



||| Sidney's iconic Thursday night market is returning to Beacon Avenue this summer with a new organizer: Victoria-based Blue Coast Event Group. The market will kick off on June 15th and will run every Thursday from 5:30pm to 8:30pm through to September 14th.

\$5 million grant for roundabout lowers costs for project partners

The cost of building a roundabout at the intersection of Beacon Avenue West and Galaran Road, with a connection to a realigned Stirling Way, will now be significantly offset by a \$5 million federal grant. The Town of Sidney applied for the grant through the Federal Government's Strategic Priorities Fund of the Canada Community-Building Fund. The remaining project costs of approximately \$2.6 million will be split among project partners (Town of Sidney, District of North Saanich, and Victoria Airport Authority) based on a funding agreement, which recognizes that all three jurisdictions contribute to traffic at this intersection, and would benefit from traffic flow improvements.

The new roundabout will increase public safety, reduce congestion, and support ongoing economic development in the area.

The need for a roundabout in this key traffic corridor was first identified approximately 20 years ago, when a gas station was proposed for the corner of Beacon Avenue West and Pat Bay Highway. Since then, concerns about traffic management have increased, with significant commercial and industrial growth occurring across this broader area.

Further development is expected into the future on several undeveloped properties.

In 2021, the Town of Sidney, Victoria Airport Authority, District of North Saanich, and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure commissioned a traffic study to look at existing and future traffic demands in the Beacon West area, and develop concept plans for improvements. The development of a roundabout at Beacon Avenue West and Galaran Road was identified as a key recommendation in the study.

Project construction is now underway with work expected to be completed in late 2023. Road users can expect delays and are encouraged to take alternate routes where possible.

The new infrastructure will also incorporate improvements and realignment of a section of the multi-use trail known as the Flight Path. People using the path can expect to encounter detours while the roundabout is under construction and Stirling Way is being rerouted.

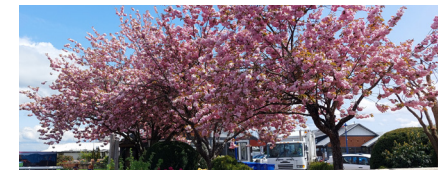
Project updates will be posted at www.sidney.ca.

DOWNTOWN BANNERS



Get to know the photographers behind Sidney's new banners. [SEE PAGE 3](#)

TREES



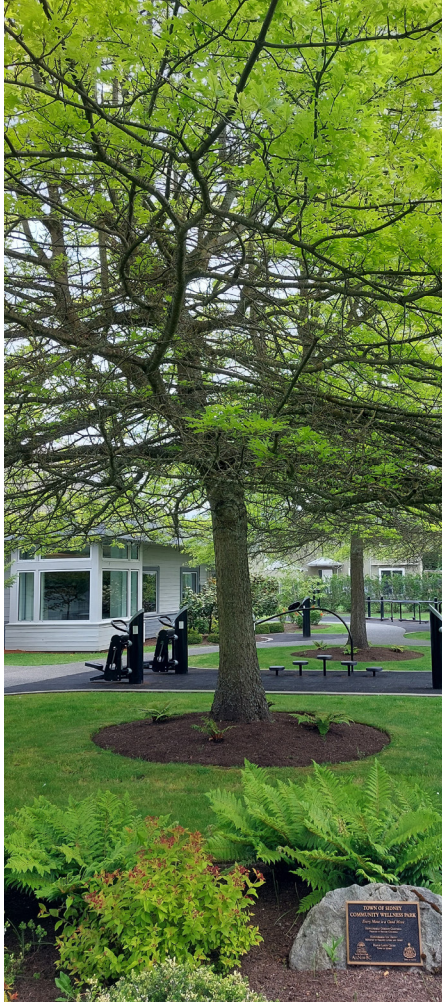
Learn how you can add to Sidney's new Significant Tree List. [SEE PAGE 2](#)

EVENTS



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

NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR SIGNIFICANT TREE LIST



Many trees in Sidney are protected under the Tree Preservation Bylaw, which looks specifically at the size and species of the tree. However, trees that would otherwise fall outside of that protected status may be valued for other reasons. Perhaps a tree serves as a landmark, or was planted to mark an historic occasion.

The Town is establishing a Significant Tree List to ensure staff are aware of trees that may have particular community significance. This initiative is one of the actions identified in the Town's 2019 Urban Forest Strategy. While the Significant Tree List does not establish legal requirements, it will be considered during municipal decision-making processes.

Community members may nominate trees for consideration on their own property or on public lands at www.sidney.ca.

Message from Mayor and Council

Thank you for opening up another edition of Town Talk. As a newly elected Council, it is a pleasure to share what we've been working on since taking office last November.

We started the year by setting our strategic priorities, ensuring that in addition to new goals, projects initiated by the previous Council are seen through to completion. Next, we considered a budget for 2023, which we approved in early March. The general tax increase for the year has been set at 4.57%, well below the rate of inflation. Both the 2023 Financial Plan and Strategic Plan are available online at www.sidney.ca. We encourage you to delve into them.

Some of the projects we prioritized are now taking shape. The Sidney Street Market is returning to Beacon Avenue on June 15th after a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic. It will be heartwarming to see thousands of community members and visitors once again lining Beacon Avenue on Thursday nights to enjoy shopping, eating, live entertainment, and to take in Sidney's beautiful waterfront.

We recognize that for a downtown area to be welcoming, it takes more than an oceanfront location and vibrant businesses; we need public washrooms that are convenient, well-maintained, and accessible. The public washrooms on Fourth Street near Beacon Avenue are currently being upgraded, and we expect construction to begin this summer on a new public washroom building along the Waterfront Walkway near Beacon

Park. Both buildings will be accessible. The waterfront washrooms will include a Changing Places facility to support people with complex disabilities.

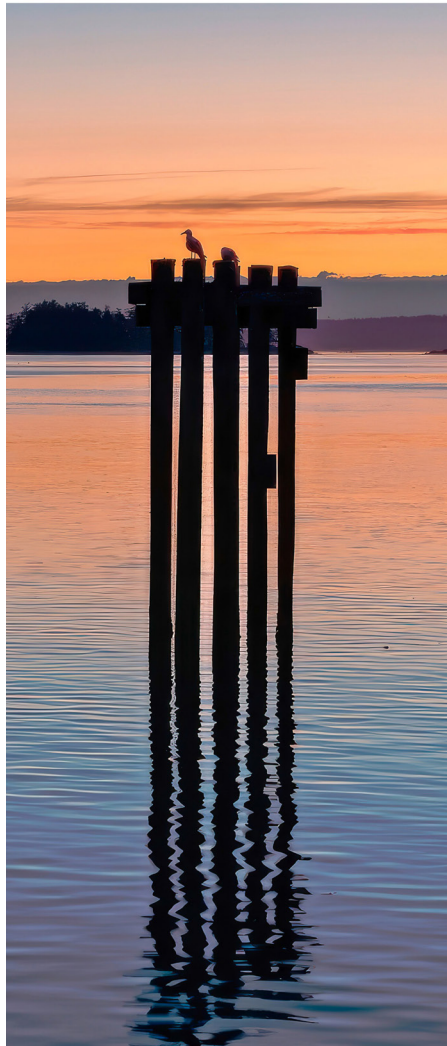
In this edition, you will read a fair bit about West Sidney, particularly the industrial area. West Sidney - along with surrounding lands outside of our jurisdiction - has evolved significantly over the past 20 years, creating employment opportunities and a strong source of tax revenue. It is time for amenities to catch up. Work is underway to add sidewalks, trees, and parking spaces to Galaran Road, and to build a roundabout where Galaran Road and Beacon Avenue West meet with a connection to a realigned Stirling Way. The roundabout will improve the traffic flow in this busy and growing area.

When embarking on a major infrastructure project like the roundabout, we look at every opportunity to reduce impacts to taxpayers. In this case, we developed a cost-sharing agreement with North Saanich and the Victoria Airport Authority, as this route serves residents and businesses both outside and inside of Sidney. We then applied successfully for a \$5 million federal grant to be directly applied to the roundabout. It is great to see these long-awaited improvements commencing, and cost-saving opportunities being seized wherever possible.

We wish you a memorable summer ahead and invite you to reach out to us at admin@sidney.ca or 250-656-1184 to discuss community issues that matter to you.



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.



Local photographers add beauty to downtown Sidney

New banners featuring local wildlife are now on display in downtown Sidney. As part of a photography contest for the banners, Bob Orchard and Marlene Mitchell submitted shots that beautifully captured the eagles and gulls that coexist with community members along Sidney's waterfront. Thank you Bob and Marlene for sharing these stunning moments with residents and visitors! The banners will be on display from May to September.

Some information about the photographers:

"I've been taking photos since I was a teenager but in the last few years it's become somewhat of a passion for me and I'm out most days taking walks along the waterfront photographing mainly birds." - Bob Orchard

"I was born in Bolivia, South America, and came to Canada as a youngster in the 1960's. I love travelling the world but this has also instilled my respect and appreciation for the natural beauty we have here in Canada. I am based on Vancouver Island and find serenity in exploring the outdoors whether it is hiking, paddling or cycling. I especially enjoy the challenge of capturing stunning landscapes and wildlife through my lens." - Marlene Mitchell

||| This summer's banners for downtown Sidney feature photography by Bob Orchard (left) and Marlene Mitchell (right).

Energy efficiency requirements now in effect for new buildings

On May 1st, the provincial Building Code was updated with energy efficiency standards for new buildings. These standards are called the BC Energy Step Code, which sets out multiple levels (aka "steps") of energy efficiency requirements that are tied to BC's Building Code.

New buildings must meet specific requirements for insulation, windows, furnaces, water heaters, lighting and other equipment and systems.

While the Step Code regulations set out how energy efficient a building must be, it offers the builder the flexibility of determining how best to reach those targets given project realities.

There are also different requirements for different kinds of buildings, so a property owner building a new house would need to meet different targets than someone building a new apartment building.

Step Code requirements do not currently apply to someone who is renovating their existing home.

You can learn more online at www.energystepcode.ca. If you're not sure where to start or how this might affect your project, Sidney's Development Services staff are happy to help you. You can email developmentsservices@sidney.ca, call 250-656-1725, or visit Town Hall in person.





Tips to protect yourself from scams

One of the main concerns for the Sidney/North Saanich RCMP is the number of citizens being targeted by fraudsters. Fraud is currently the fastest growing preventable crime trend affecting Sidney.

Fraudsters often claim to be with agencies such as Canada Revenue, BC Hydro or major banks.

Officers with Sidney/North Saanich RCMP have been working with community organizations to educate as many people as possible on avoiding falling victim to this crime.

Here are the key tips we share. Please pass them along.

1. Don't be afraid to say no. Don't be intimidated by high-pressure sales tactics. If a telemarketer tries to get you to buy something or to send them money right away, request the information in writing or hang up. Watch out for urgent pleas that play on your emotions.

2. Do your research. Always verify that the organization you're dealing with is legitimate before you take any other action. If you've received a call or other contact from a family member in trouble, talk to other family members to confirm the situation.

3. Don't give out personal information. Beware of unsolicited calls where the caller asks you for personal information, such as your name, address, birthdate, Social Insurance Numbers, credit card number, or banking information. Remember: If you didn't initiate the call, you don't know who you're talking to.

4. Beware of upfront fees. Many scams request you to pay fees in advance of receiving goods, services, or a prize. It's illegal for a company to ask you to pay a fee upfront before they'll give you a loan. There are no prize fees or taxes in Canada. If you won it, it's free

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Sidney/North Saanich Detachment at 250-656-3931.



Galaran Road becoming more pedestrian friendly

Major improvements are underway for Galaran Road, which borders industrial and commercial buildings as well as a residential neighbourhood in West Sidney. Upcoming changes will help tie these areas together and create a more pedestrian-friendly space for residents and workers, including those who rely on a school bus or public transit.

Sidewalks will be installed on both sides of the road, with improved pedestrian crossings at street intersections. The ditches that currently run alongside the road will be covered and replaced with underground pipes. This will make room to increase parking in the area.

Trees will be planted along the length of the road. These pockets of functional landscaping will improve the appearance of the road, while also helping to calm traffic, such as the industrial vehicles that rely on

the route.

The road improvements were identified as a priority when the 2017 West Side Local Area Plan was being developed with public engagement.

Construction is now underway. Drivers are encouraged to use alternate routes when possible, until the work is completed this fall. Project updates will be posted at www.sidney.ca.

Preventing accidents on the job

BY: ROB COOKE, SAFETY OFFICER

Featured Staff Bio: Rob Cooke was born and raised in Sidney. He began his career with the Town of Sidney approximately 25 years ago, where he recalls digging ditches for pipe installation with Public Works. The safety of others was always important to him; Rob spent 20 years serving as a volunteer firefighter for the Sidney Fire Department.

Now as Safety Officer for the Town, he focuses on reducing the risk of accidents among staff wherever their duties may take them, from the tops of trees to underground holding tanks.



When Town work involving a level of risk is planned, Rob will visit the site in advance to review safety measures and again while the work is underway to ensure risk is being mitigated where possible.

Why is safety an important factor for Town workers?

Many of the services community members rely on the Town to provide require a degree of risk, such as:

- Roadwork construction;
- Trimming trees after a windstorm;
- Going into confined spaces to access underground utilities.

Keeping our people as safe as possible while performing these tasks is critical.

How can community members help keep workers safe?

Community members actually play an integral role in worker safety. Sometimes a resident may not even realize that they are inadvertently putting a worker in a dangerous situation.

For instance, if someone flushes a diaper or rag down the toilet, it can clog municipal sewers. Once a clog is detected, a worker needs to go down into an underground sewage tank using a harness and an air monitor to manually remove the item. This is difficult work that really could be avoided by being careful about what goes down the drain.

Other times it is more obvious; we need

community members to drive very slowly and cautiously around roadwork. Accidents have happened in Sidney when vehicles didn't give workers enough space.

No one likes to be inconvenienced by roadwork but it's important to keep in mind that the person replacing a curb or repaving a street is just trying to do good work for the community and make a living for themselves.

How do you keep your spirits high when it's your job to consider the worst-case scenario?

I love what I do because we are like a family here. I just want everyone to make it home safe at the end of the day. I know I can never eliminate all risk, but I do my best.

I track and coordinate training for everyone here, making sure it's up-to-date and the person operating a backhoe or working around electricity knows how to keep themselves safe.

I also visit sites before and during high-risk work.

Staff know that as much as we want to get every job done as efficiently as possible with minimal disruption to residents and businesses, I am looking out for them. That feels meaningful.

Get to know Sidney 2040, your Official Community Plan

SPOTLIGHT ON: WEST SIDE INDUSTRIAL AREA

The Town's new Official Community Plan (OCP): Sidney 2040 was adopted in June 2022 after a two-year engagement process. With each edition of Town Talk, we will explore an aspect of the plan so community members can become more familiar with it.

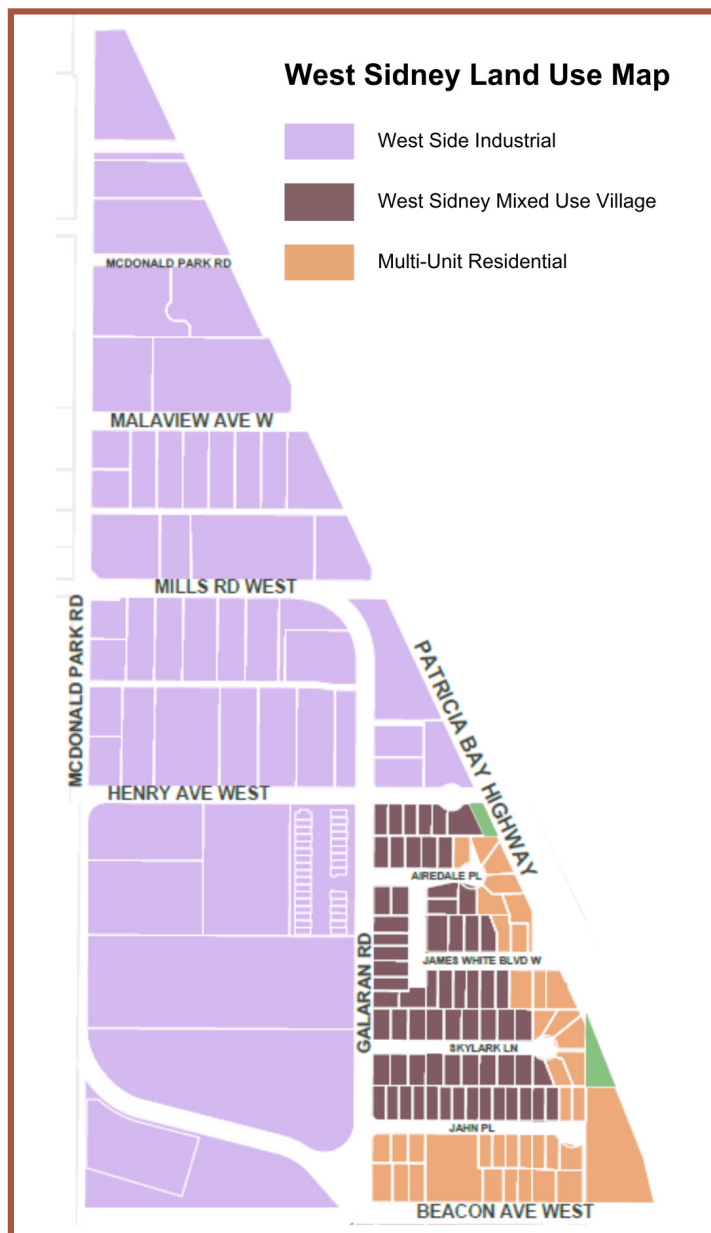
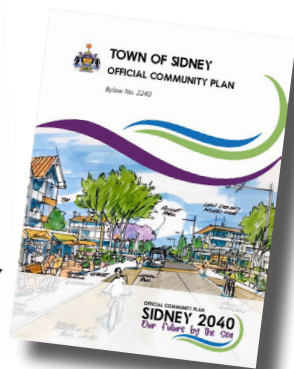
Sidney's West Side Industrial Area spans approximately 28 hectares, covering just over 5% of the Town's land area. This relatively small area forms an essential part of Sidney's economy with businesses that create jobs and make a significant contribution to the Town's tax base. Some examples include storage facilities, research laboratories, and notably, goods-producing industries. About 15% of jobs in Sidney involve the production of goods. These jobs tend to pay above-average wages, making it more feasible for residents to live and work in Sidney.

The updated OCP aims to support the long-term viability and growth of businesses in the West Side Industrial Area in a way that is harmonious with the broader community. Policies provide guidance to ensure:

- Land is preserved for industrial uses over the long term;
- Sustainable industries are encouraged, such as those that use renewable energy, create low carbon emissions, conserve potable water, and/or minimize the use of materials and the generation of waste and pollution;
- Growth in technology industries and light industrial uses are encouraged, as these can help create job security for local residents with minimal impacts on adjacent residential neighbourhoods.

Some lands within Sidney's West Side Industrial Area are owned by the federal government and managed by the Victoria Airport Authority. While the Town of Sidney does not have the authority to approve developments on federal lands, proposals are referred to Sidney Council for comment. The OCP calls for these proposals to be reviewed against the Town's development design guidelines to assess the form and character, site design, and environmental sustainability of industrial development in the area.

Explore policies related to the West Side Industrial Area on page 46 of the OCP at www.sidney.ca



Longterm land use vision for the area from the Official Community Plan.

TIME TO CHECK YOUR SMOKE ALARM

The Office of the Fire Commissioner of BC's annual report detailed that over the last two years, there has been a 119% increase in fire-related deaths around BC. Only 42% of reported residential structure fires had a working smoke alarm. Sidney Fire offers complimentary home visits through our Smoke Alarm Program.

We proudly offer these services:

- Check and replace batteries
- Test and replace smoke detectors
- Clean smoke detectors
- Install new battery-operated smoke detectors
- Offer guidance on smoke detector location & relocating as needed
- Address any concerns when it comes to fire safety.

Contact the Sidney Fire Department to book your smoke alarm appointment: 250-656-2121 or firedept@sidney.ca.



HELP PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS FROM CONTAMINANTS

As the weather improves and we begin to spend more time taking on outdoor projects around our homes, it is important to remember that storm drains, catch basins, roof downspouts, and perimeter drains discharge into local waterways and the ocean, without any treatment.

The storm drain system is intended to capture only rainwater. Care should be taken with activities that have the potential for contamination, including painting, power washing, vehicle maintenance, and the use of pesticides and fertilizers.

Even small amounts of materials should be collected and disposed of properly to avoid causing ecological damage to our streams, shorelines, and the ocean. For information on how to dispose of these items, visit www.crd.bc.ca/hhw.

Please report spills, including an accidental spill, leak, or illicit dumping of a substance, to Emergency Management BC at 1-800-663-3456.



PLAYGROUND COMING TO BRETHOUR PARK

A small playground is coming to Brethour Park in keeping with improvements outlined in Sidney's 2018 Parks Master Plan.

Thank you to all those who took an online survey this spring to let us know what playground elements you would like to see.

Staff are now working on playground design, and hope to initiate the installation this fall.

Future phases of park enhancements could include a new multi-sport court, seating area, and tree plantings, along with improvements to parking, drainage, and pathways.



NEW ACCESSIBLE WASHROOMS COMING TO DOWNTOWN SIDNEY

People enjoying downtown Sidney will soon have some better options for accessing public washrooms. The public washrooms at Fourth Street near Beacon Avenue are being replaced with a new modular building, including an accessible ramp and both accessible and standard washroom stalls.

The Town also expects to see work underway this summer to build a new public washroom facility on the Waterfront Walkway near Beacon Park, with a Changing Places facility for people with complex disabilities. Site preparations are underway. In the meantime, portable toilets will be placed on Beacon Wharf to support Sidney's summer rush.



CARSHARING OFFERS LOCAL ALTERNATIVE TO OWNERSHIP

Did you know that there are convenient car-sharing opportunities available in Sidney? The Town partnered with Modco Co-operative in 2017 to provide local residents and businesses an alternative to car ownership. There are three Modco car-sharing vehicles available in Sidney located at Town Hall, the library, and near the intersection of Third Street and Bevan Avenue.

Renting a Modco car is much simpler than a traditional car rental, with reservations made on a cellphone. Vehicles are opened with a fob (electronic device) provided to all members.

Carsharing is a good fit for people who choose not to own their own vehicle but need one occasionally. It is one more step we can all consider to reduce the number of cars on our roads.

TAKE PART IN BC'S LARGEST HEALTH SURVEY

BC's third SPEAK survey looking at social, economic, mental and physical well-being is now available online and open to all British Columbians 18 years of age and older. This year, the survey also asks about experiences with extreme weather and other impacts of climate change.

By participating in the survey, you will provide valuable information about how to help improve health and well-being locally as public health teams use the results to inform and prioritize programs and health initiatives in communities.

You can take the 20-minute survey here: www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-survey



COMMUNITY INVITED TO INFLUENCE DESIGN OF NEW SIDNEY LOGO

This summer, the Town of Sidney will be working with community members and a local graphic designer, FOE Creative, to update our current logo. This change will not affect signage in Sidney, nor our "Sidney by the Sea" tagline. What will change is the logo found on advertisements, posters, and publications like Town Talk.

The current logo needs an update as it does not meet accessibility guidelines; the script font is difficult to read, and there is not adequate colour contrast for the embedded tagline.

Please fill out a quick online survey from June 5th to 19th and let us know if there are colours, images, or experiences you associate with the Town of Sidney that could help inspire logo design.

The community will also be asked to help choose between two draft designs once they are created.

Find the survey online 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.

SNAPSHOTS OF THE SAANICH PENINSULA

Exhibit running through to the end of August

Sidney Museum (2423 Beacon Avenue, Lower Level)

The Museum's new feature exhibit, Snapshots of the Saanich Peninsula, is a community collaborated photo gallery that aims to highlight the diversity and beauty of the region using three sub-themes wild, people, and work.

PRIDE DAY

June 17, 11am to 3pm
Downtown Sidney

Join in the fun as Sidney celebrates diversity and inclusion with live music, a Pride selfie station, pet costume walk, and face painting.

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



SUMMER SOUNDS CONCERT SERIES

Every Sunday in July and August, 1pm to 4pm
Beacon Park

Each week a new musical group takes the band shell stage for a free community show! Visit peninsulacelebrations.org for more information.

LOW-TIDE BEACH EXPLORATION

July 7, 1pm to 3pm
Glass Beach at the foot of Beacon Avenue

Low-tide learning with Shaw Centre for the Salish Sea. Do you know your rockweed from your sea cauliflower? Your gunnels from your sculpins? Educators will guide you through local shoreline biodiversity. Look for drop-in beach program signage on the waterfront near the scuba diver statue.

SALISH SEA LANTERN FESTIVAL

August 26, 7:30pm
Beacon Park

Bring your lanterns to this celebration of art, light, and community. The event features live entertainment and a community lantern parade. Details at www.artsea.ca.