



A Newsletter for the Town of Sidney

TOWN TALK

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April 2013

Mayor's Message

The arrival of Spring always brings to me a sense of renewal and future. Here in Sidney, I see the return marked by flower beds refilled with colour and blossom trees bursting into bloom. Our Town takes on its warm-weather character.

It is also a time to look ahead with new ideas and plans. As Mayor, I particularly look forward to working with Council and Staff in carrying forward the Town's Vision 2020 Strategic Plan and the Strategic Priorities for 2013 – priorities that Council reviews annually to ensure community needs and goals are being addressed. These priorities are grouped into categories: A Balanced Healthy Community, Quality Community Spaces; Organizational Excellence; and Sustainable Infrastructure; each year, elements from the larger Sidney Strategic Plan are selected as priorities for a given year. As an example, here is a list of some of the Public Works projects scheduled for 2013:

- Complete construction of the Public Works Yard improvements;
- Installation of six pieces of art for the Sculpture Walk (Phase 2);
- Complete relocation of Ferry Terminal Hydraulic Power Unit (HPU) and building repairs;
- Replacement of the old Engineering vehicle with a new plug-in electric Town vehicle (completed);
- Installation of five Electric Vehicle charging stations;
- Completion of the walkway lighting in Tulista Park (completed);
- Construction of a Roundabout at Fifth Street and Ocean Avenue;
- Installation of a new crosswalk with pedestrian activated flashing lights on Beacon Avenue West, at Stirling Way;
- Installation of pedestrian activated flashing lights at the existing crosswalk on Ardwell Avenue at McDonald Park Road;
- Completion of the landscaping and lighting in the public parking lot on Bevan Avenue at Third Street;
- Installation of decorative lighting along Beacon Avenue;
- West Sidney Business area entry signage;
- Engineering & planning work for future Canora Road pathway improvements; and
- Initiating local area planning process for West Sidney Industrial area.

In addition to the above, the following are Infrastructure Replacement Plan projects for 2013:

- Construction of concrete curb & gutter on McDonald Park Road from Ardwell Avenue to Melville Drive;
- Construction of sidewalks on:
 - ⇒ Fifth Street from Henry Avenue to Malaview Avenue
 - ⇒ McDonald Park Road from Ardwell Avenue to Melville Drive
 - ⇒ A section of Resthaven Drive between Beacon Avenue and James White Boulevard
- Road repaving on:
 - ⇒ Bevan Avenue from Fifth Street to Third Street
 - ⇒ Second Street from Ocean Avenue to Orchard Avenue
 - ⇒ Fifth Street from Henry Avenue to Malaview Avenue
 - ⇒ Bowerbank Road from Ardwell Avenue to Resthaven Drive
 - ⇒ McDonald Park Road from Ardwell Avenue to Melville Drive
- Water main replacement on Henry Avenue from Fourth Street to Third Street;
- Sanitary sewer main pipe re-lining on Second Street from Beacon Avenue to Mt Baker Avenue; and
- Storm sewer replacement and re-lining from Ardwell Avenue north through backyard easements to Melville Park.

Other projects may be undertaken as needed. If you have any questions on any of these important projects, please contact our Engineering Department at 250-656-4502.

Spring indeed is a lovely season and provides a promise of the future of our Town. On a personal note, I am particularly enjoying Spring 2013 with the return to good health.

Mayor Larry Cross

Sidney to Undertake Citizen Satisfaction Survey

In May, the Town will be embarking on a Citizen Satisfaction Survey so as to get a better understanding of the public's satisfaction levels, needs, concerns and priorities. The Town will be using the firm of Ipsos Reid which is Canada's largest and best known public affairs research company. In addition to assessing the overall pulse and mood of the community, these surveys can also be used to help Council make strategic decisions around long-term planning, priority setting, budgeting and issues management. Ipsos Reid will be conducting approximately 300 random telephone interviews, each one taking approximately 10 minutes to conduct. Survey results should be available to the public in July/August.

Gallery on the Street

Since 2006 the Town and the Community Arts Council of the Saanich Peninsula (CACSP) have been working with local artists to reproduce original artwork on graffiti-resistant wraps for utility boxes on Beacon Avenue and around Sidney. You may have noticed a few; historical images on Fifth Street, poetry at Seventh and Beacon, and the swimming ladies beside the Seaport Place roundabout. The program has been a tremendous success to date, with two very well-received calls to artists in 2007 and

2008, resulting in nearly 20 utility boxes being wrapped. A third call wrapped up on March 31st of this year and new artwork is currently being considered for several boxes around Town. A big thank you goes to Councillor Marilyn Loveless and Jan M'Ghee from the CACSP for their tireless work and dedication into making the program a success. Stay tuned for more artwork coming to a utility box near you!

Fifth and Ocean Roundabout

Construction of the Fifth and Ocean roundabout is advancing on schedule with work to be completed by the end of June. The new curb, sidewalk and road surface on Ocean Avenue is largely complete with the east bound lane to the Sidney Ferry Terminal open to traffic. Construction is now focused on Fifth Street and the center islands of the roundabout. Expect delays as Fifth Street traffic will be reduced to single lane, alternating during hours of construction. Please use alternate routes where possible. Further information and plans of the roundabout are available on the Town's website or by visiting the Town's Engineering Department.



Business Improvement Area

Council recently adopted a bylaw to create a new Business Improvement Area (BIA) for downtown businesses. The creation of the BIA is the culmination of a 9-month project, initiated by the Sidney Business Development Group, that looked at various economic development models, and concluded that a BIA represents the best fit for Sidney. The purpose of the BIA is to promote not only economic development in the Town, but also community events and culture. There will be no cost to residential taxpayers for this initiative, as the BIA levy will be paid entirely by the 300+ commercial properties in the downtown BIA area.

Risks Associated with Feeding Raccoons

Town Council recently heard a presentation regarding the risks associated with feeding raccoons in an urban environment, particularly health impacts to pets, birds, and humans from raccoon droppings. It is important for everyone to understand the risks associated with having contact with raccoons. Raccoon roundworm (*Baylisascaris*) is frequently found in raccoon intestines. Transfer of this roundworm can lead to serious health complications. Prevention consists of never touching or inhaling raccoon droppings. The following guidelines can reduce the risk:

- Avoid contact with raccoons and their feces;
- Always wear gloves, a mask, and protective clothing when cleaning any raccoon feces;
- If contact is made, wash with plenty of soap and water;
- If direct contact is made with a raccoon seek medical assistance; and,
- Do not encourage raccoons to stay in a residential area by feeding them.



Town's New Zero-Emission Nissan Leaf & Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

The Town of Sidney is 'leading by example' in taking action to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, by supporting the transition to electric vehicles through the deployment of 5 Level 2 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. Residents and visitors will be able to plug in their EVs and charge up at the 5 public charging stations, which are free of charge at this time. The charging stations are located at the Town Hall, Tulista Park, Third Street parking lot, Iroquois Park, and the Town's Public Works yard. The Town received funding from the Provincial Community Charging Infrastructure (CCI) Fund covering up to 75% of the cost of the charging stations and installation. Although 90% of EV charging will be at home, providing supplemental charging extends the range of EVs and many businesses are installing EV chargers as a convenience for customers. Transitioning to EVs is an important step in reducing fossil fuel use, GHG emissions, air pollution, and noise, while at the same time, improving air quality and health. Sidney's Climate Action Plan 2010 articulates the Town's

commitment to addressing climate change and identifies various strategies and actions. The Town has taken a significant step in transitioning the Town's vehicle fleet to EVs, by purchasing a Nissan Leaf, which was a replacement for a 14-year old vehicle. The Leaf is a zero-emission 5-seat sedan which glides quietly through Sidney's streets, and is equipped with a GPS to locate the nearest EV charging station. Sidney is proud to be leading the way in transitioning to a more sustainable future.

Lighting up the Night Downtown

Have you noticed the white rope lights on the lamp standards and flag poles along a section of Beacon Avenue to the wharf? This is the first phase of the downtown lighting project designed to make Sidney's 'high street' more attractive, lively and inviting. Rope lighting will be installed along Beacon Avenue between the wharf and Seventh Street, giving residents a reason to take a stroll after dinner just to enjoy the beautiful lights and the warm summer nights.

Emergency Response and Recovery Planning

Recently the Sidney Fire Department facilitated an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) exercise. This exercise was part of a larger initiative that aims to best prepare the Town of Sidney for emergency events ranging from windstorms to earthquakes and tsunamis. Consequently, two grants appointed by Public Safety Canada, under the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP), allowed the Fire Department to host this recent exercise, as well as update the Town's existing Emergency Response and Recovery Plan.

The Town's EOC will be upgraded to a level of sophistication comparable to much larger municipalities. The Town's Information Technology staff deserve special mention for the superior level the Town's EOC currently functions at. They have worked diligently to ensure the EOC's telecommunication capabilities are streamlined and user friendly. The JEPP grants have also helped to facilitate hands on training for Town employees increasing their ability to effectively respond in a real time emergency.

For additional information on the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP) visit Public Safety Canada's website at www.publicsafety.gc.ca.

2012 BC Codes Now in Effect

The new BC Building, Plumbing and Fire Codes are now in effect as of December 20, 2012 and permit applications are required to show compliance with the new codes. For further information regarding the new 2012 BC Codes, please go to www.bccodes.ca or call the Town's Building Department at 250-656-1725.

Switch to Natural Gas \$1,000 rebates now available!

Fortis BC is offering rebates up to \$1,000 to homeowners who switch to natural gas and install a high-efficiency heating system. Sidney residents have an opportunity to save money and reduce their carbon footprint with the *Shrink and Switch* program. Visit www.fortisbc.com/switchnshrink for details.

2013 Property Taxes

Council recently adopted a Financial Plan for 2013 that will result in a modest 2.93% increase in municipal property taxes for the average residential property. The net impact on the average residential property, assessed at \$427,000, is estimated at \$36 per year, or \$3 per month. As always, the tax increase for any individual residence will vary depending on its assessment change relative to the average. There will be no change to utility rates (water, sewer, garbage) for this year.

A significant financial impact in the latest financial plan was the increase in the RCMP contract, which is outside Council's control, and resulted in a cost increase of \$127,000 for 2013. Council also approved the gradual addition of three full-time firefighters over the next three years to ensure adequate coverage for this important service. Please refer to the Financial Plan section on the Town's website for additional information. Tax notices will be mailed near the end of May, at which time additional information will be provided on the Town's expenditures.



Preparations are well underway for the 2013 Sidney Street Market, which will run every Thursday night on Beacon Avenue from May 30 to August 29. This family event is popular with residents and visitors alike and offers something for all ages. If you have never experienced the Sidney Street Market before, make 2013 the year you do!

For more information about the market, visit our website at www.sidney.ca/Visitors/Sidney_Street_Market.

From the Archives ~ The Sidney Sawmill



Sidney's waterfront was once a bustling industrial area, in an era when businesses required ready access to the water for shipping. At the turn of the 20th century, a fruit and clam cannery, a brick works, a roofing material manufacturer, a railway and a shipping terminal all featured prominently on the Town's waterfront, within a kilometre of Beacon Wharf.

Also on Sidney's waterfront was the Sidney Sawmill, the vision of John White of the Toronto and British Columbia Milling and Manufacturing Co. and the Brethour Brothers of Sidney. White, a former member of the Canadian Parliament and a relative of the Brethours, developed the idea of building a sawmill in 1892. As railway construction boomed across BC, sawmills were built to supply the timbers for trestles and ties for the tracks.

The clearing of the land for the mill began in August 1892 and by December a 10,000 square foot building was producing lumber. However the business soon ran

into financial troubles with the change in the economy in 1893. Over the next couple of decades it changed hands and names several times, operating "off and on" until 1907 when it was purchased by a group of investors and renamed the Saanich Lumber Co. The company was sold again in May 1912 and again renamed as the Canadian Southern Lumber Co. however it would close in September 1913 when the building boom collapsed.

In the spring of 1917, the company's assets were purchased by G. H. Walton, and after \$20,000 was invested in improvements, the mill was producing 20,000,000 board feet per year and employing 146 men. The business was brisk and profitable until the crash of the stock market in 1929 and the beginning of the Great Depression. Despite the difficult times, the mill squeaked by until May 1934 when the company entered bankruptcy and closed its doors, with the final whistle blowing at noon on July 25. The property was then sold and subdivided, and the frontage

on Beacon Avenue between First and Second Streets became the Mitchell and Anderson Hardware and Lumber store. In the 1980s the Landmark building was built on the site, signaling an end to industry on Sidney's waterfront.

For more information on this subject and others, please contact the Sidney Archives at 250-655-5445 or archives@sidneymuseum.ca.

Brad R. Morrison
Sidney Archives Manager

2013 Sidney / Canada Days

Sunday, June 30 ~ Community Barbeque at 4:00 p.m. in Beacon Park. Official Opening Ceremonies, cake-cutting, and music in Beacon Park at 7:30 p.m. Followed by fireworks to music on the waterfront at 10:00 p.m.

Monday, July 1 ~ Join us at 11:00 a.m. for the 30th Annual Sidney / Canada Days Parade on Beacon Avenue. Followed by Family Fun Day at Iroquois Park - hockey, face painting, dog show, new attractions, and more! And don't forget the very popular Slegg Lumber Build-a-Boat contest at the foot of Beacon Avenue on the waterfront at 4:30 p.m.

Summer Sounds Concert Series

Every Sunday afternoon from July 7 to August 25 at 2:00 p.m. in Beacon Park.

www.peninsulacelebrations.ca

Community Arts Council of the Saanich Peninsula

Gallery Schedule

May 3 - 5: Saanich Peninsula Arts & Crafts -
Scholarship Committee Show

May / June - exhibitions by individual artists.

May 6 - 20: Rodger Garbutt and Friends '4 Names'

May 21 - 25: Nancy Rotolo 'Nancy's Open House'

*May 26 - June 2: Nancy Alexander & Frances
Beckow 'What We Do'*

June 8 - 9: Spring Studio Tour

*June 17 - 23: Heather Corbitt, Dale MacEwan,
Kathy & Peter Demchuk & Maya Brouwer 'Fun with
Fibre'*

June 28 - August 28: Summer Artisans Show - Arts
and crafts by Island Artisans

For detailed information on events visit
www.cacsp.com or call 250-656-7400.

Sidney Concert Band Spring Concert

Sunday, May 5 at 2:00 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church
2295 Weiler Avenue, Sidney
Tickets \$12

Refreshments served during intermission
A "Piano for Peace" Fundraiser

For more information call 778-440-4295
www.peacesidney.ca
www.sidneyconcertband.ca

Jane's Walk Urban Festival Sunday, May 5

On Sunday, May 5th join hundreds of walkers
around the world mark the 7th annual Jane's Walk.
The Sidney walk will start at the corner of Canora
Road and Dehavilland Way at 2:00 p.m. For more
information, contact Jane Wynne at 250-656-6681
or jane.wynne@shaw.ca. To learn more about
Jane's Walks visit www.janeswalk.net.

The Peninsula Singers Invite You To "A Night at the Movies"

Friday, April 26 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 27 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 28 at 2:00 p.m.

Mary Winspear Centre
Tickets: Adults \$22/children \$11
Tickets available at the Mary Winspear Box Office
www.peninsulasingers.ca

Via Choralis Chamber Choir

Joseph Haydn's "The Creation"
with soloists and orchestra

Sunday, May 5 at 2:00 p.m.
St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church
10030 Third Street, Sidney

Tickets: \$25 (advance) or \$30 (door) / \$10 students
with card at the door. Advance tickets at Tanner's
Books.

viachoralis@shaw.ca / www.viachoralis.ca

Free Park Programs This Summer

Panorama Recreation Centre is hosting free
programs to be held Tuesday and Friday evenings
in July and August this summer. On Tuesday
nights, Iroquois Park is the place to be for families
to take part in games, face painting, crafts and
more. On Friday nights, the fun moves to
Rathdown Park. This program was developed to
encourage families to be more active and to
facilitate a sense of community in our parks. For a
full summer schedule please check out Panorama's
Summer brochure.

Tuesdays from July 2 - August 27
5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Iroquois Park
2295 Ocean Avenue, Sidney

Fridays from August 2 - 30
5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Rathdown Park
2170 Calvin Avenue, Sidney

