

# Saanich Spotlight



## Summer update from Mayor Fred Haynes

Wondering what I'm up to this summer? Fundraising and preparing to get tossed off a bridge in September (with a bungee cord)!

I recently signed up for the "Toss the Boss" fundraiser for the Victoria Brain Injury Society. Victoria Brain Injury Society is a non-profit organization with a mission to support, educate, and advocate for adults with acquired brain injuries and their families and to increase community awareness about acquired brain injuries.

The event intends to raise money for those suffering from brain injury including concussion. Last year some \$85,000 was raised. This year our target is an achievable \$125,000. As we know, concussions and brain injuries can result from recreation, sports and work-related accidents. Like many others, concussions are something that I am personally familiar with and that have affected members of my family and friends.

Here's how the fundraiser works: On September 23, I will be tossed off the bungee bridge at Wild Play in Nanaimo. Wild Play is donating the day for the fundraiser. I have committed to a target of raising \$500 minimum and hopefully more! You can donate through the ["Toss the Boss" website](#). Consequently, I'm issuing a challenge to other leaders at the District of Saanich and my regional colleagues and mayors to join the toss. Team members can either get tossed with me or can help to raise the fundraising targets.

Thanks for your support for this important cause!





## Saanich celebrates Pride Month

Saanich wishes everyone a Happy Pride Month for June 2022! Once again, Saanich partnered with Victoria Pride Society and Inter-cultural Association (ICA) to bring their fabulous celebration of Pride to the community.

On June 1, Acting Mayor Karen Harper raised the Progress Pride Flag at Municipal Hall and proclaimed June to be Pride Month in Saanich, in support and celebration of the Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer community.

“Saanich Council and staff look forward each year to the many Pride activities in our community,” said Acting Mayor Karen Harper. “We strive to eliminate discrimination in all of its forms, choosing instead to help create an equitable and inclusive community that addresses discrimination in our diverse home.”

New for 2022, Saanich hosted a family-friendly Pride in the Park event for all ages at Beckwith Park June 16. Residents enjoyed music, food, and activities. Missed out this time? Stay tuned for next year!

### Saanich's partners

Saanich's partners, the Victoria Pride Society and ICA, provide many resources to LGBTQ2+ people who are looking for ways to build safe connections. The ICA Q+ Crew provides information, support and tools to help immigrants and refugees reach their goals. Mental health, culture, sexuality and gender can be a lot to handle, especially in a new country. That's why ICA has launched the Q+ Crew support group for LGBTQ2S+ immigrants, refugees and BIPOC youth (18-30 years old).

The well-known advocacy group, Victoria Pride Society, is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to providing year-round LGBTQ2+ events and services. They believe that Pride belongs to the community, and they encourage you to wave your flag and celebrate the Pride in YOU!

### Victoria Pride Society events

- June 24 – Big Gay Dog Walk
- June 26 – Victoria Pride Parade
- June 26 – Victoria Pride Festival in the Park
- June 30 – Queer Activism Night
- July 1 – Memorial Drag Ball Game
- July 2 – Pride in the Word

Find more information on these events and much more, please visit: [victoriapridesociety.org/2slgbtqia-community-events/](https://victoriapridesociety.org/2slgbtqia-community-events/)

### Saanich Community Services

Saanich's Community Services Division hosts programs for youth that welcome folks of all genders, sexualities, bodies, ancestries, cultures and abilities. Youth can visit the Community Services team at one of Saanich's four recreation community centres. More information on these programs is available at [saanich.ca](https://saanich.ca) under youth centres.





## Pearkes Recreation Centre will receive major energy retrofit with CleanBC funding

The District of Saanich will receive more than \$2.8 million through the [Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program - CleanBC Communities Fund](#) toward its G.R. Pearkes Community Recreation Centre heat recovery and mechanical upgrade project.

The facility's current HVAC equipment is at its end of life and due for replacement. Through this project, Saanich will replace and expand its heat recovery system to the existing ice plant to offset the building's heating and domestic hot water energy use.

The renewed HVAC system will provide many long-lasting benefits. It will reduce the building's greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), help mitigate maintenance costs on existing mechanical systems, increase redundancy of heating sources in the building, and improve ventilation and air filtration for the fieldhouse. In addition, the upgraded system will enhance user experience for centre patrons and user-groups with improved, consistent heating and cooling throughout the facility.

The estimated project budget is \$3.9 million which includes municipal capital funding, as well as approximately \$1.3 million from the Province and more than \$1.5 million from the federal government. Construction is expected to start in Fall 2023 with completion in late 2024. The project construction may result in temporary service interruptions with minimal impact to patrons and user-groups.

G.R. Pearkes Community Recreation Centre is a community hub welcoming more than 425,000

visitors annually. It houses two ice rinks, dressing rooms, a fitness gym, four sports courts, Saanich Neighborhood Place (a non-profit delivering family services and programs), the Saanich Centennial Public Library, a fieldhouse/trade show space, teen activity centre, several multi-purpose rooms and offices.

### Quick facts

- G.R. Pearkes Community Recreation Centre currently accounts for approximately 310 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) annually or 12 per cent of Saanich's total corporate building emissions.
- The heat recovery and mechanical upgrade project will reduce the centre's GHG emissions by approximately 85 per cent, which is equivalent to removing about 80 cars from the road in Canada. This emissions reduction will contribute to Saanich's Climate Plan targets of 50 per cent reduction in corporate GHG emissions by 2025 and 100 per cent renewable energy from municipal operations by 2040.

### Learn more

More information, including potential temporary service disruptions, will be available on [saanich.ca](https://saanich.ca) as the project progresses.





## Resident donates land for park use

Saanich will receive a 1.85-acre property for park space through a donation from resident Edward (Ted) Wilson.

“This property was purchased by my parents before I was born, and I’ve lived here my entire life,” said property owner Ted Wilson. “It’s a pleasure for me to know the property will continue to be enjoyed by generations to come.”

Saanich will subdivide the unique property at 731 Burnside West into two parcels. The southern portion, adjacent to the Galloping Goose Regional Trail, will be developed into a new youth bike skills park over the next few years. Staff will put forward a request of approximately \$200,000 for Council to consider as part of the 2023 budget process to fund the bike park construction.

The northern portion, a wooded area with second growth forest, will be protected as part of Saanich’s urban forest. Saanich will hold this “preservation parcel”

in trust and has granted a life estate to Mr. Wilson, so he may continue residing in the existing single-family residence on the property. Once the life estate expires, Saanich will dedicate the parcel as park space, with Mr. Wilson’s mother’s family name of Wenden incorporated, and preserve its natural state.

“Mr. Wilson has given our community a tremendous and valuable gift of green space that is wonderfully rich in forest and open spaces to encourage active lifestyles”, said Mayor Fred Haynes. “On behalf of Saanich, I thank him for his generosity and thoughtfulness. His gift adds significantly to our parks and brings real benefit for all our residents with increased recreation opportunities and an enhanced urban forest.”

### Learn more

More information, including opportunities for public input on the bike skills park, will become available at [saanich.ca](https://www.saanich.ca) as the project progresses.





## Saanich launches Oil to Heat Pump Financing Program

Saanich now offers up to \$12,000 of interest-free financing to help you upgrade your existing oil furnace or boiler to an efficient electric heat pump.

This innovative program enables residents to repay the financed amount over ten years through an additional levy on the home's property tax payments. While this type of financing is the first of its kind in BC, it's widely used by many jurisdictions across Canada and the US to encourage energy retrofits in existing buildings. Saanich launched the program in conjunction with the District of Central Saanich Oil to Heat Pump Financing Program.

Access to interest-free financing helps remove the up-front heat pump installation cost and provides numerous benefits to homeowners. In addition to reducing the risk of oil tank leaks, potentially resulting in environmental damage and costly uninsured clean-ups, installing a new climate-friendly home heating and air conditioning system also improves home comfort and safety during heat waves.

In addition to participating in this unique financing program, residents are also encouraged to access over \$11,000 in rebates from CleanBC and Canada's Greener Homes Programs:

- Up to \$6,350 (plus up to \$1,000 for electrical service upgrades) from [CleanBC Better Homes](#) (including Saanich and BC Hydro "top-ups")
- Or up to \$9,500 (plus up to \$3,500 for electrical service upgrades) from the [CleanBC Income Qualified Program](#)
- Plus up to \$5,000 from the [Canada Greener Homes Grant](#)

Saanich launched this program as part of its climate commitment to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and eliminate carbon-intensive oil heating in our community by 2030. Heat

pumps provide efficient heating and cooling with renewable energy while also reducing heating bills, especially when compared to oil heating systems.

The Oil to Heat Pump Financing program is being run on a pilot basis, with a limited number of income-qualified spaces, so interested residents are encouraged to apply soonest.

The program is made possible with \$350,000 in grant funding from the Green Municipal Fund delivered by Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and funded by the Government of Canada and \$95,000 from the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia (REFBC). Following an evaluation of the pilot's success, Saanich will consider expanding the program to more homes and other types of climate-friendly home retrofits.

### Learn more

More information about Oil to Heat Pump Financing eligibility requirements and the steps to participate is available at [saanich.ca/heatpumpfinancing](https://saanich.ca/heatpumpfinancing)





## Saanich Emergency Program volunteers recognized during National Volunteer Week

The Saanich Emergency Program (SEP) celebrated National Volunteer Week from April 24 to 30, recognizing the dedication and commitment of its volunteers. With over 65 members, SEP's volunteers are a diverse team with a shared desire to support their community.

The floods and wildfires of 2021 raised public awareness of the important roles volunteers play in communities before, during and after emergencies. In the last year, SEP volunteers have provided over 20 presentations on emergency preparedness, supported hundreds of evacuees of local structure fires and provincial disasters, and maintained critical communication networks throughout the region. 2021 was a busy year, and SEP volunteers rose to the challenge remarkably.

"We are so grateful for our volunteers," said Deputy Fire Chief Brock Henson. "Their commitment, knowledge and desire to make a positive difference in their community make our municipality stronger and more resilient. They contribute in so many ways and are a crucial component to the success of our program."

### Benefits of volunteering

Volunteering with the Saanich Emergency Program provides many benefits. Our volunteers consistently mention having a stronger sense of connection with their community. There are diverse roles and opportunities available for various skill sets to provide support. Volunteers receive training to learn new expertise and apply the abilities they already have. Volunteers also learn about personal preparedness and how to help others during an emergency or disaster.

Do you love to coordinate, help those in need, and be connected with neighbours? There are many exciting positions available in Emergency Radio



Communications, Emergency Support Services and the Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program.

### Quick facts

- SEP helps the community to prepare for, respond to and recover from major emergencies and disasters.
- When a Saanich resident is evacuated from their home and requires support, volunteers are there to help. These events can be as small as a house fire or as large as a community evacuation. SEP has volunteers on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days per year.
- Volunteers deliver emergency preparedness presentations each month and by request. These presentations have supported thousands of residents to become more prepared.

### Find out more

More information about the Saanich Emergency Program and how to volunteer is available at [saanich.ca/prepare](https://saanich.ca/prepare) or on Twitter at [@SaanichFire](https://twitter.com/SaanichFire) and [@SaanichEP](https://twitter.com/SaanichEP).



## Emergency Service Dispatchers and 9-1-1 Awareness Week

In recognition of Emergency Service Dispatcher and 9-1-1 Awareness Week, April 10–16, Saanich Fire Department acknowledged the dedicated service and professionalism of our dispatchers.

“This is a very important week in our industry as we recognize the valuable work our dispatchers do in ensuring responder and public safety,” said Fire Chief Michael Burgess. “We want to remind people that our professional dispatchers are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year supporting the communities they serve.”

In 2021, Saanich Fire Dispatch welcomed 15 regional departments to our dispatch service. “Our regional approach to fire dispatch services is a great example of how, by working together, we are providing cost effective service delivery and supporting a shared approach to enable access to dispatch technology and support systems to our partners,” says Burgess. Saanich Fire dispatchers have a combined 130 years’ experience in the fire service. Our dispatchers are highly trained, dedicated professionals who are often the first point of contact for citizens in need of help. Simply put, dispatch sets up fire crews for success when they respond to emergencies and are an integral part of public and responder safety.

In addition to this, it is a great opportunity to share tips for our residents should they need to call 9-1-1. This year we would like to emphasize knowing the two parts to your address. House number + street name = address. Knowing the exact location of an emergency is very important to lead responders to the scene.

### Tips:

Saanich Fire Dispatch is offering the following 9-1-1 tips:

- **Make Yourself a Good Caller:** Stay on the line and do not hang up until the Dispatcher tells you it is okay to do so. They may need to ask additional questions regarding the emergency.
- **Parents teach your kids:** 9-1-1 is to be used for emergencies only.
- **Unintentional dials happen:** That’s ok! If you unintentionally call 9-1-1, stay on the line

Find more information visit [saanich.ca](http://saanich.ca) or on Twitter @SaanichFire.



Along with the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia and BC Place, Saanich Municipal Hall was lit up red and blue April 12, 2022.





## Rutledge Park upgrades made possible by ICIP funding

Saanich's [Rutledge Park](#) will receive playground improvements, a new splash pad and washroom/changeroom facilities thanks to joint federal, provincial and municipal funding through the [Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program \(ICIP\)](#).

Saanich will replace existing playground equipment with a modern design incorporating nature play and natural elements. The new seasonal splash pad will have inclusive elements for children and youth of all abilities. A new washroom/changeroom building with private universal and accessible spaces will be open year-round. Additionally, new paved pathways, park furniture (benches, chairs and picnic tables), and a drinking fountain/water bottle filling station will be added to Rutledge Park.

The original concept plan for Rutledge Park in 1998 included a splash pad for children but it was deferred due to budget shortfalls. In 2015, the Quadra Cedar Hill Community Association requested Saanich Parks investigate the possibility of providing a splash pad at Rutledge Park. During

public engagement, there was strong support in the community for this project. Once preliminary designs are created for the splash pad, washrooms and playground upgrades, Saanich Parks will re-engage the community to determine the best option for the park in this growing neighbourhood.

A combined \$329,508 of municipal funding, \$535,342 from the province, and \$370,650 from the federal government will make the long-awaited project a reality. The planning and design phase will take place this year, with construction slated for early 2023 with an expected opening in fall 2023.

### Learn more

Learn more about the project at [saanich.ca](https://saanich.ca).





## Saanich hires new Economic Development Manager

Saanich recently hired Mitchell Edgar as its new economic development manager. This new role will manage Saanich's economic development programs and activities that expand, retain and attract businesses in the community.

*"We made economic development and diversification a priority for the community, and it is a key piece of Council's vision of a sustainable Saanich. We are thrilled Mitchell joined us to help with this critical work," said Mayor Fred Haynes. "This work will strengthen the economic base and contribute to improving community quality of life and sustainable prosperity for Saanich. Mitchell's strengths in the areas of opportunity identification and development, investment attraction, strategic planning, project management, community engagement and partnership building, and evaluation of complex issues will be valuable to our community."*



Edgar brings more than 20 years of experience to the role and has worked across the province leading a variety of projects and teams, from developing and implementing strategic plans for local and regional governments to providing solutions to small and medium sized businesses and non-profit organizations' marketing and business development challenges. He has worked as a consultant and has economic development management experience with municipalities, including the City of New Westminster and the District of Squamish. He holds a Master of Economic Development from the University of Waterloo.

As the largest municipality on Vancouver Island, Edgar sees a broad range of opportunities for business and investment in Saanich.

"It's exciting to take on the new role of economic development manager for Saanich," said Edgar. "Economic development is an important piece of the overall health and sustainability of this community. I look forward to helping existing businesses expand, and attracting new businesses and investment, and supporting emerging sectors and innovation. Economic development is at the core of community well-being and quality of life."

More information will become available at [saanich.ca](https://saanich.ca) as Edgar works on the creation of an economic development strategy for the District.

Do you have an economic development idea to discuss?  
Please contact Mitchell at **250-475-5437** or [mitchell.edgar@saanich.ca](mailto:mitchell.edgar@saanich.ca)



## Saanich 2022 Budget renews commitment to the Strategic Plan

On Monday, May 9, 2022, Saanich Council adopted the five-year Financial Plan Bylaw as well as the 2022 Tax Rate Bylaw. These bylaws establish the operating and capital plans for all municipal programs, including the tax revenue required to support service delivery.

The 2022-2026 Financial Plan was first presented to Council as a draft on March 1, 2022 and was further refined during a series of budget meetings that followed in March and April. During the budget meetings, highlights of the operating and capital budgets were provided to enable Saanich Council to discuss and amend the budget based on evolving community priorities.

Saanich residents participated in the budget education tool and provided feedback and input into the municipal budget, which helped inform Council's deliberation of the draft budget, leading to the approval of the final 2022 Budget.

"The 2022 Financial Plan enables us to continue investing in and maintaining the everyday services that Saanich residents rely on and enjoy. We listened to residents on their core concerns and this budget provides improvements in the programs and initiatives of the highest importance to the community," said Mayor Fred Haynes.

The District of Saanich's 2022-2026 Financial Plan, also known as the budget, outlines spending for municipal programs, services and infrastructure. The 2022 Financial Plan establishes an average tax rate increase of 6.67 per cent. This equates to a \$199.65 increase for the average existing homeowner in Saanich. The actual increase experienced by property owners will also be impacted by their assessment change from 2021.

This year Council approved additions to the budget to address strategic plan goals and initiatives in the following areas among others.



### Affordable Housing, Land Use and Infrastructure

Council approved an addition to the budget of \$227,000 to hire new staff to:

- work on affordable housing planning and policy issues; and
- work on tree protection and management.



### Climate Action and Environmental Leadership

Council approved an addition to the budget of \$223,000 to support:

- new positions to support the acceleration of the Active Transportation Plan;
- new positions in Facility Sustainable Energy, Technical Engineering and Drainage Programs to undertake Climate Action Planning;
- increased funds for tree planting; and
- increased hours for watershed and invasive species management.



### Community Well-being

Council approved an addition to the budget of \$753,000 to support:

- funding a Human Resources Manager, People and Programs position to develop human resource strategies to improve service delivery to the community;
- increased hours for our Volunteer Service Coordinator to provide additional volunteer opportunities in local parks;
- implementation of the Older Adult Strategy; and
- funding ongoing Diversity, Equity and Arts Programs.



### Economic Diversification

Council approved an addition to the budget of \$610,000 to support:

- five positions to advance development review improvements and efficiencies.



### Organizational Excellence

Council approved an addition to the budget of \$630,000 to support:

- new positions in Finance, Human Resources, Legislative Services, Communications and Recreation to support and maintain excellent service levels provided by key internal corporate functions;
- new positions in IT to increase the value realized from IT assets, investments and capabilities; and
- new positions in bylaw services to assist with bylaw enforcement functions and increase complaint-driven investigation capabilities.

The [2022-2026 Financial Plan](#) and our [2022 Budget in Brief](#) are available at [Saanich.ca/budget](https://www.saanich.ca/budget).

### Quick facts

- For the average residential property-owner, a 6.67 per cent increase translates to an additional \$199.65 per year, or \$16.64 a month for municipal services. Actual increases experienced by property owners will vary depending upon their assessment change from 2021.
- Municipal taxes are only one portion of a property tax bill, which also includes other levies the District collects on behalf of the Province, Capital Regional District, Capital Regional Hospital District, BC Assessment, BC Transit and Municipal Finance Authority.
- Saanich's basic operations include more than [100 services](#).
- Saanich will mail tax notices and informational materials to all property owners before the end of May 2022.
- Payment of taxes and annual homeowner grant applications are due on or before July 4, 2022.
- Property owners can apply for their [home owner grant online](#) or by phone with the Province. Municipalities do not accept or process home owner grants.





## Saanich transfers animal care services to Capital Regional District

Saanich Council approved the award of a contract for animal control services to the Capital Regional District at its Monday, May 9, 2022, Council Meeting.

Effective June 1, 2022, two full-time animal control officers now provide 14 total hours of service daily, seven days per week (except statutory holidays), covering the hours of 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. One animal control officer will provide standby coverage after hours and on statutory holidays. In addition, the Capital Regional District (CRD) will also provide animal shelter services.

Contracting with the CRD provision of animal control services delivers a timely and effective solution, increasing efficiencies and streamlining services. The CRD utilizes an enforcement approach that emphasizes education and voluntary compliance that aligns well with Saanich's bylaw enforcement approach.

"We have listened to our residents and ensuring positive interactions between pets, parks and people and providing bylaw enforcement that works for everyone is of utmost importance to our municipality," said Saanich Mayor Fred Haynes. "The CRD provides animal care services to many other municipalities in the region. Together with Council, I'm confident Saanich residents will benefit from the CRD's considerable experience and expertise in this area."

Transitioning Saanich's animal control services to the CRD's animal care program offers many benefits to residents. The CRD provides animal shelter services to Saanich and animal control services to several other municipalities within the capital region and is well-positioned to procure the necessary personnel, equipment, vehicles and training to respond to the community's needs.

"The CRD is pleased to be extending our animal care service to Saanich. CRD's experienced



team is dedicated to public education and bylaw enforcement for animal safety and well-being," said CRD Board Chair Colin Plant.

The transfer of animal control services to the CRD aligns with Saanich's goal of community well-being as set out in the Council's Strategic Plan. The transfer provides high-quality and effective regulatory services, maintains citizens' safety and security in neighbourhoods, and ensures that public amenities, such as parks and trails, are enjoyable for all users.

### Learn more

Residents are encouraged to visit [crd.bc.ca/service/animals-pets](https://crd.bc.ca/service/animals-pets) to learn more about the CRD's animal care services. Visit [saanich.ca](https://saanich.ca) for more details on our [Parks, Trails & Amenities](#), including a list of [Pop-up Dog Park](#) locations for 2022.



## Help us help you by marking your driveway with a reflective address sign

The Saanich Fire Department has launched a new Reflective Address Sign Program and is asking rural Saanich residents to help make their homes easier to find by marking their driveways.

In an emergency, every second counts. A few minutes may be too late in a medical emergency or fire. The quicker Saanich Fire Department can reach your home in a crisis, the faster they can help. After nightfall or in adverse weather conditions, it can be challenging to identify a house or locate a particular driveway, especially in rural areas.

To make your home easier to find at any time, the Saanich Fire Department is asking that you participate in the Reflective Address Sign Program. The program provides a prominent way of displaying your home address and helps our emergency personnel deliver the assistance you need quickly during an emergency.

Used in many municipalities, these blue and white reflective markers are all the same colour and shape and are easier to see by approaching emergency responders during night hours or bad weather conditions.

"All too often, when responding to a rural address for an emergency in the evening or early morning, it can be hard to find the house number," said Lieutenant Inspector Sean Lillis of the Fire Prevention Division. "If you have a reflective

marker, we can see the address right away and won't waste precious time looking for it."

Saanich Fire Prevention encourages residents in Rural Saanich, 10 Mile Point, Arbutus/Queenswood, and along Cordova Bay Road to invest in a reflective marker.

**Residents can order a sign for \$45, paid for in advance at our Number 1 Fire Station, located at 760 Vernon Avenue. When you order a sign, a firefighter can come to your home, determine the marker's best location and assist with installation, if needed.**

For residents planning to install a reflective address sign post, it's always good to click or call [BC 1 Call](#) to avoid potential safety hazards before digging.

**Please help us help you. Order your sign today!**

Please help us find you. Order your sign today by contacting our Fire Prevention Division at **250-475-5500** or email us at [fireprevention@saanich.ca](mailto:fireprevention@saanich.ca).



## One year Garden Suite Program update

Saanich completed the first annual review of the Garden Suite Program, assessing the new regulatory framework and outlining considerations for improvements. In the first year, 67 garden suite applications were received.

The Garden Suite Program is a Saanich-led initiative that aims to provide Saanich homeowners with an additional opportunity to introduce a rental suite or convert an existing accessory building into a garden suite, if it meets policy. As part of the program, development permit approval authority is delegated to staff provided that the proposed garden suite meets zoning requirements.

A garden suite is a detached, ground-oriented dwelling typically located in the rear yard of a property with a single-family house as its principal use. A garden suite can only contain one dwelling unit and can be used for family or as a long-term rental unit.

"A key objective of our Garden Suite Program was to increase housing options by providing a clear set of regulations to homeowners looking

to create a backyard cottage," said Mayor Fred Haynes. "I'm thrilled our original objective to supply more possibilities for multigenerational housing on existing lots or more rental housing is being realized in just its first year. Every bit counts and with over 100 applications already in, this program provides new opportunities for inter-generational housing support and ageing in place. Combined with the extensive series of additional housing initiatives now underway, this program helps us to solve the housing challenge."

It's been legal to construct a garden suite on an eligible RS-zoned property through a Development Permit process since the Garden Suite Program launched in October 2020. To date, 50 Development Permit applications have received approval.



## One-Year Program Review highlights

Below is a summary of feedback received and observations made during the program's first year, and some potential areas for improvements.

### Key feedback

- The regulatory framework is clear and comprehensive.
- Garden suites provide an opportunity to address intergenerational living situations.
- Some residents would prefer the requirement for a Development Permit be removed, but the majority support the use of the Design Guidelines and a Development Permit.
- Siting is the most common variance requested, followed by an increase in gross floor area and decreases in rear lot coverage.
- Many property owners are interested in converting accessory buildings to garden suites.

### Proposed changes

As part of receiving the one year report, Council identified improvements to address key issues. These changes include:

- Allowing garden suites in side yards and front yards (in addition to rear yards, as currently permitted);
- Expanding the geographic areas for garden suites to include RS-zoned properties within the Urban Containment Boundary that are not within the Sewer Service Area;
- Adding a map in the zoning bylaw to show areas where garden suites are permitted to clarify the exclusion of the Broadmead covenant area;
- Expanding approval authority for garden suite Development Permits; and
- Making several minor changes to the regulatory framework to improve clarity and enhance process efficiency.

The Garden Suite Program is being monitored to ensure the regulatory framework continues to perform well. A two-year review will provide a full summary of program outcomes and potential refinements.

To read the One-Year Garden Suite Program Review, visit [Saanich.ca/gardensuites](https://saanich.ca/gardensuites).

### Quick facts

- As of the end of October 2021 (one year mark since regulations were enacted), 67 Development Permit applications were received by planning, and 25 received approval.
- Of the 67 garden suite applications received in the first year, 57 were for new garden suites, and ten were for converting existing accessory buildings to legal suites.
- As of May 2022, over 100 Development Permit applications have been received by planning, and of those, 50 have received approval.
- Garden suites are permitted on most single-family residential (RS-zoned) properties.

### Learn more

To learn more about the Garden Suite Program and the application process, visit [Saanich.ca/gardensuites](https://saanich.ca/gardensuites).



## National Public Works Week

What do pipes, trucks, parks, broken water mains, greener garbage, waterways, playgrounds and all things in between have in common? Public Works and Parks!

May 15 to 21, 2022 was [National Public Works Week](#). While COVID-19 has brought us all some challenges, we have also seen just how important public works and parks are to our community.

This year, the theme was “Ready and Resilient”. Reminding us that our teams are always READY to serve their communities, and RESILIENT as ever in their abilities to pick themselves up after encountering challenges.

Throughout this pandemic, public works and parks have kept Saanich going strong while adapting to physical distancing guidelines and new health and safety measures. While we all appreciate the teams every day, Public Works Week is a chance to officially celebrate their dedication and commitment.

Each year we interview a few staff members from different sections. This year you can learn about a day in the life of an Arborist, what it's like to be down in a 20-foot hole, the observations of a yard waste drop-off attendant and the importance of a simple but effective tool, the crescent wrench. Read on to learn more about these dedicated individuals!



## Get to know Public Works and Parks

### What is your name, position, section you work for?

**Steve O'Keefe**, Utility Operator III, Waterworks (Technical Operations, Pumps/PRV's)

### How long have you worked at Saanich?

7 years

### What does a typical day look like for you?

Good Question, haha! The job is incredibly varied day to day from site checks on our 18 pump stations, 4 reservoirs and 49 Pressure Reducing Valves (PRV) Stations to rebuilding PRV's, installing new valves, laser aligning motors to pumps, responding to Scada alarms, landscaping around stations and painting over graffiti.

### Tell us about one of your most memorable projects or situations or experiences.

In January 2021, a CRD trunk main that supplies our Cherry Tree Pump Station, had to be shut down for an emergency repair. That meant our supply for 2 reservoirs went offline. Our Technical Operations team had the knowledge and expertise to quickly manipulate our system and reverse the normal flow to those reservoirs keeping them operational and all the residents in the area with water.

### What do you enjoy about your job?

Saanich's drinking water system is incredibly complex and takes a team approach to operating and troubleshooting effectively. I enjoy being a part of that team and increasing my knowledge of the system every day.

### What's your most valued 'go-to' piece of equipment, why?

Crescent wrench. The plumbing that controls water pressures to large areas of Saanich is small and delicate and only requires minor, precise adjustments.



### What is one thing nobody would know about your job or fun fact about your job/section?

Saanich's topography is why our water distribution system is so complex. As water flows through mains it slows down and speeds up like a train. The pumps and PRV's are the "gas" and "brakes" that keeps it all under control...on the rails.

### If there is one thing you'd like residents to know about your job, what would that be?

That if we are doing our job operating our system effectively they will never know (what goes on behind the scenes). They will turn on their tap and clean, safe drinking water will come out at a safe pressure. They are the reason I strive to do the best job of whatever task or project I am a part of.





### **What is your name, position, section you work for?**

**Jaimie Sumner**, Compost Attendant, Solid Waste Services

### **How long have you worked at Saanich?**

One year

### **What does a typical day look like for you?**

9 a.m. opening up the garden waste drop off, welcoming people as they come in and answer any questions. Throughout the day I'm keeping the site clean and safe and packing down the bins with the backhoe. End of day I make sure everything is squared away for the next day.

Tell us about one of your most memorable situations or experiences on the job.

One day when I was packing down one of the bins with the backhoe, a gentlemen and a toddler were in the stall next to me watching me in their car. Afterwards he came over and said that I was an inspiration to his toddler. That's always fun as long as they keep their toddler in the car! (for safety reasons)

### **What do you enjoy about your job?**

I really like working outdoors and being active and talking to friendly people that come into the yard.

### **What's your most valued 'go-to' piece of equipment, why?**

The Backhoe, I can't imagine how much more difficult my job would be without it, a shovel just doesn't cut it, the backhoe packs some force!

Another handy tool is my telescopic hook in case something gets dropped into the compost bins. This happens quite often, at least once a day, could be anything from their recycling bin, glasses, cell phones. Remember to zip up your pockets!

### **If there is one thing you'd like residents to know about your job, what would that be?**

Working at Saanich I'd have to say that it's true that one of their top priorities is safety. It's taken very seriously and I and my coworkers really appreciate that. I work with the garbage and organics collectors and it's appreciated when residents take time to go around us, giving us room and of course the smiles and waves are always nice.

### **What do you like to do in your spare time outside of work?**

Paddleboarding, one of my favourite spots is Thetis Lake. I also am into writing and art, and have recently gotten into playing Dungeons and Dragons.



## Steve Brown

### **What is your name, position, section you work for?**

**Steve Brown**, Assistant Supervisor, Storm & Wastewater Section

### **How long have you worked at Saanich?**

30 years

### **What does a typical day look like for you?**

No day is typical. I look after scheduling our maintenance crew which can be dependent on what I'm walking into first thing in the morning. I usually go over a week's worth of work with my chargehand but when we show up in the morning our well-laid plans go out the window when we get a call about a backed-up sewer. Priorities can shift quickly and we have to be prepared for that.

In addition to scheduling the crews jobs I make sure they have everything they need for the job, special parts, visit the crew on-site, cost estimate jobs (capital), and attend pre-construction and pre-planning meetings with Developers, Engineering staff and Design teams.

### **Tell us about one of your most memorable projects or situations.**

There are so many but one that comes to mind was 1701 McKenzie (picture), the collapse of twin wood stave storm drain pipes. The sheer magnitude of the job, so many moving parts. Long days, early starts, coordinating tracker trailers delivering box culverts down McKenzie Ave and off-loading by crane. We had to bypass the twin pipes from manhole to manhole and re-hook the sewer back up every night for residents. Coordination with different stakeholders, coring company, and custom manholes.

### **What do you enjoy about your job?**

It's changed, I'm not the guy with the tools anymore. When

I became Assistant Supervisor I got to really see how my training and mentoring of the crew helped develop them. I'm proud to see them rise to their roles today.

I enjoy all the relationships I have with people, staff, developers, contractors and taxpayers.

### **What's your most valued tool?**

My colleagues, we have so much knowledge and experience here. I'm lucky that I can run things by my colleagues within my section as well as from different sections.

### **What is one thing nobody would know about your job or fun fact about your job/section?**

I don't think people know how much interaction we have with the public. We're in the field, assisting the public with all their questions when we're working on jobs. I enjoy people and have always prided myself in building relationships with homeowners and overcoming any barriers.

### **If there is one thing you'd like residents to know about your job, what would that be?**

We care, we work hard and have a lot of pride in our work.

### **What are some of your hobbies outside of work?**

I'm really into woodworking. Helping out people, family and friends. Music and sports. Anything outdoors.

## What is your name, position, section you work for?

**Kiel Horan**, Arborist, Urban Forestry

## How long have you worked at Saanich?

6.5 years

## What does a typical day look like for you?

A 7 a.m. start and a casual team meeting in the morning to discuss what the day ahead will look like. Job sites and work orders which have already been triaged by our supervisor are handed out and we begin by performing a pre-trip inspection on our Aerial Lift trucks and machinery.

We attend to our various job sites throughout the day, which can involve anything from pruning boulevard trees, clearing sidewalks & road allowances, to climbing trees in our Parks; where we prune for safety to accommodate summer camps or sports fields. Occasionally we are required to perform large scale tree removals of hazardous or dead trees from public property too.

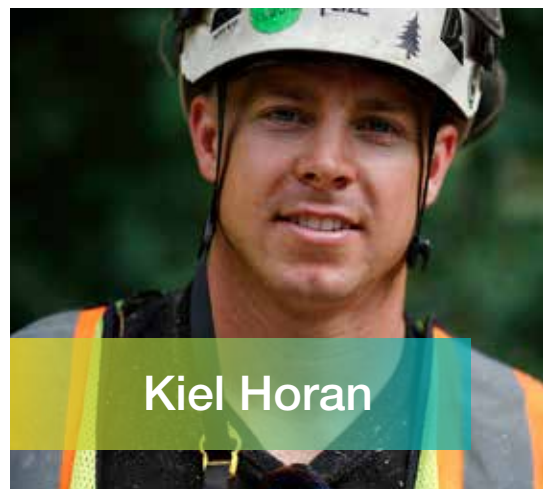
## Tell us about one of your most memorable projects or situations.

A few years back, we teamed up with our Natural Areas staff, to begin a full blown restoration project in Copley Park along the Colquitz River. To be fair, the Natural Area's team stole the show with their remediation work on the creek bank as well as the reforestation of the surrounding area; our involvement was to selectively remove dead and dangerous trees in the immediate area and utilize the logs to create barriers and paths, all the while those logs will slowly decompose and enrich the soil. Public Works helped too by diverting the creek water around the work zone with massive pumps so that crews could actually work in the creek bed, it was quite the project! What I liked most about the job was that we collaborated with multiple sections and had an opportunity to experience the challenges that others face in their respective professions. It's now an area I like to go back to, the new viewing area is a really quiet and serene spot listen to the sound of the creek and I enjoy seeing how the new native plants have established. If you're lucky, you might even catch spawning Salmon at the right time of year or the occasional Barred Owl!

## What do you enjoy about your job?

To be a field Arborist for the District of Saanich has got to be the best place to do tree work. We have such a diversely treed municipality from our "Natural State" parks to our boulevard trees, right down to the Garry Oak meadows and coastal eco-systems. I have a lot of pride

in our team's ability to perform really high quality tree service. Our 5 field Arborist's alone have a combined experience of over 85 years, we prescribe the work that is the most beneficial for the tree and we are afforded the trust to execute the work based on our recommendations. It's a privilege to be able to work with such a competent, experienced and compatible team.



**Kiel Horan**

## What's your most valued 'go-to' piece of equipment, and why is it a chainsaw?

It would have to be Stihl's MS201T chainsaw. Over 50cc, less than 10lbs and has a 16" bar. The design of the saw is specifically for Arborists; the throttle and handle is located on top of the engine body which keeps it compact and can be hung from our harness while we climb. The saw is a little powerhouse and is responsible for the vast majority of cutting we do.

## What is one thing nobody would know about your job or fun fact about your job/section?

Our team's commitment to Halloween is SERIOUS. If you've ever seen our Arborists on Halloween you might've seen Chewbacca climbing a tree, the Queen's Guard performing tree risk assessments, a Tele-Tubby or even MC Hammer chipping up some branches.

## If there is one thing you'd like residents to know about your job, what would that be?

During the year, different weather patterns can really influence our overall call volume and consequently, our backlog of work. Sometimes, residents become frustrated at how long it may take us to service their tree concerns, in our worst backlog last year, we were almost 4 months out from servicing lower priority calls. I would like to remind our residents that we live in a massive municipality, with a lot of trees and there are only 5 full-time field Arborists on staff. Last year our team responded to over 1600 calls for tree-related concerns in Saanich, we are working really hard to stay on top of the volume.





## Saanich Parks invites public input on People, Pets and Parks Strategy

Saanich invites all parks users to share their input toward the development of its [People, Pets and Parks Strategy](#).

“We want all parks users, visiting with pets or not, to have positive, safe and enjoyable experiences at Saanich parks and beaches,” said Councillor and Parks, Trails and Recreation Committee Chair Judy Brownoff. “This strategy will provide a framework to help us protect the environment and meet the needs of the community. To develop the strategy, we need to hear from everyone—individuals, families with children, pet owners and non-pet owners—about your experiences using Saanich parks and what you value about our parks system.”

In 2021, Council directed staff to develop People, Pets and Parks: A District Wide Strategy for Sharing Saanich's Parks. Saanich hired Lees and Associates to develop the strategy and Modus to facilitate the public engagement activities. The strategy will set goals and objectives for the community's vision combined with the need for practical management of specific parks and amenities.

During the month of June, an online survey, two virtual community conversations, self-directed kitchen conversations, and a statistically valid phone survey took place. Thank you to everyone who provided their input!

Later this year, Saanich will host a public open house and pop-ups at parks and beaches to gather further input from a wide range of parks users. Details will be shared on the project webpage once confirmed.

### Learn more

You can also [sign up for email notifications](#) to receive updates on the strategy, learn more about [Petiquette in Saanich parks](#) and find a list of [Pop-up Dog Park](#) locations for 2022 at [saanich.ca](https://saanich.ca).



## Pop-up dog parks now open

Your canine companion has new opportunities to play and socialize in Saanich parks throughout the summer. Our Parks Division will set up pop-up dog parks in the following locations:

- June 1 to 27: [Beckwith](#), [Gorge](#), and [Vantreight](#) Parks
- July 1 to 26: [Blair](#), [Copley East](#) and [Rudd](#) Parks
- July 30 to September 6: [Fowler](#), [Horner](#) and [Hyacinth](#) Parks

Pop-up dog park hours are 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. [Check out the maps for each location](#) to see where the temporary enclosed area will be set up in each park.

Dog etiquette is important when visiting our pop-ups. Please remember to:

- always keep a collar on your dog with your contact information;
- bring your pup's leash with you;
- clean up your furry friend's waste;
- stay attentive and be able to control your dog;
- ensure your dog is healthy and up to date on their vaccinations; and
- respect other dogs and dog owners.

Council approved pop-up dog parks in 2021 as a pilot program for the summer months and decided to continue the pop-ups for 2022 as we develop our People, Pets and Parks Strategy.

Visit [saanich.ca/peoplepetsparks](https://saanich.ca/peoplepetsparks) to learn how you can provide input and sign up for updates about the strategy.

Learn more about our pop-up dog parks at [saanich.ca/dogs](https://saanich.ca/dogs).





## Warmer weather is coming, prepare to beat the heat this summer

Despite the recent cooler days, warmer weather is coming, and we're encouraging all residents to prepare to beat the heat this summer by following some simple home cooling tips to help lower indoor temperatures during the next heat wave.

"We saw record-high temperatures last year, and weather conditions are once again expected to be hotter-than-usual," said Sustainability Manager Rebecca Newlove.

"Taking the time to plan ahead will help ensure safe and hopefully comfortable temperatures in your home this summer."

As average summer temperatures increase and extreme heat and air quality alerts become more commonplace, we need to begin proactively preparing ourselves and adapting to a new climate. In the same way sunscreen and water can help protect you from the elements while outdoors, we can take steps to beat the heat indoors.

### Tips to beat the heat

**Reduce indoor sources of heat:** To reduce indoor heat generation during extreme heat events, avoid cooking indoors or doing laundry on the hottest days of the year or the hottest part of the day. To save energy and keep your home cool on laundry days, wash your clothes in cold water and let them line dry. Minimize the use of a dishwasher and switch to energy-efficient light bulbs.





**Keep heat and smoke out of your home:**

Providing outside shading, especially on the southern or western sides of your home, can help cool the inside of your home. Outdoor shading options include installing external window shades, awnings or overhangs and planting trees in front of windows. Consider installing blackout curtains or other reflective material to keep out the sun's heat.

**Choose efficient air conditioning:** Installing a heat pump is the recommended option for single-family home upgrades. Heat pumps can be up to 50 per cent more energy efficient than a typical window air-conditioning unit.

[Natural Resources Canada](#) offers advice on air conditioning, including free-standing portable units, if a heat pump isn't an option.

For multi-unit buildings, learn more about [heat pumps for stratas in this four-minute video](#), or check out other helpful [resources and webinar recordings](#) (January 8, 2022 webinar) shared by the Vancouver Island Strata Owners Association.

**Improve air quality:** Did you know that a heat pump, in addition to heating and cooling your home, also provides air filtration? Visit [CleanBC](#) for more information. A heat pump is a great climate adaptation measure to ensure your home is resilient to warmer and smokier summers.

Purchasing an air purifier is another option to improve indoor air quality. Visit [Natural Resources Canada](#) for more information on air purifiers.

**Learn more**

View our tips on How to stay cool at home in extreme heat and review the information below. You can also visit CleanBC web pages for more tips on keeping your home cool in the summer and information on rebates for energy-efficient home upgrades.

For emergency preparedness information on extreme heat, visit the Saanich Emergency Program webpage and follow [@saanichEP](#) on Twitter for local emergency information.





## Community Safety Officer program launches

Saanich Police Department (SPD) is proud to announce the launch of the Community Safety Officer (CSO) program, which saw the hiring of four Special Municipal Constables this May.

CSOs will have the primary responsibility of assisting regular members of SPD completing low-level, low-risk, low-priority tasks, as well as assisting members with primarily non-investigative functions that do not require full qualified sworn police constables. Independently, CSOs will be able to complete proactive tasks within the approved guidelines of the position and assist with community events throughout Saanich.

The introduction of CSOs is expected to assist in reducing response times for lower priority calls while enhancing community engagement and creating more time for regular officers to conduct pro-active policing functions.



Please welcome Special Municipal Constables Sarah Kaufman, Sandra Bauch, Jake Chateau and Sam Sharma!



## Temporary pool closure at Gordon Head Recreation Centre.

Pool services at Saanich's [Gordon Head Recreation Centre \(GHRC\)](#) are closed temporarily until late summer 2022 for the duration of a construction project to replace the concrete floor of the mechanical room.

The temporary closure includes all pool services such as public swims, swimming lessons, advanced aquatics, events and rentals. During construction, all equipment will be removed from the mechanical room and the pools emptied. Project completion is expected in late August with pool reopening in early September.

"This is a significant project to restore the structural integrity of this area of the facility," said Manager of GHRC Sandra Pearson. "Thank you to our understanding patrons and the community for your patience during our closure, as we complete these important repairs."

The rest of GHRC will [remain open](#) throughout the project with weekend closures in July and August. Additional swimming lesson will be added to the [Saanich Commonwealth Place](#) schedule and aquatic rentals will be relocated there as much as possible. Many other pools in the region will accept Saanich recreation passes for swimming only during the closure period.

Other upgrades will also take place around the pool this summer to improve usage and programming. Crews will infill the windows in the Feltham Room and install a door onto the pool deck to create an aquatic classroom for Advanced Aquatics classes as well as build two storage units on the pool deck for aquatic equipment.

### Learn more

Information about the project and GHRC's continued programming is available at [saanich.ca/recreation](https://saanich.ca/recreation).



# UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

We encourage you to tune in to the meeting  
webcast at 7 p.m. at [saanich.ca/agendas](http://saanich.ca/agendas)

## COUNCIL MEETINGS

July 4  
July 18

August 15  
September 19

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETINGS

July 11  
August 8

August 22

*Your vote counts!*  
General Municipal Election **October 15**



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