



Volunteers celebrated Tree Appreciation Day on September 23rd by planting more than 200 trees at Peter Grant Park. Learn about other ways the Town has been implementing our Climate Action Plan on Page 6.

Data collection buoys collecting sea level rise information for Sidney



As a coastal community, the Town of Sidney hopes to better understand the potential local impacts of sea level rise and more extreme weather. This knowledge helps us plan for Sidney's coastal infrastructure, prepare for storms, and provide the best possible guidance for development near the water.

We recently launched two data-collection buoys off Bazan Bay and Roberts Bay to gather nine months of local wave and wind data. This information will help refine Sidney's flood risk maps created by the Capital Regional District in 2021. As part of this project, the Town will be undertaking public education about local flood risks and preparedness.

The sea-level rise adaptation project is being funded through a \$297,000 grant from the Province. Completing a Sea Level Rise Adaptation Project is one of Council's 2023 Strategic Priorities.

SERVICES FOR SENIORS



Discover the many programs offered at the SHOAL Centre. [SEE PAGE 5](#)

Town Talk looks a little different!
We are using larger font and spacing to make the newsletter easier to read.

ZONING BYLAW UPDATE NOW UNDERWAY



In 2022, the Town of Sidney adopted a new Official Community Plan (OCP) following two years of public engagement, which helped ensure the plan reflected local values and priorities. Since the Zoning Bylaw is primarily a tool for implementing the OCP, it is being updated to help ensure that the community evolves in a manner that is consistent with the goals and objectives of the OCP.

The Town's planning team is developing a draft Zoning Bylaw for the community to consider, beginning with a review of commercial and industrial lands. Once the Province introduces new housing-related legislation this fall, the scope of the Zoning Bylaw update will be expanded to include a review of residential lands.

Message from Mayor and Council

Welcome to the fall edition of Town Talk.

This fall marks the completion of Council's first year together in our four-year term. We have been ushering projects forward that were underway when we took office, such as the Active Transportation Plan, and achieving new goals, such as the return of the Thursday Night Street Market to Beacon Avenue. It was heartwarming to see so many community members connecting once again on market evenings this summer, and to see visitors marveling at our beautiful and vibrant Town.

The new replacement track at Parkland Secondary School recently opened and it has been inspiring to see students

and people of all ages already enjoying it to stay active. The project was an impressive community partnership and Council was pleased to contribute to the funding.

Fall is also the beginning of our storm season. We are undertaking preventative maintenance of the Bevan Fishing Pier to ensure it continues to stand strong and withstand the elements for years to come. We are also working to refine local flood risk maps with the help of two new data collection buoys recently placed off our shoreline.

We hope you have a great fall season ahead and enjoy catching up on our local initiatives.



Back row from left to right: Councillor Scott Garnett, Councillor Richard Novek, Councillor Steve Duck, Councillor Chad Rintoul. Front row from left to right: Councillor Sara Duncan, Mayor Cliff McNeil-Smith, Councillor Terri O'Keeffe.



Bevan Fishing Pier undergoing remediation

The Town has a proactive maintenance plan in place for Bevan Fishing Pier and will be undertaking a pile wrapping project on a portion of the steel pilings this fall. This work will help protect the popular landmark from corrosion.

The work is being funded by Canada Community Building Fund contributions. There will be some short-term closures of the Pier for safety while the pilings are being wrapped.

New track opens at Parkland Secondary School

A new six-lane track at Parkland Secondary School is ready for local students, Peninsula Track Club members, and residents of Sidney and North Saanich to enjoy. The track has a rubberized surface which helps runners achieve their best times, while also reducing the risk of injury for users.

The track is open to the public outside of school hours. Community members of all ages are already making use of it for active rehabilitation, daily exercise, and a place to connect with friends and family while staying active.

The project was made possible through collaboration between the Saanich School Board, Memorial Park Society, District of North Saanich, community volunteers and donors, as well as the Town of Sidney.

The Town contributed \$83,000 to the project and will also make an annual contribution to a track renewal fund so the region is better prepared for a future track replacement.





Traffic tips for intersections with two-way stop signs: 'Left goes last'

In downtown Sidney, there are a number of intersections with two-way stop signs. It is important to follow right-of-way rules to keep these intersections safe and predictable.

Downtown intersections are often bustling with pedestrians, especially on corners like Sidney Avenue and Third Street where two new breweries and a cinema add vibrancy to this public space.

Here are some key reminders:

- Pedestrians have the right of way. For their own safety, pedestrians are urged to always make eye contact with drivers, and wait until they have been acknowledged by oncoming traffic before entering an intersection.
- Drivers and cyclists that do not have a stop sign can travel through the intersection without stopping, unless there is a pedestrian crossing the street or waiting to cross.
- Drivers and cyclists making a left turn that have a stop sign must yield to all other vehicles and pedestrians at the intersection, even if a vehicle arrives at the intersection after they do. A good rule of thumb is 'Left goes last.'

Establishment of the SHOAL Centre

The 20,000 square-foot SHOAL Centre, located across from the library, opened in 2005 through a private-public partnership. The private side of the centre is home to 54 independent-living units and 25 assisted living units for seniors. The rest of the building serves the broader community, offering a range of services and programs to people 55 and older, with a focus on empowering people to age safely in place.

The SHOAL Centre was developed at no cost to local taxpayers. Soon after it was built, the Town of Sidney won the Gold Award in Infrastructure from the Canadian Council for Public-Private Partnerships in recognition of the Centre's benefit to the public interest.



Fostering connections and independence at the SHOAL Centre

Featured Bio: Jennifer Van Es lives locally and has been with the SHOAL Centre for eight years. The centre is operated by Beacon Community Services through an agreement with the Town of Sidney.

What kinds of activities are offered at the SHOAL Centre?

The SHOAL Centre is a community hub for anyone over 55 years old. We offer a range of activities that help people to stay active, creative, and connected. Classes range from low-impact aerobics to balance boosting, line dancing, yoga, painting, jewelry making, and much more. We also have a dining room and tuck shop where people can drop in for an affordable cooked meal or coffee. Most importantly, community members find good people and friendship here.

How does the SHOAL Centre support seniors in the community?

The SHOAL Centre helps decrease the isolation that many seniors face by offering programs that create opportunities to be social, while also providing services people need to live independently.



||| Jennifer Van Es holds a serving of beef stroganoff prepared in the SHOAL Centre kitchen for the meal delivery program.

We run a meal program that delivers meals to 200 people on the Peninsula three times a week. We also provide transportation for shopping and medical appointments.

We help community members navigate housing, assistance programs, government forms, income tax claims, and new technology. We also coordinate volunteers and student workers to help with minor repairs and home maintenance for seniors who could use an extra hand.

When you need help living independently or finding support for a loved one, it

can be so easy to hit a brick wall and feel overwhelmed. The SHOAL Centre is a place where you can come with your questions and be sure you won't be told "That's not us".

What roles are there for volunteers?

The SHOAL Centre as we know it could not operate without hundreds of outstanding volunteers who we treat like our own staff. Volunteers are behind our home-delivered meals, our weekly activities, and many of our support services. I encourage anyone who is interested in helping out to contact us at 250-656-5537.

Looking back on a year of climate action in Sidney

Following the approval of the Town's updated Climate Action Plan last summer, staff have been working on implementing the actions in the plan. Some highlights include:

- Transitioning to electric parks equipment.
- Launching a grant-funded sea level rise adaptation project.
- 33 rebates for households who switched to a heat pump from natural gas or oil.
- Developing the Active Transportation Plan.
- Coordinating active transportation programming (e.g., Go by Bike Week, Sidney Market bike valet pilot).
- Tree Appreciation Day and tree giveaways.



Volunteers removed more than 10 cubic metres of invasive plants from Peter Grant Park during two events this fall to help tree seedlings and other understory plants thrive.

Sidney's first Active Transportation Plan is approved

Sidney now has an Active Transportation Plan to guide improvements to the Town's pedestrian and cycling networks over the next 10 years. Community members were highly engaged in reviewing draft versions of the plan and ensuring it reflected local needs. Some priority projects in the plan include the development of new sidewalks, improved crosswalks, and bike boulevards in key locations.

For instance, in September, a new traffic controller at Beacon Avenue and Seventh Street was installed with improved timing to make it safer for pedestrians to cross this busy intersection. The improvements also added a battery backup system to ensure this traffic signal remains operational in a power outage.

Approximately 75% of this work was funded by a grant from Vision Zero and the ICBC Road Improvement Program.

Staff have also started developing designs for a bicycle boulevard on Bowerbank Road to help connect people in north Sidney to nearby schools and parks. A bicycle boulevard will have minimal impact on street parking. Instead, it will aim to reduce traffic speeds and volumes along the roadway, creating a safer shared space for vehicles and bikes.

Projects in the Active Transportation Plan will be considered each year during budget deliberations. Council has earmarked an average annual investment of \$1 million for active transportation projects.

NEW LOGO SELECTED FOR THE TOWN OF SIDNEY

A new corporate logo for the Town will be rolling out this fall, shifting to a design that is more legible and suitable for local government. The community provided input on the new logo design through two online surveys this past summer. Feedback pointed to a popular landmark: Bevan Fishing Pier.

For many, the Pier is emblematic of the connectedness Sidney community members feel to the ocean. Construction of the Pier began in 1996 as a community-led initiative, funded through donations, grants, and Town contributions.

The new logo features the Pier with a rising sun, Gulf Islands and Mount Baker in the background. It will appear on items such as the Town Talk newsletter, the Town website, news releases, and other corporate communications tools.



Sidney



KNOW HOW TO HELP DURING STORM SEASON

The months ahead are sure to bring heavy rains and possibly snowfall. The Town will be setting up a sandbag station in Iroquois Park so people experiencing a risk of flooding can set up sandbags where needed.

Here's how you can help when storms hit:

- During periods of heavy rain, please clear leaves and debris away from storm drains near your home so excess water can flow into the drain rather than pooling on streets and properties.
- After a snowfall, please do your part to keep the Town safe and accessible by clearing snow and ice from the sidewalk along your property, business, or home. This is a requirement under the Traffic Regulation Bylaw.

Q. Are there restrictions on what I can burn in my wood stove?

A. On cold wet days, it can be a great comfort to curl up in front of a fire, but it is critical that provincial regulations are followed to reduce environmental and health impacts. Please note that it is illegal to burn garbage, plastics, treated or painted wood, untreated wood products, demolition debris, or rubber.

BE AWARE OF FIREWORKS RESTRICTIONS THIS HALLOWEEN

Did you know that you need a permit from the Sidney Fire Department to set off fireworks in Sidney? In the lead up to Halloween, the Fire Department reviews applications for Family Fireworks Permits to ensure safety precautions are being followed and the fireworks are being discharged in allowable locations.

To prevent possible noise impacts of fireworks on wildlife, fireworks cannot be discharged within 200 metres of the designated Environmentally Sensitive Areas of:

- All Bay/Tsehum
- Roberts Bay
- KÉLSET (Reay Creek)
- Lochside

Learn more at www.sidney.ca.



Ever wonder where to look for a detailed list of upcoming community events? Visit www.sidneybia.ca/events to view or add events.

THE LAUNDRY ROOM

Exhibit running through to November
 Sidney Museum (2423 Beacon Avenue, Lower Level)

The Laundry Room combines historical laundry-related objects and contemporary textile art from four local artists.

A-SCARE-IUM OF THE SALISH SEA

Saturday, October 28, 5:30pm to 8:30pm
 Centre for the Salish Sea (9811 Seaport Place)

This underwater Halloween trick-or-treating spectacle is a hauntingly good way to celebrate the season.

TREAT STREET

Tuesday, October 31, 5:30pm to 8:30pm
 Downtown Sidney

Downtown Sidney will be closed to traffic and invites little ghosts and goblins to enjoy a family trick-or-treat event on Halloween!

SIDNEY SPARKLES PARADE

Sunday, December 3, 5pm to 6pm
 Downtown Sidney

Join Peninsula Celebrations Society for this famous parade!

WINTER HOLIDAY STORYTIME

Sunday, December 23, 10:30am to 11:30am
 Sidney / North Saanich Library (10091 Resthaven Drive)

Join us for stories, rhymes, and songs to celebrate the season.