

DISTRICT QUARTERLY

October—December 2010



The District of Sooke's Council Newsletter

Issue #24

District of Sooke

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Hours: 8:30am—4:30pm

Monday-Friday

Excluding

statutory holidays

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Mayor's Message:

It's Fall, it's October, it's Thanksgiving and it's our Community Open House.

Please find within this newsletter all the items and projects that Council and staff have been working on for the last 6 months. **But now it is time to hear from YOU.** Please attend the Open House on Thursday, October 21st from 4:00 to 8:00 pm at the Community Hall to give your thoughts and ideas on the many initiatives that will be coming forward in the next few months. Review the revised strategic plan with the top priority projects that Council has approved; give us your list of priorities you want to see completed in 2011. Hear a presentation from the consultants who will be presenting four possible crossings of the Sooke River to connect the Galloping Goose to our trail system. Learn about the two very exciting projects coming to Sooke...the Community Radio project brought forward by the Sooke Economic Development Commission and the wonderful Sooke Salmon Enhancement project on Charters Creek. See the proposal for an alternate road from Phillips Road to Church Road to alleviate traffic congestion on Sooke Road through town.

Please come and support your community with your thoughts and ideas.

Mayor Janet Evans

"Sooke Tour" and Fall Community Open House

A guided tour of current projects in the District of Sooke, will take place prior to the Fall Community Open House on Thursday, October 21st, 2010 from 1:30 pm to 4:00. This is an exciting opportunity to travel by bus and visit new project sites in your community. If you are interested in taking a "SOOKE TOUR," please contact the municipal hall at 250-642-1634.

Space is limited, please register early.

Following the "Sooke Tour, the District of Sooke **FALL COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE** will be held from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Sooke Community Hall. Sooke residents will have an opportunity to talk directly to Council and Staff on current municipal projects and initiatives.

Galloping Goose Connector Across the Sooke River
Sign Bylaw Review Committee - Proposed amendments to Sign Bylaw
Revised Strategic Plan - Top Priority Projects
Sooke Economic Development Commission - Community Radio
Sooke Salmon Enhancement
CRD Pedestrian & Cycling Master Plan
Sewer Services

Date: Thursday, October 21st, 2010

Time: Tour : 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm, - Start at Municipal Hall

Open House 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Sooke Community Hall 2037 Shields Road

Tel: 250-642-1634

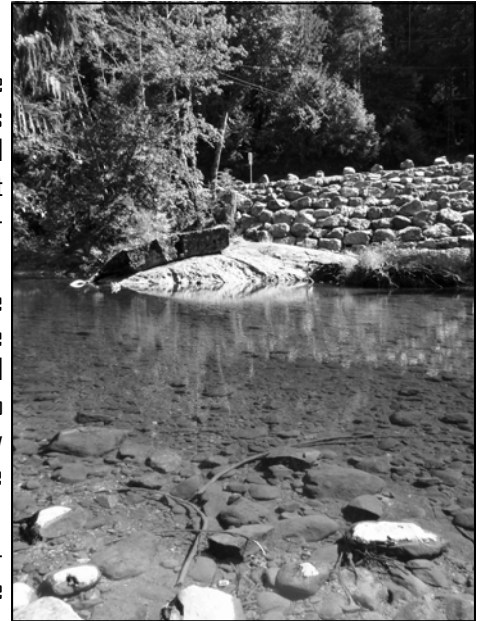
Email: info@sooke.ca

Galloping Goose Connector

The District of Sooke, recognizing the need to develop an outdoor recreation network, developed the Parks and Trails Master Plan in 2009. The ultimate goal of the trail component of the Parks and Trails Master Plan 2009 is to build upon existing trails to develop a linked system that connects people and places in all areas of the District. These trails are to provide opportunities not only for recreation, but can also be effective commuting alternatives. The Parks and Trails Master Plan 2009 prioritizes providing a safe connection to the Galloping Goose Regional Trail via pedestrian crossing of the Sooke River.

The District of Sooke has retained HB Lanarc to review eight potential crossing locations and produce preliminary designs for four chosen locations along the Sooke River. All crossings combined will have the potential to accommodate multiple modes of travel such as, but not limited to, walking, cycling, and wheelchairs. One crossing is to accommodate emergency vehicles. All four preliminary designs are to include associated connecting trail works and must focus on the preservation of environmental quality and natural systems. From the four preliminary designs and with public input, one crossing will be chosen for detailed design completion, with construction anticipated in 2012.

The public is invited to provide their comments on the preliminary designs at the District of Sooke Community Open House on October 21st, 2010 – or at any time. The design process is anticipated to be completed by year end.



Climate Change Initiatives

In 2008, the District of Sooke joined many other BC municipalities in signing the BC Climate Action Charter and is currently developing a Corporate Climate Change Action Plan to ensure carbon neutral operation by 2012. The District completed the first step toward achieving the goal of becoming carbon neutral in respect to municipal operations by 2012 in November, 2009 by convening a Climate Change Action Charter Committee (Green Team) to oversee the development of a Corporate Climate Change Action Strategy and to ensure its implementation. The implementation of this Corporate Climate Change Action Strategy is a key component to becoming carbon neutral in respect to municipal operations by 2012. The other key component of the Climate Change Action Charter is the completion of a Community Climate Action Strategy. The goal is to have this document complete in 2012. The OCP commits to reduce GHG emissions to 20% below 2006 levels in 2012, 33% below 2006 levels by 2020 community wide.

Key Climate Change Bylaws, Policies and Plans:

- The District of Sooke has taken a lead in sustainable community development by the incorporation of sustainable development policies in the new Official Community Plan.
- The Sooke Town Centre Revitalization Bylaw provides tax exemption, waiver of fees and charges and the creation of capital improvement reserve to encourage commercial and higher density residential development in the Town Centre with a low environmental impact (LEED certified developments). Future plans include a similar bylaw for incentives to encourage low impact development outside the Town Centre.
- Parks and Trails Master Plan – trail linkages and networks for walkable and cycle friendly community
- Transportation Master Plan – cycle lanes and sidewalks planned as part of the pedestrian and cycle network

Buildings:

- Energy Efficient Buildings:
- Conversion of heating system the Municipal Hall and Fire Department to natural gas
- Retrofit of lighting in the Municipal Hall and Fire Department to LED lighting

Transportation:

- Public Transit Park and Ride Upgrade from 30 stalls to 99 stalls, bike lockers to encourage use of alternative modes of transportation
- Municipal Fleet: 50% of vehicles are hybrids. Latest 2 acquisitions have been hybrid
- Biodiesel conversion of Fire Department vehicles
- Constructed via development or through annual capital budgets nearly 3500 meters of trail since 2006.

Waste Management:

- The municipality is currently developing a Waste Management Plan and is working with the CRD and local businesses to devise options for management of organics to eliminate their disposal in landfills by 2012. This will include biosolids, wood waste, commercial and household organics.

Energy Alternatives

- The T'Sou-Ke First Nation has just completed a solar power project in conjunction with the BC Sustainable Energy Association and Solar BC. The First Nation provided 25 homes along with the fish hatchery, the community hall, band hall and canoe shed with solar thermal units. Almost all of the install work was completed by community members themselves. A two-day forum was held to provide information as to the project and to promote solar power.

Business Licences due January 31, 2011

As of January 1, 2008, in accordance to Bylaw No. 301, *Business Licence Bylaw, 2007*, all businesses operating in the District of Sooke are required to be in possession of a valid Business Licence or a valid Inter-municipal Business Licence. Business licences can be obtained from the District of Sooke office, or online at www.sooke.ca. These licences are valid for one calendar year (January – December) and must be renewed each year. Business Licence renewals are due on January 31, 2011. ***Renewal payments made after March 31, 2011 will be subject to fines.***

In an effort to ensure an appropriate standard of health and safety is being maintained at all public places of business, District staff will be starting a program of routine site visits throughout 2011. Should it be determined that a business is operating without a valid licence or in contravention to any Bylaws or Amendments relating to businesses in the District of Sooke, fines may be issued. At present, there are @450 businesses licenced in the District of Sooke. In 2010, our goal is to increase this number through the business licence program to the benefit of the entire business community and facilitate growth in our community.

Upcoming Council Meetings

Regular Council

October 25, 2010
November 8, 2010
November 22, 2010
December 13, 2010

Committee of the Whole

November 1, 2010
November 15, 2010

Recent Development Approvals

There have been a number of significant projects recently approved in the District of Sooke. The following projects are currently underway:

- Mariner's Village
- Shopper's Drug Mart
- 18 unit residential development of Grant Road West
- 25 unit townhouse/duplex development on Galaxie Road
- Business/residential building on Otter Point Road
- Juan de Fuca Salmon Restoration Project

Overall, the number of development-related applications processed continues to increase as reflected in a comparison from 2009.

Sooke Economic Development Commis- sion Update – Community Radio

Earlier this year, the Sooke EDC struck a committee to explore the feasibility of starting a local Sooke radio station. Led by the vision of Kris Schill, a Sooke resident with a background in broadcasting, the committee has now officially been incorporated with BC Registry Services as the "Sooke Community Radio Society".

The purpose of the society is to provide a local voice, representative of the interests of Sooke residents, and to offer timely and relevant information and programming. The station itself will be called "Stickleback FM". In the Coast Salish language of the T'Sou-ke First Nations, the word "T'Sou-ke" (Sooke) means Stickleback, which is a small fish found in local waters. The next steps for the group are to secure a frequency, negotiate licensing and regulations, fundraise and create a public relations and communication plan. Progress is underway and growth will likely start slowly, with perhaps an hour or two of programming per day. **Stay tuned for more information. A Stickleback FM website is up and coming.**



Sooke RCMP

Sooke RCMP Detachment has experienced a busy summer. Even though calls for service were down 5% from last year, there were more complicated and time consuming investigations conducted by our members. Our members were also busy doing more pro-active enforcement such as road checks for impaired drivers. Detachment staffing levels were also down by 20 % due to members being away on paternity leave and medical leave. This places considerable pressures on the rest of the members.

Policing priorities for this year are youth and substance abuse, crime reduction, property offences and alcohol related crashes. I am pleased to report that there have been significant progress to date in our harm reduction efforts in our communities that we serve. For example, Vancouver Island has seen a dramatic increase in the number of fatal motor vehicle accidents over this past year. There have been no fatal crashes in the Sooke Detachment area. Alcohol related crashes are down by 22%. This is largely due in part to the efforts of our members conducting more road checks for impaired drivers, seat belts and aggressive drivers.

Our detachment has had great success in our crime reduction initiatives. We have been monitoring the prolific offenders who live in our community. We have been conducting curfew checks every night on those who are on Court ordered conditions. We are charging more people now for breaching Court ordered conditions. Charges are up 33% over last year.

Our crime reduction strategies have lead to a dramatic increase in all property offences, with the exception of business break ins. Property offences across the board are down 22%. The largest decrease was in residential break ins, which are down 75%. Vandalism is down 23%, disturbance calls are down 61%.

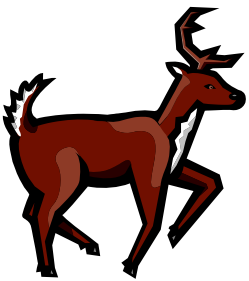
We have targeted prolific drug offenders in this community who sell to young people as well. The number of marijuana grow operations dismantled and quantity of drugs seized has increased as well.

Cpl. Scott HILDERLEY who was a popular member not only in the detachment, but in the community as well, has transferred to Victoria where he is supervising the DARE Program for southern Vancouver Island. Cpl. Jas MANDAHAR has replaced Scott. Jas transferred in from Regina. He is married with two children, ages 10 and 12.

I would like to say thank you to all the wonderful people who volunteer their time to assist the police. Without their help, we would not enjoy the successes that we have had. The volunteer programs include Auxiliary Constables, Citizens Patrol, Speed Watch, and Victims Assistance.

S/Sgt. Steve WRIGHT, NCO I/C Sooke RCMP Detachment

Please do not feed the Deer!



Deer population is becoming an issue in many municipalities including the District of Sooke. By feeding deer, we are encouraging a dramatic increase in deer population. There are many risks associated with feeding deer including human health and safety and property damage. We are fortunate to have the ability to observe wildlife in our own back yards, but must be responsible when doing so. For more information, please visit www.sooke.ca or the BC Conservation Officer Service at <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/>

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Bear Aware—Discouraging Bears at Home



More than 1000 bears are killed every year in British Columbia because of bear-human conflicts. Most of these bears were attracted into neighborhoods by improperly stored garbage and other attractants. Please, discourage bears at home and avoid bear-human conflict by properly storing and securing residential garbage and other bear attractants. For more information, please visit www.bearaware.bc.ca or if you have a bear incident to report to a Conservation Officer, please call: 1-877-952-RAPP (7277)

SEAPARC NEWS

Arena Renovation Project

The Infrastructure Stimulus Project to enhance SEAPARC's Arena mechanical and refrigeration equipment and to add new dressing rooms and accessory spaces is 60% complete and is on schedule to be completed in March 2011.

Youth Nights

Sooke Youth are invited to attend SEAPARC's Youth Night every Saturday from 8:00 – 10:00pm at Sooke Community Hall. Teen Swim at SEAPARC Pool is offered every Friday night from 8:00 – 9:45pm.

Programs for 50+ Update

SEAPARC continues to recruit and train volunteers (50+ yrs) to lead fitness and recreation programs for seniors. So far we have six trained volunteers who are leading fall programs (walking, hiking, card-making, martial arts, and Bellyfit). Two volunteers have taken fitness theory courses and first aid training and are on their way to becoming certified fitness instructors for SEAPARC in 2011.

Olympic Efforts Result in "Superb" Reviews



Earlier this year, the BC Streets Exhibit at the Richmond Ozone during the 2010 Vancouver Olympics provided a once in a lifetime opportunity to promote the Sooke to Port Renfrew Region on an international scale. A community-wide collaborative effort, spearheaded by the District of Sooke and the Sooke Region Tourism Association has yielded tremendous results.

Many residents of Sooke will recall the display created for BC Streets - a recreation of the Rotary Boardwalk in Sooke, complete with a water feature, spouting orca, intertidal life, seal, seagull, lighthouse and fish weigh station. A tremendous showpiece for the area, the success of the Sooke display on BC Streets led to its subsequent use at other events, such as the Vancouver Outdoor Adventure and Travel Show in April, 2010 and the Sooke Rotary Fair. Many local sponsors contributed funding, supplies and their time, reducing the overall costs for the display and participation in the events.

In total the Sooke display saw approximately 150,000 visitors in 2010. An accompanying website, www.sooke2010.com was created as a means to provide further local information. To date, the website has had approximately 7,500 hits. One of the main attractions of the website was a Grand Prize of a week's vacation for four people to the Sooke Region, which included complimentary accommodations, meals and activities, all offered by local businesses. The winners of the Grand Prize - James and Judith Pettifer of Richmond, BC - recently visited Sooke for the first time, along with two friends who made the trip from England specifically to take advantage of the opportunity.

The foursome enjoyed an amazing assortment of local offerings and found Sooke to be "picturesque, friendly and clean - with so many activities" to take advantage of. They report that they were "very impressed with the people", who made their trip "so superb" and that not only do they intend to come back to the area, but that they "will definitely talk many friends into visiting" as well. Mr. Pettifer indicated he will "be talking Sooke up for the next 100 years".

Public Boat Launch Update

The District of Sooke will begin construction of the public boat launch on West Coast Road this Fall, with completion of the project required by March, 2011. The boat launch is funded through a Canada-British Columbia-Building Canada Fund Communities Grant in the amount of \$605,768 and Sooke Prestige Holdings Ltd. is contributing \$200,000 towards additional marine based works. The municipality must contribute @\$300,000 towards the project. The project will include:

- @63m long x 16m wide boat launch
- Construction of a small floating dock
- Parking area
- Road works
- Water service
- Rainwater management
- Lighting
- Landscaping
- Marine vacuum head system
- Sewage collection system

Communities in Bloom

Every year the BC Communities in Bloom organization recognizes the most attractive and livable communities in our province. Participating communities unite their citizens, local service groups and government in a team effort to visibly improve their neighborhoods. Following on our strong showing

last year, the District of Sooke received "4 Blooms" this year- only a few points away from the top standing of 5 blooms.

Neighbourhoods were encouraged to have a fun and friendly competition on who could make their street look the best in 2010. This years winners were the residents of Kaltasin Road who received a block party hosted by District of Sooke staff and the Sooke Volunteer Firefighters.



Sign Bylaw Review Committee

Over the past two years, the Sign Bylaw Review Committee has been reviewing and making recommendations as to amendments for Bylaw No. 109, *Sign Regulation Bylaw, 2003*. Council, Staff and Committee members will be available at the District of Sooke Fall Open House, October 21st, 2010 to receive your comments as to the Sign Regulation Bylaw.

Questions? Comments? Suggestions?

If you have any questions or suggestions about the municipal hall, services, procedures or anything else that comes to mind, please contact us -- we welcome all of your comments and suggestions.





Sooke Fire and Rescue Services

Sooke firefighters had the very unique opportunity of working with the International Association of Arson Investigators to host a one week training session on Fire Investigation. During the week of September 19-24, over 100 students from fire, police and insurance agencies throughout British Columbia arrived to learn the specialized techniques used in fire cause and origin determination. This all took place using classrooms at the Sooke Fire Station and the Manuel Quimper Motel as the burn centre.

Ten rooms in the motel were carefully setup with cameras, heat detectors and other monitoring equipment and then set on fire. Once the fires had reached a critical stage, Sooke Firefighters entered the building to extinguish the fire. Later in the week, the students would attend the site to test out their new skills to try to locate where and how each fire started.

Later in the day, another set of rooms were engulfed in flames as the students witnessed how a sprinkler system would work, the effects of foam as an extinguishing agent along with other firefighting and investigative techniques.

Thanks to the generous donation of the Mariners Village project, this building slated for demolition turned out to be the ideal training ground for this seminar. Many great comments were received on not only the quality of the course, but the great support and impressive firefighting tactics of the firefighters from Sooke Fire Rescue Service.



Sooke Burning Regulations

Burning of yard debris is permitted as follows:

Backyard burning is permitted beginning October 1st 2010. Persons found in non-compliance with the provisions of this bylaw are subject to fines or other enforcement.

Effective October 1, 2009 new regulations for burning are in effect. Burning of yard debris ONLY will be permitted during daylight hours from October 1st to April 30th when the Environment Canada Ventilation Index is at a **GOOD** rating for Southern Vancouver Island.

**Call 250-642-1612 for the local Ventilation Index rating.
Or visit the District of Sooke website**

Property Size	Fire Size
Up to 2 acres	3' high x 6' wide x 6' in length
Over 2 acres and up to 5 acres	One fire 6' high x 6' wide x 6' in length or Two fires 3' high x 6' wide x 6' in length
Over 5 acres	One Fire 6' high x 9' wide x 9' in length or Four Fires 3'high x 6'wide x 6'in length

Land clearing burning on properties larger than 10 acres is now permitted four times a year per property for a burn pile not to exceed 170 cubic metres (6000 cu. ft.).

A land clearing fire is only permitted on properties more than 10 acres in size, require a permit (\$50.00 fee) and must be inspected by the fire department prior to lighting the fire and that the burn pile must comply with all of the requirements of the *Environmental Management Act - Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation*.

The *Provincial Waste Management Act* and District of Sooke bylaws prohibit the burning of tires or other materials, such as household garbage, demolition waste, construction waste or materials, animal products including manure, biomedical waste, railway ties, fuel & paint products, etc.

Please contact the Fire Department at 250-642-5422 for further information.



Safe Halloween Safe Halloween will again take place at the Sooke Fire Station on **October 31st**. This annual event runs from **5:00 pm to 9:00 pm** and is open to kids of all ages. Volunteer firefighters along with other community groups spend many hours converting the fire hall into the very popular and scary Spook Fire Department Haunted House. There are also inflatable bounce houses, children's games, face painting and a food concession. This event relies on the generous donation of local businesses to fund this show which attracts over 1000 visitors each year.