



A Newsletter for the Town of Sidney

TOWN TALK

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April 2007

The Vision Continues

Some 10 years ago, the Town, with the aid of many imaginative members of the community, developed *Vision 2000*, an approach to what Sidney might like to be a few years from then.

A Vision Committee composed of citizen volunteers was organized to develop plans in various focus areas and since that time there have been major studies in the areas of: waterfront; tourism; and seniors, youth and families. There was considerable public consultation during each of these projects and the results have been very useful in developing plans

for our community, including the new Official Community Plan (OCP). Other topics such as community and culture, industry/commercial and transportation have mainly been dealt with over time through changes within the community, and will receive even more attention through the new OCP, which is scheduled to go before Council in May.

A revitalized Vision Advisory Committee was formed at the beginning of this year, primarily to continue and refresh the Vision and to identify the changing needs of the citizens, businesses

and community interests. The Committee will be focusing on identifying long term issues, coordinating action plans for workable solutions and protecting and projecting our identity, who we are as a town.

In April, the Committee will be doing a walkabout in downtown Sidney and along the waterfront, to see for ourselves what has happened, what is happening and what could happen to make things even better in our wonderful town.

Through *Town Talk*, we'll keep you up to date.

Welcome - Niimi, Japan

A delegation of representatives from Niimi, Japan will be guests in Sidney from May 4 to 8. During the past two years, the Sister City Association has been working to explore the possibility of a Sister City relationship between our two communities. Last October, Niimi generously hosted Mayor Amos and representatives of the Sister City Association for eight days. During their trip they were given the opportunity to learn about Japanese culture, view many marvelous sights and meet many citizens.

It is hoped the May visit will develop a strong international relationship through increased communication and the exchange of information. As a first step, friendship affiliations will be encouraged between our schools and museums. We are enthusiastic about this visit that will allow for the exchange of ideas, customs and aspirations. We hope you will support the friendship between our two cities and join us in welcoming our visitors to Sidney.

Sister Cities

The Sidney Sister Cities Association is a non-profit community organization working on behalf of the Town to foster international relationships, understanding and cooperation. The Association is continuing to grow and strengthen relationships with our Sister Cities - Cairns, Australia and Anacortes, Washington while exploring new ties with cities in other countries. The prospects for new professional, recreational, artistic, social and cultural exchanges are excellent. To join in and become part of this progressive group continuing to help Sidney become internationally known, please call 655-6773.

2007 Utility Rates

Refuse Collection: Refuse collection for residents is funded 100% by user rates.

	Single Family		Multiple Family		Commercial	
	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Quarterly Rate	21.18	21.18	17.37	17.37	56.55	56.55
Monthly Rate	7.06	7.06	5.79	5.79	18.85	18.85

Water Utility: The water user charge provides for operation of the Town's water system and the purchase of bulk water.

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Per Thousand Gallons	4.83	4.61
Minimum Quarterly Charge	20.00	20.00

Sewer User Charge: The sewer user charge provides for the operation of the Town's sewer system and Sidney's portion of the Unified Treatment Plant. The sewer user charge is based on water consumption.

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Per Thousand Gallons	5.58	5.07
Minimum Quarterly Charge	25.00	25.00

Grants-in-Aid

Council approved the following grant applications for 2007:

1. Official Town Crier	\$ 1,000
2. Dry Grad Committee (Parkland School)	\$ 750
3. 676 Kittyhawk Air Cadet Squadron	\$ 1,000
4. Community Arts Council of the Saanich Peninsula	\$ 3,000
5. Peninsula Celebrations Society	\$ 3,500
6. Peninsula Celebrations Society – First Night	\$ 500
7. Beacon Community Services – Volunteer/Seniors Hotline	\$ 2,750
8. Beacon Community Services – Youth Employment	\$ 2,200
9. Navy League of Canada – Saanich Peninsula Branch	\$ 1,000
10. Silver Threads – Meals on Wheels	\$ 1,000
11. Saanich Peninsula Foundation Society	\$ 3,000
12. Peninsula Streams Society	\$ 500
13. NEED Crisis and Information Line	\$ 500
14. The Victoria Human Exchange Society	\$ 1,000
15. Sidney Sister Cities Association	\$ 2,000
16. Greater Victoria Bike to Work Society	\$ 750
17. VIATec	\$ 500
18. Greater Victoria Volunteer Society	\$ 600
19. Peninsula Cross Roads Community Justice Program	\$ 1,000
20. Healing Place for All Nations Society	\$ 450
Total	<u>\$ 27,000</u>

Property Taxes

Council has adopted a Financial Plan for the year 2007 reflecting a modest 2.9% tax increase. Property tax notices will be mailed out the end of May and must be paid on or before July 2. If eligible, please do not forget to claim your Provincial Home Owner Grant. To avoid long lineups, post dated cheques are encouraged. For your convenience property taxes, utility bills and parking tickets can be paid at your bank.

Attention Dog Owners

- PLEASE, when walking your dog, have your dog on a leash;
- PLEASE clean up after your pet when it leaves droppings outside your own property;
- PLEASE do not allow your dog to stray at large; and
- PLEASE ensure your pet has an up-to-date license.



Retirement of May Lambert



The Town will be saying goodbye to May Lambert, Administrative Assistant in the Engineering Department after 17 plus years of service. May began as a Clerk Typist in 1990 and remained with the Engineering Department. She was a very conscientious and loyal employee who was always very courteous. Best wishes in your retirement May, you will be missed.



**Canadian
Cancer
Society**

BRITISH COLUMBIA AND YUKON

Wondering how you can help find the cure for cancer? Please share your time and join our team of fundraising canvassers now. For more information, please call 414-4251.

Let's Make Cancer History

Retirement of Jacky Konrath



The Town will miss long time employee, Jacky Konrath who is retiring after 33 years of service. Jacky began her career in the early 1970s with the Sidney Water District and is currently the Administrative Assistant in Development Services. Jacky has been a valuable and well respected employee and her knowledge and commitment will be missed by all!

Website News

A convenient way to find out about upcoming community events and the latest news from Town Hall is to click on the "News and NOTICES" link located on the Town's Home Page. You will find press releases, requests for proposals, project updates, important construction notices and more.

Another new feature coming soon is the subscription to Sidney email. This will allow you to automatically receive notification when the "News and NOTICES" pages have been amended.

OCP Approaches Completion

The Town's new Official Community Plan (OCP) is nearing the final phase of what has been an eighteen-month process involving extensive public consultation. In February, Public Open Houses were held on the Draft OCP in order to gather comments and feedback from the public. These open houses were well attended by Sidney residents and the feedback received was extremely positive and informative. These comments were subsequently referred to the Advisory Planning Commission for their review, leading to several proposed policy changes. It is anticipated that the Draft OCP will proceed to the approval phase and that a Public Hearing on the new OCP will occur at a Council meeting in May. The Public Hearing will be advertised in the Peninsula News Review and on the Town's website.

Watering Restrictions

Summer watering schedule is in effect **May 1 to September 30**

Even Addresses

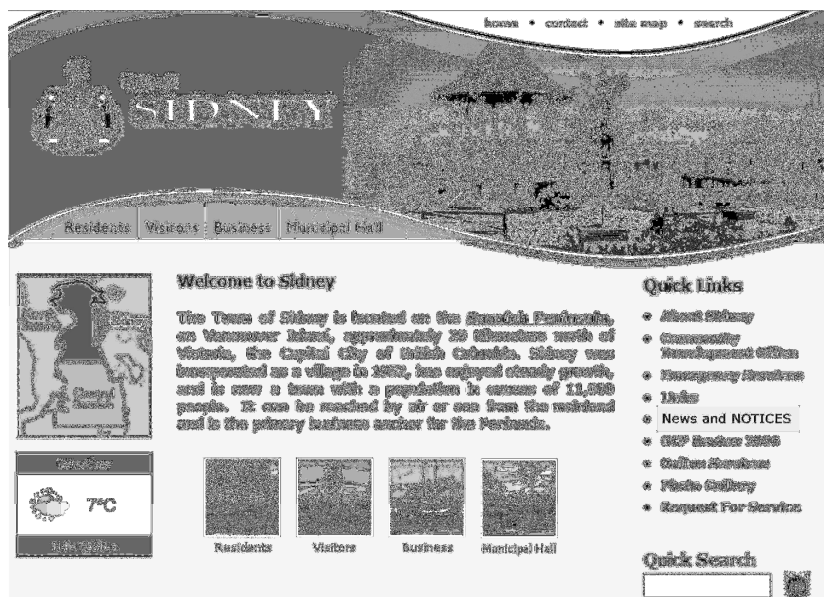
Lawn watering allowed
Wednesdays & Saturdays
4-10am and 7-10pm

Odd Addresses

Lawn watering allowed
Thursdays & Sundays
4-10am and 7-10pm

Yard & Garden Waste Collection

This curbside pick up service is provided once a month all year round and is available to single family and duplex homes. Accepted compostable material includes: grass, lawn and hedge clippings, tree branches, weeds, leaves, shrubs, flowers, vegetables, etc. For more information, please call the Engineering Department at 656-4502.





Sidney Days 2007

June 30 - July 2

Saturday, June 30

- * Community Dinner, 5:00 pm (*Mary Winspear Centre*)
- * Canada Day Ceremony, 7:30 pm (*Diver's Point*)
- * Live Entertainment, 8:00 pm (*Diver's Point*)
- * Fireworks, 10:00 pm (*Sidney Waterfront*)



Sunday, July 1

- * Pancake Breakfast, 8:00 am (*Mary Winspear Centre*)
- * 2K/5K Fun Run & Walk, 8:00 am (*Bevan & 7th St*)
- * Sidney/Canada Day Parade, 11:00 am (*Beacon Ave*)
- * Lots of Activities (live entertainment, family fun fair, beer garden, etc.), all afternoon (*Mary Winspear Centre*)

Monday, July 2

- * Pancake Breakfast, 8:00 am (*Mary Winspear Centre*)
- * Sidewalk Sale (*Mary Winspear Centre*)
- * Lots of Activities (live entertainment, family fun fair, beer garden, etc.), all afternoon (*Mary Winspear Centre*)
- * Slegg Build-a-Quick Boat Race, 4:00 pm (*Diver's Point*)



Come join the fun!



sponsored by Peninsula Celebrations Society
new volunteers welcome, call 656-4365

Friends of the Library



Friends of the Sidney and North Saanich Library is a group focused on assisting the library with special projects, programs and fundraising. Monthly meetings are held on the first Monday at 9:30 am in the Library. Interested in becoming a member, please leave your name with staff at the Library or call 656-0441.



Month of JUNE

Radio Controlled Model Boats

A display of handmade boats, pirate artifacts and memorabilia.

10:00 am - 4:00 pm (daily)

Admission by Donation.

Historical Museum, Call 655-6355

The Community Arts Council
of the Saanich Peninsula



Gallery by the Sea (June to September)

Beacon Wharf

Open air gallery on the wall of the Fish Market. Artists are invited to display their work. Visitors vote for their favourite piece.

Artisans 2007 (July 15 - August 12)

Mary Winspear Centre

A summer show of traditional and contemporary arts and crafts. Call 656-7400

Upcoming Events ...

Arts Show & Sale April 28 & 29

This annual exhibition and sale features an exciting mix of paintings, sculptures, textiles, pottery, fine crafts and jewelry. Mary Winspear Centre. Call 656-0275.

Victoria Feis May 4, 5 & 6

Victoria Irish Dance Competition attracting dancers and their families from all over the Pacific Northwest. Mary Winspear Centre. Call 604-987-5533.

Sidney Lawn Bowling Club May 5

9:00 - 10:00 am, 9580 Fifth Street
Huge garage and bake sale. New members are always welcome. Call 656-7477.

Victoria Toy Show May 20

10:00 am - 4:00 pm, Mary Winspear Centre
Biggest toy show in Western Canada. Antique and collectable dolls, dinky toys, robots, planes, trains, games, comics and more. Call 727-2403.

Sidney Summer Market June 7-Aug 30

Thursday evenings, 5:30 - 8:30 pm.
Fresh produce, locally made handicrafts and delicious food. This open-air market spans 4 blocks down Beacon Avenue. Call 655-6417.

Sidney Dive Expo 2007 July 14 & 15

9:00 am - 5:00 pm, Mary Winspear Centre
The largest dive show in Western Canada for the young and old, divers and non-divers. Enjoy free activities for children and adults (bring your bathing suit and a towel). Call 655-0979.