participation is free, fun, helps you stay fit and healthy, and it's great for the environment! Register and track your kilometers at gobybikebc.ca.



Peninsula Country Market

The 2022 season runs from June 4-October 8, on Saturdays from 9 am to 1 pm at the Saanich Fairgrounds.



Beach Clean-up at Island View June 12

Beach cleanups are a fun and exciting way of getting volunteers and community members out to local beaches and participating in a meaningful activity. Join Surfrider at Island View Beach on June 12, from 11am to 1pm. More info: vancouverisland.surfrider.org



Music in the Park Concert Series Returns

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



Outdoor movie nights at the Saanich Fairgrounds

Saanichton Village Association is bringing in the big screen for two movie nights this summer—dates will be posted at SaanichtonVillage.com. The SVA is also looking for more volunteers to help plan and host community events.



Saanich Fair 2022

The 154th Saanich Fair takes place September 3-5. The theme of this year's Fair is "Plant Your Roots at the Fair" and the Feature is Vegetables. Of course,



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

250.652.4444

CentralSaanich.ca

Municipal.Hall@CSaanich.ca

CONNECT WITH CENTRAL SAANICH

LetTalkCentralSaanich.ca

@DistrictCentralSaanich

@CSaanich