

Saanich Spotlight

FALL 2019

Dear Saanich resident,

It's an exciting time in Saanich as we take action on our climate goals.

Council recently adopted new climate targets to align with our climate emergency declaration:

- to achieve 50 per cent reduction of community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2030; and
- to reach net zero emissions before 2050 to become a 100 per cent renewable energy community.

Saanich is one of five municipalities in the world participating in the One Planet initiative. One Planet Living is the vision of a world in which people enjoy happy, healthy lives within their fair share of the earth's resources, reducing demands on the planet, and leaving space for wildlife and wilderness. This can only be achieved by engaging all residents.

One Planet Saanich participants, including four schools, four local businesses, and three community organizations, created action plans over the last year as phase one of the initiative. These plans aim to reduce our ecological footprint to use just our fair share. Currently, Saanich's ecological footprint is equal to about three planet's worth of resources!

This fall, I will meet with Pooran Desai, founder of Bioregional and the One Planet Living, local mayors, and the South Island Prosperity Project to collaborate on next steps. We'll discuss the idea of a One Planet Region, and One Planet Island. We hope to propose to the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities in 2020.

I'm proud of Saanich's leadership in this critical conversation. I'm optimistic that we can empower our residents to take action every day to make a positive impact on our climate. We can't do it alone.

Mayor Fred Haynes



Subscribe to our newsletter
at saanich.ca/spotlight

Connect with us:

 Saanich.BC  @saanich





Open House

Saanich Fire Station No. 1
760 Vernon Ave
September 21
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Celebrate 100 years of Saanich Fire!

Over the past 100 years, the Saanich Fire Department's service has spread like, well, fire.

Saanich Fire invites the community to help celebrate its centennial year at a **special open house event at Saanich Fire Station No. 1, 760 Vernon Ave on September 21, 2019 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** with an official welcome at 11 a.m. from Mayor Haynes and Fire Chief Burgess.

"When I joined Saanich Fire as a recruit, I was one of 84 firefighters in the department. One thing that strikes me today is the continued commitment to community that is shown by every member of the department," said Fire Chief Michael Burgess. "Saanich's fire stations and firefighting equipment have changed drastically over the last 100 years, and we're inviting the community to get a glimpse into what the fuss is all about."

Since 1919, the department has grown from one firefighter and 1,000 feet of hose to 127 members, seven support staff and one of the most advanced fleets in the region. The Saanich Fire Department has expanded beyond fighting fires and into almost every aspect of public safety in the region. From fire suppression to marine rescues, dispatch services to hazardous materials, they do it all and continue to improve upon these services daily.



To commemorate this milestone, the Saanich Fire Department will host a centennial event, bringing the community together to learn about what the department does and the passion with which we do it. Join the fun on September 21 and take part in the many activities and learning opportunities!

"This history is inspiring," said Sean Lillis, Fire Prevention Officer. "Those who have come before and will come after are a testament to the core values and guiding principles of the department. Seeing this growth and the benefit it brings to our community on a daily basis is what we are celebrating with the upcoming open house."

More information about the Saanich Fire Department and the centennial is available at saanich.ca.





Follow us:
@SaanichEP
@SaanichFire

FREE Emergency Program events

Emergency Preparedness Presentations

When disaster strikes, your chances of staying safe, healthy and comfortable are much better if you are prepared. This 90-minute presentation offers the information you need to prepare yourself and your family to survive on your own for up to seven days after any type of disaster. Each household participating in the presentation will receive a free workbook to help with emergency planning.

Saanich Commonwealth Place

24824 September 18 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Cedar Hill Recreation Centre

24925 October 22 7 to 8:30 p.m.

G.R. Pearkes Recreation Centre

24121 November 20 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Speaker Series

Speaker Series topics can include the hazards around us, the utilities we use or different perspectives on responding to an emergency. Check the calendar of events on saanich.ca for speakers scheduled for these dates.

Gordon Head Recreation Centre

21764 September 25 7 to 8 p.m.

G.R. Pearkes Recreation Centre

24120 November 27 7 to 8 p.m.

Volunteer Information Session

Join us to discover the rewards of volunteering with the Saanich Emergency Program.

Saanich Commonwealth Place

23882 October 2 7 to 8 p.m.

Cedar Hill Recreation Centre

25084 November 19 7 to 8 p.m.



Register with RecOnline or by phone:

Saanich Commonwealth Place
250-475-7600

Cedar Hill Recreation Centre
250-475-7121

G.R. Pearkes Recreation Centre
250-475-5400

Gordon Head Recreation Centre
250-475-7100



Emergency preparedness tips

Who's the expert?

YOU are your family's expert when it comes to emergency preparedness! You likely already have many items you need to sustain your family for seven days after an emergency or disaster. Get organized by creating a household plan and compiling a kit. Here are three easy tips on how to be your own expert on preparedness:

- 1 Keep your fuel tank more than half full and your supplies stocked.**
Items we need in an emergency are those we use every day. Ensure your gas tank remains above half, fully charge your mobile phone and replace batteries as you use them. These are helpful practices that pay off in an emergency.
- 2 Know your neighbours.**
Sounds easy, right? It is! Often our first help in an emergency comes from neighbours. Take time to get to know them before you need them. Host a neighbourhood gathering, invite them for coffee or borrow a cup of sugar!
- 3 Save those shoes.**
Place old shoes under your bed. If an emergency happens while you are sleeping they can offer protection if walking on fallen debris and broken glass. Also consider shoes for your vehicle and at work for post emergency conditions. Flip flops or high heels may not be appropriate if walking over debris or for a long distance.

Bonus tip: attend a Saanich Emergency Program FREE Personal Preparedness Presentation or contact the program office to book your own for any group of 10 or more. Visit Saanich.ca/prepare or call **250-475-7140** to register.

Preparedness....you got this!



The Great BC ShakeOut!

On October 17 at 10:17 a.m., millions of people worldwide will practice how to "Drop, Cover and Hold On" during Great ShakeOut earthquake drills. Register for the 2019 Great BC ShakeOut at shakeoutbc.ca

Participating is a great way for your family or organization to be prepared to survive and recover quickly from big earthquakes – wherever you live, work or travel!





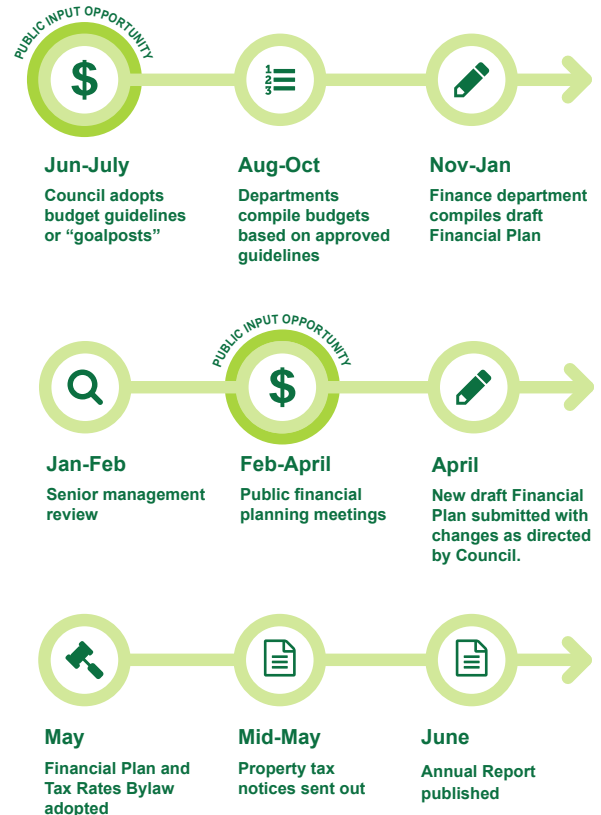
Interested in participating in the financial planning process? Watch Saanich.ca for more public engagement opportunities in early 2020! Public input on the budget is always welcome at **250-475-5415** or **budget@saanich.ca**.

Budget update

Did you know financial planning happens throughout the year in Saanich? The financial plan, also known as the budget, starts with the adoption of budget guidelines each summer and continues to the following May, when Council adopts the five-year plan.

Most recently in July, Council adopted the **2020 Budget Guidelines** prepared by staff. These guidelines act as “goal posts” to assist Council with setting expectations for the 2020 budget deliberations. Council also asked staff to prepare one and two per cent budget reduction scenarios for their consideration.

The next step this fall is for all municipal departments to compile budgets based on the approved guidelines. The Finance Department compiles all of the departmental budgets and creates the draft Financial Plan to present to Council and the public in early 2020.



We heard from our residents that our financial planning process isn't always clear and easy-to-understand. It's important to us that residents understand this major element of municipal decision-making.

We created the **Shaping Saanich** campaign with public education in mind. Earlier this year, we developed educational materials to help residents learn about:

- **[how property assessments are related to property taxes;](#)**
- **[how financial planning works in Saanich;](#)** and
- **[where your tax dollars go.](#)**

Read our fact sheets and watch our video to learn more about how the future of Saanich takes shape. **Saanich.ca/shapingsaanich**.



Fall homeowner preparation tips

- **Clear eavestroughs, downspouts and catch basin gates.** It's early, but before long the leaves will start to fall which can cause potential flooding.
- **Maintain exterior drains.** Ensure your private drain systems are functioning correctly to protect your home.
- **Rake leaves.** Place smaller amounts in your organics cart. Rake larger amounts into piles for pick up during our Leaf Collection Program. For schedule and guideline information visit saanich.ca/leafcollection
- **Report spills.** Fall is the time many residents fill their oil tanks. Residents are encouraged to have their tanks inspected before filling. If you notice any sort of spill, a quick response is key. **Call 1-800-663-3456.**
- **Shut off exterior faucets and store hoses.** Protect your pipes from freezing temperatures by shutting off water to exterior faucets before temperatures dip below freezing. Drain hoses and store them indoors.





From food scraps to fields

Ever wonder where that banana peel that you threw in your organics bin ended up? Well, it could be part of your community soccer field!

Through a new partnership program with D.L. Bins, Saanich is turning food scraps into compost and then repurposing the material to use in local soccer fields.

The process is simple: Saanich's Solid Waste Services crews deliver thousands of tonnes of organic matter annually from local households to a nearby D.L. Bins facility. This organic waste is then turned into high-quality compost and mixed into the base layer of soccer fields by the Parks team during the re-sodding process.

By using the compost material as the base layer for the playing field, the newly re-sodded field has a stronger and more resilient playing surface. As an added bonus, the field will require substantially less fertilization and watering.

Making use of the available compost also saved Saanich taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars in material and transportation costs, and it significantly lowered our environmental foot print by reducing GHG emissions. A win-win!





Construction updates

Here's a sneak peek into some of the construction projects that are happening in Saanich! Check out our next edition for updates.

Bowker Creek restoration

The Creeks and Waterway crew is working in Bowker Creek to repair some significant erosion. The crew is making great progress and have placed over 2,000 sand bags as part of an engineered wall to repair the eroded bank.

To be completed September 2019.

Burnside Road pathway (west of Helmcken)

We are working on a new pathway that will connect Little Road to Helmcken Road.

To be completed September 2019.

Finnerty pedestrian and cycling upgrades

Crew are upgrading a watermain, installing a two-way cycle track and multi-use trail, improving sidewalks, and planting trees.

To be completed October 2019.

West Saanich Road upgrades – Glanford to McDonalds

We are upgrading underground infrastructure and installing new bike lanes, sidewalks, bus stops and a cross walk.

To be completed December 2019





Saanich introduces new inclusion services program

The District of Saanich has reaffirmed its commitment to provide safe and accessible recreation opportunities for people of all abilities with the roll out of its new inclusion services program.

“In partnership with Panorama Recreation Centre, we’re redesigning the way we provide support programs to meet the growing and broadening needs of our residents,” said Manager of Community Services Cristina Caravaca. “We’ll start with the new Leisure Assistant Pass this fall, then work toward inclusive programming for other areas in need of support. Our vision is a barrier-free community for all.”

Leisure Assistant Pass

The **Leisure Assistant Pass** is the first of component of the new inclusion services program delivered directly to residents by Saanich’s Parks and Recreation Department. The pass is for people with disabilities, of all ages, who need the assistance of a support person for leisure activities.

The pass allows free or reduced admission for one support person at **participating venues**. The pass encourages participation while ensuring the person with a disability doesn’t incur extra costs. Passes are valid for three years from the date of issue.

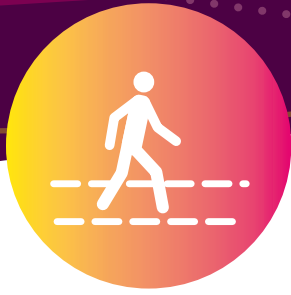
Residents may visit any Saanich recreation centre or contact **recreation@saanich.ca** or **250-475-5422** to apply for a Leisure Assistant Pass.

New areas to support

Inclusion in Saanich is much broader than persons with disabilities. There are new and expanding groups that need support such as growing older adult populations, youth-at-risk and new Canadians. Saanich will hire a part-time programmer to develop future programming for these areas of need. Staff will use the recent **market analysis study** as a framework to set priorities and make decisions about future programming and service delivery.

Read more about the Leisure Assistant Pass and inclusion services at **[Saanich.ca/inclusion-and-accessibility](https://saanich.ca/inclusion-and-accessibility)**.





Get ahead of traffic

Giving pedestrians a head start

The intersection at Cedar Hill Cross Road and Braefoot Road just got a little safer for pedestrians with the completion of new pedestrian head start traffic signals.

In early September, Saanich made some changes to the traffic signal pattern to improve safety and comfort for pedestrians. The new pattern includes a portion of time that is solely dedicated to pedestrians crossing Cedar Hill Cross Rd. This is known as a pedestrian head start and is a cost effective strategy that has been shown to improve pedestrian safety. It's also the first one of it's kind in the region!

By giving pedestrians a head start into the crosswalk, we improve their visibility to waiting drivers and in many cases allow them to finish their crossing before any conflicting cars are even permitted to proceed.

Pedestrian Head Starts are a recommendation from the Active Transportation Plan and will be installed at additional intersections throughout the District.

Vehicles have red light

Pedestrians have walk signal



Pedestrian walk signal comes on before vehicle green signal.

FALL EVENTS CALENDAR

View our full events calendar at Saanich.ca

September 21, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Saanich Fire Centennial

Saanich Fire Station No. 1
760 Vernon Avenue

September 27–29, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Culture Days

Cedar Hill Recreation and Arts Centre
3220 Cedar Hill Road

September 27, 3 to 4 p.m.



Earth Drums Official Opening

Cedar Hill Recreation Centre
3220 Cedar Hill Road

November 11, 10:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



Saanich Remembrance Day Ceremony

Saanich Municipal Hall Cenotaph
770 Vernon Avenue

SEP Program Events

Emergency Preparedness Presentations

Saanich Commonwealth Place
September 18, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Cedar Hill Recreation Centre
October 22, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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October 2, 7 to 8 p.m.

Cedar Hill Recreation Centre
November 19, 7 to 8 p.m.



Registration
details
on page 3

7 p.m. in Council Chambers or via webcast at saanich.ca

COUNCIL MEETINGS

October 21 November 25
November 4 December 9

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETINGS

October 7 December 2
October 28 December 16
November 18