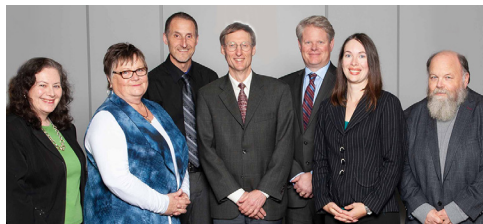


Message from Mayor & Council



As we pass the one-year mark living with COVID-19, the tremendous work being done on vaccinations brings renewed optimism for us all. With the Mary Winspear Centre as a vaccination site, we encourage anyone who has not yet reviewed the schedule and booking arrangements to see the information on page 3.

The impacts of the pandemic remain significant for businesses, community organizations and Town operations. Local businesses are the lifeblood of our community and we see the spirit of shopping local is very strong. Many of our community organizations have presented to Council in recent months. Their staff and volunteers are adapting in remarkable ways and your ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

Let us be mindful of the pandemic's impact on our mental health. We are fortunate to have so many opportunities to be active outside. Ideas for things to do around our community are on the last page, and contacts for support are listed on page 3. Remaining vigilant with Provincial health orders and getting our vaccinations will help ensure we emerge from the pandemic sooner.

Council recently approved the 2021 Financial Plan with a modest tax

increase of 2.7%. In 2020, Council felt it was a prudent pandemic response to roll back the tax increase to 0% and provide an additional 10% reduction in municipal taxes for commercial properties. The receipt of \$2.7 million in Canada-BC Safe Restart funds enables us to mitigate some pandemic impacts and transition back to normal revenue levels over the next three years. Taxes for commercial properties in 2021 remain below what they were in 2019.

Council will continue a measured approach to achieve modest tax impacts while maintaining the level of services the community expects and the long-term financial health of the Town.

Pandemic health orders continue to restrict in-person public participation at Council meetings; however, we encourage your email submissions or participation at our meetings via Zoom. The update article on our review of the Official Community Plan includes several ways you can get involved. We encourage everyone to participate on shaping the future of our community.

Articles that follow include updates on the Reay Creek Project, our Tree Preservation Bylaw, CleanBC Better Home Rebates, upgrades to Saanich Peninsula Alert, and some memories from our past. Council and staff hope you find them interesting and informative, and we welcome your feedback.

Mayor Cliff McNeil-Smith
mayor@sidney.ca
250-216-0145

2021 Financial Plan

Council approved the 2021 Financial Plan on March 2. Some highlights include:

- A modest 2.7% tax increase equating to approximately \$41 for the year or \$3.42 a month with total municipal taxes for the average residence averaging \$1,559 for this year or \$130 per month.
- Estimated tax increase for the average commercial property – valued at \$962,000 – is about \$105 for the year.
- Nearly 100 capital projects valued at just under \$10M including:
 - \$4.4M in infrastructure replacement projects
 - \$1.1M in sidewalk and pathway improvements
 - \$400,000 for Fourth Street washrooms replacement and new waterfront public washrooms
- Operating budget features:
 - Ongoing work on the review of the Official Community Plan
 - Funding for a new Climate Action Coordinator
- Ten vital, community organizations receive support totaling close to \$1M, representing 8% of the Town's operating budget.
- \$60,000 in 2021 and 2022 to the Sidney BIA for business development initiatives in response to the impacts of the pandemic.
- \$60,000 for the development of a long-term economic development strategy.

For more information, please visit:
www.sidney.ca/budget



Reay Creek Project Update

We are pleased to share that the Town’s Reay Creek Dam Renovation Project is substantially complete. The dam and the fish ladder were in place for 2020’s salmon spawning season. Transport Canada’s pond remediation project is also complete. Water is flowing through the pond and over the dam as designed.

Upgrades to the dam meet current BC Dam Safety Regulations, including improved passage of storm flows, withstanding earthquakes and improved overall stability of the structure. As well, it enhances and protects the environment, allowing for fish passage around the dam structure.

In the near future, the Town will undertake a public engagement process for park enhancements. Watch the Town’s website at www.sidney.ca for the latest updates.

The Town would like to thank the WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council for their guidance and support on this important project, which is located in their traditional territory, the Peninsula Streams Society, and the neighbourhood residents of Reay Creek for their patience and cooperation throughout the construction process.



Updated Tree Preservation Bylaw

Sidney Council has adopted amendments to Town of Sidney Tree Preservation Bylaw No. 2138.

Key amendments include:

- The following native tree species were added to the Bylaw as Protected Species: Bigleaf Maple, Grand Fir, Western Redcedar, Western Yew, Shore Pine, Cascara, and Seaside Juniper.
- The minimum size of a protected species considered protected under the Bylaw was reduced as follows:
 - The minimum size for smaller and harder to establish tree species was reduced from a 15 cm diameter down to a 3 cm diameter.
 - The minimum size for larger tree species was reduced from a 30 cm diameter to 1.2 metres in height.
- The minimum diameter of a non-protected species of tree protected under the Bylaw was reduced from 75 cm to 60 cm.

Protected trees:

- Protected species (see chart on below)
- Replacement trees
- Trees required to be planted or retained under a Development Permit
- Trees within an area designated in the Town’s Official Community Plan as a development permit area for the protection of the natural environment, its ecosystems and biological diversity
- Trees on a highway, park or other Town owned or occupied lands
- Any tree having a diameter greater than 60 cm

Required replacements for protected trees:

Protected Tree	Size of Tree to be Removed	Required # of Replacement Trees
Garry Oak, Pacific Dogwood, Western Yew, Seaside Juniper, Cascara, Shore Pine	< 3 cm diameter	0
	3 cm - 20 cm diameter	1
	20 cm - 40 cm diameter	2
	40 cm diameter	3
Douglas-fir, Grand Fir, Western Redcedar, Bigleaf Maple	< 1.2 m tall	0
	1.2 m - 6 m tall	1
	6 m - 12 m tall	2
	> 12 m tall	3
All other protected trees		2

For more information, please visit www.sidney.ca/trees or contact the Engineering Department at engineering@sidney.ca or 250-656-4502.

COVID-19 Immunization Plan Update

Health authorities in B.C. have started the registration process for COVID-19 immunizations.

- As of **March 25, 2021**, all seniors born in or before 1945 (75 years+) and Indigenous people born in or before 1966 (55 years+) can call to book their vaccine appointment.
- **March 26:** Seniors born in or before 1946 (74 years+) may call to book their vaccine appointment.
- **March 29:** Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (must have invitation letter) may call to book their vaccine appointment.

Future eligibility dates may change on short notice. For the latest information about BC's vaccination plan, including estimated eligibility dates for upcoming age groups, visit gov.bc.ca/covidvaccine or call **1-888-COVID19**.

Those eligible to register for the COVID-19 vaccine can call the Island Health call centre at: **1-833-348-4787**, 7 am – 7 pm daily.

Only call in when you're eligible.

If you miss your initial age-based dates, you can call anytime after you become eligible.

You will need to provide your:

- Legal first and last name
- Date of birth
- Postal code
- Personal health number (aka: care card)
- Contact information (direct phone number or support person phone number)

If an eligible individual has difficulty registering themselves, a family member, friend or community advocate can call the Island Health call centre to register for them.

Additional information can be found on Island Health's website at:

www.islandhealth.ca/covid19vaccine



Saanich Peninsula Alert Notification System Upgraded

As of March 25, 2021, Saanich Peninsula Alert is transitioning to a new provider in order to offer better service to residents, visitors, and stakeholders of the Saanich Peninsula.

The upgrade will require current subscribers to login to the new system and register for alerts with an expanded list of options. If you do not re-register before March 25, 2021, you will not continue to receive alerts.

The most significant change and benefit under the new system is that it allows registrants to set their notifications to include multiple areas. This enables the user to keep up-to-date on areas outside of their own neighbourhood or municipality. For example, someone residing in North Saanich may work in Central Saanich and have elderly parents living in Sidney. With the new system, the user can set up notifications for all three areas, or more if they choose.

To sign-up for alerts or to re-register, please visit www.sidney.ca/spa. If you have any questions, please contact the Fire Department at 250-656-2121 or firedept@sidney.ca.

Mental Health Resources

HealthLink BC: Provides 24/7 confidential mental health information and support. Call 8-1-1 or visit www.healthlinkbc.ca.

Kids Help Phone: Provides 24/7 support to young people in both English and French. Call 1-800-668-6868, text CONNECT to 686868, or visit www.kidshelpphone.ca.

Anxiety Canada: Provides free online, self-help, and evidence-based resources on anxiety. Visit www.anxietycanada.com.

Mental Health Digital Hub: Find mental health services and supports close to you. Visit www.gov.bc.ca/mentalhealth.

CleanBC Better Homes Rebates

Have you been thinking about upgrading your home's heating or hot water system? Are you considering home improvements to reduce your energy use? Be sure to check out CleanBC Better Homes to find rebates available for your projects! The CleanBC Better Homes program provides incentives for homeowners to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). Select rebates are doubled for a limited time – register for a promo code by March 31!

Sidney Council has committed up to \$50,000 as a municipal partner in the CleanBC Better Homes rebate program. The funds will be used in 2021 to top-up rebates provided through the program for home renovations for Sidney residents. Municipal top-ups for Sidney residents will be retroactive to January 1, 2021.

The CleanBC program is funded by the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada, and is administered by BC Hydro, FortisBC and BC Housing. The program offers:

- Easy to use rebate search tool for when you are renovating a home or building a new home
- Single application for CleanBC Better Homes, BC Hydro, FortisBC and local government rebates
- Information and answers to frequently asked questions on energy efficiency upgrades and accessing rebates
- Free Energy Coaching Services for homeowners and businesses undertaking renovations, including a phone and email hotline staffed by energy coaching specialists

Visit www.betterhomesbc.ca or call 1-844-881-9790 to find out more.

What is an OCP?

An OCP is a forward-looking municipal bylaw that establishes a set of objective and policies for the community, guiding the decisions related to planning, land use, and municipal service provision within the community. Policies contained within the OCP seek to establish some degree of certainty about the location and nature of community change for residents and landowners, while providing a framework for guiding and managing future development and growth.

In general the content of an OCP is not to be considered rigid regulation, like a zoning bylaw, but rather a set of principles which help guide decision-making. OCPs can also be adjusted from time to time to meet the needs, or future desires, of the community it serves.

Project Timeline



About the Project

One of Council’s primary strategic priorities for their current term is a review and update of the Town of Sidney’s Official Community Plan (OCP). Branded “Sidney 2040 – Our future by the sea”, the OCP review project will seek community input and participation in imagining a vision for Sidney 20 years from now and will result in a comprehensive update to the document.

An OCP provides a general framework for all of the key issues facing a municipality, including, but not limited to:

- Provision of lands for residential, commercial, recreational, public utility and other land uses;
- Policies to protect environmentally sensitive areas, and promote environmentally responsible development;
- Economic development;
- Public infrastructure (such as roads and parks);
- Social and cultural values;
- Urban design and guidelines for development

What’s happening now?

Phase 1 of the project was largely internal work, such as background research and analysis, but also included interviews with some community groups to help establish a the foundation for engagement and dialogue in Phase 2.

Phase 2 is the primary information gathering and policy development phase of the project. Specific topics will be explored, and key options and trade-offs will be discussed. This phase includes the bulk of engagement events, with community and stakeholder feedback directly informing the development of the draft plan.

The next step in Phase 2 will be a community wide survey asking for feedback on a number of key issues. You will be able to participate in this survey online at the project webpage: www.sidney.ca/ocp. At the end of Phase 2, a “Key Directions” report will be published to all project participants in the loop on what we heard from engagement what some key policy directions for the OCP might look like.

In Phase 3, all of the information gathered to date will be incorporated into a draft OCP document. Staff anticipate numerous rounds of back-and-forth policy development between the consultant, Town staff, Council and the OCP Review Advisory Committee. Staff will share the draft OCP with the public as well, to make sure the Town is on the right track. Phase 3 will culminate in the presentation of a draft OCP to the public, at both an in-person open house as well as virtually online.

Phase 4 will be the final project phase, and will incorporate any remaining community input on the OCP draft and further refine the plan prior to proceeding to bylaw adoption.

Sidney 2040 - Our Future by the Sea

Interesting early findings & mapping

As part of the background research completed in Phase 1, some informative analysis was undertaken of Sidney's population, services and amenities. This type of analysis is a good example of the goal of an OCP update in helping to plan for improved quality of life for all residents of the community. For example, the area north of Beacon Avenue has a large number of residents, with the highest population density. There are other population concentrations throughout Sidney, as well as areas with a much lower density of homes and people.

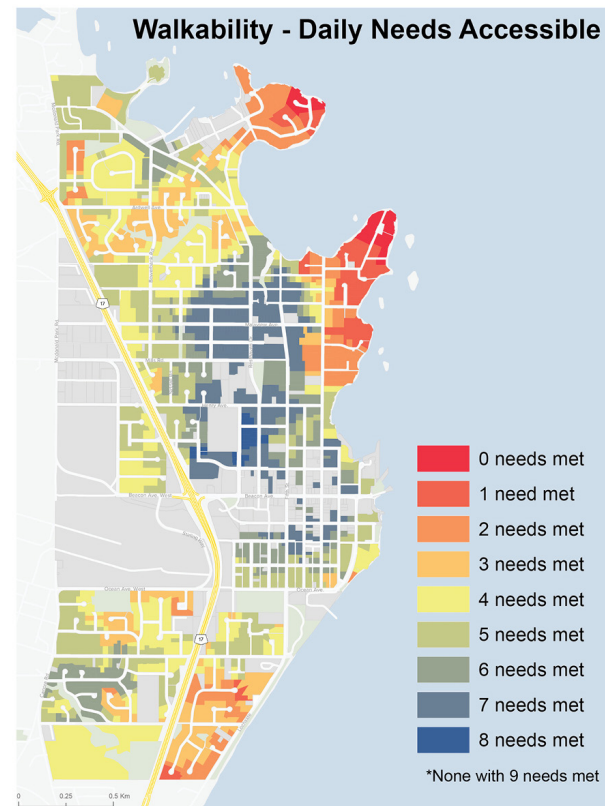
Looking at walking distance to daily needs in Sidney, some patterns emerge. Many areas of Sidney, such as the higher density area north of Beacon Avenue, are within close proximity of many important "daily needs", such as:

- Schools
- Grocery stores
- Childcare/daycare facilities
- Public facilities (e.g. library)
- Retail areas
- Employment areas
- Parks
- Public transit (bus stops)

However, some areas are less well served in terms of these daily needs. Undertaking this type of analysis in the OCP review process can help to identify these underserved areas and form the basis of planning for better services, connections and amenities in these areas to help improve the quality of life for all residents in the community. This is just one example of the many goals of the OCP review process currently underway.

How can you get involved?

- Community wide survey available now! Access the survey from the project page at: www.sidney.ca/ocp
- Have your say, let us know your ideas for Sidney, and add to our Ideas Forum: www.wayblaze.com/ideas_campaigns/sidneyocp
- "OCPizza" Night Workbooks and Discussion Guides (Free Pizza!) coming in April 2021
- Contact the Planning Department with your thoughts and ideas by email at: ocp@sidney.ca or by phone at 250-655-5428.
- Look out for upcoming opportunities for public engagement on the project page and subscribe to email updates to get the latest information on the project at: www.sidney.ca/ocp



From 2016 - 2018, **311** new homes were built in Sidney.



What does development done right look like to you?

Commuter trips in Sidney are mostly by vehicle.



14%



7%



4%

other

3%

What does the future of transportation look like to you?

Share your thoughts and ideas at:

www.sidney.ca/ocp



Memories From Our Past

Early Policing of Sidney and North Saanich - Part Five - 1952 to Present

As discussed in the Spring 2020 edition of Town Talk, in 1950 the British Columbia Provincial Police was dissolved and replaced by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. As well, the Sidney Police Station was moved from First Street to the second floor of the Post Office building at the corner of Beacon Avenue and Fourth Street.

On September 30, 1952, Sidney was incorporated as a Village and began to handle its own financial affairs. Many Sidney old-timers may have thought they were having déjà vu when visiting the village hall to pay their taxes, as it was housed in the same building that had, 45 years before, served as a hall for the North Saanich Municipality prior to its dissolution. The building, which had also previously served as the police station, was described as “Refurbished and extended, the building is now catering to the law-abiding, rather than the predominantly law-evading...” The Village’s administration remained there until 1964, when the present municipal hall building was constructed.

In 1952, the police force responsible for patrolling Sidney and the District of North Saanich still consisted of two officers even though the region’s population continued to grow. Over the next few years, there were some improvements. For example, in August 1953, a new patrol vehicle replaced the old provincial police car that had “seen considerable service” in the district over the years.

In March 1958, an Auxiliary Police Force was formed with 20 Special Constables, sponsored by the civil defence organization. Recruits were trained for two months by Cpl. W. Stanton, the senior RCMP officer in

Sidney. The Sidney Review reported that “the auxiliary police will be provided with uniforms by the civil defence authorities and will take part in traffic control and other duties when the local detachment requires assistance. They will also be available in the event of any emergency.” A few years later, a more formal Auxiliary Police Force was introduced, with members receiving 18 weeks of training in Victoria. The training course offered lectures on gun handling, the law, traffic and crowd control, but, as ten year auxiliary veteran Bob McLennan told the Review, “You really learn on the job.”

The pursuit of a larger regular police force in Sidney and District began in March 1959, with a letter written to British Columbia’s Attorney General by Sidney Commissioner Larocque, who “praised the efficiency of the present staff of two officers but realized that they are overworked.” A year later, a reply to the letter was finally received, stating “that the appeal is now being investigated and that Sidney will have every consideration.” Another year passed without any movement on the matter. In March 1961, Attorney General Robert Bonner told the legislature, in reply to a question by John Tisdalle, MLA for the region, that the Sidney detachment may be enlarged, but he would not give a definite commitment.

In November 1962, the North Saanich Chamber of Commerce wrote to Bonner concerning the lack of police protection, stating that Beacon Avenue and other roads in the area were “being used as a dragstrip” and that it was apparently difficult to contact the Sidney detachment. The Attorney General agreed that an augmented detachment was needed, but stated that it could not be financed. “Policing is like food. You can’t afford the cost and you can’t afford

to dispense with it,” commented the Sidney Review. The Review defended the Sidney detachment, stating “There have been few crimes in recent years committed in the district which have been written off as unsolved. The record ... has been a credit to the members of the police force stationed here.”

Finally, following “a long fight” of nearly five years, a third officer was added to the detachment in January 1963. Additionally, it was announced that the RCMP would be establishing a two-man highway patrol covering the highway from Swartz Bay ferry terminal to Victoria, which would reduce the workload of the district’s officers. Additional good news came the next week that another addition to the detachment would come in April. Over the next five years, more pleas to add officers to the detachment were made. The required strength was calculated to be nine officers, which was finally achieved in January 1968.

During the pursuit to increase the number of officers in the detachment, it also became apparent that larger facilities were required, as there was not enough room for police and court services to be conducted in the limited space available in the Post Office building.

In February 1960, the initial push to increase facility space began. As it happens, Sidney was in the process of developing plans for the construction of a new administration building. By July 1962, tentative plans to include space for police and court services, as well as a public health centre, were brought forward to the public. These plans were approved in May 1963, and construction of the new Civic Centre began. 673 square feet of office space were provided to the detachment, including space for a general office, N.C.O.’s office, cell, washroom, stores, and a corridor.

Continued on page 7.

Memories from Our Past (continued)

On March 26, 1964, the new Civic Building was officially opened by Provincial Secretary Wesley Black. One week later, the RCMP Detachment transferred their operations to the new location. Although superior to their previous quarters, it was not long before more space was required. In February 1967, a 1,000 square foot addition was proposed for the existing station. This was a result of an expected increase of police personnel to nine as well as to counter a proposal from the newly established North Saanich Municipality to build a police station capable of accommodating a detachment. Sidney Council approved the addition in December, construction was completed in February 1968, and it was officially opened on March 1 at a cost of \$26,000. The addition consisted of “an outer foyer for the public, private offices and an interviewing office.” There were also two cells, each equipped with modern plumbing and fixtures. In July 1973, it was announced that a nine person detachment was setting up at the Victoria International Airport. “The special squad, hired by the Ministry of Transport, will locate itself on the grounds of the Patricia Bay Airport. It will operate, with one car, on a 24 hour basis.” Hi-jacking of aircraft was just one

of the crimes the force would be trying to prevent. Their duties were to patrol everything on Ministry Of Transport property.

As Sidney and North Saanich grew in population, police services also expanded and, once again, more building space was required. In January 1994, formal notice was given that proper facilities were required for the detachment. The police force had grown to 24 (8 of whom were considered North Saanich members and 4 allocated to police federal and provincial areas), with an additional 5 member support staff.

A referendum held in Sidney on December 2, 1996 gave the green light to build the current RCMP Station, at an estimated cost of \$3.28 million. Construction of the building was completed at the end of November 1997, and the detachment took possession on December 5. Presently, the Sidney/North Saanich Detachment is comprised of 32 police officers and nine civilian support staff.

This concludes this five-part “brief” examination of the police services of Sidney and North Saanich from 1893 to 2020.

*Brad Morrison
psresearch@shaw.ca*

Updated Strategic Plan

At the end of 2020, Sidney Council approved the 2021-2022 updated Strategic Plan. This is the second update of the four-year plan that Council produced during their first year in office. The annual review monitors the status and priority of initiatives currently in the plan, adds new initiatives based on current circumstances, and removes completed initiatives. The seven overarching goals within the plan are:

 Complete Community	 Environmental Stewardship	 Community Engagement	 Economic Vibrancy
 Organizational Excellence	 Community Infrastructure	 Community Safety, Health & Wellbeing	

Ongoing work includes support to the business and cultural community throughout the pandemic. New initiatives added for 2021-2022 include developing a detailed infrastructure design for West Sidney, a multi-modal active transportation plan, and hiring a climate action coordinator. Visit www.sidney.ca/stratplan for more information.

News from the RCMP

Online Crime Reporting

The Sidney/North Saanich RCMP is partaking in a pilot project for a new online crime reporting tool. Communities policed by Sidney/North Saanich Detachment are able to make online reports of crimes that fall within a certain criteria, particularly crimes where no suspects or witnesses were/are present (unless it is a driving complaint) and no police presence is required. Examples of incidents which can be reported through the new online tool include:

- Damage/mischief to property under \$5,000
- Damage/mischief to a vehicle under \$5,000
- Hit and run to an unoccupied vehicle or property
- Theft under \$5,000
- Lost property

The Online Crime Reporting tool can be found at: www.bc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/sidney/report

529 Bicycle Registry

Have you registered your bikes with Project 529 Bicycle Registry yet? This international bicycle registry program makes it easy to register a bike, mark it stolen if a theft occurs, and improve bicycle recovery.

To register a bike, either download the 529 Garage smartphone app or visit: www.project529.com/sidneynorthsaanich. Registrants will be required to provide an email address along with the bike's make, model and serial number.



Congratulations to Sidney/North Saanich NCO, S/Sgt Wayne Conley, who celebrated his 45th Anniversary with the RCMP!

Things to do around our community!

Send **cheerful drawings** or **messages** to residents in local senior care homes. Letters can be sent to:

- **Sidney Care Home**
9888 Fifth Street
Sidney, BC V8L 2X3
- **Amica Beechwood Village**
2315 Mills Road
Sidney, BC V8L 5W6

Check out **Art on the Deck**, a collection of work by local artists & artisans that can be viewed through the windows (from the deck) of the ArtSea Gallery in Tulista Park.

Do a **puzzle** on a rainy day. We've created a series of online puzzles featuring some special sights of Sidney. You can check them out at:
www.sidney.ca/puzzles

Learn new **arts and crafts** skills with Creativebug, an online creative education resource available through the Vancouver Island Regional Library. Learn more at: <https://virl.bc.ca/>

Reserve a time to **swim, skate, or work out** at Panorama.
www.crd.bc.ca/panorama

Explore the CRD's regional parks and trails. No matter your age, CRD Regional parks has a nature outing for you! Visit: www.crd.bc.ca/parks for more information.

Learn SENĆOŦEN, the language of the W̱SÁNEĆ People. Through FirstVoices, you can learn words and phrases in the first language of this land. Learn more at: www.firstvoices.com

Go for a ride with **Cycling Without Age!** CWA offers rides in a custom "trishaw" bike to less-able residents of all ages. Learn more at:
www.cyclingwithoutagesociety.com

Visit a **local beach** to explore, reflect, and breathe in the fresh ocean air.

On a sunny day, take a **bicycle trip** around the Peninsula. Find local bike routes and regional trail information:
www.sidney.ca/Things_To_Do/Recreation

Check out Sidney Museum's **Lego Exhibit**. Book your visit at:
www.sidneymuseum.ca

Prepare yourself - and your family (including pets!) - for a disaster. Put together an emergency kit for your home, car, and workspace. For ideas, contact 250-656-2121 or email firedept@sidney.ca.

Meet your Street! While in-person gatherings are restricted, you can still start building connections and planning future activities. For ideas and to register as your neighbourhood leader:
www.sidney.ca/meetyourstreet

Book a virtual **Fire Safety and Emergency Preparedness** presentation (could be an excellent activity to Meet your Street!). Contact 250-656-2121 or firedept@sidney.ca for more information.

Collect some leaves and use a hole-punch to make **ecologically-friendly confetti** to celebrate a birthday, occasion, or even a special accomplishment with your household!

Try out the new **mini-zipline and playground equipment** in Rathdown Park.

Order a meal from one of your long-time favourite local restaurants or from a new restaurant that you've been meaning to try! Find a list of Sidney's restaurants, bakeries and cafes at: www.sidneybia.ca/listing-type/restaurants

Go **birdwatching** within the Shoal Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary. See how many different species you can spot!

Visit the **Shaw Centre for the Salish Sea** and meet Wanda, the giant Pacific Octopus.
www.salishseacentre.org

Enjoy a trip through aviation history at the **BC Aviation Museum!** www.bcam.net

Grow something! From nurturing an indoor plant to preparing an outdoor garden for the upcoming season, growing things can be very uplifting.

Volunteer in your community. Beacon Community Services volunteers have been shopping, driving, making check-in phone calls, and delivering meals to seniors in our community. Call BCS at 250-656-5537 if you are interested in helping out with these programs or if you would like to access these services. For other volunteering opportunities, visit: www.sidney.ca/Things_To_Do/Volunteering_in_your_Community.htm

Donate blood. Join Canadian Blood Services at the Mary Winspear Centre on March 29, April 26 or May 24 from 1pm-6pm to donate blood in Sidney. Book an appointment at www.blood.ca or call 1-888-236-6283.

Decorate your windows, yards, or balconies to spread cheer to those passing by. Looking for inspiration? Visit ArtSea's Festival of Hearts page for creative ideas to share some love with the community: www.artsea.ca/calendar/artsea-festival-of-hearts

Meet new people (virtually for now!) through the Peninsula Newcomers Club. The club is for women who have moved to the Saanich Peninsula within the last 3 years and are looking to build friendships with other women. For more information, visit:
www.peninsulanewcomers.com.

For more ideas, visit:
www.sidney.ca/Things_To_Do