



A Newsletter for the Town of Sidney

TOWN TALK

(Tel) 250-656-1184 * (Fax) 250-655-4508 * Website: www.sidney.ca * E-Mail: townhall@sidney.ca

April 2009

We Listened to You!

Council would like to thank the community for talking to us and sharing your views during the election campaign last November. Your support and input was very much appreciated and we are committed to working on your behalf.

Although every municipal function is important, Town Council has recently developed a corporate planning document that identifies five priority areas that will assist in guiding Council decision-making over the next three years and beyond. The document is called the **Vision 2020 Strategic Plan** and is available for viewing on our website. In March we opened our doors and presented the plan to members of our community. The Open Houses were well attended and the feedback we received from you was very positive. We will report on our progress and update related action plans each year through our Annual Report. Our Vision is that:

*“Sidney will be the best seaside town in Canada
– vibrant, unique, welcoming”*

New Economic Initiative

Town Council has agreed to establish a new Community Economic Development Commission to undertake a comprehensive and inclusive strategic plan for community and economic development. Membership will be drawn from local stakeholder organizations such as: Sidney Business Association; Saanich Peninsula Chamber of Commerce; Peninsula Celebrations Society; Memorial Park Society; Community Arts Council of the Saanich Peninsula; Victoria Airport Authority; New Marine Centre Society; and Sidney Sister Cities Association. With regards to visitor and tourist information services, the operation of the Sidney Information Centre, Council will be looking at alternative models for management of the centre and related services. These are difficult economic times and it is important to ensure the Town's economic and community development services are maximized.

Administration Department Tel: 250-656-1139



Sidney / Canada Days

June 30 - July 1

Tuesday, June 30

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



Wednesday, July 1

- * Pancake Breakfast, 8:00 am (Mary Winspear Centre)
- * Sidney/Canada Day Parade, 11:00 am (Beacon Ave)
- * Slegg Build-a-Quick Boat Race, 4:00 pm (Diver's Point)
- * Lots of activities (live entertainment, family activities and more) all afternoon (Mary Winspear Centre)



Peninsula Celebrations Society
250-656-4365



Beacon Park Pavilion

Opening Ceremonies

Sunday, June 28

All members of the community are invited to attend this special opening for the new pavilion. Beacon Park will also be home to a new piece of public art, the concept of which will be unveiled at this event.

9:30 am - Open Air Gospel Music

11:00 am - Opening Ceremonies
with the Honourable Steven L. Point,
Lieutenant Governor of BC

12:00 noon – Bayside Big Band

2:00 pm - Sidney Concert Band

2009 Grants-in-Aid

1. Beacon Community Services (Volunteer / Seniors Services) \$ 3,000
2. Beacon Community Services (Youth Employment) \$ 2,500
3. Community Arts Council of the Saanich Peninsula \$ 3,500
4. Peninsula Celebrations Society \$ 5,000
5. 676 Kittyhawk Air Cadet Squadron \$ 1,000
6. Dry Grad Committee (Parkland School) \$ 1,000
7. Greater Victoria Bike To Work Society \$ 750
8. Greater Victoria Volunteer Society \$ 600
9. Greater Victoria Film Commission \$ 500
10. Navy League of Canada (Saanich Peninsula Branch) \$ 1,000
11. NEED Crisis and Information Line \$ 800
12. Peninsula Players \$ 500
13. Peninsula Soccer Association \$ 800
14. Living and Learning Through Loss \$ 500
15. Peninsula Streams Society \$ 1,000
16. Peninsula Stroke Recovery and Activity Centre \$ 500
17. Creatures of Habitat \$ 500
18. Sidney Sister Cities Association \$ 1,000
19. The Victoria Human Exchange Society \$ 1,000
20. VIATec \$ 250

Total Grants Approved: \$25,700

2009 Utility Rates

Refuse Collection:

	<u>Single Family</u>	<u>Multiple Family</u>	<u>Commercial</u>
Quarterly Rate	\$22.50	\$18.45	\$60.07

Water Utility Rate:

Per Thousand Gallons	\$ 5.31
Minimum Quarterly Charge	\$20.00

Sewer User Charge:

Per Thousand Gallons	\$ 6.60
Minimum Quarterly Charge	\$25.00

Visit to Niimi, Japan

The Sidney Sister Cities Association, in conjunction with Merit Travel, is organizing a trip to Japan this October to visit the Town's newest sister city. Citizens of Sidney have been invited by the City of Niimi to enjoy their annual festival and their hospitality. What an amazing opportunity to be welcomed to Japan by such warm and friendly people. For further details, contact Bob McLure, Chair of the Niimi Committee, Tel: 250-654-0488, or email: mcclure@shaw.ca.

Residents are asked to install energy efficient light bulbs in their homes and business owners are requested to implement a "closed door" policy all year round. Let's all do our part to be more energy efficient and reduce costs.

Property Taxes & Home Owner Grants

Council has adopted a Financial Plan for the year 2009 reflecting an increase in property taxes as well as reductions in sewer and water parcel taxes. The net effect on the average residential property owner is an increase in municipal taxes of approximately 4% or an additional \$4.17 per month.

Average residential - \$437,500				
	2008 Taxes	2009 Taxes	\$ Change	% Change
	(estimated)			
Property Tax	1,037.55	1,102.61	65.06	6.27%
Water Tax	83.00	71.00	-12.00	-14.46%
Sewer Tax	144.00	141.00	-3.00	-2.08%
Annual	1,264.55	1,314.61	50.06	3.96%
Monthly	105.38	109.55	4.17	

Property tax notices for 2009 will be mailed out the end of May. Deadline for payment is July 2. If eligible, please remember to claim your provincial Home Owner Grant. To avoid long lineups, post dated cheques are accepted. For your convenience property taxes, utility bills and parking tickets can be paid at your bank or via your internet banking site. Home Owner Grants may also be claimed on the Town's website.

The province has implemented a property tax deferment program for those suffering from financial hardship due to the current economic conditions. The program allows you to defer all, or part, of your 2009 and 2010 annual property taxes on your home subject to certain criteria. For more information, contact Service BC at 250-387-6121. Information sheets are also available on the Town's website. This program is in addition to the deferment program already established for those 55+, surviving spouses and persons with disabilities.

Finance Department Tel: 250-656-1184

Public Safety

With the approaching spring and summer weather, this is a good time to remind pedestrians and motorists to keep a watchful eye for each other and to follow the rules of the road, keeping common sense in the forefront. Pedestrians must keep visible and make eye contact with motorists when crossing the road. Scooters must follow the same guidelines as pedestrians. Cyclists, skateboarders and rollerbladers must stay in single file and keep to the right side of the road (they are not permitted on the sidewalk). Here are some safety tips for pedestrians:

- wear visible clothing
- use well travelled routes
- walk with a friend
- carry a cell phone and whistle in your pocket
- do not keep valuables in your purse or wallet
- keep purse out of sight
- be aware of your surroundings

We encourage people to get outside and have a safe and enjoyable summer.



BC Housing

Rental Assistance Program

Providing low-income working families (less than \$35,000 per year) with cash assistance to help with their monthly rent payments. This assistance can make a significant difference in their ability to better afford rent, buy food, medicine and other necessities. For information on how to apply, call 1-604-433-2218 or visit www.bchousing.org.

Attention Dog Owners

- PLEASE have your dog on a leash;
- PLEASE clean up after your pet;
- PLEASE do not allow your dog to stray at large; and
- PLEASE ensure your pet has an up-to-date license.



Citizens on Patrol Program

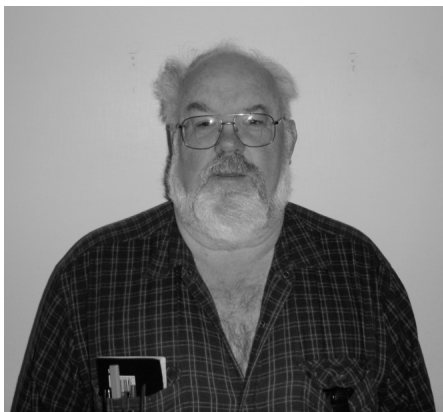
Individuals are encouraged to become involved in this new program which involves volunteers working closely with the RCMP on community crime prevention. Potential volunteers will be interviewed, given record checks and training. If you are interested in becoming a participant, contact Carol Quartermain, Chair of Police Advisory Committee, email: mojoq@telus.net.

CRD Watering Restrictions

Effective May 1 to September 30

<u>Even Addresses</u>	<u>Odd Addresses</u>
Lawn watering allowed Wednesdays & Saturdays 4-10am and 7-10pm	Lawn watering allowed Thursdays & Sundays 4-10am and 7-10pm

Staff Retirement



Ray Konrath has retired after almost 35 years of service in the Public Works Department. Ray, as Waterworks Foreman, will be missed by the crew. We wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

Spring Garden Clean Up

A reminder to residents to maintain the boulevard in front of your property in a neat and tidy fashion and keep the grass cut. Curbside pick up service is provided once a month to single-family and duplex homes. Only compostable materials are accepted: grass, lawn and hedge clippings, branches, weeds, leaves, shrubs and flowers.

Thinking of new plantings and landscaping? Make certain to keep trees, shrubs, bushes and hedges 45cm (18") back from the property line, out of the Town boulevard. If you are landscaping on a corner lot, there are additional regulations pertaining to traffic safety and visibility. Please contact the Town for more information.

Engineering Department Tel: 250-656-4502

Upcoming Events ...

Sidney Classical Orchestra **May 1**

St. Elizabeth Church, 7:30 p.m.
Featuring "The Red Hot" Piano Concerto with Robert Holliston with Mozart - Symphony No. 40 in G Minor, and more.

Sidney Lawn Bowling Club **May 2**

9:00 am - 1:00 pm, 9580 Fifth Street
Huge Garage Sale - watch for signs. New members are welcome, call 250-656-0209.

Opening of New Wellness Park **May 1**

10091 Resthaven Drive (Library)
The new Community Wellness Park will offer 13 pieces of age and disability-friendly exercise equipment.

Summer Street Market **Jun 4 - Aug 27**

5:30 - 9:00 pm, Beacon Avenue
Every Thursday night, over 150 vendors, artisans and entertainers. Call 250-655-6433 or email market@sidneybusiness.ca.

Opening of New Marine Centre **Jun 19**

9811 Seaport Place
The new extraordinary Ocean Discovery Centre will be opening its doors and showcasing local living marine life to the world.

Library Book Sale **Jun 20**

10:00 am - 1:00 pm, Library
A summer outdoor book sale sponsored by the Friends of the Sidney/North Saanich Library.

Summer Sounds Concerts **Jul 5 - Sep 6**

2:00 - 4:00 pm, Beacon Park
Every Sunday afternoon, enjoy beautiful music at the new waterfront park. Donations are welcome.

Art Centre at Tulista Park

Main Gallery - multi-media show by individual artists
Galleria - how artists interpret Sidney and the Peninsula

Call to Artists:

- Gallery by the Sea - displayed June to September
 - Artisans Show - July to August
 - Spring Studio Tour - June 6 & 7

Community Arts Council of the Saanich Peninsula
250-656-7400 www.cacsp.com



Mary Winspear Centre
Conferences, Special Events and Live Theatre

Peninsula Garden Club Garden Sale - April 25

Saanich Peninsula Annual Art Show - April 25 & 26

West Coast Amusement Carnival - April 30 - May 3

10th Annual Eye Appeal Art Event - May 1

Palm Court Orchestra - May 26

Peter Kelamis Comedy Night 18+ - May 30

PIGS - A Tribute to Pink Floyd - June 12

Murray Hatfield Magic Show - June 13

Box Office Hours

Monday to Friday: 9:30 - noon, 1:00 - 5:00 pm

Saturday: 2:00 - 4:00 pm
(and 1 hour prior to show time)

250-656-0275 www.marywinspear.ca

Beacon Community Services
www.beaconcs.ca

The SHOAL Centre

Sidney Healthy Options for Active Living
(10030 Resthaven Drive)

Providing a 24-hour assisted living program for residents, subsidized by the Vancouver Island Health Authority, combined with a community-based activity centre for adults. Facility rentals are also available to people looking for a special venue for their next gathering. In partnership with the Panorama Recreation Centre, some of the great courses offered are: Bridge, Chair Fit, Stretch and Strength, Chair Yoga, Line Dancing, Beading, Drawing, Tai Chi, Fitness and Painting. Ask about a Centre membership at a cost of just \$0.12 per day.

Office Hours

Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Saturday, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

250-656-5537 www.beaconcs.ca