

Saanich Spotlight



Summer update from Mayor Haynes

Hello fellow Spotlight readers!

You may have heard the exciting news that food trucks are coming to a park near you very soon!

In April, Council approved a Food Truck Pilot Program to go forward in three Saanich Parks this summer – Cadboro-Gyro Park, Beckwith Park, and Gorge Waterway Park.

Starting July 1 and for the following 10 weeks, both Beckwith and Cadboro-Gyro Parks will have two food truck spots, and the Gorge Waterway Park will have one. If you miss a week, don't worry! The vendors will rotate, and have one week at each spot. This way, you can just meet them at the next park the following week!

The vendor list for the pilot program was randomly drawn at the end of May. They provide a wide range of choices. The 10 primary vendors taking part in this exciting pilot program include To Go Food Service, Puerto Vallarta Amigos, Holy Cow Mini Donuts, Freshcoast Health Food Bar, Spice Aid – Operation BBQ, Cup-a-Roni, Quadra Village Community Centre Food Truck, Elements Ice Cream, Sub-Zero Ice Cream, and Candytime Concession. Wow, can you believe such a great variety of participants? I am sure they will draw lots of interest.

If you have concerns about the three participating parks, we have you covered. Parks staff will work hard to ensure the success of the pilot program, including performing garbage/recycling checks of the area, and encouraging vendors to use recyclable and compostable materials whenever possible. The vendors are responsible for supplying their own garbage and recycling bins and disposal.

You will be able to find the food truck location schedule on our website at saanich.ca/parks before the pilot begins. Check back often, as it will be updated weekly.

But wait, there is more. In addition to the pilot program in our parks, food trucks will also be available at other locations in Saanich. Try out the “Hallabaloo” Coffee and Ice Cream food truck at the Red Barn grocery store on West Saanich. This innovative approach enabled a simple extension of the Red Barn's business licence into the car park area.

Can't wait to see you there!
Mayor Fred Haynes

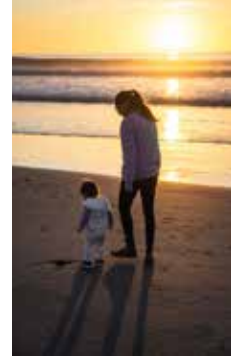


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at saanich.ca/spotlight

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Saanich.BC @saanich





Resident Spotlight

Help us shine a spotlight on our outstanding citizens!

1. Tell us about a Saanich resident who has made a difference in our community during the pandemic. Send us an email at corporate@saanich.ca with the details.
2. Subscribe to our newsletter at [Saanich.ca/Spotlight](https://saanich.ca/Spotlight).
3. If we feature them in an upcoming issue of our newsletter, you'll both receive a \$25 gift card to a local business of your choice.





Saanich receives \$1.2 million for ecosystem restoration

Saanich has received \$1.2 million from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to restore Garry oak and trembling aspen ecosystems in Saanich. The funding compensates for ecosystems lost due to the McKenzie interchange project construction.

With the funding, Saanich Parks staff will start work on three restoration projects this spring in Layritz, Vic Derman and Cuthbert Holmes Parks. These parks were chosen as areas most similar to what was lost and where space allows.

“We are pleased the province is contributing these significant funds to enhance, restore and replace these important ecosystems in Saanich,” said Mayor Fred Haynes. “This work on our precious ecosystems talks to the very core value of Saanich as the remarkable rural, coastal, wooded and urban municipality our residents enjoy.”

The work will take place over the next few years. Layritz and Vic Derman Parks will see a Garry oak restoration and enhancement and Cuthbert Holmes will see a new trembling aspen ecosystem created along the Colquitz River. In Layritz, Saanich will cover the cost of a new trail, split rail fence and interpretive signage to help protect the Garry oak meadow to be restored. The trembling aspen will be located within a larger restoration area in Cuthbert Holmes Park that includes relocating a trail and instream river enhancements.

The funding amount was calculated based on an independent registered biologist's evaluation and on the province's voluntary Environmental Mitigation Policy.

“From the very start of the McKenzie interchange project the ministry has been committed to making sure we worked with Saanich to offset for the Trembling Aspens and Garry Oaks that needed to be removed for construction,” said Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure. “Saanich is a beautiful place to live and these enhancements to the ecosystem will ensure it remains so for generations to come.”

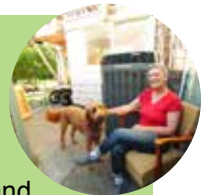
Earlier this year, Saanich committed to participate in the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) which calls upon everyone, including governments, to get involved in reviving damaged ecosystems.

Saanich residents accessing climate-friendly rebates

In the first 3 months of 2021, Saanich residents improved the climate-friendliness of their homes and accessed these rebates:

- 62 oil to heat pump top-up rebates
- 15 electrical service top up rebates
- 12 energy evaluation top-up rebates
- 5 gas to heat pump top-up rebates

To learn more about the rebates available, visit saanich.ca/rebates.





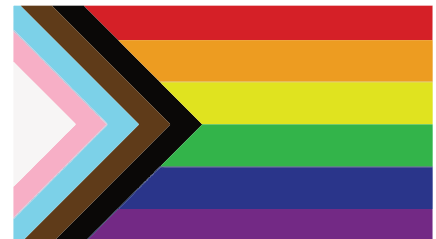
Pride

June 28 is the start of Pride Week, a commemoration and celebration of LGBTQ2+ activism and culture and the support of LGBTQ2+ rights.

When you think of Pride history many think Stonewall Riots in the United States, but Canada has its own history in the struggle of LGBTQ2+ rights. www.queerevents.ca/canada/pride/history

As we celebrate we should be aware that in some 77 countries around the world there are still discriminatory laws that criminalize private, consensual same-sex relationships – exposing individuals to the risk of arrest, prosecution, imprisonment or death.

On June 28 Mayor Haynes will read a proclamation announcing June 28 to July 4 as Pride Week in Saanich and will raise the Progress Flag. This new flag, which was created in 2018, is not to replace the previous flag but to place greater emphasis on inclusion and progression. In addition to the five-coloured stripes on the Rainbow flag, the new design includes a five-coloured chevron with black and brown stripes to represent marginalized LGBTQ2+ communities of color, along with the colors pink, light blue and white, which are used on the Transgender Pride Flag.



Saanich's 2021 Progress Flag raising is closed to the public to comply with the provincial health orders limiting gatherings. Visit Saanich's Facebook page at Facebook.com/Saanich.BC at 10 a.m. Monday, June 28 to watch a live feed of the ceremony.

Saanich Youth Services staff in partnership with Saanich Police, the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria and queer trans youth from School Districts 61 and 63 have created a plan to help queer and trans folks feel recognized and welcomed in all of Saanich's municipal places. For the month of June, come check out your local recreation centre to see how each centre has been spruced up in all things rainbow.

For more information on local celebrations visit Victoria Pride Society at: victoriapridesociety.org

For more information on Inter-Cultural Association Q+ Crew for new Canadian youth visit: www.icavictoria.org/home-is-where-the-art-is-introducing-the-q-crew



Did you know...?

The tradition of summer parks programs in Saanich began 10 years before the Saanich Parks Department was established.

In the summer of 1948, a group of mothers organized the first children's summer program at Playfair Park to keep neighbourhood children occupied with fun supervised activities over the summer months. This group of volunteers became known as the Playfair Park Mothers' Group.



Some of the volunteer mothers organizing a scavenger hunt during the Playfair Park summer programs, 1948 or 1949 (Saanich Archives, 2005-006-017)

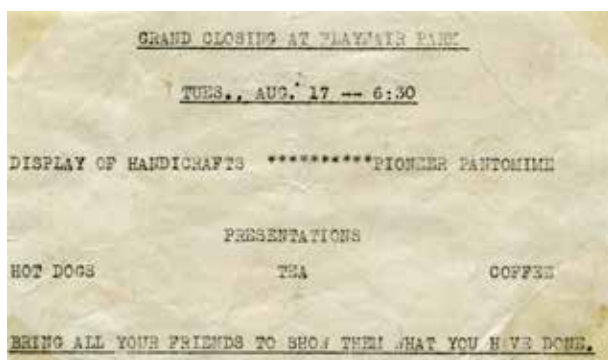
The program ran for six weeks in July and August, and was open to children aged 4 to 16. Activities included sports, pantomimes, costume competitions, crafts, dance, barbeques, and field trips. There were also



Children in costume for Playfair Park summer programs, 1948 (Saanich Archives, 2005-006-005)

"Book Character Days" when children dressed up as their favourite fictional character, pet days, scavenger hunts, fashion shows, puppet shows, bingo, pony rides, and home cooking classes. Treats like hot dogs and ice cream were often available.

The Playfair Park Mothers' Group led the way for Saanich's tradition of summer parks programs. Reynolds Road Park was the next to offer a summer program beginning in 1951, followed by 12 more over the next few years. These programs continued to be offered by volunteers even after the Saanich Parks Department was established in 1958, but by the early 1970s, the Parks Department took charge and the volunteer groups were steadily disbanded.



Invitation to the Playfair Park summer programs closing day events, 1948 or 1949 (Saanich Archives 2005-006, 4-1)



Saanich's own Rebecca Chow named one of the top women in safety for 2021!

Saanich's Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) Manager Rebecca Chow was named one of Canada's Top Women in Safety by Canadian Occupational Safety magazine. The Top Women in Safety list recognizes women working in safety across Canada and the 40 winners on this list are all women who are at the top of their game!



As Saanich's OH&S Manager, Rebecca provides strategic direction and management oversight in the area of physical and psychological health and safety for all Saanich employees. Through her role she provides evidence-based opinions and recommendations, both proactively and reactively, to leaders and managers to assist them in effectively managing risk and fulfilling their legal, moral and ethical obligations.

Rebecca is responsible for the District's Occupational Health and Safety and Workplace Injury Management programs. She oversees training programs, ensuring they meet legislative requirements and support the District's program and safety culture.

She is a critical member of our Emergency Operations Center filling the role of Risk Management. Rebecca played a key role providing support and guidance to the organization being the 'go to person' for risk assessments, PPE, first aid kits, cleaning chemicals, safety rules and protocols, reporting on and interpreting directives from the PHO, WCB and BCCDC, researching best practices, developing safe work practices, responding to worker health and safety concerns, assisting in specifying and sourcing supplies and guiding the required employee screening questions and process. She also ensured there was a plentiful supply of healthy snacks on hand!

The health and safety sector is not new to change by any means. By the very nature of what OHS entails, it's a sector that is in constant flux due to the ever-evolving nature of workplace dangers in Canada. Occupational safety is a profession that is inherently built to evolve and Rebecca is well-equipped to handle it all!



Property taxes: Ways to pay

Saanich encourages residents to use one of the online, mail or drop off options for property tax payments by the July 2 due date.

“We understand some taxpayers prefer to pay their property taxes in person, but to protect our public and staff during the pandemic we need to limit in-person interactions and the number of visitors in our facilities,” said Mayor Fred Haynes. “Just like last year, I ask you to use one of six other accessible ways to pay your taxes and assist our goal of keeping our staff and residents safe and healthy.”

The municipal hall is open to the public and in person payments will be available with limited capacity. There is no requirement for in person interaction to pay your property taxes, so Saanich encourages residents to use the following methods to pay their taxes:



Online banking: Pay through your financial institution’s online banking system. Check their local cut-off time to ensure payment is received by the due date.



By mail: Mail your cheque and the bottom portion of your tax notice to 770 Vernon Avenue, Victoria, BC V8X 2W7. Payment must be received by midnight July 2 to avoid penalty.



Drive through drop off: A secure drive through drop off will be available at the parking lot entrance to the municipal hall at anticipated peak times from May 31 to July 2.



Drop box: There’s a secure slot at the entrance of the municipal hall near the parking lot. The slot is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Please practice safe physical distancing when using the drop box. Payment must be received by midnight July 2 to avoid penalty.



Through your financial institution: Contact your financial institution for their rules for paying bills on site.

Through your mortgage company: Contact your financial institution to set this up.



Late penalties

Council endorsed an ongoing plan to lessen the impact of late payment penalties on property taxes for all Saanich property owners. The alternative tax scheme implements a staggered implementation of the usual one time 10 per cent penalty. It lessens the impact of late payment penalties on unpaid property taxes to provide some financial relief to those Saanich taxpayers who are experiencing significant financial challenges, pay late by mistake or forget to claim their home owner grant through the province on time.

The penalties are the same for all property assessment classes:

- Penalty on taxes not received by July 2 – 5 per cent applied July 3
- Additional penalty on taxes not received by September 1 – 5 per cent applied September 2

Home owner grant changes

Starting May 2021, the province requires property owners to apply for their home owner grant online or by phone with the province at gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant or 1-888-355-2700. Municipalities can no longer accept applications or process home owner grants. Program eligibility is unchanged.

Learn more

Visit saanich.ca/tax for more information about ways to pay. If you have questions about payment methods or late penalties or have not received your property tax notice, please contact Saanich's property tax staff at 250-475-5454 or propertytax@saanich.ca.



Tillicum Elementary receives micro-grant to get moving

We are proud of our neighborhood schools! Tillicum Elementary was awarded a micro-grant from ParticipACTION as part of their “Community Better” 2021 Challenge.



Our Community Services Division’s partnership in supporting the students and families at Tillicum School has deep roots as a primary supporter of their physical literacy programs since 2013. The original intention was to hold the challenge between May 31 and June 13. However, Tillicum School was shocked and saddened by the news out of Kamloops of the 215 children found buried on the grounds of the former residential school. Out of respect to their Indigenous students, staff, families and community, they delayed the start by one week to commence on June 7.

Tillicum School has a goal to collectively achieve 150,000 minutes of activity! Inspirational tactics to motivate the kids to “get moving” include messages from high performance coaches; six 15 minute virtual workouts designed for Tillicum students by high level athletes; and motivational messages played during morning announcements – Saanich’s Financial Assistance Programmer Mena Westhaver was invited to do one! The intention is to encourage families to take family walks or play in the park daily. It’s a great way to bond, promote health and connect with nature. Homework will also look different for the students during this time: “to be active” and to “track their active move minutes” has been added!

There are fun incentives and prizes including a \$100,000 grand prize for the winning community. Let’s cheer on Tillicum Elementary as they move towards healthier connections with family, friends and natures.

Community partners for this project include the Government of British Columbia – ASSAI; the Government of Canada – ParticipACTION; high performance athlete/coach Kelly Guest and his family; the Tillicum School Parent Advisory Committee; and Saanich’s Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department.





Restart step 2: Parks, Recreation and Community Services update

On May 25, the province released its [BC Restart Plan](#) that includes a roadmap for safe resumption of a number of programs and services over time. The District of Saanich will support the provincial effort of safely getting back to a more normal life as we gradually restart in a safe and steady way.

The provincial health officer announced that step 2 of the re-opening plan comes into effect June 15. This means we will start to phase in indoor high intensity group fitness with reduced capacity. Indoor adult team games will be re-introduced along with increasing capacity (as directed by the provincial health officer) in low intensity group fitness and adult general programs. We will also allow indoor and outdoor games and practices for both adults and youth group/team sports with COVID-19 safety plans. Outdoor spectators up to 50 people is permitted, but no spectators are allowed at any indoor sport activities. Our staff have been busy ensuring safety protocols are up to date and that we are prepared to safely welcome back increasing levels of activity, both indoors and out.

Steps 3 and 4 are expected to further increase the amount of activities and social interactions for BC residents. You can expect a phased approach to service resumption in Saanich as more information becomes available. We must ensure all programs and services resume safely, adhere to provincial guidelines and incorporate industry information from BC Recreation and Parks Association and viaSport.

We appreciate your patience as we work to ensure that our programs and services are safe and adhere to provincial guidelines.

Please watch our website and our social media accounts for updates as we gradually re-offer our programs and services. For more detailed information on available programs and services, please visit, saanich.ca/recreation and saanich.ca/parks.



Marjorie Watson on Ash Road (now Barrie Road), 1910s
(Saanich Archives, 2014-008-111)



Man riding a bicycle, ca. 1890s
(Saanich Archives, 2015-025-020)



Man and children riding bicycle, ca. 1940
(Saanich Archives, 2008-025-008)



Cycling through the years

While it may have just been Go by Bike Week in the region, Saanich residents have been going by bike for years! Have a look at these great shots of cycling from years gone by.

If you still have one of those bikes in a shed somewhere you might be sitting on a hipster's dream ride! There is a huge trend of restoring old bikes these days with quite a following in Victoria! Head down to Dallas Road or along Lochside trail on a sunny afternoon to see some of these fun works of art!



John Greenwood's first
day at high school, 1924
(Saanich Archives,
2011-024-480)



Man and woman with bicycle, ca. 1900s
(Saanich Archives, 1901-025-000)



Man with bicycle, ca. 1900
(Saanich Archives, 1881-019-000)



Parking enforcement – transition from SPD to Bylaw

Earlier this year, Council directed staff to establish a new model for parking enforcement, including transferring responsibility for the service from Saanich Police Department to Bylaw Enforcement.

Since this direction was provided, the Building, Bylaw, Licensing and Legal Services department has been working hard – with the valuable help and support of other departments – on implementation.

New enforcement staff have been hired and are operational. You may see staff out and about in Chevy Bolt EVs marked with the standard Saanich logo. There are three officers working rotating shifts providing coverage from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., 7 days per week. Complaints can be made by phone at 250-475-5431 or email: parking@saanich.ca.

Feel free to provide parking complaint contact info to residents who ask, or to call it yourself if you see parking or streets and traffic concerns that need to be addressed.



It's almost time to bag the bags!

Council directed staff to bring the Checkout Bag Regulation Bylaw, 2019, No. 9537, forward for adoption at its meeting of June 21, 2021.

Following adoption, the Bylaw will come into force and effect on August 20, 2021 (60 days following adoption).

Have a look at some of the material that will be going out to stores and businesses in Saanich to assist with the transition on saanich.ca!





Slab replacement update

The Gold Arena slab and elevator replacement project at G.R. Pearkes Recreation Centre is well underway. We remain on track for our reopening timeline of Fall 2021.

The major demolition of the original slab was completed in late April. The new concrete slab is on track to be poured in July. Along with the slab, the building's elevator is also being replaced. The elevator is now closed for the remainder of the project and will reopen in Fall 2021 after the reopening of the Gold Arena. Centre patrons may experience increased noise levels during elevator demolition.

If you've visited Pearkes recently, you've likely seen the recent artwork installation by Spectrum High School. A sincere thank you goes to those students and teachers involved. Their work has been a welcome addition and will remain in place until the project is completed.

Make sure to follow us on social media for videos and updates as the project progresses!





How many firefighters does it take to change a smoke alarm battery?

We have no idea, but most likely it's just one. The department, with support from the BC Fire Chief's Association, implemented a Smoke Alarm Replacement Program in 2012 as part of their initiative to have a working smoke alarm in every home.

This program has continued to be very successful with over 555 smoke alarms and 1,381 batteries installed in Saanich homes.

We are available to assist residents who may have difficulty checking, installing or maintaining their smoke alarms. If you or someone you know needs assistance, please contact us.

Phone: **250-475-5500**

Email: **fireprevention@saanich.ca**





Our Crime Prevention Workers return

We're pleased to have our Crime Prevention Workers with us again this summer, who will be engaging with our community in many ways over the next few months.

The team is part of the Community Engagement Division and will be working out of our new Community Safety Office at Uptown Shopping Centre.

They have already taken part in several initiatives, including the Smile for a Child fundraiser event, proactive crime prevention targeting a recent spike in thefts from vehicles, and helping launch a new bike registry platform, which see us partnering with Project 529 Garage.

The team is also looking for opportunities to work with our mascot ACE to attend children's birthdays this year. If you have a child or know a family that would like to have the team and ACE stop by to wish them a happy birthday, please send the team an email at **cpwsaanich1@saanichpolice.ca**. Birthday drive-by visits will be taking place from Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



Project 529 Garage bicycle registry

The Saanich Police Department has joined a growing number of police agencies in British Columbia and partnered with 529 Garage, a community-based bicycle registration and recovery service. Local police agencies include the Victoria Police Department, Sidney/North Saanich RCMP, and numerous RCMP detachments on Vancouver Island. Project 529 has reduced bicycle theft by 20-35 percent in just two years!

The 529 Garage bicycle registry makes it easy for the public to register a bicycle and flag it as stolen if theft occurs. Our officers can follow up by accessing a mobile app, find a photo of the stolen bicycle, and quickly contact the owner if the bicycle is recovered.

For more information on this free registration program, visit project529.com.



It's official, Saanich's longest serving employee has officially hung up his hard hat.

Live long and prosper, Brian Campbell!

Brian Campbell's last day with Public Works, Storm & Wastewater was Friday, May 28 after 51+ years. In true Brian fashion, he wanted to go quietly but of course (strategically planned) ran into Mayor and Council on his way out the building! Not one for the spotlight, he graciously accepted all the well wishes and had these last words to say:

"As they say life goes by like a speeding bullet and the decades have flown by. Working for the District has been interesting and fun with many good cohorts. Their dedication and effort often goes by unnoticed. Exemplary in deeds, ethics, and people business skills, I have witnessed the residents and businesses take notice as we provide a service that surpasses their expectations.

The Saanich underground infrastructure and I are about the same age and I have noticed the similarities between the piping and me as we both have begun to sag and replacement parts necessary. Along with that we are crocked a little and some of our inverts missing with soft bottoms and worn joints. Now it is to say that we still work and deliver service all expect. None the less we continue on to flow and work, although at times we get cranky and feel plugged up.

As the show goes on we all have a road,... create your own path, enjoy the journey as the destination comes quick enough."



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UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

We encourage you to tune in to the meeting
webcast at 7 p.m. at saanich.ca

COUNCIL MEETINGS

June 21

July 12

August 9

August 23

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETINGS

July 5

July 19

August 16

September 20

Visit our website to view the latest meeting schedule:
www.saanich.ca/agendas

