



This summer marked the return of many well-loved events, including the Salish Sea Lantern Festival organized by ArtSea Community Arts Council.

## October 15th is Voting Day for Sidney's municipal election

This fall, voters will determine who will serve on Sidney's next Council, and who will represent the community as School Trustee for School District No. 63.

### How to vote

New voters can register on voting day. Please ensure you bring two pieces of personal identification providing proof of identity and residency (at least one with a signature), such as: BC Driver's Licence; BC Identification Card; BC Services Card; ICBC Registration; Citizenship Card; tax notice; utility bill (ex. water, electrical, or gas).

### Voting by mail

All qualified voters can now submit their vote by mail. In order to receive a mail ballot, complete and submit an application form to

the Town. The application form can be picked up at Town Hall and is also available on the Town's website. Mail ballot packages will be sent out commencing on or about September 26, 2022. To be counted, your completed mail ballot must be received by the Chief Election Officer by 4 pm on Friday, October 14 at Town Hall or delivered to the Chief Election Officer by 8 pm at the Mary Winspear Centre on October 15.

### Additional information:

To learn more about voting, visit the Town's website at [www.sidney.ca](http://www.sidney.ca) or contact the Administration Department at 250-656-1139 or [admin@sidney.ca](mailto:admin@sidney.ca). The Town will also continue to share election information in upcoming Peninsula News Review advertisements.

Information about candidates running for a position will be posted at [www.sidney.ca](http://www.sidney.ca).

### ADVANCE VOTING DAYS

Wednesday, October 5 &

Wednesday, October 12

8 am to 8 pm

Sidney Town Hall (2440 Sidney Ave)

### GENERAL VOTING DAY

Saturday, October 15

8 am to 8 pm

Mary Winspear Centre

2243 Beacon Avenue

### WELLNESS PARK BOOST



Learn about the new surface coming to the Community Wellness Park. [SEE PAGE 6](#)

### NEW LADDER TRUCK



Check out the tower ladder truck making rescues safer in Sidney. [SEE PAGE 3](#)

### FLOOD PROTECTION



Now is a great time to get prepared for the rainy season. [PAGE 4 & 5](#)

# Message from Sidney's Chief Administrative Officer

Maybe it's the student in all of us, but September often feels like the beginning of a new year. It is easier to embrace the changing of the seasons knowing our community made the most out of summer.

It was a joy to hear live music in Beacon Park again, and to see neighbours and visitors gather downtown for annual events. The Town is grateful to the volunteers who made these celebrations possible.

Adding to that fall feeling is the fact that the Town recently wrapped up several major planning exercises and is now turning its attention to on-the-ground projects stemming from that community dialogue.

In June, a new Official Community Plan shaped by community input was adopted by Council. The Plan presents a vision for Sidney's future; it clarifies how land will be managed over the next 20 years and includes policies that reflect community values such as increased environmental protection, the preservation of Sidney's small-town character, and strengthened relationships with local First Nations.

In July, we continued looking ahead with the approval of an updated Climate Action Plan. The Plan involves 51 recommended actions to help build Sidney's resilience to

climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These actions cover a range of topics. Some are best undertaken by residents, while others require the leadership of municipal staff or businesses. We hope you check out the Plan and find your own way to make a difference.

Several new projects are currently underway. For example, in the new year, Sidney will be transitioning away from single-use plastics in its shops and cafes as a result of a Single-Use Plastics and Foam Container Bylaw.

The Town is also working toward drafting an Active Transportation Plan, resurfacing the Wellness Park, and installing new light-activated crosswalks near Sidney Elementary School and on Fifth Street near the library to keep pedestrians of all ages safer.

While it's hard to think about stormy weather during the last days of summer, we've included information to help you prepare for Sidney's rainy season. You may be pleased to find that there are times when avoiding a pile of laundry can be done for the good of our community.

Thank you for taking the time to keep up with municipal news. If you have ideas or concerns, please reach out by writing [admin@sidney.ca](mailto:admin@sidney.ca).



||| Randy Humble, Chief Administrative Officer for the Town of Sidney

## LONG-TERM PARKING SHIFTS TO A NEW LOCATION IN DOWNTOWN SIDNEY



On October 1, 2022, the Town of Sidney will begin offering long-term parking at Lot F (9751 Third St). At that time, Lot A (9741 Second Street) will no longer function as a long-term paid parking lot due to newly identified restrictions in the Province's lease agreement with the Town. Lot A will revert to free public parking with a three-hour time limit.

Lot F has 34 parking spaces. Up to 20 monthly parking passes will be made available at Lot F for local businesses to support the needs of downtown employers. To register for a monthly parking pass at one of Sidney's Public Parking Lots, contact [finance@sidney.ca](mailto:finance@sidney.ca).

Sidney's downtown area, with its vibrant businesses, cafes, and proximity to the ocean, serves the community, while also drawing people from throughout the Saanich Peninsula and beyond. This puts downtown parking at a premium. This fall, the Town will be undertaking a downtown parking study with a consultant to better understand parking issues and opportunities in downtown Sidney (as well as Resthaven Park) and support informed decision-making.



||| Sidney's new tower ladder truck has a bucket at the end of the ladder that can move from window to window collecting people during an emergency evacuation.

## New ladder truck means safer evacuations for Sidney Volunteer Fire Department

**T**his summer, the Sidney Volunteer Fire Department replaced its aging ladder truck with a lightly-used tower ladder truck that will make it safer and easier to rescue people during emergencies.

The truck was purchased lightly used from the United States at a cost of approximately \$1.2 million, saving more than \$1 million when compared to the purchase of a new tower ladder truck.

What makes the truck unique from the one it is replacing is the bucket attached to the end of the ladder. This supports the safety of both firefighter and residents during evacuations from multi-storey

buildings, and better meets the needs of people with varied abilities.

The tower ladder truck can also move its bucket from window to window, collecting multiple people at once if needed.

The truck's ladder is longer than the former ladder truck, extending to a length of 110 feet, rather than 75 feet.

After the truck was shipped to Canada in May, seventeen Sidney firefighters undertook specialized training focused on operating the truck safely and positioning the ladder effectively during rescues.

### CARSEAT SAFETY CHECKS

If you're getting a carseat installed, the Sidney Volunteer Fire Department can help ensure it is installed correctly.

Call 250-656-2121 to book a free appointment.





# Sidney adopts a new Official Community Plan

**S**idney now has an up-to-date blueprint to guide future growth and prioritize projects. On June 27, Council approved a new Official Community Plan (OCP) that looks ahead to 2040.

The plan came together over a two-year engagement and review process involving residents, businesses, community groups, advisory committees, and First Nations.

The updated OCP has evolved from the former plan by providing stronger guidance on topics the community identified as important. These include affordable housing, a vibrant economy, reconciliation with First Nations, environmental protection, climate change response, as well as preservation of Sidney's small-town, seaside character.

The OCP contains guidance to address current housing needs at a scale that is compatible with Sidney's existing neighbourhoods, such as:

- Additional opportunities for rental housing in Sidney's residential neighborhoods;
- Workforce housing opportunities in West

Sidney near the Industrial Park;

- The introduction of a new Neighbourhood Townhouse Land Use Designation; and
- The establishment of clearly-defined downtown building heights.

The plan also includes increased environmental protection with:

- Policies to respond to climate change and sea level rise;
- Expansion of Environmentally Sensitive Areas along Sidney's shoreline; and
- Stronger policies for environmental protection within Environmentally Sensitive Areas and the addition of a map that identifies Sidney's unique environmental features.

Commitments to build a stronger relationship with local First Nations are also an integral part of the updated OCP, and were developed collaboratively by listening and learning from representatives of WSÁNEĆ First Nations.

The Official Community Plan can be found at [www.sidney.ca/OCP](http://www.sidney.ca/OCP).

## Protecting your home by taking care of underground pipes on your property

**D**id you know that landowners are responsible for maintaining and repairing the water, sewer, and stormwater pipes on their private property?

Pipes can clog or collapse over time. A plumber should inspect your utility lines with a camera at least every 10 years, flushing out debris as needed.

Common pipe problems include:

- Debris from gutters filling pipes
- Fats, oils, and grease clogging pipes
- Cracks, breaks, and collapse of pipes and joints
- Tree roots entering through cracks or gaps in pipes

While it's easy to overlook a deteriorating pipe below your home or lawn, failing to maintain these pipes can lead to a rude awakening in

the form of backed up sewage or a flooded basement.

These issues are very costly to fix, especially as community members increasingly turn their lower levels into offices, extra bedrooms, and rental suites. A flooded basement can ruin interior finishes and lead to issues with mould and mildew.

Some homes have been built in areas that are more flood prone than others. In these cases, the homeowner may wish to consider installing a backwater prevention valve that will prevent sewage from backing up into their home during an unusual event, such as a flood. If your home does have a backwater valve, it is important to inspect and maintain it frequently.

For more information check out the Capital Regional District's guide: *Maintaining Underground Pipes* at <https://www.crd.bc.ca/pipes>.



Outdoor cleanouts make it easy for professionals to access and inspect your pipes.

# Understanding underground utilities

BY: MATT YOUELL, CREW CHIEF OF UNDERGROUND UTILITIES

Featured Staff Member Bio: Matt grew up on the Saanich Peninsula and started his career operating a pump truck for a private local company. He joined the Town in 2009 and oversees a complex network of underground stormwater and sewer pipes. While much of his work goes unseen, when heavy rains hit, Matt's dedication becomes invaluable.

## Q. What is happening underground when Sidney is hit by winter storms?

A. Sidney has 13 sewer pump stations, which help move our community's sewage to the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Treatment Plant in Bazan Bay through a system of sewer pipes. We also have a system of stormwater pipes that help groundwater drain out to the ocean, so water isn't flooding our streets and properties.

During heavy rains, groundwater can start to seep into sewage pipes. This causes our pump stations to go into overdrive trying to keep up with a spike in flow. The Underground Utilities Team continually monitors pump stations during major storms, keeping a look out for signs that a pump station has become overloaded, potentially causing a sewage line back up.

Our pump stations have a good track record of handling these demanding periods, partly because of our ongoing pump station and pipe maintenance programs. Community members can also help by avoiding flushing items that wreak havoc on pump systems, such as floss, paper towels, and wipes (even those labelled "flushable").

## Q. What else can community members do to help prevent pump stations from getting overloaded during major storms?

A. The community can help in several ways:

- Keep an eye on your nearest catch basin. These run along the edges of streets in Sidney. You don't have to wait until the rain is pouring down, you can stop on a sunny day in the fall and clear away any leaves,



||| Matt Youell uses non-toxic dye to test how water is flowing through our stormwater system to ensure Sidney is ready for heavy rains.

needles or debris that may be clogging them. If rainwater can flow easily into our stormwater pipes, there's less chance of it flooding your home or infiltrating sewage lines.

- If we are in the midst of an atmospheric river, do your part to avoid adding pressure to our sewer system. Maybe you can run your dishwasher the next day, or hold off on those loads of laundry. Reducing the amount of water entering the sewer system will decrease the stress on pump stations.
- Make sure you are maintaining underground pipes on your private property with regular inspections every 5-10 years. The system only works if the municipality and landowners both keep pipes flowing and in good condition.

## Q. What if a storm knocks out power to parts of Sidney?

A. Our pump stations rely on a mix of gravity and electricity. The pump station on Amelia Avenue has a built-in generator so it can switch power sources if there is an outage. I am part of a team that is available 24/7 throughout the year; if there is a power failure affecting a pump station without a backup generator, one of us brings a portable generator to the site to

keep the pump station working.

## Q. What does the Town do to ensure our sewer and stormwater pipes are in good condition?

A. Maintaining our stormwater and sewer systems is a year-round job. We can't wait for a problem to grab our attention. We flush the main lines with our hydro-excavator truck each year, helping clear leaves and roots from the pipes. We conduct video inspections of underground pipes to identify areas that need repairs. We use non-toxic dyes to monitor whether cross contamination is happening between the sewer and stormwater pipes. We also work with a contractor to conduct periodic smoke tests to identify potential leaks in the sewer and stormwater systems.

All of this preventative work helps protect our waterways from sewage contamination and helps ensure that stormwater is not being unnecessarily pumped and treated at the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Treatment Plant.

If you have any questions, please send me an email at [engineeringservices@sidney.ca](mailto:engineeringservices@sidney.ca).

## UPDATE: DEVELOPMENT OF SIDNEY'S FIRST ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

This spring, more than 230 people filled out an active transportation survey, painting a picture of how community members currently walk, bike, or roll in Sidney. The survey was also intended to shine a light on what improvements could help people feel safer and more comfortable travelling by active means throughout the community.

The input will help the project's consulting team, Urban Systems, develop a draft Active Transportation Plan for Sidney. The Plan will make practical recommendations for the next 10 years, reflecting the Town's available resources, Official Community Plan, and community priorities.

The draft Active Transportation Plan is currently being developed and will be available late fall or early 2023 for public review and input.

Stay tuned for project developments and upcoming engagement opportunities at [www.sidney.ca](http://www.sidney.ca). Thank you for your contributions so far!



## NEW SURFACE FOR COMMUNITY WELLNESS PARK

Sidney's outdoor exercise park for people of all abilities is going green.

Thanks in part to a grant from Tire Stewardship BC, the existing black surface tiles will be replaced with a continuous green poured rubber made from recycled BC tires.

The rubber surface is designed to cushion the impact of falls and provide a smooth surface for mobility aids. The park's exercise equipment has an inclusive design with many pieces designed for seniors, persons with disabilities, and the community as a whole.

## MORE PEDESTRIAN-ACTIVATED LIGHTS AT CROSSWALKS COMING SOON

While the draft Active Transportation Plan is under development, we are continuing to take strides to improve the safety of our streets.

This fall, three crosswalks in Sidney are getting a visibility boost with pedestrian-activated lights. The lights will give drivers a clear warning that someone is waiting to cross. These improvements are partially being funded by an ICBC Road Improvement Program grant.

The following locations were chosen based on public feedback:

- Brethour Avenue and Seventh Street (near Sidney Elementary School),
- Resthaven Drive and Brethour Avenue, and
- Fifth Street and Mills Road (pictured below, near the library).





## Single-use plastics ban coming to Sidney

**D**o you have a set of to-go cutlery? A collection of reusable bags to grab when shopping? These items will be especially handy when Sidney's Single-Use Plastics and Foam Container Bylaw comes into effect on January 1, 2023.

Single-use plastics and foam containers are generally used for mere minutes but never completely break down, polluting waterways and public spaces, while also filling our landfill.

The Bylaw will restrict businesses from distributing:

- Plastic checkout bags,
- Plastic straws,
- Plastic utensils (including stir sticks), and
- Foam takeout containers.

The new Bylaw reflects the community's desire to reduce waste and pollution. During public engagement on Sidney's updated Climate Action Plan in 2021, the introduction of a Single-Use Plastics Bylaw was one of the most supported initiatives considered.

The initiative also aligns with global efforts to reduce waste and protect our oceans. Canada's federal government has announced plans to ban companies from importing or making foam containers as well as many single-use plastic items by the end of 2022.

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## Sidney's Climate Action Plan now approved and ready for implementation

**H**ere's an interesting fact: when you compost food that you can't eat, you are reducing potential greenhouse gas emissions. When organic waste goes to the landfill, it doesn't have access to the oxygen it needs to decompose; this leads to the production of methane - a greenhouse gas 25 times more powerful than carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere!

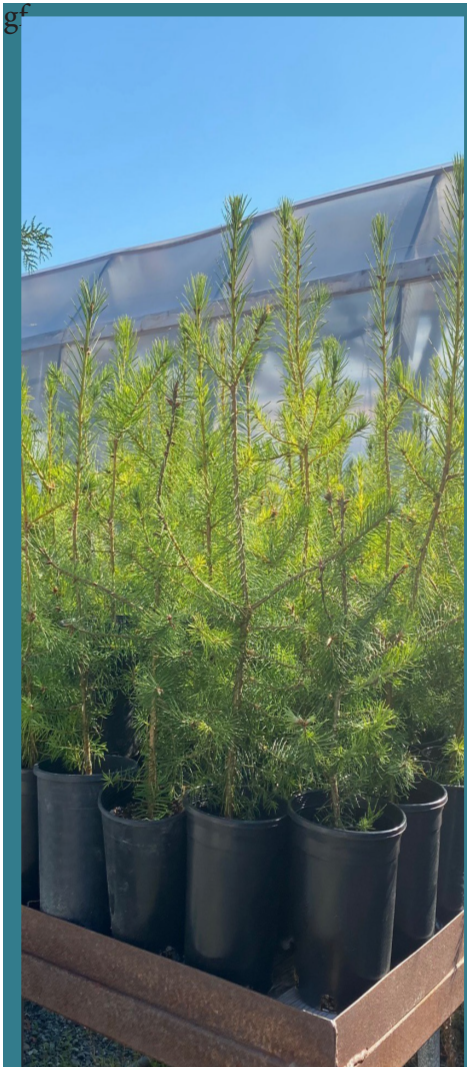
There are many ways community members and the Town can work together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Sidney's new Climate Action Plan can help you identify realistic ways you can make a difference.

The updated Climate Action Plan was approved by Council in July 2022. It is based on current best practices, the latest science, and input from community members. In addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the Plan also focuses on making Sidney more resilient to risks associated with climate change, such as rising sea levels, floods, and extreme heat.

The Town will now begin working on next steps to implement the Plan. The initial focus will be on short-term priority items such as updating the Zoning Bylaw to reduce barriers to installing low-emission and resilient building features.

Here's how you can help:

- Check out the "What you can do" actions in the Climate Action Plan available at [www.sidney.ca](http://www.sidney.ca) and in paper copy at Town Hall. The carbon footprint calculator on our website is a great way to identify your biggest opportunities for GHG emission reductions. Maybe it's walking or biking instead of driving, eating more plant-based meals, or shopping second hand.
- Talk to your friends and family about climate change and climate change action, or bring up climate action opportunities at your workplace or with community leaders.
- Connect with Climate Action Coordinator, Kira Gill-Maher, about your ideas for improving resilience and reducing GHG emissions in the community. You can reach Kira at [climateaction@sidney.ca](mailto:climateaction@sidney.ca).



## TREE APPRECIATION DAY

September 24, 2022, 9:45 am to 1 pm

PETER GRANT PARK

The Douglas Firs that weren't adopted by community members during last year's tree giveaway event have been thriving in the Town's shadehouse. Help grow Sidney's tree canopy by planting some of these native trees near KEL,SET (Reay Creek).

For those wanting to plant a tree on their own property, Sidney's tree giveaway will be back this September. Sign up for one of several species and pick up your tree from Town Hall.

More details and registration information for Tree Appreciation Day events will be coming soon at [www.sidney.ca](http://www.sidney.ca).

## SIDNEY FARMERS MARKET

Every Sunday until September 25, 2022, 10 am to 2 pm

Mary Winspear Centre

Explore a variety of vendors of all types, including local artisans, farmers & growers, creative foods, clothing, accessories, and more.

## LITTLE BLACK DRESS EXHIBIT

Running until October 3, 2022

Sidney Museum

This travelling exhibit from the Costume Museum of Canada explores the history of the Little Black Dress with fashions from 1911-1990 on display.

## ARTSEA FALL STUDIO TOUR

October 15 to 16, 2022, 10 am to 4 pm daily

Studio locations throughout the Saanich Peninsula

Vancouver Island's longest running self-guided studio tour is back! Visit one of the participating studios on the Saanich Peninsula to view recent works, enjoy artist demonstrations, and to learn what inspires these artists.

## HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR

October 24 to 31, 2022

Various locations in Downtown Sidney

Creep and crawl your way through Sidney to discover a variety of spooktacular displays including a jack-o-lantern alley, community pumpkin patch, and pumpkins on the Pier! Visit [exploresidney.ca/halloween](http://exploresidney.ca/halloween) for more information.

## TREAT STREET

October 31, 2022, 4:30 pm to 6 pm

Downtown Sidney

Part of Beacon Avenue will be closed to traffic as little witches, superheroes, and ghosts are invited to enjoy a family trick-or-treat event on Halloween! Visit various Treat Stations around Sidney as well as at some of the local merchants. Free fun for the whole family!

