



On September 29th, an unveiling ceremony was held in Beacon Park for the WSÁNEC Welcome Figure with Eagle, which was restored and re-envisioned by the original artists Perry LaFortune and Tom LaFortune.

Citizen Satisfaction Survey results show high levels of satisfaction

This April, homes across Sidney received an invitation in the mail to take part in a Citizen Satisfaction Survey to help Council and staff better understand how residents feel about municipal services and priorities. Results will help guide strategic planning, budgeting, and decision-making.

The Town partnered with Ipsos on the survey to ensure the results were as accurate and representative of the community as possible.

A total of 1,156 residents responded to the survey, which

is a strong response rate for this type of survey.

The responses were generally very positive, while also identifying some areas for improvement.

- 93% of respondents noted that they are very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the overall level and quality of services provided by the Town.
- 98% of respondents rated their quality of life in Sidney as very good or good.

More on page 3.

NEW WATER TANKER TRUCK ACQUIRED TO TRANSPORT DRINKING WATER IN A DISASTER



The Sidney Fire Department is working to ensure that residents have access to safe drinking water in the event of a major disaster, such as an earthquake. This newly acquired water tanker truck is an essential part of that plan. *More on page 6.*

Share your thoughts on design of future transit hub

BC Transit and the Town of Sidney are partnering to plan for a transit hub at the intersection of Seventh Street and Bevan Avenue to improve bus service in Sidney and across the Saanich Peninsula. At this time, BC Transit is in the design phase of the project, collecting public feedback to help determine how the transit hub will look and operate.

It is estimated that approximately 1,500 people would use the Sidney transit hub each day, benefiting from improvements including:

- Space to increase service
- More efficient routing for Route 70
- A larger shelter for passengers

Would you appreciate secure bike storage at the transit hub? A MODO car rental vehicle? A drop off and pick up area for vehicles? Share your thoughts at:

engage.bctransit.com/sidney-transit-hub

Message from Mayor and Council

We hope you enjoyed a beautiful and bustling summer in Sidney and are now settling into the fall season.

In September, Council received the results of the Citizen Satisfaction Survey conducted in April. Thank you to everyone who took the time to participate. While we are in regular contact with residents, this survey provides valuable insights and broader representation across our community. What we heard will help guide future Council decisions.

Inside these pages, you'll find updates on efforts to build an emergency drinking water supply system, a proposal for a rapid transit hub near the Mary Winspear Centre, and plans to improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians on Beacon Avenue West.

It is great to see the restoration of important landmarks underway in Sidney, led by the original artists, including the *WSÁNEĆ Welcome Figure with Eagle* in Beacon Park and two iconic murals.

We're pleased to be featuring a local volunteer in this edition, Vanessa Pettinger, who is an important voice on the Saanich Peninsula Accessibility Advisory Committee. Volunteers are at the heart of our community and contribute in a range of ways, from creating unforgettable summer afternoons through concerts in Beacon Park, to providing meals to residents in need.

Thank you for taking the time to stay up-to-date on municipal business by reading Town Talk.



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.



Results of Citizen Satisfaction Survey now available

Continued from page 1

- Respondents identified the three most important issues facing the community as transportation (including parking and congestion), social issues (including affordable housing and homelessness), as well as growth and development.
- were still deemed satisfactory by more than seven-in-ten residents.
- The lowest satisfaction rating went to traffic management and improving the flow of traffic, with 58% of residents saying they were satisfied in that regard.

Below are some additional key findings from the Citizen Satisfaction Survey.

Satisfaction with individual municipal services

- Satisfaction with individual municipal services was high overall. Some of the services that the highest percentage of residents noted they are very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with were fire services (99%), the management of water and sewer systems (95%), and library services (95%).
- In comparison, slightly fewer residents said they were satisfied with bylaw enforcement (76%), as well as land use and community planning (71%). However, these services

Overall Attitudes

Overall attitudes towards the Town were positive, particularly regarding inclusivity, accountability, financial responsibility, and open government. However, survey responses showed there is room for improvement in public engagement and ensuring residents feel their opinions are valued and heard.

These Community Satisfaction Survey results will serve as a baseline measurement of community sentiment. The survey will be repeated every four years at the mid-point of each Council term to track changes in public perception over time. See the survey results at Sidney.ca.

Share Your Thoughts: Proposed Speed Limit Changes on Local Roads

In response to community concerns, Council is considering lowering speed limits on local roads from 50 km/h to 30 km/h to improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists, scooter riders, and drivers.

A public engagement period is underway this fall, including an online survey. Residents are invited to share their feedback on the proposed speed reduction and on supportive measures such as signage and traffic-calming features (e.g., speed humps, centre-line bollards).

The proposed change would apply only to local roads, not streets such as Lochside Drive, Resthaven Drive, and Fifth Street, among others, which are classified as arterial, collector, or provincial in the Official Community Plan. Speed limit changes on these busier streets could be considered in the future.

Learn more and complete the survey at [Sidney.ca](https://sidney.ca).



Multi-use path planned for both sides of Beacon Avenue West

Council has approved a new multi-use path along the north side of Beacon Avenue West to make this busy route safer for cyclists, scooter riders, and pedestrians. Similar but wider than the Flight Path multi-use trail around the airport, the path will be physically separated from traffic and shared by walkers and riders.

A multi-use path is already underway for the south side of Beacon Avenue West, creating a consistent connection to the highway intersection.

The north-side path will be built in phases, as new developments, such as the rental apartments planned for 2180 Beacon Avenue, move forward. The south-side path will be completed sooner, thanks to offsite improvements provided by the new hotel development, with the Town constructing the remaining connecting sections.

These upgrades support the Town's goal of safer, more accessible travel for all ages and abilities.

Speaking up for accessibility

Volunteer Profile: Sidney resident, Vanessa Pettinger, has spent all her life on the Saanich Peninsula. Her experience of the area changed eight years ago, when a car accident resulted in blindness. Vanessa has since become an advocate for accessibility, volunteering for multiple organizations, including Diverse Ability Incorporated and the Saanich Peninsula Accessibility Advisory Committee, where she offers real-life experience to help Sidney, North Saanich, and Central Saanich become more inclusive communities.

What inspired you to become a voice for accessibility?

When I first lost my sight, I was focused on raising my two young children. I wasn't necessarily ready to become an advocate. But over time, I thought, "I have a voice, I'm stubborn. Why not put that to use?" I realized I could help shift attitudes and raise awareness about accessibility in Sidney and beyond. I started by speaking to local school classes and getting involved with organizations like the Family Support Institute of BC. When the Saanich Peninsula Accessibility Advisory Committee (SPAAC) was formed in 2023, I was ready to join and share my perspective.



Vanessa Pettinger volunteers on the Saanich Peninsula Accessibility Advisory Committee.

What has made being part of the Saanich Peninsula Accessibility Advisory Committee meaningful for you?

Seeing a Changing Places facility incorporated into a public washroom in Sidney this year was a big moment—it showed real progress. Through the committee, I now connect regularly with municipal staff and Council members. When Sidney makes improvements like upgrading curb ramps downtown, I can give feedback on what works and what doesn't, helping inform design decisions going forward.

What can people in Sidney do to help make our community more inclusive?

Sidney is a warm and welcoming town. People say hello on the street and chat while waiting for coffee. But when someone

has a disability, that kind of everyday connection tends to disappear. So start with "hello." Sometimes, it's the most powerful word we have. If you're a business owner, consider installing an automatic door opener to help people with mobility aids access your business. If you have stairs at the entrance to your business, consider putting textured yellow or white strips on each step to reduce a major tripping hazard for people with low vision. If you know a family where a parent has a disability, reach out. Offering help with rides can mean the difference between a child being able to join a sport or activity, or being left out because of transportation barriers. Take real action to support accessibility. Write the letter, do the research, stand beside someone who is speaking up.



Dogs prohibited from sport courts; new dog enclosure considered for Iroquois Park

The Town of Sidney has updated its Animal Licence & Control Bylaw to prohibit dogs from being inside hard-surface sport courts like tennis courts, as well as playgrounds and areas with exercise equipment. The change comes as a result of complaints from residents about dogs in these spaces, and challenges such as animal waste being left behind.

Recognizing the demand for an off-leash dog park in East Sidney, which was also identified in the Parks Master Plan, the Town is considering developing a fenced off-leash dog enclosure in Iroquois Park and invited public input throughout the month of September. Thank you to everyone who shared thoughts about this proposal. The feedback will be presented to Council for further consideration.

Town preparing to supply safe drinking water to community members in the case of a disaster

Three new shipping containers are being placed in strategic locations around Sidney to serve as community distribution sites for safe drinking water in the event of an emergency, such as an earthquake. The shipping containers are located at:

- Rathdown Park
- Mary Winspear Centre
- West Sidney near Greenglade Community Centre

These locations were selected to be a convenient distance from most residents.

Decorative screening will also be added to improve their appearance.

How it works

The Capital Regional District has 14 blue hydrants in the region, connected to seismically resilient pipes fed by reservoirs. Until now, the Town lacked a way to distribute water from these hydrants to residents.

This spring, the Town acquired a water tanker truck to transport water from blue hydrants in North Saanich. The drinking water would be transported and stored in water storage bladders alongside each of the three shipping containers in Sidney, which contain essential equipment for this operation.

In the event of an emergency, residents would come to the nearest community distribution site to pick up water and other emergency supplies. Volunteers will be essential in helping transport water to people who cannot collect it themselves.

The Town's goal is to be equipped to provide an emergency supply of four litres of water per person per day until infrastructure is repaired and water is available by regular service delivery.

More information is available at Sidney.ca.



Did you know Saanich Peninsula Alert provides free, critical notifications during emergencies such as earthquakes, evacuations, or other safety threats? Users can customize alerts for areas across the Peninsula, which is helpful for those who live, work, or have family in different communities. Register at Sidney.ca



NEW CROSSWALK HONOURS VETERANS

A new red and white crosswalk has been installed across from Sidney's Cenotaph, serving as a tribute to Canadian Veterans. The Veterans Remembrance Crosswalk is located at the intersection of Fourth Street and Sidney Avenue. The project was proposed by Royal Canadian Legion Branch 37 to serve as a daily reminder to pause and reflect on the sacrifices made by Veterans.

MURAL RESTORATION UNDERWAY

Two beloved landmarks in Sidney are being restored by internationally-recognized artist, IceBear.

This summer, IceBear restored The Ocean, an iconic mural on the side of Fairway Market featuring a montage of captivating images which help tell the story of ocean science on the West Coast. The work was supported by a \$5,000 grant from the ArtSea Community Arts Council and many local businesses.

IceBear also began restoring NIL/TU'O (In the Beginning) at the corner of Resthaven Drive and Beacon Avenue. Restoration will continue next spring.



TREE APPRECIATION DAY HELD AT PHILIP BRETHOUR PARK

Forty volunteers showed up to plant trees and pull invasive species at Philip Brethour Park during Sidney's sixth annual Tree Appreciation Day on September 20th. Together, 50 new trees were planted along the southern part of the park and pathway. Volunteers also pulled 9.5 cubic metres of invasive species from the wooded area and trails. Thank you to everyone who lent a hand!

Members of the public also stopped by to pick up free saplings to plant at home.

GET A FREE LIBRARY CARD AND ENJOY BOOKS, MOVIES, AUDIOBOOKS, AND MORE

October is Canadian Library Month. It is a great time to celebrate literacy and visit the Sidney library to see how it is evolving to support the community.

Borrow, download, or stream books, audiobooks, movies, music, newspapers, magazines and more from the Vancouver Island Regional Library.



Residents of Sidney can scan the QR code below or visit virl.bc.ca to get a library card online, or simply drop by the Sidney/North Saanich Branch (10091 Resthaven Drive).



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

A-SCARE-IUM OF THE SALISH SEA

Saturday, October 25, 4pm to 8pm

[Shaw Centre for the Salish Sea \(9811 Seaport Place\)](#)

Trick or treat your way through an underwater spooktacular. This year's fundraising efforts support Habitat Acquisition Trust and the non-profit aquarium.

SPEED PUZZLE COMPETITION

Saturday, October 25, 1pm to 4pm

[Sidney/North Saanich Library \(10091 Resthaven Drive\)](#)

Teams of two will race to finish a Ravensburger 500pc puzzle in 2.5 hours. Register your team by email Sidney@virl.bc.ca. Free to enter.

TREAT STREET

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

[Downtown Sidney](#)

Downtown Sidney transforms into a pedestrian-only zone for a safe, family-friendly Halloween celebration. Children can visit Treat Stations at local businesses and enjoy a festive community-wide trick-or-treating experience.

REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE & CEREMONY

Tuesday, November 11, 10:30am

[Downtown Sidney](#)

The traditional Remembrance Day Parade will proceed at 10:30am from the Mary Winspear Centre, along Beacon Avenue and Second Street, to the Cenotaph on Town Hall. The Service of Remembrance for the Fallen commences at 10:50am.