



|| Kids enjoy a sunny ride through Sidney. An Active Transportation Plan could help make it safer for people of all ages to walk, bike, and roll.

## Sidney's Active Transportation Plan now underway

This spring, the Town of Sidney is developing its first Active Transportation Plan. With the help of public input and experienced consultants (Urban Systems), we are creating a plan to guide the development of a safe and convenient active transportation network in Sidney.

The plan will include recommendations for new infrastructure, designs, and initiatives that could make it more inviting for people of all ages to leave the car at home and walk, bike, or use a mobility aid to get around town.

Sidney stands out among communities in Canada for its outstanding potential to support a vibrant active transportation network. It is a flat and compact town with many services and businesses in close proximity to one another. It also has mild winters with relatively few days of snow and ice.

Of course, vehicles will always have a place in Sidney. No one expects community members to collect a week's worth of groceries on foot. But there is a lot we can do to make it easier for people to make those trips to a local café, shop, library, friend's home, doctor's office, or workplace using their own power.

### What is active transportation?

Active transportation takes many forms and includes people of all ages and abilities.

For instance, a strong active transportation network can help elderly residents who choose not to drive maintain their independence using a mobility scooter; that same network can help our youngest community members get to school safely.

Active transportation takes many forms, including:

- Walking
- Using a mobility device such as a wheelchair, walker, mobility scooter, and stroller
- Cycling
- Riding an electric bike
- Dog walking
- Jogging
- Skateboarding
- Rollerblading

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### GARDENING TIPS



Learn how the Rose Garden gets its brilliant blooms. [SEE PAGE 5](#)

### SHORT-TERM RENTALS



Wondering what's allowed when it comes to vacation rentals in Sidney? [SEE PAGE 7](#)

### EVENTS



Check out what's happening over the next few months. [SEE PAGE 8](#)

TAKE THE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN SURVEY BY JUNE 13 AT [WWW.SIDNEY.CA](http://WWW.SIDNEY.CA)

## UPCOMING FALL ELECTION

**A**re you thinking about running for local office? There are great resources available! Potential candidates can obtain answers to questions they may have about the role and responsibilities of an elected official, how local governments make decisions and how you can best serve your community, before making the final decision to run for office. These resources can be accessed through the Town's website at [www.sidney.ca](http://www.sidney.ca).

Nomination documents for persons interested in running for office of Mayor (1 to be elected), Councillor (6 to be elected) or School Trustee (1 to be elected) will be made available at the end of July.

Persons qualified to run for office must be:

- age 18 or older;
- a Canadian Citizen;
- a resident of BC for at least 6 months; and
- not be disqualified by any statute or law from being nominated, elected or holding office.

Nomination period begins at 9:00 am on Tuesday, August 30th and closes at 4:00 pm on Friday, September 9th. Nomination documents must be filed with the Chief Election Officer at Town Hall.

The Town uses the Provincial List of Electors for voting purposes. To ensure you are on the list, please contact Elections BC at 250-387-5305 or email [electionsbc@elections.bc.ca](mailto:electionsbc@elections.bc.ca).

New voter registrations will be accepted on voting day. Please ensure you bring two pieces of personal identification providing proof of identity and residency (at least one with a signature).

## GENERAL VOTING DAY

Saturday, October 15, 2022

[Mary Winspear Centre](#)

8:00 am to 8:00 pm

## ADVANCED VOTING DAYS

Wednesday, October 5, 2022 &

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

[Sidney Town Hall](#)

8:00 am to 8:00 pm

## Message from Mayor and Council

**T**hank you for taking time to see what we're currently working on in the community. If winter's long reach into April left you feeling pent up, you might now be feeling the draw to be outside to enjoy being near the ocean and all that Sidney has to offer.

These experiences we have in Sidney's public spaces – in our parks and on our walkways and roads – are the focus of this issue of Town Talk. Inside these pages, we take a look at the Rose Garden and how this beautiful sanctuary is cared for. There's also information about the long-awaited return of annual events including Sidney Days with a parade, fireworks display and more. We can't wait to feel that distinctive flood of community spirit again!

You will also find articles about a new roundabout coming to the intersection of Beacon Avenue West and Galaran Road, as well as information about new seasonal floats at Tulista Boat Launch.

Above all, the focus of this issue is the Town's Active Transportation Plan process. This year, the Town is working with consultants to develop plans to expand our walking and cycling network, guided by public input.

The project stems from one of the most frequent comments we heard from community members when gathering feedback on the draft Official Community Plan and Climate Action Plan. Residents often expressed

the need for safer biking routes, more bike racks, and better-connected sidewalks and pathways.

When community members don't feel safe biking downtown to run errands or letting their kids bike to school, we know there is work to be done. If our infrastructure deters people from choosing active transportation, we end up with more vehicles vying for parking spaces, more costs for families who need an additional vehicle to get around, more greenhouse gas emissions, and less independence for those who can't, or choose not to drive.

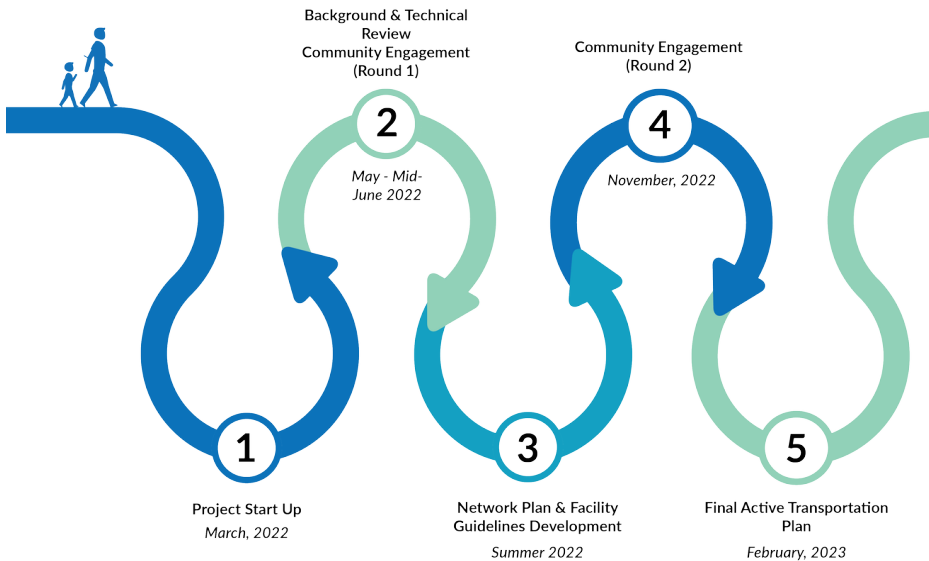
The issue of active transportation can be polarizing. Please join us in approaching active transportation from a place of inclusivity, where we look to balance the needs and safety of pedestrians, cyclists and drivers. Vehicles also need to be accommodated in our community, and we will not lose sight of that. What we have set our sights on is removing barriers for community members who would choose to walk, bike or use a mobility aid to get around.

We hope you will share your perspective on active transportation challenges and opportunities by filling out the online survey at [www.sidney.ca](http://www.sidney.ca).

We wish you a beautiful spring ahead and look forward to seeing many of you at this summer's community events!



Councillors Terri O'Keeffe, Barbara Fallot, Scott Garnett, Mayor Cliff McNeil-Smith, Councillors Chad Rintoul, Sara Duncan, and Peter Wainwright



# Benefits of Active Transportation

## Environmental Health

Vehicles are the number one source of greenhouse gas emissions in Sidney. If we choose to bike, walk or roll more often, we will reduce our carbon footprint and get one step closer to reaching our climate action goals.



## Physical Health

Active transportation is a great way to incorporate regular activity into our lives.



## Connected Community

When people of all ages travel along our sidewalks and bike paths, they form connections that combat loneliness and make small-town living more enjoyable.

## Less Car Congestion

When people choose to leave their vehicle at home, there is less vehicle congestion on roads and fewer cars vying for parking spaces.

## Affordability

With high gas prices and the significant cost of vehicle ownership, maintenance, and insurance, active transportation is a great way to significantly reduce household costs.



## Greater Independence

When people young and old are not able to, or choose not to drive, active transportation, which includes mobility aids like electric scooters can be a way to maintain independence.

## What to expect (Active Transportation Plan - Continued from Page 1)

The development of an active transportation plan will happen in five phases with community input playing a critical role. The plan will set a blueprint for future physical improvements throughout the Town.

1. (March 2022) Town of Sidney met with consultants to provide community orientation and begin project collaboration.
2. (May - mid-June 2022) The consultants are currently undertaking a background and technical review assessing Sidney's existing active transportation infrastructure. A public feedback period is also underway with a survey available until June 13 at [www.sidney.ca](http://www.sidney.ca). The survey will help identify community priorities and concerns, possible accessibility and safety improvements, and areas where new infrastructure would be most beneficial.
3. (Summer 2022) The consultants will draw from the engagement and technical analysis to develop a draft Active Transportation Plan including walking and cycling network plans.
4. (November 2022) There will be a second period of engagement to get input on the draft Active Transportation Plan and the development of a north-south cycling corridor.
5. (February 2023) Target date for finalizing the Sidney's first Active Transportation Plan. This will require Council approval.



## COMMUNITY MEMBER PROFILE: KELLY GALLINS

I live on the north end of Sidney and I often use my bike to take my toddler, Felix, to daycare or pick my daughter, Clara, up from after-school care or soccer practice. I also use my bike to grab groceries or take out.

I bought my current bike about a year ago and have put over 1,500km on it already. Most of the trips on it are 3km or less. The rack really helps it serve as a car replacement. I don't have to debate whether I can fit a package of toilet paper and my toddler on the bike at the same time.

Without a lot of dedicated space for cyclists in Sidney, it can sometimes be scary with cars passing close to us and worries about getting "doored" by a parked car.

# New tax policy to help local businesses

Commercial properties in Sidney will be shouldering less of the community's tax burden as a result of a new and unique approach to taxation approved by Sidney's Council.

The Town has adopted a new approach to help keep the proportion of taxes collected from businesses closer to a 2:1 ratio.

For example, if business and light industrial properties constitute 10% of Sidney's tax base (property assessments), the Town would collect 20% of its taxes from those properties.

Currently this latter percentage is closer to 25% in Sidney, representing a ratio of 2.29:1.

The new tax ratio will be phased in over 10 years, with the residential sector gradually absorbing the reduction of taxes from the commercial sector. The annual impact will be about \$30 per year for the average residential property during this 10-year phase-in period.



# Updated Climate Action Plan now ready for public review

**I**n 2019, Council declared a climate emergency to respond to the growing global movement to reduce climate change and prepare for its projected impacts.

As a result, the Town hired a Climate Action Coordinator who began a review and update of the Town's Climate Action Plan.

The draft plan is now ready for public review! It is designed to:

- Build an understanding of climate change, climate action, and its implications for Sidney
- Provide an update on the current level of greenhouse gas emissions produced by the Town's operations and the greater community
- Examine Sidney's projected risks and vulnerabilities associated with climate change, such as floods due to heavy rains

- Review the Town's existing policies and regulations and identify where there are opportunities to integrate climate change considerations
- Share opportunities for the community to participate in addressing climate change.

One of the plan's key components is a list of 46 actions to guide the plan into implementation. The actions are broken down into eight categories shown in the graphic below.

We invite you to check the plan out and share your thoughts! Please visit [www.sidney.ca](http://www.sidney.ca) to get started.



Town leadership



Buildings



Infrastructure



Natural Environment



Transportation & Mobility



Emergency Preparedness



Land Use



Food & Waste



# Gardening tips for roses

BY: WES NELSON

**Feature Gardener Bio:** Wes grew up in Sidney and has worked for the Town for almost 20 years. He has seen the Rose Garden transform from a grassy area next to a lacrosse box into the sanctuary it is today. He credits much of what he knows to retired gardener Doug Lewis, who re-landscaped the Rose Garden into its current form.

Through the many seasons Wes has spent planting and pruning the Town's collection of roses, he's been fueled by community members who find peace in the garden. During the height of the pandemic, he watched as more people sought out the Rose Garden to boost their mood, play music, or see loved ones from a distance. Below, Wes shares some tips for success growing your own roses at home.

## Choose Wisely

Some rose varieties are more challenging than others. A great place to start is with landscape roses. These hardy bushes offer a lot of colour and are quite disease resistant (once you have roses, you'll always be on the watch for signs of fungus). Landscape roses are also more forgiving when it comes to pruning. The drawback is that they don't have that distinct fragrance that so many people enjoy.

## The Big Bloom

If you want a rose with a stunning bloom and strong fragrance, try hybrid tea roses. We have both these types, along with knockout roses, at the Rose Garden.

I've placed the hybrid tea roses next to benches and along the entrance to the arbor in the Rose Garden – places where people are most likely to pause. It's important that this is a place



||| If you visit the Rose Garden on Resthaven Drive (next to the Sidney/North Saanich Library), you will often see Wes Nelson tending to the roses.

where people can stop and smell the roses.

Just keep in mind that this is a higher maintenance rose. You'll need to act fast if you see black spots or powdery mildew.

## Spring Pruning

Each year on March 15th - no sooner and no later – I start pruning my roses. I remove all remaining leaves so I can really see the structure of the bush and lower the risk of pests or disease. Then I start cutting deadwood back to the base. I cut into the wood and see if it's brown inside. If it's green, I leave it. For the hybrid tea roses, I take out crossing branches that can rub, and create an open structure like a vase.

With the landscape roses, I can be less

particular, trimming the plant back to about half its height.

After pruning, make sure you clean up your surroundings. Diseases and pests can lurk in fallen leaves and branches.

## Hearty Appetites

Roses are big eaters. You need to use a long-lasting fertilizer to ensure they're getting proper nutrition. If your roses aren't thriving, it could be a reflection of the soil. I fertilize the roses every two weeks and water them a couple times a week. Roses are happiest in a sunny spot, but that means frequent watering.

When in doubt, stop by the Rose Garden and say hi. I'd love to share some more tips.

## A GARDEN TO HONOUR LOVE & LOSS

The Rose Garden was created in 1980 as a memorial garden – a place for people to go to find peace and comfort while remembering a loved one. In its earlier days, donations could be made to the garden in a person's honour. The Park Superintendent at the time, Robert (Bob) Jackson was dedicated to establishing, designing, and building the garden. Just a few years after the garden was completed, Bob Jackson passed away. The arbor that surrounds the fountain was erected in his honour.



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR INPUT ON THE DRAFT OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN!

Over the past two years, community members have shown their strong commitment to Sidney and its future by getting involved in updating the Official Community Plan (OCP). The plan sets broad policies and objectives for Sidney, guiding land use decisions over the next 20 years.

A draft version of the OCP, based on public feedback to date, was shared on March 3rd, with a public review period running until April 11th. We were once again impressed with how many community members took the time to offer input.

We heard from the public through:

- An online survey (350 responses)
- Two open houses (91 participants)
- Four community cafes (122 community members stopped by)
- Letters, phone calls, stakeholder meetings, and visits from community members to Town Hall.

The feedback has informed a revised version of the draft OCP for Council's consideration. Before Council adopts the final OCP, the public will be invited to participate in the bylaw adoption process, which includes a public hearing.

## NEW FLOATS INSTALLED AT TULISTA BOAT LAUNCH

Boating season has arrived and newly built seasonal floats are in place at the boat launch at Tulista Park. The replacement of the floats was expedited after boaters shared concerns about aging styrofoam creating ocean debris. The new floats have encapsulated foam to prevent this issue in the future.



||| A roundabout funded by Sidney, North Saanich, and the Victoria Airport Authority will support traffic flow resulting from past, current, and future growth in West Sidney and the surrounding area.

## Roundabout coming to Beacon Avenue West & Galaran Road

**A** new roundabout in West Sidney, scheduled for completion in fall 2023, is expected to increase public safety, reduce congestion, and support economic development in the area, including Sidney's Industrial Park.

Sidney, North Saanich, and the Victoria Airport Authority have agreed upon a Memorandum of Understanding to build a roundabout at the intersection of Beacon Avenue West and Galaran Road. Stirling Avenue will also be realigned to connect to the roundabout.

The estimated cost for the project is \$4.9 million. Project costs will be shared according to a formula agreed upon by all three partners. The Town of Sidney and Victoria Airport Authority will each contribute 40% of project costs, with the District of North Saanich covering the remaining 20%.

Sidney will be borrowing the approximately \$2 million needed for the road improvement.

## SIDNEY BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA STAFF MEMBER PROFILE: NATALIE BOBROWICH

Hi! I'm Natalie Bobrowich, the new Business Development Manager with the Sidney BIA, working in partnership with the Town of Sidney. As a longtime Sidney resident, I am thrilled to be working alongside local entrepreneurs to provide support in starting, growing, or strengthening operations.

If you are a local business owner, I would love to connect with you to learn about the challenges and successes of your business, and see how I can help. Send me a note at [natalie@sidneybia.ca](mailto:natalie@sidneybia.ca).

All Sidney-owned businesses are eligible for a wide range of business support services, free of charge. Sidney's BIA also offers a variety of resources. Find more information at [ExploreSidney.ca/resources](https://ExploreSidney.ca/resources).





## Seasonal banners recognize WSÁNEĆ connection to the region's lands and waters

**S**tunning new seasonal banners will soon be lining Beacon Avenue. The banners include original art by WSÁNEĆ artist Sarah Jim who described the symbolism of the image:

**“The crab is a symbol of our beaches that surround us and provide us with physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional well-being.**

**In their claws the crab holds a crescent moon which pays homage to our 13-moon calendar.**

**The moon guides our activities throughout the year; this way of being follows the laws of the land.**

**Eelgrass is a keystone species that contributes to the health of our oceans. Eelgrass meadows help stabilize the ocean floor and create hunting grounds, nurseries, and shelters for so many creatures.**

**These designs incorporate our ancient art form that represent our territory, people, and culture. Included are Coast Salish elements: crescents, trigons, and circles.”**

The banner to be paired with Sarah Jim’s artwork includes the SENĆOTEN name for the area SET, TINES as well as the word Sidney. It is a recognition that the community lies within the traditional territory of the WSÁNEĆ people whose presence and connection to these lands and waters continues today and has since time immemorial.

The Town is committed to strengthening its relationship with local First Nations. Several goals have been outlined in the draft Official Community Plan. Some examples include exploring the creation of traditional and medicinal gardens in municipal park lands in collaboration with WSÁNEĆ communities and working together on an MOU to guide government-to-government relationships.

The banners will be on display from May to September and are not part of Canada Day celebrations.

## Q&A

### Q. ARE SHORT-TERM/VACATION RENTALS ALLOWED IN SIDNEY?

A. Yes, if key conditions are met.

Sidney’s Zoning Bylaw includes regulations for short-term rentals that permit vacation rentals under certain circumstances only. These regulations reduce the potential impact on Sidney’s long-term rental stock, promote a level of responsibility for guests, and contribute to safety.

A key bylaw requirement is that the property must be continuously occupied by a permanent resident; a condo cannot be purchased and rented out for short-term stays.

The short-term rental unit must also be a legal dwelling unit, such as a secondary suite that has received an occupancy permit.

For more information, visit: [www.sidney.ca](http://www.sidney.ca).



### DO NOT FEED SEAGULLS, DUCKS, RABBITS OR OTHER WILDLIFE

Keep Sidney’s wildlife wild! Sidney’s bylaws protect wildlife by prohibiting people from feeding them. If you want to help wildlife, give them space not food.

## SMOKE ALARM REMINDER

Working smoke alarms can save lives, but did you know that the life span of a smoke alarm is only 10 years? Book an appointment with the Sidney Fire Department by calling 250-656-2121 or emailing [firedept@sidney.ca](mailto:firedept@sidney.ca) to replace your old smoke detector.



## JOIN THE PENINSULA NEWCOMERS CLUB

Being new to an area where you may not know anyone can be very daunting. The Peninsula Newcomers Club for women offers opportunities to meet new people and develop friendships in a non-threatening environment through a variety of social gatherings and activities. So don't hesitate. For a nominal membership fee you can be part of this fun, exciting, and welcoming group. To find out more visit our website: [www.peninsulanewcomers.com](http://www.peninsulanewcomers.com)

## SISTER CITIES ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Submitted by Lesley Nicholls

Like many of the local organizations, Sidney Sister Cities Association has prevailed in spite of the pandemic. We've been able to meet regularly thanks to the miracle of Zoom and we continue to maintain relationships with Cairns, Niimi and Anacortes.

It has been disappointing that we have not been able to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Anacortes Ferry run this year. Washington State Ferries is hopeful that the ferry will return to service either this fall or spring 2023. In spite of a lack of direct ferry service, the good folks in Anacortes are planning on coming over to take part in the Canada Day Parade.

We are currently planning our usual Canada Day pot luck supper and in September we will start holding in-person meetings, beginning with a special visit to the Shaw Centre for the Salish Sea.

We encourage anyone interested in the work of the Association to join us. Visit our website [www.sidneysistercitiesassociation.com](http://www.sidneysistercitiesassociation.com).



## SIDNEY FARMERS MARKETS

Sunday Market

May - September 25, 2022

Mary Winspear Centre

10am to 2pm

Thursday Night Market

June 2 - September 1, 2022

Mary Winspear Centre

5:30pm to 8:30pm

## PRIDE DAY

June 18, 2022

Beacon Park

Everyone is welcome to celebrate Pride Day with an event including face painting, live music, free giveaways, and drag appearances. More details to come at [exploresidney.ca](http://exploresidney.ca).

## STORYTELLER: KUNG JAADEE

June 22, 2022

Virtual event hosted by Vancouver Island Regional Library (Register at [virl.bc.ca](http://virl.bc.ca).)

6pm

This adult event is in celebration of National Indigenous Peoples Day featuring internationally renowned storyteller and author Kung Jaadee (Roberta Kennedy).

## SIDNEY DAYS

June 30 & July 1, 2022

Downtown Sidney

Look forward to fireworks (June 30) as well as a parade and family fun day (July 1). More details to come at [www.exploresidney.ca](http://www.exploresidney.ca).



## LITTLE BLACK DRESS EXHIBIT

Opens July 8, 2022

Sidney Museum

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

## SUMMER SOUNDS CONCERT SERIES

Every Sunday in July and August, beginning July 10, 2022

Beacon Park

More details to come at [www.exploresidney.ca](http://www.exploresidney.ca).