

Saanich *celebrates* 2020 accomplishments

Made progress on road safety and active transportation initiatives

We moved forward with a number of road safety improvements and active transportation initiatives this year. After an extensive monitoring period of the [pilot single lane modification on Prospect Lake Road](#) at Calvert Park, we installed a concrete roadside barrier and single lane yield design as well as decreased the speed limit along the road. Roadway improvements were also completed along [Haliburton Road from the Pat Bay Highway to Wesley Road](#), creating a safer and more convenient route for all users. Our work also continues on implementing the important projects in the [Active Transportation Plan](#).

Added a new pond and park to park system

A new [parcel of land was donated](#) to Saanich's parks inventory. The parcel is home to a seasonal wetland, which is a continuation of the greater wetland known as King's Pond, off Queensbury Avenue. The late Mr. Brian Patriquin, by way of a gift in his will, donated a portion of the property at 1360 Queensbury Street to Saanich, to be held and used for park purposes. The completion of this donation not only brings to fruition the generous intentions of Mr. Patriquin, but it also fulfills our aspirations to acquire this land for park purposes.



Honoured fallen firefighters

The second Sunday in September of each year is Firefighters' National Memorial Day. This day is designated to recognize the dangers firefighters often face when carrying out their duties, and the ultimate sacrifice of firefighters who have given their lives in the line of duty. [Fire Department members gathered](#) September 13 to dedicate a new commemorative plaza and memorial wall at Fire Station No. 1.



Increased housing options with approval of garden suites

It is now legal to construct a [garden suite](#) with a permit in Saanich on most single family residential (RS-zoned) properties. Garden suites are detached, ground-oriented dwellings located in the rear yard of a property with a single family house as its principal use. This new housing form will contribute to the amount and diversity of rental housing available in Saanich.



Completed child care inventory

We **completed a yearlong project** of creating an inventory of licensed child care spaces for the communities of North Saanich, Central Saanich, Highlands, Oak Bay, Sidney and Saanich. These municipalities received a \$150,000 grant through the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community Child Care Planning Program to **conduct the analysis**, with an end goal to create a gap analysis for child care services and needs assessment by families.

Implemented equity and inclusion statement

Council approved a new **equity and inclusion statement** at the recommendation of the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee. The new statement will be read at all of our public committee and council meetings to reaffirm Saanich is a safe and welcoming place.

Initiated Housing Strategy Task Force

The **housing strategy** will direct how we will move forward to achieve greater housing supply, affordability and diversity and accommodate a broad range of community housing needs now and into the future. The diverse range of **task force members** will help to develop recommendations for priority housing actions as part of the Housing Strategy.

Safely resumed recreation services

We successfully resumed services in community recreation centres by focusing on a gradual, phased approach implemented with safety of staff and patrons top of mind. Over the course of the summer and fall, we developed adapted programming, put new safety and social distancing protocols in action, and adapted to evolving guidance on safe services during the pandemic. Heading into the New Year, we continue to work with the Island Health, BCRPA, ViaSport and other organizations to ensure the safe operation of sport and recreation programs.

Initiated Resilient Saanich Technical Committee

We are developing an environmental policy framework based on three pillars: the Biodiversity Conservation strategy; the Climate Plan; and enhanced environmental stewardship. We created the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee of experts to advise and support the process. **Committee members** are specialists chosen to advise and share expertise towards the development of Resilient Saanich.

Started Shelbourne Street construction

Construction of the first phase is well underway and is expected to take approximately 15-18 months. This phase includes new buffered bike lanes; improved pedestrian infrastructure; improved transit infrastructure; renewed or upgraded sewer, storm drain and water infrastructure; renewed asphalt road surface; and new traffic signals at Cedar Hill Road/Feltham Road and Shelbourne Street at Torquay Drive intersections.

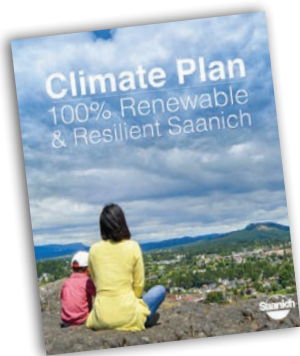


Launched Budget education tool

We launched a new **online budget education tool** to coincide with the first budget meeting in March 2020. The tool provided an opportunity for citizens to learn about the financial planning process while Council deliberated the draft plan. The tool provided real-time results to allow residents to see how budget changes could impact their property taxes.

Won Open for Business Award

Saanich **won the 2020 Large Community Award** at the **Small Business BC** Open for Business Awards. The Open for Business Awards celebrate communities that best demonstrate they are promoting and adopting business friendly initiatives within their region.



Approved Climate Plan

Our Climate Plan: 100% Renewable and Resilient Saanich that proposes actions to improve our quality of life, protects our community now and in future, and reduces local and global risks associated with a changing climate was **approved** by Council. The plan outlines options for achieving the ambitious climate targets necessary to stay below 1.5 °C of global warming and preparing the community for the anticipated climate change in response to the latest climate science and increasing public concern. A total of 131 actions are identified in the Climate Plan, and staff are working to implement these.

Climate Plan won the Climate and Energy Action award

The Community Energy Association recognized Saanich as the Climate and Energy Action award winner in the Community Planning and Development category at this year's Union of BC Municipalities convention. The awards are organized annually by the Community Energy Association in partnership with the Province of British Columbia, Union of BC Municipalities, BC Hydro, FortisBC, and Real Estate Foundation of BC. Thank you to all who contributed to the development of the Climate Plan and congratulations to the other nominees and winners. This is the second provincial award the Saanich Climate Plan has received since adoption in January 2020.

Strengthened Tree Protection Bylaw

Council **adopted several amendments** to strengthen Saanich's Tree Protection Bylaw. This bylaw regulates the cutting, removal or damaging of trees and sets requirements for replacing protected trees. A key amendment will increase the number of required replacement trees by one when protected trees need to be removed. We also introduced deposits for non-development related tree removals. The Urban Forest Reserve Fund was created to house funds specifically related to trees in the District.

Held Strategic Plan check in meetings

Council reviewed the progress made to date on the **2019-2023 Strategic Plan** at the September 28 and December 7 check in meetings. The check in meetings are an opportunity for Council to review progress on initiatives and reassess priorities.

Reopened Archives to the public

Saanich Archives has **reopened by appointment only** following a 14-month closure. Saanich Archives closed to the public in late August 2019 following a flood in the facility. The Archives remained closed due to flood restoration work and to minimize the risk related to the COVID-19. Appointment are available between 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Launched Gold Arena ice slab replacement project

This is important and well used component of the G.R. Pearkes Recreation Centre is 52 years old and we're to move forward with the **replacement project**. We are nearing completion for the design stage and will go out to tender for the construction in the coming months. The project includes replacement of the Gold Arena ice slab, ice melt pit, elevator replacement, dasher boards/glass, arena netting, and the flooring around the boards.



Completed Cedar Hill Park Management Plan

This signature Saanich Park now has a park management plan that was developed with significant public engagement. The plan spans about twenty years with a strong vision that balances nature with recreational enjoyment.



Committed to a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategy

In response to social movements such as Black Lives Matter, PRIDE and Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women/Girls, Council approved the creation of a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategic Plan tailored to our community. Beginning in Spring 2021, the plan is estimated to take 18 months to draft, and at its completion, will provide benchmarks for a five-year implementation phase. As a community driven document, the strategy will rely on the voices of BIPOC and LGBTQ2+ residents and will also provide Council with policy on racism.

Created COVID-safe programs for vulnerable populations

We began redesigning Community Services programs in early summer by finding COVID-safe ways to provide outdoor summer camps to youth; pop-up music experiences in local parks and near assisted-living facilities; and through “take and make” art projects for all ages. “**HeArts Together**” is a collaborative community art project that allows folks to take a blank clay or wooden heart, decorated it with a personal message, and return it to the Community Arts Program for public display. These collective heart installations will serve as a legacy of our shared experience during these times, showing that we can come together as a community while remaining safely apart.

