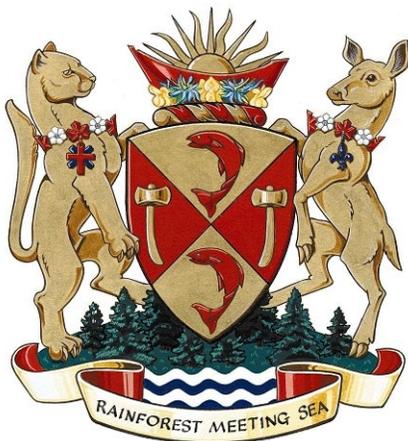




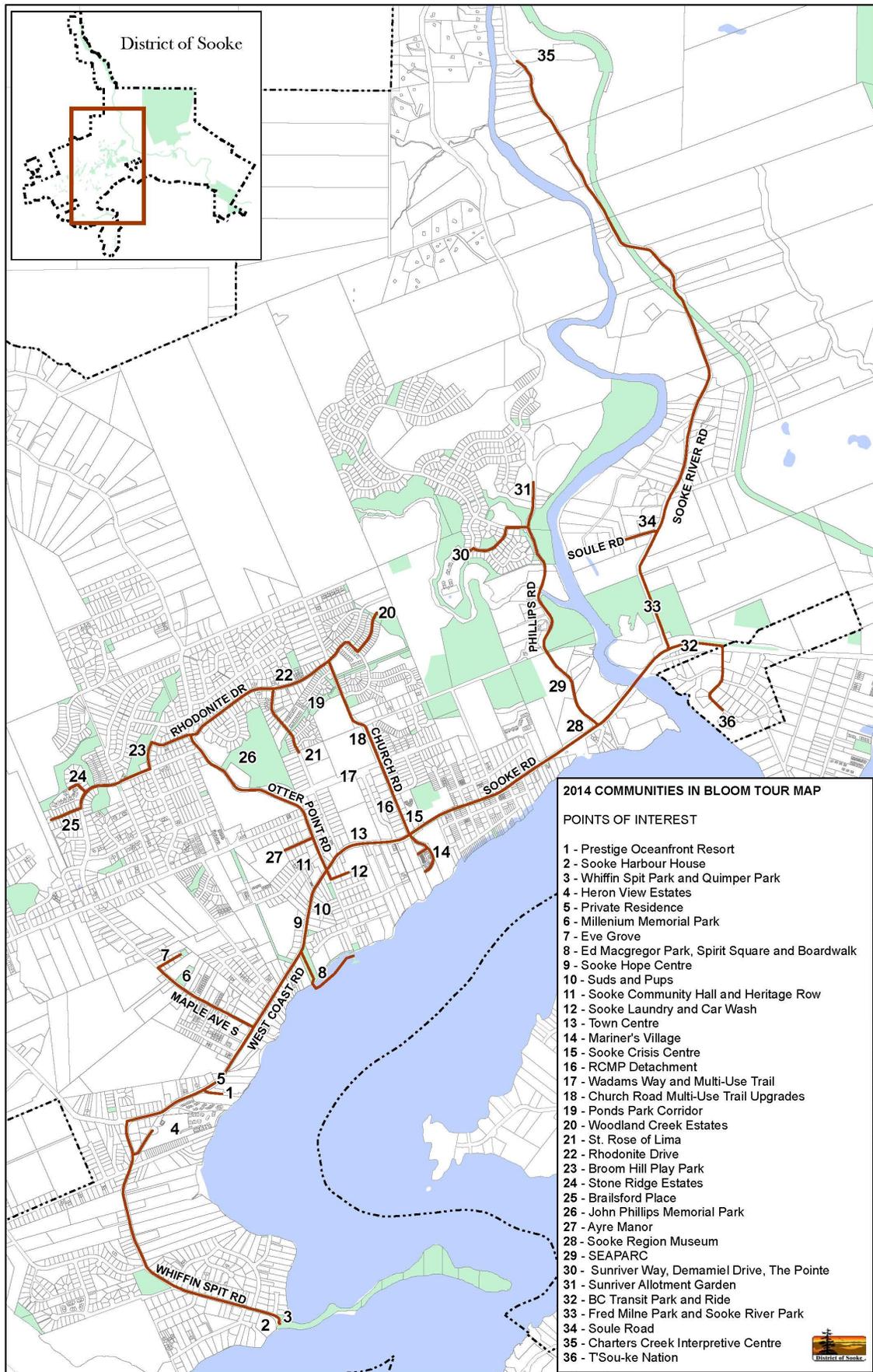
# DISTRICT OF SOOKE



COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM  
PARTICIPANT  
2014 PROFILE BOOK

*"WHERE THE RAINFOREST MEETS THE SEA"*

# 2014 Communities In Bloom Tour Map (Enlarged map provided separately)



# Itinerary for Judges Tour

## July 23, 2014

<b>Morning Driving Tour Itinerary</b>			
1		Depart Prestige Oceanfront Resort	Starting at 9:00 am
2		Sooke Harbour House	
3	Drive by:	Whiffin Spit Park and Quimper Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage Medallions</li> <li>• Memorial Area</li> <li>• Tourism Attraction</li> </ul>
4		Heron View Estates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green roof on amenities building</li> </ul>
5		Private Residence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Miracle Grow Best Garden Selection</li> </ul>
6		Millennium Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage restoration and transfer to the District</li> </ul>
7		Eve Grove	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Art in signage</li> </ul>
8		Ed Macgregor Park and Spirit Square/Boardwalk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpretive signage</li> <li>• Spirit Square events</li> <li>• Sooke Fine Arts mosaic</li> <li>• Art on kiosks</li> </ul>
9		Sooke Hope Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St. Vincent de Paul and M'akola Housing Society partnership</li> </ul>
10		Suds and Pups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Car and Dog Wash with newly drilled well water and water recycling</li> </ul>
11	<b>Visit:</b>	<b>Sooke Community Hall and Heritage Row</b>	
12		Sooke Laundry and Car Wash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green development</li> </ul>
13		Town Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New highway profile at TD Bank</li> <li>• Transit shelter art partnership with EMCS</li> <li>• Kiosk and landscaping</li> <li>• Upgraded storefronts</li> </ul>
14		Mariner's Village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rainwater management</li> <li>• Model design guidelines for downtown</li> <li>• Built to LEED standard</li> </ul>

15	Drive by:	Sooke Crisis Centre	•
16		RCMP Detachment	•
17		Wadam's Way and Multiuse Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connection for roadways and trails</li> <li>• Vegetated swales and amphibian area</li> <li>• Urban forest - 16 trees were planted in this development - X total in 2014.</li> </ul>
18		Church Road multi-use trail upgrades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe trail connections</li> <li>• Multiuse trail allows preservation of ditches which are connected to Throup Stream</li> </ul>
19		Ponds Park Corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connection of trail system to schools</li> </ul>
20		Woodland Creek Estates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newest play park and trail system (450 m)</li> <li>• Geothermal development</li> <li>• BuiltGreen</li> </ul>
21		St Rose of Lima	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rainwater management &amp; permeable surfacing</li> <li>• ECOSTAR nominated</li> </ul>
22		Rhodonite Drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pineridge Park renovation with fitness equipment and nature playground</li> <li>• ShareRow</li> <li>• Watering restrictions/CRD Partnerships</li> <li>• Sooke reduced watering in open greenspace</li> </ul>
23		Broomhill Play Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community fundraising</li> <li>• Environmental stewardship with Journey Middle School</li> </ul>
24		Stoneridge Estates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affordable housing unit</li> <li>• 175 meters of trail</li> <li>• Multifamily development</li> </ul>
25		Brailsford Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Veteran Memorial Streets</li> </ul>
26		John Phillips Memorial Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trail Connections</li> <li>• Horseshoe Pitch</li> </ul>

27		Ayre Manor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garden and proposed expansion</li> </ul>
28		Sooke Region Museum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Showcase of region's history and public art</li> </ul>
29		SEAPARC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fine Arts Show</li> <li>• Bike Skills Park</li> <li>• Multi-Use Trail connections</li> </ul>
30		Sunriver Way and DeMamiel Drive to 'The Pointe'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play Park</li> <li>• The Point - low irrigation landscaping</li> <li>• Municipally Maintained Boulevards</li> <li>• Sun River Nature Park</li> </ul>
31		<b>Lunch</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sun River Community Allotment Gardens at 1:00 pm</b></li> </ul>
32		BC Transit Park and Ride	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GHG Reductions, transit stop improvements and art program</li> </ul>
33		Fred Milne Park and Sooke River Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turf maintenance through partnerships with user groups</li> </ul>
34		Soule Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Example of Historical Shields</li> <li>• Galloping Goose Crossing Location</li> </ul>
35		Charter's Creek Interpretive Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salmon enhancement and interpretive center</li> </ul>
36		T'Sou-ke Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solar T'Sou-ke</li> <li>• Greenhouses</li> </ul>
		<b>TOUR COMPLETED — JUDGES RETIRE</b>	

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## Sooke's History

The District of Sooke is home to the T'Sou-ke First Nation. Their name is derived from the Sooke tribe of Straits Salishans. The derivation of "sooke" is from the native name of the stickleback fish that inhabits the Sooke Basin. It was earlier spelled "Soke" and pronounced "soak".

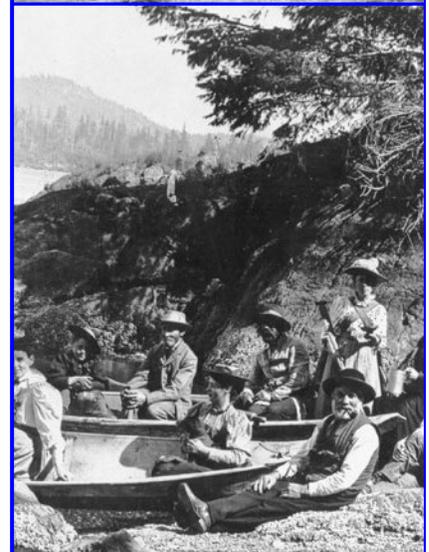
The T'Sou-ke were nearly annihilated in a combined attack of the Cowichans, Clallums and Nitinahts launched around 1848. They experienced very early exposure to Europeans due to the association with the Hudson Bay Company. Reserves were allotted to T'Sou-Ke by the Joint Reserve Commission in 1877 and reallocated by the McKenna Commission in 1911.

When the Hudson's Bay Company's fur trading fort was established at Camosun (now Victoria) in 1843, European immigration and land acquisition followed. The first independent immigrant to purchase land in the new colony of Vancouver's Island, at Sooke Harbour in 1849, was Captain Walter Colquhoun Grant of the Royal Scots Greys. A cairn in his memory was erected in 1958, for B.C.'s Centennial. When Grant returned to Britain in 1853, he left his holdings to the John and Ann Muir family who had also sailed from Scotland to Vancouver's Island in 1849. Commissioned by the Hudson's Bay Company to look for coal, the Muirs went first to Fort Rupert, but by 1851 had taken up land at Sooke.

While Grant built a water-powered sawmill, he is best-remembered by the brilliant yellow blossoms from Scottish broom seeds he planted, blossoms which have now spread from Alaska to California. It was the Muirs who established lumber markets ranging from nearby San Francisco to South America, the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii) and Australia.

The Muirs had a steam sawmill operating by 1855, established a productive farm, and built a number of ocean going vessels. In 1884 the sons built three fine stately homes, two of which still stand, Woodside and Burnside. People from the T'Sou-ke worked at the sawmill, at the barrel stave production, and at gathering bark for the tanning industry. Other families to become prominent in Sooke's early immigrant history were the Brule and Poirier groups, originally from Quebec, who arrived in Sooke through following the trail of the fur trade. It had been the developing of a forest industry that had stirred both Grant and Muir, and the Muir forest enterprise was to reign until 1890.

Early in the 1900's a series of commercial fish traps, with piles driven into the ocean floor and webbing designed to intercept the salmon, were to become the mainstay of Sooke's economy. It was mid-century before the fleets of independent fish boats put an end to the "fishtrap" industry. During the early 1900's the vast rainforests in the area's watersheds attracted the interest of far-off businessmen, and the logging of the mighty Douglas-fir, red cedar, Sitka spruce and hemlock began in earnest. Long before the days of modern technology, in the 1920's ten horse teams hauled massive logs. Until a decade ago, it was the harvesting of the rainforest that built the economy of the district, and fed the coffers of the province.



# MUNICIPAL INFORMATION FORM



Municipality: DISTRICT OF SOOKE (Incorporated December 1999)

Population: 11,435 (Juan de Fuca Region @15,000)

## Municipality total area:

Approximately 5,742 hectares (not including First Nations and foreshore areas)

Urban 43.20 %, Rural (agricultural, managed forests, etc.) 23.50%

**Parks and green space area:** Approximately 22.77% of the total area of the municipality

**What is the structure of your CiB Committee? Who is on your committee?**

## 2014 DISTRICT OF SOOKE COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM COMMITTEE

Chair: Brenda Parkinson

- ◇ Mayor's Public Advisory Panel on the Arts and Beautification
- ◇ Chair: Brenda Parkinson
- ◇ Members: Sandy Jarvis, Loretta Boerkamp, Marion DesRochers, Abenaki Sprinkling, Ellen Lewers, Frederique Philip, Karen Stones, Randy Welters. Sharon and Patrick Grove
- ◇ Sooke Region Chamber of Commerce - Michael Nyikes
- ◇ Sooke Region Community Health Initiative - Marlene Barry
- ◇ Sooke Region Volunteer Centre - Marlene Barry
- ◇ Sun River Community Gardens Society - Phoebe Dunbar
- ◇ T'Sou-ke Nation - Linda Bristol
- ◇ Best Western Premier Prestige Oceanfront Resort and Convention Center - Krista Clarke, Convention and Sales Manager

District of Sooke: Bonnie Sprinkling, Corporate Officer  
Laura Hooper, Parks and Environmental Services Coordinator  
Sarah Temple, Finance and Administration Assistant

Others participating through CiB Committee:

- à Sooke Community Association - Karl Linell, Charlie O'Donnell
- à School District #62 - Edward Milne Community School, Journey Middle School
- à Sooke Royal Canadian Legion Branch #54
- à Volunteer roadside clean up crew
- à Surfrider Foundation Vancouver Island
- à Sooke Lions Club (Harbourside)
- à Girl Guides
- à Sooke Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps
- à Sooke Rotary Club
- à Plus many more!

**Why did you enter this program?** In 2006, District of Sooke Council recognized the many benefits of the Communities in Bloom program. Council envisioned that a CiB community committee would better facilitate a harmonized effort by the municipality, community groups and volunteers -- with the goal of making its first application under the CiB program. The District has participated in the program each year since 2006, attaining 5 Blooms in 2011 and 2013.

**What is your community especially proud of?** Like most municipalities, we have many things to be proud of, but this year for the Communities in Bloom program we are focusing on our work to protect the future of our community. The year has brought considerable accomplishments in forwarding our Community Energy and Emissions Plan, as well as improvements to capital infrastructure that will benefit the community for generations to come. We would also like to highlight a noticeable increase in commitment to community clean up and local horticulture (community gardens, heritage trees).

**Who will this report be most beneficial to?** This report will provide the judges with a written introduction to our community and its amazing citizens. We are proud of our title "Volunteer Capital of Canada". The report will also provide the community with an overview of its achievements as a Communities in Bloom participant.

**In what way do you anticipate participation in CiB will assist in improving your community?**  
The CiB program provides many benefits to the community; it provides an opportunity to explore ways to improve the quality of life for the community, to showcase our beautiful community, and to increase our community profile. The greatest benefit is the opportunity to achieve common goals through collaborative projects that bring together local groups, businesses, people of all ages and the municipality.

#### COMMITTEE BUDGET

- |                   |                    |                |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. Municipal: 50% | 2. Fundraising 20% | 3. In-kind 30% |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|

### ESTIMATE OF VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS

Total Number of Volunteer People: @150+  
Multiply by  
Total Number of Projects: @ 21+  
Multiply by  
Total Number of Volunteer Hours: @3,150+  
  
Volunteer Hours x Rate/hour =  
Value Contributed

**Total Project Hours - 3,150 X \$15/hr**  
**Value Contributed-\$47,250**



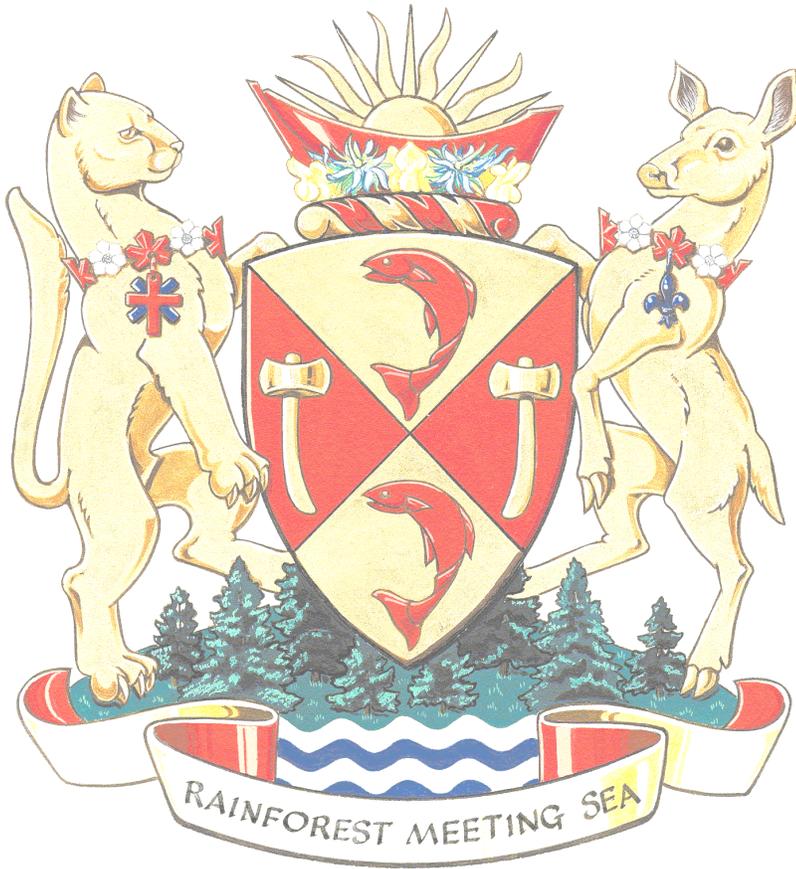
## INTRODUCTION

The District of Sooke has come a long way since its incorporation in December, 1999. A wastewater treatment plant has greatly improved the health of the Sooke Harbour and Basin, and at the same time, allowed for an increased in density for the Town Centre. Despite the growth experienced, Sooke maintains its goal of becoming a sustainable community where people can live, work and play.

Many of the District of Sooke's strategic planning and operational programs contribute to its participation in the Communities in Bloom program:

1. Sooke has incorporated many of the CiB program objectives in policies and objectives; ie. Downtown Revitalization, Town Centre Design Guidelines, street trees bylaw, roads, boulevard and parks maintenance contracts, Official Community Plan etc.
2. In 2008/2009, Sooke adopted the Parks and Trails Master Plan, Transportation Master Plan, Town Centre Plan, Sustainable Development Strategy, Accessibility & Inclusiveness Study, Tourism Action Plan;
3. In 2010, adopted a new *Official Community Plan (OCP)*. The OCP's guiding principles speak to a community that encourages sustainable growth while maintaining significant park, rural and agricultural areas for future generations. The overriding goal of the OCP is to build a more complete community where residents can "live, work and play" while still maintaining the character of our town that makes is so special;
4. In 2011, the District of Sooke became the first community in British Columbia to complete an integrated Sanitary and Rainwater Liquid Waste Management Plan. The LWMP for Rainwater provides strategies for the long-term management of rainwater;
5. In 2012, the Agricultural Plan was adopted and in 2013, a new *Sooke Zoning Bylaw* was adopted.
6. Council is in the process of reviewing new "Town Centre Design Guidelines" and an "Illustrative Design Handbook" with the intention of establishing guidelines for the form and character of development in the Town Centre.
7. Partnered with the Sooke Region Historical Society (Museum), the Sooke Region Chamber of Commerce, Sooke Region Tourism Association and other community groups for several events and projects to improve the community's awareness of, and encourage participation in, the CiB program. For example, the Sooke Food CHI projects, the expansion of the historic "Flow Line" and the Juan de Fuca Salmon Enhancement Society's Charter's River Interpretive Centre.
8. Partnered with the Sooke Harbour Chamber of Commerce, the annual Sooke CiB Business Beautification contest offers Sooke a recognition for property improvements. This year, ten local gardens, both business and residential, were awarded a "Best Garden" award.
9. The District's Corporate Officer serves as liaison to the Sooke CiB Committee and provided municipal support, both sponsorship and funding, for all CiB projects;
10. In 2009, became a member of "Pitch-in Canada" and developed ongoing program with T'Sou-ke Nation and the Sooke Moon Community Group volunteers;
11. Participated in the 2010 Olympic/Paralympic Games through involvement with the Ozone -BC Community Street Program in Richmond with Sooke Region Tourism Association, Sooke Volunteer Fire Department and Sooke Rotary;
12. Provided funding for several community improvement projects; ie. Expansion of the "Welcome to Sooke" landscape, improvement of the urban forest at the new BC Transit Park and Ride and improved transit stop benches and garbage receptacles;
13. Applied for and received grant funding for community improvement projects including the Sooke Spirit Square, Sooke Public Boat Launch and the Church Road Multi-use trail.





## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to the District of Sooke! Sooke is a growing community that strives to retain its small town feel and protect its environment and heritage. Visitors are surprised by the variety and beauty of the harbourside community and all it has to offer — unique accommodations, world class dining and entertainment and a wide variety of eco-tourism options.

For the second consecutive year, the Mayor's Public Advisory Panel on the Arts and Beautification, chaired by Brenda Parkinson, has been tasked with coordinating the Communities in Bloom program. The Panel Chair formed a Communities in Bloom Community Committee that is all volunteer based and not-for-profit. The Committee has made a commitment to inclusivity and community participation in this year's program. The number of participants in the projects and the sponsorships received are evidence of the success of Sooke's CiB Committee.

We know that Sooke is one of the most beautiful places in the World to live, work and play — and the Communities in Bloom program provides an opportunity to showcase our community!

Mayor Wendal Milne  
District of Sooke



## Mayor's Advisory Panel on the Arts and Beautification

Brenda Parkinson, Chair and Michel DesRochers, Artist—Interpretive Signage at Marine Boardwalk

In 2012, the Mayor requested that members of the community establish three advisory panels in the areas of Economic Development, Arts and Beautification, and Community Health and Social Issues. The purpose of each of the independent advisory panels is to identify to the Mayor and Council ideas and issues that will move the community forward in each of the three identified areas.

For participation in the 2014 Communities in Bloom program, the District of Sooke looked to the Mayor's Advisory Panel on the Arts and Beautification to be the 2014 CiB Community Committee, as they had done successfully in 2013. The Panel eagerly stepped up to the challenge — organizing and fundraising for the Communities in Bloom judge's visit, and getting their hands dirty helping to spruce up the Town Centre.



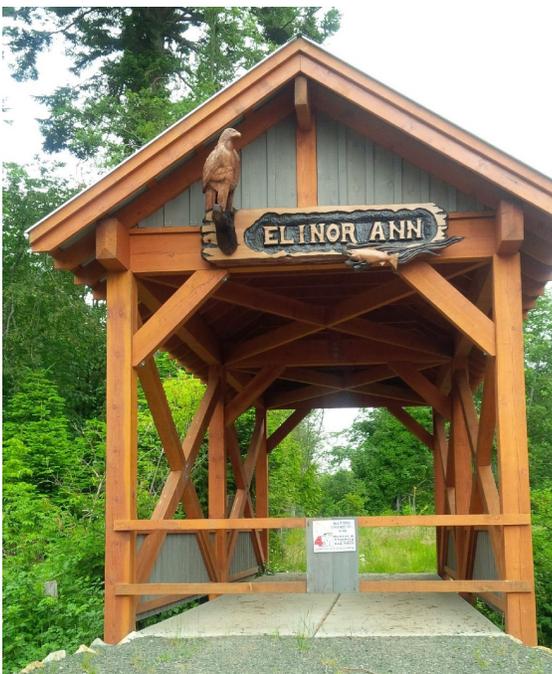
Broom Bash at Whiffin Spit

The Mayor's Advisory Panel on the Arts and Beautification, chaired by Brenda Parkinson, has been a dynamic and energetic group. Several projects have been completed during the past year, with many more on the go:

- ⇒ New Thursday "Night Market" at the Sooke Region Museum
- ⇒ Upgrades to Tourism Kiosk and surrounding area (refurbishing flower planters)
- ⇒ Working with local businesses and individuals to sponsor flowering planter barrels (6 new this year)
- ⇒ Working to promote business and neighbourhood beautification projects
- ⇒ Working with local artists on various projects:
  - \* Graffiti wrap (photographs)
  - \* Additional boardwalk signage (artists)
  - \* Sewer pumps (artists)
  - \* Electrical kiosks at Ed MacGregor Park (artists)
  - \* Whiffin Spit and John Phillips Memorial Park signage (carvers)
  - \* SEAPARC Bike Park (young artists)
  - \* Transit stops (artists)
  - \* Hand painted banners for local events
  - \* Sooke Laundry Art Gallery—rotating artists with proceeds from sales going to local charities



Vendors at Thursday Night Market



- ⇒ Working with local schools for art projects at transit stops and sewer pump stations
- ⇒ Presentations to District of Sooke Council for funding of projects, including Communities in Bloom 2014
- ⇒ Facilitating an agreement between the District of Sooke and BC Hydro for graffiti removal
- ⇒ Decorating the stage for the Sooke Fall Fair
- ⇒ Ensuring public art is in good repair
- ⇒ And much more!

New Public Art at Eve Grove subdivision

# Aerial Photograph of the District of Sooke



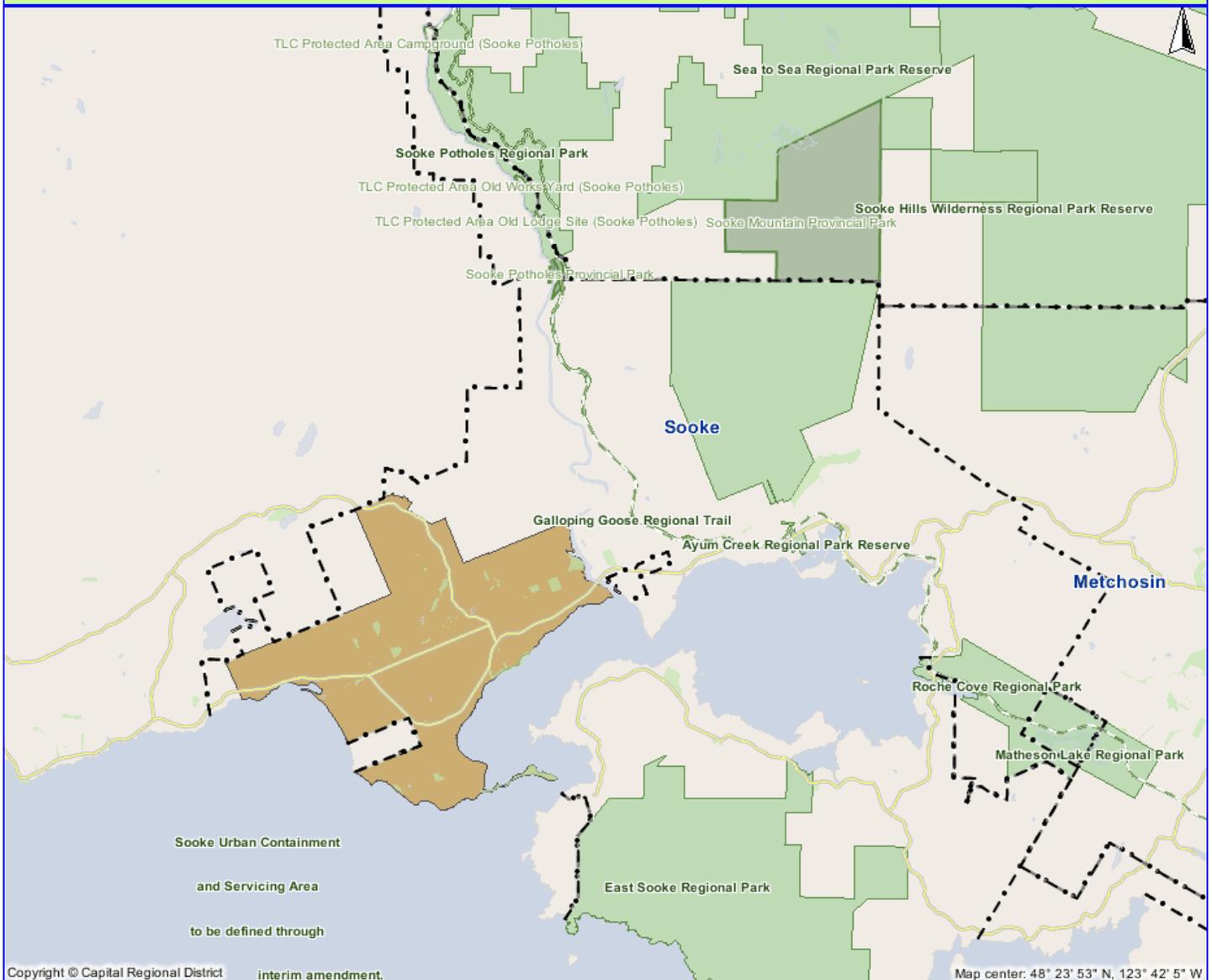
## Planning for the Future

The following plans have been or are being developed by the District of Sooke to promote a livable and sustainable community:

2014—2015 Corporate Strategic Plan  
Official Community Plan, 2010  
Rainwater Management Plan (Four Watersheds)  
Public Boat Launch and Marine Boardwalk Expansion  
Subdivision and Development Standards Bylaw  
Agricultural Plan  
Town Centre Design Guidelines  
Waste Management Plan  
Corporate and Community Energy and Emissions Plan

BC Spirit Square  
Parks and Trails Master Plan  
Liquid Waste Management Plan (Sanitary/Rainwater)  
Sustainable Development Strategy  
Transportation Master Plan  
Town Centre Plan  
Town Centre Stimulus Program  
Downtown Parking Plan  
Corporate Climate Change Action Plan  
Park Plans: Sooke River Road, John Phillips Memorial and Off-Leash Dog Park

# District of Sooke Town Centre and Green Space



Capital Regional District Natural Atlas

Parks and green spaces account for nearly 25% of the total area of the District of Sooke. The Sea to Sea Green Blue Belt is a visionary undertaking by partner municipalities and the Capital Regional District (CRD) that will create a corridor of protected wilderness and parkland stretching from Saanich Inlet in the east to the Sooke Basin. Three of these park parcels within the municipality include: Sooke Potholes Regional Park, Sea to Sea Regional Park Reserve (Harbourview) and the Ayum Creek Regional Park Reserve.

# WE LISTENED

## (Improvements made as a result of 2013 Feedback)

### **Tidiness:**

- Heaving pavers at entrance to Best Western Prestige Oceanfront Resort are in the process of being repaired.
- Ed Macgregor Park—tiles removed from rock wall and a delta lock bio-wall is being added this summer.
- Historical equipment near Welcome to Sooke has been tidied.
- Clean up of paper signs tacked to trees, posts etc.

### **Environmental Action:**

- Approval for citizen crew to plan, design and create several maritime installations in Sooke's town centre, which will link marine assets to the town centre.
- Pond at Sunriver Community Garden has had rainbow trout added. The District of Sooke worked in conjunction with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, who recommended against adding a fountain.
- Continued removal of septic systems. The engineering department received three petitions for sewer inclusion in 2013. Engineering is also working with T'Sou-ke Nation to hook up IR#2 to the municipal sewer system.

### **Heritage conservation:**

- Whiffin Spit—Local artist working on restoring the image of Manual Quimper. Plexiglas will be refinished following the restoration.
- Community Hall beautification is underway - flowers have been planted, volunteers have been weeding. Painting is scheduled for the fall.





### Urban Forestry

- The District has hired two new maintenance contractors (a Red Seal and a Certified Tree Assessor) who will be working to start getting public trees in shape, including establishing tree wells and mulching.
- A budget is in place for replacement of dead and declining street trees throughout the District. Replacement will begin in fall 2014.
- Street Tree Care 101 brochure has been distributed to encourage local residents to assist in the care and maintenance of street trees. Reached out to local businesses ie) Sooke Automotive to water planters adjacent to properties.

### Landscape

- Mitigated the risks highlighted by the Municipal Insurance Association by installing handrails and slip resistant surfacing on staircases at Ed Macgregor Park and 'slippery when wet' signage on the accessible walkway.

### Floral Displays:

- Continued to encourage businesses to beautify their boulevards— many new businesses participating in the Business Beautification program this year. Six new planters have been adopted by businesses and individuals.
- Marine themed items being used for floral displays throughout town centre.



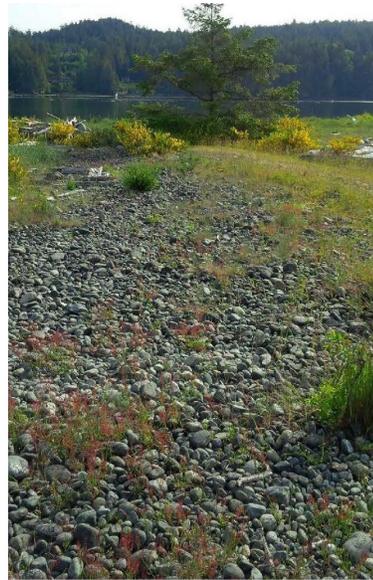
## NEW THIS YEAR!

The following information highlights initiatives undertaken by the community of Sooke in the past year that support our participation in the Communities in Bloom program:

The Communities in Bloom Committee has a Facebook account to showcase their initiatives and the District of Sooke has been using it's Twitter account (with over 500 followers) to build awareness of our community's participation in the program.

### Tidiness:

- Plans are underway for a soil retaining wall (Delta Lock bio-wall) at Ed MacGregor Park, which will clean up the area that was formerly plagued by vandalism of a tile artwork installation.
- Coordinating the installation of two shelters and two bus stop relocations with BC Transit and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.
- A new elevated transit stop was constructed on Otter Point Road at Eustace Road.
- A cedar art bench was installed fronting 7109 West Coast Road.
- Coordinated the refurbishing of existing neighbourhood transit shelters and the installation of artwork for beautification and to reduce vandalism.



SookeCa @SookeCa · May 14

Scotch broom in flower on #Sooke Whiffin Spit. Come volunteer for 4th Annual Broom Bash on Saturday - 9 am to 2 pm. [pic.twitter.com/eRnqoMVTvG](https://pic.twitter.com/eRnqoMVTvG)



- The District of Sooke spent approximately \$4,500 this year to repair damage and cover graffiti.
- Letters have been sent out to neighbourhoods regarding the illegal dumping of household garbage in District parks.
- Town Centre Design Guidelines & an Illustrative Design Handbook are being developed in order to introduce guidelines for form & character of buildings within the town centre.

## Environmental Action:

### Corporate Energy Emissions Plan (CEEP)

- On April 4, 2013 Council gave approval for staff to develop Corporate/Community Energy Emissions Plan (CEEP) to aide the achievement of the environmental goals of the District Sooke's Official Community Plan (OCP). Through the OCP, Sooke has set a goal to reduce community greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) to 33% below 2006 levels by 2020.
- In early October, 2013 members of Council, staff and community stakeholders participated in a webinar and workshop facilitated by BC Hydro—through their "Quickstart" program. This program enables local government to analyse, rank and plan for future climate-related efforts tailored to their unique circumstances and to develop a plan to accomplish the goals set out in their OCP. A draft CEEP developed with the results of this workshop.
- In December, 2014 Council gave staff direction to schedule input meetings with stakeholders, local businesses and the public. Public input occurred on via the District's open house on March 25 and via the Sooke Awareness Video presentation on April 9, 2014. Currently, the draft document is being sent to external stakeholders for review.
- Based on the public feedback solicited, the top three items people want to see the District of Sooke take action on are demand-side management (home retrofits), improvement of walking infrastructure and organics diversion from the Hartland landfill.
- The Climate Action Committee will therefore be creating a communications strategy to promote existing home-retrofit grant programs. Additionally, the District will host a Climate Action themed Fall Community Open House, with all third party organizations that offer home retrofit grants and other Climate Action initiatives, such as composting and water saving programs, invited to participate.
- The District continues to work on improving walking infrastructure per the Park and Trails Master Plan.
- Organics diversion from the Hartland landfill is currently being addressed on a regional scale through discussions at the CRD Board level.

### Corporate Carbon Neutrality

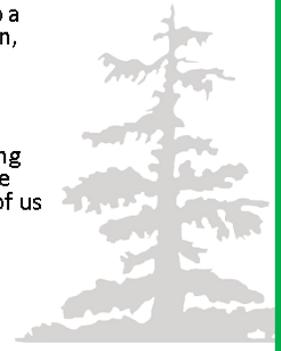
- The District of Sooke (Sooke) is a signatory to the BC Climate Action Charter (Charter). This includes a commitment to take action and develop strategies to achieve three goals:
  1. Measuring and reporting on community-wide GHG emissions;
  2. Creating complete, compact and energy-efficient communities; and
  3. Becoming carbon neutral in respect to corporate operations starting in 2013.
- As a signatory to the Charter, the District of Sooke is eligible for the province's Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP). This is a conditional grant program that provides funding equivalent to 100% of the carbon taxes that the municipality paid directly the previous year. This funding supports local governments in their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and move forward on achieving their Charter goals.

# CEEP

Community Energy & Emissions Plan

A CEEP contributes to a smart community plan, more efficient infrastructure, more livable towns and protection of the environment—showing leadership on multiple fronts and saving all of us money.

Learn more at:  
[www.sooke.ca](http://www.sooke.ca)  
under "What's New"



**In 2014, Council resolved to establish a Carbon Tax Rebate Reserve fund for the carbon tax rebates received to be used for initiatives to reduce carbon emissions in the District of Sooke.**

**The establishment of this reserve fund means that the District of Sooke will achieve it's goal of becoming carbon neutral in our operations in 2014.**

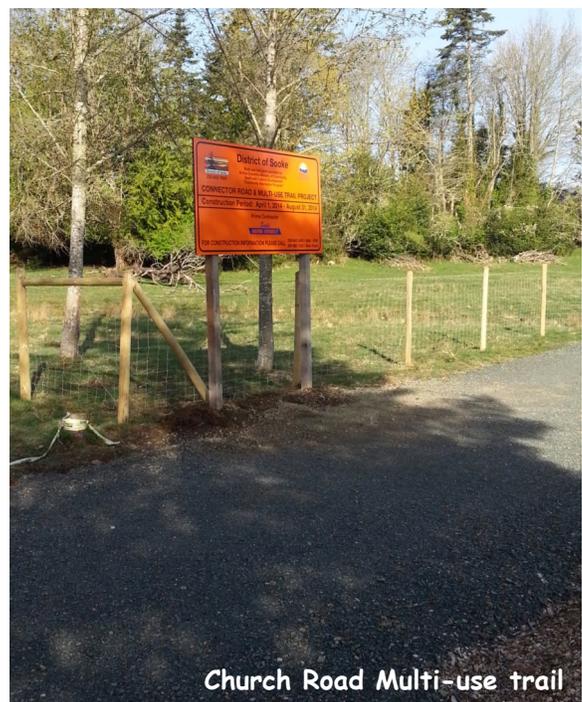
# NEW THIS YEAR—Continued!



## Environmental Action continued:

### "Wadam's Way" - Grant Road Connector

- The District's Transportation Master Plan identified a proposed connector route from Phillips Road, along the Throup Road and Grant Road rights of way, eventually connecting to West Coast Road, see figure below. This proposed connector route will allow for greater mobility of both vehicles and pedestrians throughout the town core, contributing to greater community health through reduced greenhouse gases.
- Phase 1 of this Connector Road is currently being constructed and has been named "Wadam's Way", in honour of the pioneering Sooke family whose farm borders the new road.
- Construction began with clearing of the right of way in late 2013. The road, along with a multi-use trail along one side, will be completed in summer 2014.



### Church Road Multi-Use trail

- Further contributing to pedestrian mobility in the town core, the Church Road Multi-use trail will assist in meeting Sooke's goals of better designed and interconnected trail systems.
- The District finalized the design for the paved multi-use trail on the west side of Church Road in 2013. The construction of the multi use trail project commenced in late November 2013 and will be completed with the trail being paved in summer 2014.

### Bylaw No. 408, *Sooke Town Centre Revitalization Bylaw*

- This bylaw was consolidated in 2014. The consolidation expands the revitalization tax exemption program to include "green projects", and encourages developers to achieve green certification. In addition to LEED certified projects, "Built Green" buildings and construction in the Town Centre are now eligible for property value tax exemptions, reduced building permit fees and reduced development cost charges.

### Built Green

- Sooke's very own **Totangi Properties**, developer of the Woodland Creek subdivision, received a highly coveted national award in 2014 and been ranked the top Canadian Home Builder for Customer Satisfaction by Avid Awards. In addition, Woodland Creek has won multiple awards including a CARE Award in 2013 for best new subdivision. Homes at Woodland Creek include the Built Green designation and the latest in energy efficient heating and cooling.

### Environmental Action continued:

- Completed Operational Certificate for the wastewater treatment plant with EPCOR and the Ministry of Environment. The Municipal Wastewater Regulation requires operational certificates for wastewater treatment plants as they set municipal effluent quality standards and requirements.
- Facilitated seven shoreline clean-up events at local beaches through local volunteers with Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up, Sooke Girl Guides, Sooke Navy League and John Muir Elementary School, and Sooke Harbourside Lions.
- Vetted five Riparian Areas Regulation Assessments for the redevelopment of properties and new developments at time of subdivision or rezoning.

**The District of Sooke is working on a waste management plan for corporate operations. Successful implementation of this waste management program is anticipated for fall of 2014 and will mean the municipal hall will achieve "net zero waste" status.**



### Heritage Conservation:

#### Community Centre

- Council is currently working with the Sooke Region Community Health Initiative (CHI) to solicit community input on location and preliminary design plans for a Community Centre project that would serve as a base for a wide spectrum of user groups, from youth to seniors. .
- Council has set aside \$50,000 per year for the next 5 years to go towards the construction and operation of a community centre. Council will look at ways to help offset costs, including seeking collaboration with the Vancouver Island Regional Library to share space or renovating an existing community space.

#### Sooke Region Museum and Visitor's Centre

- In collaboration with the Mayor's Panel on Arts & Beautification, the Sooke Region Museum has launched the very successful "Night Market", which is attracting locals and visitors alike to tour the museum's facilities, enjoy local food and art and learn more about the history of our region.
- The Sooke Region Museum is offering summer camps for kids this year. Weekly activities include topics such as "exploring natural history" and basket weaving, using the historical baskets on display in the museum as inspiration.

#### Additional Heritage Conservation activities

- 16 trees along the new Wadams Way have been earmarked for dedication to pioneer families under the revived, as-yet-to-be-renamed "Tribute Bench" policy.
- The Mayor's Panel on Arts and Beautification is developing a design for a memorial area at Whiffin Spit so that community members can be remembered by their loved ones.
- New First Nation's inspired signage is currently being developed to compliment existing interpretive

**We learned this year that Sooke is home to the oldest apple tree in British Columbia.**



#### Urban Forestry:

- Two new subdivisions provided park land dedication in the past year. Dedication of a SPEA at 1999 Maple Avenue (Eve Grove) has provided a 953.5m<sup>2</sup> park. An additional 1.058 hectares of park space has also been added at Woodland Creek.
- Removed invasive species and re-graded Ponds Park Corridor between Church Road and Churchill Meadows to increase safety for users and reduce fire load.

#### Landscape:

- Contractors are power raking and top dressing ornamental areas turf to increase plant health and reduce water requirements. This practice was new in 2013 and will be done bi-annually.

#### Floral Displays:

- Increased participation in Business and Neighbourhood beautification programs.
- 6 new planter barrels "adopted" this year.

## MEDIA RELEASE

Sooke Region  
**Food CHI**  
SOCIETY

### “SHAKE THE HAND THAT FEEDS YOU”

#### *Food CHI launches Value Our Food campaign*

“Shake the hand that feeds you”, said author Michael Pollan, who helped popularize the farm-to-fork movement, and an ongoing campaign in Sooke called *Value our Food* aims to get you shaking hands with your local food producers.

Launched by the Sooke Region Food Community Health Initiative (Food CHI) earlier this year, the *Value our Food* initiative will bring food producers into the spotlight with a series of short video vignettes that tell the story behind the market stalls bursting with fresher-than-fresh greens, root veggies, organic eggs and free-range chickens. The video series, created by videographer Kay Lovett, will consist of 15 one-minute shorts introducing local food producers, their specialties, products and stories, with more planned for the future.

“Food CHI, in partnership with the local farming community, is creating an opportunity for residents to better know their food producer,” explains Food CHI president, Anita Wasiuta. The videos currently in production explore the unique significance each farm holds for our community.

The video shorts will feature alongside Food CHI’s popular 2014 Farm Guide listing, offering an intimate glimpse into established farms such as Cross Point Farm, which has remained in the same family and is gearing up to celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019, as well as newcomers such as the Cast Iron Farms Co-operative, a tight-knit group of young agrarians who recently sealed the deal on the 11-acres of ALR land across from the Sunriver Community Gardens.

“Today, many young farmers are starting up in the Sooke region or actively seeking land in the area to produce food for our residents,” says Wasiuta.

The appetite for buying local is already strong in Sooke, with many local businesses leading the way by proudly adopting a ‘buy local’ model. Indeed, a survey carried out last fall found that an overwhelming 95 percent of Sooke residents who responded say buying food grown locally is an important consideration, and a further 86 percent said they personally know a Sooke Region farmer.

About half of our region’s farmers have been farming for less than five years, according to a separate Food CHI survey aimed at farmers last fall.

# MEDIA RELEASE

Sooke Region  
**Food CHI**  
SOCIETY

... 2

"Farmers traditionally have been generous and helped one another, shared information about crop production and marketing, formed farmers' institutes, loan institutions, and other kinds of support," says ALM Farm's Mary Alice Johnson, who, hard on the heels of the *Value our Food* workshops, hosted the inaugural meeting of the Sooke Farm Club.

Farming can be an isolated lifestyle. Hours are long, the work is physically demanding, and while operating and capital costs increase, farmers struggle to compete with big monocrop farms that can fall back on crop insurance if their crop fails, she explains. Creating those personal connections and network of support is vital to stimulating and sustaining the local market for fresh food.

Food security and how well our region gets to know its farmers is at the core of the multi-pronged *Value Our Food* campaign, which earlier this year offered a series of three business development and skill-building workshops aimed at food producers, market gardeners and residents interested in food security—each workshop featuring an expert facilitator. Topics included niche markets and selecting the right crops, marketing plans, value-adding, and food-growing initiatives.

"As a new farmer and a newcomer to Sooke, the *Value* workshops put on by Sooke Food CHI have been invaluable in providing me with useful information, a beautifully warm welcome and to the farmers' community, and a great initial understanding of the context of agriculture in the Sooke Region," says Christiana St. Pierre, of the new Cast Iron Farm.

Funding support for Sooke Region Food CHI's *Value Our Food* campaign is provided by the District of Sooke, Capital Regional Juan de Fuca Electoral Area, and, in part, by the BC Government's Buy Local Program; delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC with funding from the BC Ministry of Agriculture.

*The 2014 Sooke Region Food CHI Farm Guide and vignettes can be found in both map and brochure formats, at [sookefoodchi.ca/farm-guide-map](http://sookefoodchi.ca/farm-guide-map). Watch for the Value Our Food booth at events throughout the Sooke region over the summer months.*

**CUTLINE:** *the working hands of Teresa Willman, Silver Cloud Farm*

**Contact:**

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*Immediate Release - July 11, 2014*



## MUNICIPAL

### Bylaws and Policies

After a century and a half as a rural and un-incorporated area, Sooke was incorporated on December 7, 1999. With each passing year, Council and Staff work hard to implement policies that will benefit the community and aid in its economic development and sustainability. The District of Sooke has developed a number of bylaws and policies to promote a pleasant community environment.

Council authorized a full-time Bylaw Compliance and Enforcement Officer position in 2007 and enacted stronger municipal bylaws and policies to support the Officer:

- getting unsightly properties and graffiti cleaned up immediately (Unsightly Premises Bylaw and Policy) and to participate in the Graffiti;
- entering Graffiti Removal Agreement with BC Hydro
- reducing sign clutter (Sign Regulation Bylaw)
- to take action for unlicensed vehicles and vehicles with signage (Zoning Bylaw and Traffic and Highways Regulation Bylaw)
- to require businesses and residents comply with municipal bylaws, for example unsightly or street vendor businesses (Business Licence Bylaw)
- defined guidelines for complaints and bylaw enforcement in 2009 (Bylaw Enforcement Policy)

A Parks and Environmental Services Coordinator position was authorized in 2011 who is responsible for the efficient and effective operation of parks maintenance and who will champion the advancement of environmental initiatives for the District of Sooke and take the lead on community and strategic environmental planning. Council has also created a Climate Action Change Committee and authorized the development of an integrated corporate and community energy and emissions plan (CEEP); the Parks and Environment Coordinator is the staff liaison to the Committee.

## Transit Stops

Over the past few years, considerable effort has been made to improve the transit stops in Sooke. Since 2010, several ornamental cedar benches, planters and bike racks were installed ; Kaltasin Road, Otter Point Road, and West Coast



Road by the manufactured home parks. These transit stops are donated and maintained by neighbourhood residents, businesses and volunteers under the Communities in Bloom program. Maywell Wickheim, who is over 80 years old, has built locally the cedar street furniture.

Under a service contract with a local company, Island Advertising, benches and garbage receptacles have been installed at transit stops throughout the District at no cost to the municipality. Local businesses are provided the opportunity to advertise on the furniture.

## Graffiti Clean Up Program

The Bylaw Compliance and Enforcement Officer is a member of the regional Graffiti Task Force for education and training. The membership also is a collaboration with neighbouring municipalities and RCMP to assist with our ability to deter graffiti and the identification of local graffiti artists. Under the District program, graffiti is removed immediately by the Bylaw Officer or property owner.



The District believes that partnerships with local youth can increase pride in the community leading to reduced graffiti and vandalism. The Parks Coordinator and the Communities in Bloom Committee assist with coordination of:

- Student art at the Village Transit Stop through an ongoing school art project funded by District

- Local RCMP detachment and Edward Milne Community School students painted over graffiti in the downtown area
- Local artist paintings and photos on park buildings, electrical boxes and sewer pumps

## Solid Waste Management

While local private companies manage the solid waste management (collection and disposal) for the municipality, the District has been able to focus on litter control programs such as:

- Working with CRD to implement ban of organics in landfill for 2015
- "Bear resistant" garbage containers, working towards a Bear Aware Program
- Fourteen "doggie bag" receptacles at seven locations
- "Toxic Round Up" program for the public to drop off household hazardous waste
- District is a member of "Pitch-in-Canada"

## Marine Boardwalk

The District of Sooke has begun a long-term project to construct a waterfront trail and boardwalk to allow the citizens to appreciate the natural beauty of the shoreline of the Sooke Harbour and Basin. To date, a pier and a 1000' section from Murray Road to Ed Macgregor Park — with an accessible walkway in the park — has been completed. The District will continue the boardwalk along the waterfront as development and funding is available.



The District will continue the boardwalk along the waterfront as development and funding is available.

Dungeness Crab and Kelp Crab  
(*Metacarcinus magister* and *Pugettia producta*)



Please protect our intertidal areas. Avoid crushing delicate shells. Take pictures, not souvenirs.

The Dungeness Crab is a species of crab that inhabits estuaries and shallow bays on the west coast of North America from Alaska to California. It typically grows to 20 cm (7.9 in) across the carapace and is a popular seafood product for its sweet and tender meat. Dungeness Crabs have a wide, long, hard shell and five pairs of the foremost pair of which ends in claws. The crab uses both claws and its legs to tear large food items.

Eggs remain attached to the female under her abdomen for five months until they hatch. Young crabs are free-swimming larvae and go through five larval stages before reaching shore after about two years.

The Dungeness Crab prefers to eat clams, other crustaceans and fish, but is also an effective scavenger. Dungeness crabs bury themselves completely in the sand if threatened and usually retreat up to rocks, driftwood, eelgrass, octopus, and even other species of crabs.

The Sooke Program of the Arts commissioned local artists to produce interpretative signs for the boardwalk. First Nations designs have been incorporated in the signs that will provide visitors with information on the natural surroundings seen on the boardwalk.

# TIDINESS continued

## New Development

Several local roads have been re-constructed through development or municipal initiative in accordance with the Town Centre and Transportation Master Plans. In the Town Centre, Townsend Road now has sidewalks and Ayre Road's sidewalks have been built to extend to Shields Road along Otter Point Road. A *Towns for Tomorrow Grant* provided funding for sidewalks on Eustace, Shields, Anna-Marie and Church Roads which were completed in 2009. Drennan Street road upgrades started in early 2011 and are ongoing with Wright Road reconstruction underway, including the installation of a sewer main to service this area. In 2014, the Church Road to Otter Point Road Connector road is under construction and plans for the "Water View" Road from Sooke Road to the water are underway. Both these road projects will greatly improve pedestrian and vehicular traffic flow in the Town Core.



Mariner's Village road construction is underway, including the Church Road extension and new portions of Lanark Avenue and Goodmere Road. Access and landscaping improvements to the entrance to the Evergreen Mall has addressed loitering and vandalism, as well as pedestrian safety concerns.

## Municipal Properties

The District of Sooke has a number of public properties and parks. The Sooke Spirit Square - Ed Macgregor Park/Marine Boardwalk, John Phillips Park, District Offices and the Quimper Regional Heritage Site are four excellent examples of public green space which the citizens and visitors to the District can enjoy. New parks and trails are being installed through various development projects including Woodland Creek and Mariner's Village. In 2012, the Sooke Historical Society transferred an historic cemetery/park "Millenium Park" to the District of Sooke.

Landscaped municipal offices and fire hall are located on Otter Point Road. Spring time sees the flowering of a beautiful eighty year old rhododendron which was moved to the site in 1998 from the corner of Otter Point and West Coast Roads. The "Stone Pipe Man" in front of the Fire Hall was a Communities in Bloom project that commemorates the cement pipe water line built and installed at the turn of the century.



# TIDINESS continued

## Operational Programs

The District of Sooke engages appropriately qualified and specialized contractors to carry out the scheduled maintenance and clean-up of municipal roads, trails and parks (the District does not have a Public Works Department). For example, on prescribed schedules, the parks maintenance contractor mows the community parks and prepares Ed Macgregor Park for summer events (weddings, concerts, art shows, movies in the park) and the roads contractor completes boulevard mowing and line painting. In 2009, a contractor was hired for dedicated boulevard maintenance with the expansion of this program in 2010 to contractors for transit stop maintenance. In 2011, the parks maintenance contract was divided into smaller contracts for specialized services in order to achieve a higher standard of maintenance. Certified Landscape Professionals (Red Seal Landscape Horticulturalist) maintains the ornamental areas of Municipal lands.

## 2013-2014 Infrastructure Highlights

- Grant Road Connector - from Church Road to Otter Point Road. Construction of the new "Wadam's Way" (named for a Sooke Pioneer family) is scheduled for completion in August 2014.
- Church Road Multi-use trail completed in 2014.
- Property Acquisition and final design for the Highway 14/Waterview Street round-about is currently under way.
- Grant Road West road surface work was completed including line painting. This work has significantly improved the road driving conditions as well as extending its useful life.
- CRD water crews replaced the aging watermain on Blythwood Road. This project gave the District of Sooke the opportunity to work with the CRD to complete the paving and overlay work. Road driving conditions have significantly improved as well as extending its useful life.



# TIDINESS continued

## Business & Institutions

### Schools:

The local schools are active participants in the "Clean Up Sooke" projects and the protection of the environment (see Appendix).

The Edward Milne Community School Leadership and Environmental courses offer students an awareness of social and civic responsibility and are a tremendous opportunity for students who want to contribute to



the life of the school and community. In 2011, the EMCS Environmental class developed an "adopt a stream" program with the District of Sooke which was implemented in 2011. In 2013, the students carried out a clean up of Helgesen Creek. Six tires, broken bikes, 1/2 of a skateboard, a tent, loads of building debris, a dozen bags of garbage and an odd assortment of clothing were pulled from the creek. The event was supported by the District of Sooke and Sooke Disposal.

The Environmental Studies class provides students with exceptional opportunities to investigate local natural environments. First Nations traditional ecological knowledge and wisdom is considered throughout the course and an ecological world view will be promoted.

### Business:

There have been considerable improvements in the appearance of several local businesses, both by way of new construction or by considerable renovation or upgrade of existing businesses.

### New:

- SeaFlora on Otter Point Road
- Shoppers Drug Mart with the improvements to the Evergreen Centre boulevard and Town Centre Kiosk
- Mai Mai's Restaurant with outdoor seating
- Veterinarian office on West Coast Road

### Business Renovations:

- Dental Building on Sooke Road
- Sooke Power Supplies on Sooke Road
- Sooke/Townsend Road Mall
- Mall at 6726 West Coast Road
- The owner of Sooke Centre Auto has painted the outside of his building with special paint that graffiti can be removed from easily; his continued effort to maintain the appearance of his building has discouraged repeated vandalism.
- "You had me at Woof" on Sooke Road

Several businesses provide and maintain planters and hanging baskets at their business frontage. In particular,

- \* Hanging baskets at the Otter Point Road mall are taken down at night and hung up in the morning to protect them from vandalism.
- \* The mall on West Coast Road has created and maintains a beautiful commemorative garden for a past business owner.
- \* The SeaFlora and Good Life Wellness Centre on Otter Point Road maintain their boulevards and practices water conservation with native plantings.
- \* The Salvation Army mall has been newly painted, with the Fish and Chips restaurant sporting new awnings.



In 2008, the District of Sooke Communities in Bloom Committee partnered with the Sooke Region Historical Society and the Sooke Region Chamber of Commerce for the first business community clean up recognition awards. Businesses participating in the program has increased considerably for 2014 and the awards ceremony will take place during the judges visit.



# TIDINESS continued

## Institutions

### Ayre Manor

Ayre Manor is supported by Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA), BC Housing, and the District of Sooke in partnership with Sooke Elderly Citizens' Housing Society (SECHS). Ayre Manor Lodge and Cottages opened in July 2008 with expansion plans underway in 2014. The residents enjoy pathways that enable residents to experience the serene gardens on the property and to enjoy the outdoors. SECHS volunteers work with residents in the large accessible gardening area to produce vegetables and flowers for their own use.



### CASA—Sooke Child, Youth and Family Centre

The Sooke Co-operative Association of Service Agencies (CASA) doing business as CHI (Sooke Region Community Health Initiative) exists for:

- \* Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of other charities to assist them in meeting their charitable objectives.
- \* Developing and operating child, youth and family service centres as available from which health, education, poverty relief and other charitable services can be delivered to the people of the Sooke region.

The CASA building was designed to honour the surrounding natural forested area. The CASA Community Garden is



an Edward Milne Community School Society project that was started in 2005 with the help of community members, local businesses and the CASA service agencies. The garden serves as a teaching space for those who are interested in learning to grow food. Volunteers get together three times a week to work in the garden, and it is because of the immense generosity and commitment of these volunteers that the garden is the wonderful space it is today.

### Sooke Hope Centre

The District of Sooke has recently approved a development project to construct the Hope Centre, a four-story multi-use building at 6750 West Coast Road currently the location of St. Vincent de Paul. The Hope Centre is a significant development project for the District of Sooke as it will provide affordable housing for aboriginal and non-aboriginal adults and youth. In addition, educational, social and various support programs will be incorporated into the building facility. Many of these services within the building will be available to all members of the community, including the residents of the building. The new building will be attractive with street trees and plantings, underground parking — all improving the look of the west end of the Town Centre.



## Community Involvement

Like all municipalities, the District of Sooke is made up of neighborhoods that vary in age and density. The citizens take great pride in tending their gardens and yards. The **Sooke Garden Club** meets monthly to share plants and gardening ideas with each other. For 2013, the Sooke Garden Club has volunteered for many projects for the Communities In Bloom.

In 2009, the Sooke Philharmonic Society resurrected its annual "**Sooke Secret Gardens Tour**" which features several local gardens; both floral and agricultural. There is a wonderful blend of ornamental, natural and oceanfront gardens. Creative water features and garden structures provide interesting and contrasting elements that share the focus with a wide variety of shrubs, trees, perennials, fruits and vegetables. Many of the vegetable gardens and small farm properties are maintained solely by their owners, some of whom create sustainable food sources for their families.

Several new residential neighborhoods have allotment gardens and are incorporating innovative rainwater management, such as bio-swales and ponds. The District's first Green Roof has been installed on an amenities building in a local strata development.



The **Sunriver Community Gardens** have become a shining example of community led projects both in agricultural and environmental protection. Situated at 2380 Phillips Rd on a 2.5 acre site owned by the District of Sooke, Sooke Region Food CHI Society is the sponsor of the gardens. Food CHI has a licence to occupy the site and an agreement with the District to manage the gardens. This is the fourth year that Sooke Food CHI has sponsored and managed the garden, with the help of

volunteers who have formed a garden council. They now have over 80 allotment plots, 10 raised beds for those who may have mobility issues and only want a "kitchen" garden, 2 large developed community food growing plots and a greenhouse to grow and distribute food to Sooke helping agencies. At the east end of the garden a 3 year old community orchard thrives, and a newly created native wetlands garden and pond in the fall of 2012 now hosts rain bow trout, numerous native edible and medicinal plants, frogs, dragon flies, snakes and birds!

The Sunriver Gardens also play host to the **Children's Garden Club**. Contributing to the community garden, the group is starting wild flowers to be planted at the new park on Poirier lake. They are also helping to maintain the commemorative 'Andreas garden' at Sheila Beech's house. The group meet once a month and have 75 members signed up this year which are divided into groups. There are five workshops each month with flowers, vegetables, 'wild things', something edible, and a garden craft. The club is free for families thanks to Sooke Rotary Club, Sooke Lions and Harbourside Lions.

Many of the Communities in Bloom "tidiness" projects have been conceived and completed by volunteers; for example, the "Mariner Man", the "Stone Pipe Man", the new cedar benches, planters and bike racks installed at Otter Point/Highway 14.



## TIDINESS cont'd.

The following are some projects sponsored and or funded by the District of Sooke:

- The Sooke Region Historical Society initiated the "Stone Pipe Flowline" project in 2008 and installed the "Stone-Pipe Man" at the Municipal Hall and the "Mariner Man" on Murray Road by the entrance to the Sooke Rotary Pier and marine boardwalk.
- The Sooke Region Historical Society has placed interpretative signs at many locations. This program has expanded to the "Mill Site" installation at Fire Station #2 as well as placing stone pipes as planters by the "Welcome to Sooke" display and at various sites throughout Sooke. The GIS department of the District of Sooke has created mapping of the locations of the signs available on the District website;
- In 2011, the Communities in Bloom Committee worked with volunteers to install a cedar bench and planters at the transit stop on Otter Point Road and unique bike racks at local businesses — all designed, constructed and installed by volunteers working with Maywell Wickheim. In 2013, the project continued with the installation of a new bench on West Coast Road;
- The Sooke Economic Development Commission partnered with the Sooke Rotary Club and the Sooke Harbour Chamber of Commerce to distribute free re-usable tote bags as one way to help reduce the use of plastic bags.
- Local garden enthusiasts volunteer time to maintain parks and planters

### "CLEAN SOOKE"

The District of Sooke encourages and supports citizens and local organizations to participate in community "clean-up" projects.

Many local groups actively participate in the District of Sooke ongoing "Clean Sooke" and "Shoreline Clean-up" programs. The District provides garbage bags, reflective vests and litter pick up sticks and coordinates with Sooke Disposal for the donation of dumpster and disposal.

- *Sooke Moon Community Group* provides a twice-weekly maintenance of public roadside and shoulders
- *Sooke Region Food CHI Society* organizes annually a one-day clean up at local community gardens
- *Sooke Youth Council* began their annual garbage pick up event in 2009

- *Surfriders Clean Up*
- *Annual Great Canadian Shoreline Clean Up* (Sooke Harbourside Lions)
- *Annual Whiffin Spit Broom Bash*
- *EMCS Earth Day—Ella Beach Clean up*
- *Girl Guide Shoreline Clean up—Boardwalk*
- *Cadets—Diving Unit Harbour Clean up—Government Wharf*
- *Journey Middle School Clean up—Helgesen Creek*
- *Sooke Rotary adopt a road project*



*The Sooke Fall Fair Society completed an Historical Agricultural Mural next to the Sooke Community Hall which will help to reduce graffiti in the downtown centre.*



# ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

## **Municipal**

The District of Sooke encourages environmental enhancement to be a part of every development. In 2010, the District of Sooke adopted a new *Official Community Plan (OCP)*. The OCP's guiding principles speak to a community that encourages sustainable growth while maintaining significant park, rural and agricultural areas for future generations. The OCP designates environmentally sensitive areas that require permits and environmental assessments before development. The District of Sooke integrates the provincial Riparian Area Regulation into everyday operations (from street cleaning to soil deposit permits) to ensure that watersheds are protected. A dedicated Environmental Services Coordinator position was created for the District of Sooke in 2011.

## **Sustainable Development**

The District of Sooke has taken a lead in sustainable community development by the completion of a Sooke Sustainable Development Strategy and 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.

The District of Sooke presented a Sustainable Communities Forum in March 2008 with guest speaker Hon. Mike Harcourt. The goal of the forum was to present an opportunity for local governments to enhance quality of life in their communities, while reducing the ecological footprint of operations and realizing economic opportunities. This forum provided participants with an opportunity to learn about practical, sustainable solutions that have been implemented in other communities. It also provided an overview of how to develop community sustainability plans that will guide future decision-making and meet funding requirements; and time to network with peers and discuss potential solutions in energy, water, waste, brownfields, planning and transportation.

## Environmental Action cont'd.

### Waste Management Plan

The District relies on the private sector and the Capital Regional District for the collection and disposal of garbage and recycled products. Recently, a garbage drop-off facility was opened on Sooke River Road to provide a local site for homeowners to dispose of garbage. The garbage is taken to the Hartland Dump for disposal. The Capital Regional District operates the recycling program for the regional area. The municipality has identified the need to develop 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 2015. This will include bio-solids, wood waste, commercial and household organics.

### Water and Watershed Management

The Capital Regional District Water department provides water services to the District of Sooke and carries out the water conservation and reduction programs for the District of Sooke, including summer watering programs. Sooke has employed an irrigation specialist to reduce water use while maintaining plant health. In 2013, one property realized a \$2,500 savings in two months of water use.

The District of Sooke completed its sewage collection and treatment facilities under a provincially mandated *Liquid Waste Management Plan* for rainwater and sanitary. This three-stage plan has now completed its final stage and the rainwater component is the first stand-alone LWMP to be undertaken in BC. The plan is innovative and pro-active in its guidelines to protect the environment.

The *Liquid Waste Management Plan* (LWMP) involves evaluation of the way wastewater (sanitary) is managed in a community and the development of a long-term plan for improved wastewater management. The first stage of the District of Sooke LWMP focused on background data and detailed servicing and treatment options. Stage 3 of the LWMP was completed in March 2010 and has investigated how future development will be serviced, beneficial reuse opportunities of solids and sludges, and draft bylaws needed to implement the plan.

The District of Sooke conducted a comprehensive review of four major watercourses and storm drainage systems and developed Rainwater Management Plans which, through public and stakeholder consultation, focused on the preservation of environmental quality; conservation of natural resources; integration of land uses and development in accordance with community plans; and provide guidance for planning capital projects.

### Sewage Disposal

In 2006, the District of Sooke implemented a centralized wastewater collection and treatment system to serve the "Core Area" plus some adjacent areas that have subscribed to the service. This system is working to reduce the presence of bacteria associated with human waste from reaching Sooke Harbour and Sooke Basin.

Prior to the development of this system, residents in the core area were served by over 1,000 individual septic systems. Prior to implementation of the system, septic leakage was seeping into Sooke Harbour and Basin, creating a serious environmental problem for the local marine environment. The sewer project was a public/private partnership with EPCOR.

The Canadian Council of Public Private Partnerships recognized the District of Sooke and EPCOR in November 2007 as recipients of the C.W. Chuck Wills Award for the 2007 National Awards for Innovation and Excellence in Public-Private Partnerships. Recognizing project excellence at the municipal level, this award has been handed out only once before. Sewer modeling has been completed to plan for expansion of the sewer system and applications for federal provincial funding have been submitted.

The CRD hosted a Septic Savvy Seminar on behalf of the District of Sooke in June 2013.



## Environmental Action cont'd.

### Protection of the Sooke Harbour and Basin

With the development of its first Official Community Plan, the District of Sooke has strived to improve and protect the Sooke Harbour and Basin. As a waterfront community, access to the water for citizens and visitors was a major objective. However, it was evident that the water needed to be protected from pollution from sewage and rainwater runoff. With the development of the waterfront, the District has been diligent with environmental protection of the water.

For example, the public boat launch was officially opened in 2012 and



includes many innovative environmental components, most

notably a sewage vacuum head for marine vessels and permeable surface material for the driveway access. The availability of the marine vacuum head will allow the District of Sooke to eventually apply for a "no dumping status" for the Sooke Harbour and Basin.

As part of the rehabilitation required for the disturbance of the area, the District removed several derelict vessels from the water, including the "Florence Filberg".



### Climate Action

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. The District's Climate Change Action Committee ("Green Team") conveyed in 2009 and in 2013, began working with the Capital Regional District and BC Hydro to develop its Community Energy and Emissions Plan ("CEEP"). CEEP is a systematic way to analyze, rank and plan for future climate-related efforts tailored to the unique responsibilities and influences of a local government. The District is also a member of the regional CRD Climate Action Program.

### Friendly Transportation

The District of Sooke has successfully requested BC Transit community bus service for Otter Point Road, Sun River Estates, Kaltasin/Idlemore Roads and East Sooke. This easily accessible bus service has enabled residents to travel more by bus rather than individual vehicles. Wheelchair accessible transit stops are now installed at most stops in the Sooke area. As well, the Mayor is actively involved with the "Communities for Rail Committee" to explore rail transit options. A new 99 stall Park and Ride was completed in 2010 in partnership with BC Transit.



Park and Ride

The Park and Ride replaces the 27-stall facility enabling more riders a safe place to park their cars. The facility also has bike lockers, which have now been painted by local students, student art in the shelters and landscaped with native groundcovers. The District of Sooke CiB contributed 12 trees at the Park and Ride as part of its urban forest plan.

### Bike Lanes

A comprehensive Transportation Master Plan was completed in 2009 and provides guidelines and layouts for the development of bike lanes. Phillips Road and Otter Point Road now have dedicated bike lanes. Currently, the Galloping Goose Trail provides wonderful cycling to Victoria from the Sooke River Road area on a good, flat surface.

## Environmental Action cont'd.

### Municipal Hall Light Retrofit

The District converted its building fuel system to one that produces less greenhouse gases. The corporate carbon footprint was further reduced by retrofitting the entire lighting system to LED and low-emission fixtures and bulbs. Both projects were completed in 2010.

### Greening of Operations Fleet

The Fire Chief drives a hybrid command vehicle to respond to calls and to carry out his responsibilities. This is the second hybrid municipal vehicle (Municipal Bylaw Services vehicle) added to the fleet. All fire apparatus trucks have been converted to biodiesel.

### Air Quality - Fire Regulation

The open burning bylaw adopted by the District of Sooke restricts yard waste burning and large machine built fires. No burning is permitted during the months of May through September. The reduction in smoke from open burning has been noticeable.

### Low-Speed Bylaw

A *Low-Speed Electric-Powered Vehicle Authorization Bylaw* was adopted in 2013 to permit operation of a neighbourhood zero emission vehicle on any highway within the Municipality that has a speed limit of over 40 kilometres per hour but no more than 50 kilometres per hour.

### Environmental Programs

The District proudly participates in many inter-governmental and world wide environmental programs, including:

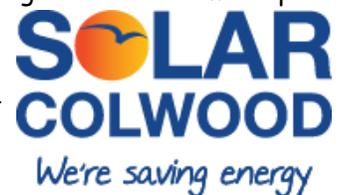


- Curbside "blue-box" recycling
- Kitchen scraps program
- Household hazardous waste mobile collection events

- **Tap-by-Tap Retrofit Program** — In 2013, the District initiated a water conservation program for irrigation leak prevention to troubleshoot water leaks at three parks that were high water consumers (\$4,500 in leaks in 2012). The retrofit of the timers and equipment resulting in the reduction in leaks has led to considerable water savings.
- **Solar Colwood/CRD**— The "Solar Colwood" program is now available to all the regional district municipalities as "Solar CRD". "Solar CRD is energy solutions for all, at home, at work and on the road. It's incentives, financing, lower energy bills, high efficiency products, renewable energy, expert energy advice, green jobs, reduced greenhouse gases, community partnership, municipal leadership and (pause for deep breath) more."
- **First Nations**— On a community level the District of Sooke is partnering with the T'Sou-ke Nation in regard to opportunities to implement a clean and renewable energy economy and reduce GHG emissions to 20 percent below 2006 levels by 33 percent below 2006 levels by 2020.
- **Earth Hour**— Each year since 2008, the District of Sooke has participated in and encouraged it's citizens to take part in the *Earth Hour* - a global World Wildlife Fund lights-out event to raise awareness and support for action on climate change. In 2009, the District was the **Provincial Champions** — reducing its power consumption by 4.8% and in 2013, Sooke reduced it's power consumption by 3.3% -- well over the provincial average of 1.25%



Electric Car used for shuttling delegates at 2013 TAVI Conference



### Business and Institutions

- The commercial and industrial sector of Sooke recycle packaging materials to reduce the amount of material sent to the land fill. The District's garages, government wharf and restaurants collect waste oil and grease, and have it disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner by licensed operators.
- The *Liquid Waste Management Plan* requires rainwater protection measures on new development and waterfront properties, such as use of surface drainage (bio-swales), "Grass-crete" instead of pavement, and installation of a recreational vehicle sewage dump and a marine vacuum head at boat launches.
- The Sooke Harbour House, one of the region's finest restaurants has established organic status for their gardens and provides delicious and healthy fare to those who visit. Marcus' Wharfside Restaurant also uses fresh herbs and vegetables from its own small urban garden next to the restaurant.
- In 2013, electric vehicle charging stations were installed at the Prestige Oceanfront Hotel and the Sooke Harbour House.
- EPCOR Water Services, the corporation that manages the District's sewage facilities, has a long standing commitment to the environment. Through the LWMP (Sanitary), EPCOR has committed to bio-solid reuse. They are currently working with the District of Sooke to find viable alternatives to land filling bio-solids through the proposed Waste Management Plan.
- Equipment for the boat launch sewage receiving station and a chemical feed system for odour control was supplied and installed by EPCOR as a donation to the District of Sooke in 2012. The chemical injection equipment for odour control including the chemical feed pump and spill containment was installed at the Prestige Hotel lift station, the vacuum pump was installed, and commissioning was completed.
- Butler Brothers has reclaimed and restored the old log sort on Sooke Bay. This required extensive dredging and soil reclamation. The project had been underway for a number of years and was completed in 2012.
- The Prestige Oceanfront Hotel, in cooperation with Ministry of Environment, worked to reuse the logs and stumps from site preparation in the restoration of a local creek. Two dump-truck loads of stumps were transported to the creek and placed to provide habitat in the riparian area.
- ALM Organic Farm, owned by Mary Alice Johnson, aspires to learning and practicing the skills needed to live sustainably in our community. Part of this is educating themselves and others, building community, supporting other farmers and businesses to think and act sustainably, living with awareness of our place in the larger community. On the farm they practice sustainably by growing, harvesting, preserving, and marketing food and teaching others how to do the same. They select, save, and sell seed. They also build buildings which are healthy, natural, sustainable, beautiful. They study the skills of beer and wine making, great cooking, baking, preserving. Improving our health through natural medicines, awareness of diet and exercise. They research, trial, and publish articles about various aspects of organic farming, natural building, and sustainable living. They offer farm stays, mentoring programs, teach courses and give workshops.



## Environmental Action cont'd.

### Residential

- The CRD Water Services provides potable water to the Sooke Region and the District of Sooke supports the CRD in their many water conservation programs. Water conservation measures, low-flow toilets and shower-heads, recycling, planting of drought tolerant plants, solar power, and collection of rain water are but a few of the measures that the citizens of Sooke do to limit their footprint on the environment. The District of Sooke promotes the CRD outdoor watering conservation methods during the summer months with the distribution of fridge magnets with the weekly water schedules and notices on the District website.
- In 2009 the District of Sooke, in partnership with the Capital Regional District, held the community's first "Toxic Round Up" for the drop off of household hazardous wastes. The event was very successful and the program will begin again in 2014, perhaps on a bi-annual basis.
- The District of Sooke promotes sustainable and green development. The first geo-thermal residential development in Sooke was completed in 2011 at Woodland Creek.
- In 2010, the first "green roof" was installed in Sooke on the amenities building for a strata development off Wright Road.



Geo-thermal development



### Solar Power

The T'Sou-ke First Nation completed a solar power project in 2010 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. Tours of the facility are available which provide information as to the project and to promote solar power. The project has expanded to become the regional "Solar Colwood" initiative.



### T'SEG

The T'Sou-ke Smart Energy Group (T'SEG) has been created with the purpose of educating the T'Sou-ke community about the importance of low impact sustainable energy, through the use of culture, traditional values and historical means of communication. The T'SEG will raise awareness on subjects such as energy saving initiatives, protecting the environment, saving money by energy reduction, and damages caused by excessive energy consumption. T'SEG plans to raise awareness to the T'Sou-ke community as well as others interested in learning from a First Nations perspective. This project will be community driven with various educational materials created for different levels of learning and ages, from youth to elders. The educational materials will be designed by T'Sou-ke Nation members.

The connection of Coast Salish culture to environmental education to T'Sou-ke Nation will be accomplished through several steps. These steps will include research and educational material design as well as running different awareness programs. These steps will lead to a traditional community event, focusing on Coast Salish traditions by incorporating storytelling with an environmental theme.



### Community Involvement:

- Every January, the Sooke Lions organize a Christmas Tree Shredding fund raiser in the Sooke Home Hardware parking lot.
- The Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society organizes the annual "Broom Bash" which takes place at Whiffin Spit Park. Broom is an invasive plant that was introduced by Captain Grant to Sooke in about 1850. Unchecked this plant has a detrimental effect on the native flora by choking out, competing for space and cutting out sunlight to seedlings. The Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society also maintains trail systems through out the region.
- Local schools (see Appendix) have implemented drinking box recycle programs. Annual field trips to the local beaches and salmon spawning streams give the students an appreciation and understanding of the environment around them. Recently the schools went through a "bear aware" presentation program by the Ministry of Environment. This will be especially beneficial to the children as Sooke has the fourth highest number of reported bear incidents in the province.
- The Sooke Salmon Enhancement Society ensures the viability of the local fishing industry by raising and releasing many thousands of natural salmon into local spawning streams from where they migrate into the open Pacific Ocean. These salmon return to spawn in local waters, thus ensuring the survival of a most precious asset, the wild Pacific salmon.

### Sooke Food CHI

The Sooke Food Community Health Initiative (Sooke Food CHI), was formed in 2008 to promote good local food, affordable for all and is creating a Food Strategy for the Sooke Region. Sooke Food CHI produces an annual Food and Farm Guide and hosts the region's "Seedy Saturday" each year. The group's many other activities include:

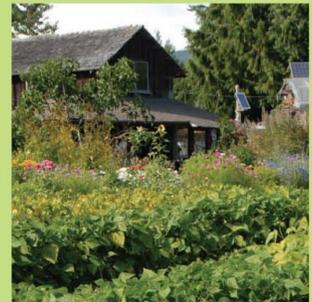
- Coordinate activities for 3 Community Gardens (which each host a Community Kitchen)
- Support Sooke Farmers Market
- The first annual Farm Garden Tour was held in 2010 to showcase the local food production from small scale gardens to large commercial producers.
- Ensured food sustainability was included in the new Official Community Plan
- Develop and update annually Sooke Region Local Farm Guide
- Support Children's Garden Club
- Farmer Mentorship Project
- Sooke Region Fruit Tree Project



- In 2010, the District of Sooke, in partnership with the Sooke Food CHI, initiated a community garden at the Sunriver Community Allotment Garden located on parkland on Phillips Road.

Sooke Food CHI entered into a lease arrangement with the District in order to administer the site. The community garden not only facilitates the growing of fresh, local produce for residents of the community, but will also provide community members with a gathering space and an opportunity to interact. This community garden is also gathering space that is accessible by all residents of the community. The garden provides healthy, chemical-free food, a venue for social interaction, physical activity and recreational opportunities, and serves as an educational facility to develop skills and share knowledge.

### 2013 Sooke Region Food & Farm Guide



#### Fresh food & local farm products

Sooke Region Food Community Health Initiative (CHI) Society is pleased to present the 2013 Food and Farm Guide. This resource highlights farms, markets, restaurants, retail stores and social agencies offering locally grown food and farm products, from East Sooke to Port Renfrew.

#### Why buy local?

- Most produce is harvested within 24 hours of being sold, so it is fresh and nutritious.
- Buying local supports Sooke's agricultural economy and saves precious energy.
- You get to know the growers who produce the food you share with your family, friends and customers.

Sooke Region Food CHI Society and its members sponsor a number of projects and programs that further our goal of a secure food future for Sooke. Events include an annual farm tour in August, "Grow-a-Row" programs, annual Seedy Saturday, fruit tree gleaning, and coordinating the Sunriver Community and Allotment Garden site.

For information on events or about volunteering with Food CHI, visit: [www.sookefoodchi.ca](http://www.sookefoodchi.ca).



## Environmental Awareness cont'd.

### Juan de Fuca Salmon Restoration Society

The Juan de Fuca Salmon Restoration Society's mandate is to restore the natural habitat of streams between Sooke and Port Renfrew in order to encourage the return of Pacific Salmon to their old spawning grounds. Charters River is one of the main targets of this process and an enhanced side channel has been created and negotiations with CRD Water have ensured that an adequate water supply will always be available for the fish of this stream.



Opening of Charters River Salmon Interpretive Centre

In 2011, the Society achieved its long term goal to build a salmon interpretative center at Charters River for public education. The centre, which is the only interpretive organization to become established in B.C., is a \$1 million enterprise. Western Economic Diversification Canada funded \$318,000 of the project, with the remainder coming from cash donations and in-kind contributions from local individuals and businesses.

For three days a week starting in the Fall of 2013, students will be visiting the Centre for educational tours and interactive learning.

The Society has also undertaken the development of new habitat for salmon and trout in the side channel of Charters River. The Society received an \$18,000.00 grant from Pacific Salmon Foundation towards the \$50,000.00 cost, plus undertaking the new habitat development which will be completed during the summer months when water levels are low.

### Cowichan Energy Alternatives Society

The Cowichan Energy Alternatives Society has received funding from the District for two local non-profit projects; the Carbon Footprint Assessment Project and the Cooking Oil Collection Project. The Community Carbon Marketplace project will be made available to four Sooke non-profit organizations and the Cooking Oil Collection Project will see the placement of one collection bin for waste residential cooking oil in the District of Sooke. The Society will collect the waste on a monthly basis.



### Seaflora

A successful local business, SEAFLOA is guided by its obligations to protect the marine environment and to harvest wild seaweeds sustainably. Seaflora has participated in several District of Sooke hosted conferences providing educational tours to conference delegates of their work with over 10 different species of seaweed, some of which are endemic to this coastline. Harvesting locations are cited as being the most biologically diverse, having the highest quality nutrients, and being sheltered from pollution. Seaflora works responsibly with our coastal marine environment. Each year they have their seaweeds and ocean water rigorously tested to ensure the highest quality seaweed skincare in the world. All seaweeds are harvested by hand, sustainably and the Seaflora manufactures it's skincare products locally in in their building on Otter Point Road in Sooke.



# HERITAGE CONSERVATION

## Municipal

Sooke citizens are united in wishing to preserve and enhance their culture. Sooke acknowledges its roots and appreciates its heritage from the T'Sou-ke Nation and early pioneers. Sooke supports the large number of societies and voluntary organizations that are engaged in year round activities that help keep residents healthy, active and engaged in arts and culture, including spiritual practices. The District's *Official Community Plan* supports Sooke's cultural heritage and opportunities for a greater arts presence, leisure, and upgrades to recreational infrastructure. The OCP established the goal to ensure that significant heritage buildings in the Town Centre are protected and that new development is complementary.

The District of Sooke works closely with neighbourhoods, First Nations and the Sooke Region Museum/Sooke Region Historical Society to identify areas of heritage significance and create a community heritage register of buildings, structures, properties and related information, including archeological sites, that have heritage value or character. The Sooke Region Museum provides comments prior to the approval of any development on land on which there is an archaeological site.

The Sooke Region Historical Society promotes and preserves Sooke's history. Their book "101 Historical Buildings of the Sooke Region" showcases the structures and dwellings which have been home to the people that shaped the face of Sooke as we know it today. The Society has published several other books on the history and peoples of Sooke —

- ◇ The Sooke Story—the History and the Heartbeat (1999)
- ◇ T'Sou-ke—A Festival of Community Spirit 1790-1990
- ◇ A Guide to Heritage Shield Sites of the Southwest Coast of Vancouver Island (2009)

The District of Sooke has entered in to a Memorandum of Understanding with the T'Sou-ke First Nation to commit to develop an agreement regarding protection of heritage sites and culture in the Sooke area in a coordinated fashion for the benefit of all.

### Business and Institutions

A number of historical buildings are still in use in Sooke today; Burnside House and Margison House are B&B's, Mugford Boarding House is a daycare centre.

#### Burnside Heritage House- 1890 Maple Road

Surrounded by 2 acres of lawn and gardens, this family owned Georgian country home offers an ideal base to explore the Sooke area. Historic Burnside House is the oldest inhabited home as well as the longest established B&B in Sooke. Built by the Muir family in 1884 it has been lovingly restored.

#### Margison House (1912-2012)

Elegant and substantial when it was built as a family home 100 years ago, Margison House remains both elegant and substantial today. Current owners of the house are Marvin and Sylvia Hallgren, who have not only raised their family in the spacious home but for a time used it for business purposes as well, with Sylvia hosting the elegant Margison Teahouse, and Marvin conducting his law practice across the hallway. Nowadays Sylvia is able to devote herself more to her two passions, her grandchildren and her art, while Marv's law office has moved down the street.

### Heritage Trees

The District of Sooke is working with local members of the BC Fruit Testers Association to identify and catalogue heritage fruit trees for protection. The GIS department is undertaking mapping of all heritage trees in the District; the mapping will be available on the District website.

### First Nations

T'Sou-Ke First Nation is very active in the District's schools and community promoting and preserving their heritage. The students learn about traditions, customs, food and crafts which have been handed down from generation to generation.

Carey Newman, born and raised in Sooke, is a First Nation Artist who was chosen to design and carve the "Spirit Pole" to coincide with the 2008 Cowichan Indigenous Games and BC's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday. The twenty-foot red cedar log received its first cuts in Cowichan on May 1, 2008, then began a thirteen-week tour of 45 other communities in British Columbia where local carvers worked under the guidance of Newman and his father Victor Newman. The pole, called "Victory of the Spirit", was featured at the inauguration ceremony of the Games on August 3, 2008 and will remain in the Cowichan Valley permanently.

In 2011, the District was honoured to be one of the sponsors and participate in the T'Sou-ke Spirit Festival.



## Heritage Conservation cont'd.

### Millennium Park Heritage Cemetery

The District of Sooke through Bylaw 56 recognized the heritage significance of the Millennium Park heritage cemetery on Maple Avenue. While the cemetery was well-kept in its early history, in later years it fell into disrepair, and with changed ownership of the land, it suffered serious vandalism. Eventually, with the assistance of the Sooke Lions Club, the Sooke Community Association and other service organizations, and a great deal of volunteer work and public fund-raising, the Sooke Region Historical Society was able to open it as a public park in 2001.

Designated a Regional Heritage site, the Millennium park project was recognized in 2004 by the Victoria Hallmark Society with an Award of Merit, and with an Outstanding Achievement Award by the British Columbia Heritage Society. The park is located at 1971 Maple Avenue.

The Scottish John Muir family, who became the leaders of the Sooke community after their arrival in 1851 purchased the property of Sooke's first immigrant settler, Captain Walter Colquhoun Grant, 100 acres overlooking Sooke Harbour, and it was on this land that Sooke's first cemetery, Muirside, was established.

Ann Miller Muir, matriarch of the Muir family, was the first of the family to pass away, in 1875. She was buried with a grave marker of sandstone, near a meandering brook with birds singing in the leafy boughs overhead. Before long Ann Muir's grave had been joined by that of Mary Ellen Welsh of Moss Cottage, and two of her babies. Eventually almost fifty graves were counted on the small parcel of land, with the last, that of Emma Welsh, in 1969.

In 2012, the Sooke Region Historical Society transferred the park to the District of Sooke.

### Sooke Region Museum

The Sooke Region Museum's exhibit galleries highlight the region's history and culture. The museum grounds are now home to Moss Cottage, the oldest standing pioneer home west of Victoria. Built in 1869/70 by James Welsh for his bride, Mary Ellen Flynn, it was home to the couple for ten years. James Welsh was connected to the pioneer Muir family, and the cottage was built on Muir land. The installation and restoration of the 1910 Triangle Island lighthouse on the grounds of the Sooke Museum welcomes visitors and residents to Sooke.

The Sooke Region Museum is the repository of most of the explorer, settler, First Nation, etc. information and memorabilia for the community and receives funding through direct taxpayer support approved by voters of the region. The Society has produced several publications documenting the history (people, buildings, volunteers, etc.) of Sooke, including "The Sooke Story—The History and The Heartbeat".

The Sooke Region Historical Society has placed heritage site informational shields throughout the community; ie. Quimper Park, Millennium Memorial Park, Whiffin Spit Park. In 2010, these heritage shields were mapped and an informational tourism brochure created for the enjoyment of local citizens and visitors to the area. The District GIS department is currently mapping the Heritage Shield sites, as well as other heritage sites for the District website.



Museum Exhibit

## Heritage Conservation cont'd.

### Sooke Communities in Bloom "Flow Line Legacy Project"

Much of the history of the Sooke area is resource-based, and the supplying of water to the most populous area of the island has been a significant component. Sooke Lake provides the main water supply for the Greater Victoria municipalities, Western Communities and Sooke. To carry the water from Sooke Lake twenty-six miles to a reservoir near Victoria, a concrete pipeline system was devised, and carried out in a massive engineering project taking place between 1911 and 1915. Only a section of the historic flowline remains in active use today, with the majority of the route replaced by a tunnel in 1971.

In 2008, the Communities in Bloom Committee embarked on a plan, with corporate sponsors, to bring abandoned sections of the flowline into the community, utilizing them in a recycling project as planters to continue the process of beautifying Sooke with flowers and plantings.

The District of Sooke is working to incorporate these planters as features in new developments being planned. Much photographic documentation of the project exists, and has been used to create illustrative exhibits alongside the planters, making an attractive feature for the town.

Sections were brought out from their wilderness location and while most of the sections were turned upright as planters, a feature unit included a section on its side, with the bronzed figure of a workman using a hose to water the concrete in the curing process. This live presentation, with the water being continually re-cycled, adds focus to the subject of water, and helps in the understanding of the precious commodity we must all share. The exhibit is located on the grounds of the municipal/firehall where it is an historical/beautification featured legacy for Sooke for BC 150. The planters are accompanied by illustrated signboards which presents the fascinating story of the building of the flowline and the increasing importance of water in the world of the future.

Major corporate support and the awarding of two BC 150 grants from the Province of BC to the Sooke Region Museum have made it possible to move forward on the flowline project. A light standard was constructed to illuminate the art unit and is topped with the carved figure of a Thunderbird in Western red-cedar. To the Salish and West Coast Peoples, the Thunderbird is regarded as the "giver of life" and it is particularly fitting that this symbol was chosen by the elders of the T'Sou-ke Nation to be carved and placed into this heritage project for Sooke.

A series of other concrete planter units from the abandoned flowline are located throughout the community at several sites, and will be completed with planting and illustrated signage, etc. as part of this heritage/beautification theme for Sooke.

**BC 150 Celebration** — The District of Sooke Spirit of BC Community Committee held many community events in 2008 to participate in the BC 150 celebrations, including:

- ◆ July 1, 2008 Canada Day - "150 Cakes"
- ◆ August 4, 2008 BC Day - "Highlights on History" Day at the Sooke Region Museum
- ◆ Grand opening of the Historical Flowline/Fountain Project
- ◆ Commemorative Opening of West Coast Road to Port Renfrew

**Mariner Man** — A 2010 Legacy project awarded to the Sooke Region Museum in 2009 has been applied to the creation of an installation at the Murray Road entrance to the Marine Boardwalk. The "Mariner Man" celebrates the strong connection the Sooke region had with the ocean. The statue of a mariner viewing the Sooke waters through a telescope is surrounded by a planter with water feature and interpretative signs.



## Heritage Conservation cont'd.

### Sooke Fire Department

In celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sooke Fire Rescue Service in 2013, members of the Sooke Firefighters Association are working to complete a frame up restoration of their 1942 International Bickle Fire Truck. This truck was the first purpose built fire truck to serve the Sooke area and was acquired from the Victoria Airport in 1954 after it was declared surplus. The truck served the community until January 1970 when it was sold to the Barriere Fire Department where it remained until October 2011. It was at this time that Sooke Firefighters exercised an old gentlemen's agreement that had the truck returned to Sooke. A small group of dedicated volunteers have been diligently working on restoring the truck ever since and are currently about half way to completion. The truck will be kept for parades and special events and stored in the fire station with hopes of eventually completing a fire museum to display this and other historic firefighting artifacts including the original 1913 hose reel.



### Residential

#### Woodside Farm

The citizens of Sooke have a long history of positive and friendly interaction with the T'Sou-ke First Nation, beginning with the original settlers.

Woodside Farm is Vancouver Island's oldest farm and has been in existence for over 150 years. The farm house and farm of these settlers is still in existence today. Maintained in almost original condition, Woodside is one of the few Georgian-style farmhouses remaining from British Columbia's early history.

The barn hay loft was the site of the 15th anniversary celebration concert of the Sooke Philharmonic Orchestra in June 2013.



## Heritage Conservation cont'd.

### Community Involvement

#### Sooke Community Association

The Sooke Community Association presents a logging show and salmon barbeque to visitors and residents to preserve and honour the Sooke heritage as a logging/fishing resource community.

#### Sooke Community Hall

The Sooke Community Hall was built in 1937 and has seen its share of dances and events over the years. A celebration of its 75th Anniversary took place in 2013. It hosts one of B.C.'s oldest agriculture events, the Sooke Fall Fair. Established in 1923, the Sooke Fall Fair is a reflection of Sooke's strong community spirit.

The hall was built by the Sooke Community Association (incorporated in 1935). The Association has worked unceasingly for the good of Sooke ever since. It owns and operates the Sooke Community Hall and with funding from the District of Sooke, makes the facilities available to groups for modest prices, and donates space for charities such as "Meals on Wheels". The Community Association owns the property at Sooke Flats, the playing fields in the Throup Road area, and the Fred Milne Park, all maintained by volunteers and made available for community use.

#### Arts and Heritage

The District of Sooke has funding in place to provide for the arts and heritage through reserve funds, grants, donations, etc. Sooke has a strong history as an arts community; many local organizations work tirelessly to continue that arts heritage; T'Sou-ke Nation, Sooke Region Museum, Sooke Community Association, Sooke Philharmonic Orchestra, Sooke Arts Council, Sooke Fine Arts Society, etc.

The District of Sooke provides funding and park facilities for festivals and celebrations, such as Canada Day, Art in the Park, Sooke Fine Arts Show, Sooke Philharmonic Orchestra "Fling" concert. Recently, a First Nations totem pole was carved and erected on Idlemore Road through a neighbourhood project funded by the District of Sooke.





# URBAN FORESTRY

## Municipal

Trees, collectively the urban forest, are important assets that require care and maintenance the same as other public property. District of Sooke bylaws and community plans address many of the issues related to tree and urban forest management. Council amended the District of Sooke *Subdivision and Development Standards* bylaw to ensure that street trees are planted for all new roads, extensions of an existing road, and in the frontage of any property of an existing road as a condition of subdivision approval or building permit (*Subdivision and Development Standards Bylaw*). Habitat trees are required to be left in development.

Qualified staff and contractors plan and maintain street trees and parkland through development processes and scheduled maintenance. A *Street Tree Care 101* pamphlet was developed for residents that encourages the public to take an interest in their street and park trees, assist in the watering of newly planted trees, watch for vandalism and be informed about the inadvertent damage that can be caused to young trees from lawn mowers and weed whips. The pamphlet has been distributed to over 250 residents to date and is available online and at the District office.

- In 2009, Sooke secured an independent contractor for tree maintenance to ensure consistent maintenance of the urban forest.
- A *Street Tree Strategy* has been developed to ensure that the appropriate tree species is being planted by all developers to ensure that a healthy array of street trees are being planted but with a holistic planning approach. This will ensure diversity, aesthetic value and a legacy for Sooke's urban forest.
- The District of Sooke worked with the 2008 Canada World Youth program as the program's community service project to plant 500 trees in Deerlepe Park. The trees were donated by a local forestry company.
- Through the Park Donation program, people are invited to donate a tree to be planted in municipal parks in memory of a loved one. Several trees have been planted at Ed Macgregor Memorial Park.
- Several trees were planted at the BC Transit Park and Ride on Highway 14.
- The District of Sooke is working with local members of the BC Fruit Testers Association to identify and catalogue heritage fruit trees for protection.
- An Urban Tree Inventory has been created and entered into the District of Sooke GIS mapping. These trees have been added to the GIS database complete with photographs, caliper size and species name.

## Urban Forestry cont'd.

- The District of Sooke has contracted with a certified arbourist to identify dangerous trees.
- A Tree Canada Grant for September 2011 has been obtained and re-planting areas identified.
- Preservation of two yew trees at 6496 Lanark Road.
- Changes to Highways Use Permit to require planting of street trees if none exist.
- District of Sooke Communities in Bloom committee distributed over 600 tree seedlings in 2011.

### Business and Institutions

- The waterfront development "Mariner's Village" was encouraged by the District to intentionally retain a large stand (0.55 hectare) of mixed coniferous forest in an effort to protect the winter roosting site of double-crested cormorants.
- Erinan Estates have practiced the principles of low-impact development by retaining the urban forest on large lots prior to sale giving the property owner the opportunity to retain the forest and have a small footprint on the forest. This is in sharp contrast to traditional developments which would have practiced clear-and-grade techniques.
- Timberwest's private timberland operations are situated on Vancouver Island. The operations currently encompass 334,700 hectares (825,000 acres) stretching from the Sooke area in the south-west to Campbell River, lying mid-island, along the east coast. The private forest land is classified as Managed Forest under the British Columbia Assessment Act (Forest Land) Regulation. These lands are legislated under the Private Managed Forest Land Act, and as such are currently administered by the Private Managed Forest Land Council. The Council is a public-private partnership currently under the provincial government's Ministry of Agriculture and Lands.
- The private forest lands comprise a mix of old growth and second growth timber, with second growth making up the majority of the current harvest (approx. 64% in 2005). The species distribution by area is approximately 63% Douglas fir, 31% hemlock / balsam and 6% other species. The District of Sooke is home to a number of private contractors which are involved in cone collection, desailing, and reforestation.
- The new entrance to Evergreen Centre was planted with two new evergreen trees that will be decorated during the winter holidays and be enjoyed by the public for many years.
- The dentist office on West Coast Road preserved the Japanese maple that was in the garden when converting a residence to a commercial office building.

### Residential

- Each year, a "Seedy Saturday" is hosted by Sooke Food CHI. At the 2011, at the event, over 600 tree seedlings were given out by the District of Sooke to residents for planting in their home gardens or businesses.
- Local property owners have established farms for Christmas trees; Deerlepe Road, Phillips Road, etc.
- Over 2012-2013, 215 street trees were added to the urban forest at Laura's Lane, Church Hill Meadows, Mariners Village, Stone Ridge Estates, Sunriver Estates, Nott Creek Estates, TD Band and Woodland Creek.

### Community Involvement

- Ecolé Poirer Elementary School is the newest school in the District of Sooke. The school has integrated many of the key elements of the Communities in Bloom program into the students' learning environment. A stand of mature fir and cedar trees was intentionally left standing when the school was built and students find the area they affectionately call, "The Forest" the most interesting place to play each recess and lunch. The trees are checked by District staff regularly and students are involved in removing windfall when needed. New trees of various species planted for the "New Forest" and to provide a natural break from eventual housing developments on neighbouring properties. Watering over summer months is done by local teachers and Poirier families.
- The Sooke Royal Canadian Legion carried out a legacy project to protect the oak tree located on the Legion property.
- Local non-profit groups provide a chipping service for Christmas Trees. The groups vary from year to year.



## Municipal

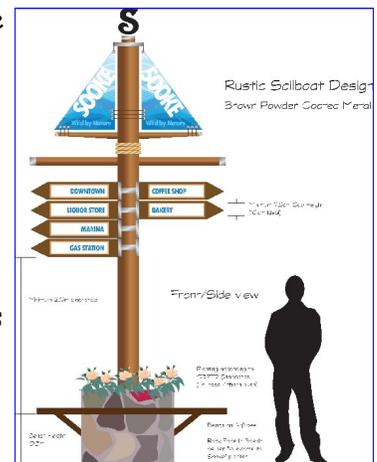
The District of Sooke is continually increasing its street frontage improvements to include sidewalks, street trees, street lights and landscaped boulevards. The District of Sooke encourages water conservation in boulevard improvements utilizing permeable surfaces and bio-swales. The park and boulevard maintenance contracts use integrated pest management techniques (IPM) with consideration for reduced mowing frequencies and pest control in accordance with Ministry of Environment standards.

- Street Trees are required in Bylaw 65.
- The "Welcome to Sooke" boulevard was upgraded in 2010 with the addition of an extensive ornamental planting and the addition of four new street trees. Native or local plant materials are being chosen for municipal plantings to replace traditional plantings; for example the "Nootka Rose" planted at the sign. The area was further improved by the addition of the ornamental planting of the landscape by the new "Flow Line" installation.
- The new BC Transit Park and Ride, in partnership with BC Transit, is landscaped with native plants. The Sooke's CiB contributed 12 trees as part of its urban forest plan.
- Initiated a water conservation program for irrigation leak prevention to troubleshoot water leaks at three parks that were high water consumers (\$4500 in leaks in 2012). Retrofitted timers and equipment for water savings have already realized more than \$2000 in savings.
- Power raking and top dressing of ornamental area turf to increase plant health and reduce water requirements. New in 2013 and will be done bi-annually.
- Boulevards, ponds and trails/pathways in newly developed areas; Arranwood, Churchill Meadows, Sun River Estates, the Ponds, Beaton Road, Ayre Road, Murray Road, Grant Road West, etc.
- Paving of Whiffin Spit Park parking lot with permeable asphalt surface and oil grit separator.
- Wheelchair accessible transit stops located throughout Sooke; West Coast Road, Whiffin Spit Road, Sooke Road and Kaltasin Road.
- The District of Sooke has installed, through a public donation program, several furniture pieces at municipal parks (Ed Macgregor Park, Whiffin Spit Park).



## Landscape cont'd.

- Worked with Parents for Play to establish playground improvement projects at Saseenos School and at Broomhill Park.
- New sidewalks installed on Ayre Road, Shields and Eustace Road, Townsend Road, Church Road and Anna Marie Road; some under the "Towns for Tomorrow" program.
- Renovated District of Sooke landscape to manage the drainage issues. Vegetation was replaced with river rock and water tolerant species with 90% of plant material reused onsite and at Ed Macgregor Park.
- Council has approved the installation of wayfinding signs Highway 14 to reduce signage clutter on the boulevards and to allow for seasonal and event banners to be displayed.
- Over the next few years, several new developments and road construction on Highway 14 in the Town Centre will include the installation of round-abouts, new sidewalks, bike lanes, safer crosswalks, street furniture, trees and landscaped areas. The first of these is the entrance to Evergreen Centre which has provided new sidewalks and benches near the community information kiosk.
- Interpretive signage including First Nations and contemporary art were installed on the Marine Boardwalk in 2013. Local students have been working on the interpretive text—a true community effort.
- A new boat launch was completed in 2012 which will provide residents and tourists with the only public access to the water in the District of Sooke.
- New trails were added to John Phillips Park to provide a key linkage under the Parks and Trails Master Plan. The trails are accessible and have a permeable surface that serves the bicycle rider, runner and walker. The John Phillips Park is currently being maintained as a natural area with fishing in the pond and open areas for dog walking and other passive uses. Sooke River and other parks offer passive use. Plans to add other facilities are underway.
- **Cedar Transit Stop Bench and Planters**—The Communities in Bloom bench and planters project began in 2011 with the first installation at Otter Point Road. The 2013 project saw installation at West Coast Road—the location was chosen at the request of the residents of the Manufactured Home park.
- **Wayfinding Signage**—One of the District of Sooke Communities in Bloom 2010 projects was the design of wayfinding signs at major intersections throughout the town core. The plants at the base of the sign will be drought resistant and the planters will be fitted with benches. The project will incorporate floral displays and banners while effectively reducing visual pollution of the landscape. The wayfinding signs have been incorporated into the *Sign Regulation Bylaw, 2011*.



Heritage trees and shrubs protected in the development



Mill Site Installation at Fire Station

### Business and Institutions

A local participation program in support of the principles of CiB was initiated in 2008 by the Chamber of Commerce, the Museum and the CiB local committee (supported by the District of Sooke). Its intent was to encourage a program of participation in a modest way, for example, if each business (or organization, etc.) accomplished a certain degree of beautification, it would mean an overall improvement in the appearance and pride of the community.

The program has evolved and many participation forms are sent to the District offices in response to the promotion efforts. Selected participants are recognized by a colourful window decal presented to them by the Mayor of Sooke at the CiB awards ceremony. In 2013, a new decal of a Sooke native flower—*Mimulus sookensis*—was introduced and used again in 2014.

- The District of Sooke encourages the use of native and drought tolerant plantings in all new developments.
- New developments such as the Mariner's Village development are expected to incorporate "green" initiatives. A large component of the "green" component is the native plantings and retention of native ground covers.
- Many local businesses have strived to improve their sidewalk and landscaped areas. Businesses such as the bakery and florist on Sooke Road, the art galleries on Otter Point Road and Shields Road, the new restaurant on Sooke Road, etc. have used colourful and creative plantings to enhance their business places.
- The Edward Milne Community School, the Sooke Harbour House and other local garden groups now hold workshops for those interested in learning to garden, make garden furniture and ornaments.
- Heron View Villas is the first development to establish a green roof which consists of a turf area that is the roof of the amenities building for the development. This innovative use of turf aides in site rainwater management.
- The Good Life Centre maintains their boulevard with drought resistant and native plantings.



### Residential

Driving into Sooke and through the District one only has to look left and right to appreciate the residential landscaping efforts. Many residents take pride in their landscaping and yards with the result that the garden enthusiasts in Sooke are very involved in improving the look of our community.

In 2010, the District of Sooke held the first "CiB Neighbourhood Challenge". Neighbourhoods were encouraged to have a fun and friendly competition on who can make their street look the best. Neighbourhood are encouraged to submit nominations through the Arts and Beautification Committee to recognize individual or community gardens.



## Landscape cont'd.

### Community Involvement

The Sooke Community Association manages all of the sports fields within the District of Sooke. They employ a unique model for the maintenance of the large areas of turf by permitting individual user groups to maintain their grounds as best suits the use. For example, volunteers for the Sooke Softball Association top dress and fertilize the baseball fields annually to ensure that the fields are in good condition for the season.

Many of the other local service clubs, Schools, Churches, Not-For-Profit Groups who strive to install or maintain landscaped areas include the Royal Canadian Legion, Sooke CASA, Sooke FoodChi, Sooke Region Museum (the Wetlands by the Museum), the Kaltasin Road Project, Edward Milne Community School Culinary Garden, Ecolé Poirer and Journey Middle School. These community groups promote:

- Drought resistant plants and promotion of native plants around Sooke CASA
  - "Seedy Saturday" promoted the use and exchange of drought resistant plants
  - Well tended sports fields at schools and baseball parks
  - Community Gardens
  - Culinary Gardens
- The Sooke Elderly Citizens Housing Society strive to provide the Ayre Manor residents a beautiful and functional garden area for walking and producing their own vegetables and flowers.
  - Sooke Food CHI promotes and supports community gardens in new developments. The District of Sooke has applied for grants on behalf of the Sooke Food CHI for community gardens.
  - The number of local groups improving public areas and gardens is amazing, with the CASA Community Gardens, Sunriver Community Gardens, EMCS Student Gardens just to name a few.
  - A "Seedy Saturday" is held in each spring to exchange and introduce local garden seeds, plants and products.
  - Each year in June, the Sooke Philharmonic Orchestra Society presents as a fundraiser the "Sooke Secret Gardens". The Tour celebrates and showcases the many beautiful residential gardens in our community, both floral and agricultural.



*Seedy Saturday*



*Music for "Sooke Secret Gardens"*



*CASA Community Garden*



*Edward Milne Community School Garden*



*Sunriver Community Garden*

# FLORAL DISPLAYS



## Municipal

To provide some guidance for the transition of the landscaped areas in the downtown centre, the Downtown Guidelines were developed. The Downtown Revitalization Committee produced the guidelines through a public process. The Committee's visioning document has been followed by the development of a *Town Centre Plan*. And *Town Centre Design Guidelines*.

The *Town Centre Plan* further provides clear direction for the development of landscaped areas to welcome the public to the town. Currently, the Mariners Village development is required to include an extension of the boardwalk, public areas and walkways, a Garry Oak protected area, public art, etc.

There are landscaping requirements in all commercial, industrial and multi-family developments. Some developments (Beaton Road, Sun River) have included ponds or water courses in the subdivision to handle storm water and provide an attractive feature for the community.

The Sooke Spirit Square project was completed in 2010 with funding in the amount of \$237,000 from the Province. The project created a large public gathering place encompassing Ed Macgregor Park and the Marine Boardwalk to Murray Road. Sidewalks and the "Mariner" installation has been completed on Murray Road and, after the summer's activities in Ed Macgregor Park are completed, a performance theatre, water feature, and additional plantings have been incorporated into the Park.



The "Welcome to Sooke" boulevard was drastically upgraded with the addition of an extensive ornamental planting and the addition of four new street trees. The area was further improved by the addition of the ornamental planting of the landscape by the new "Flow Line" installation.

## Floral Displays cont'd.

### Business and Institutions

Businesses in Sooke work together to include floral displays in their store frontages; for example, many strip malls hang flower baskets throughout summer — even though they must bring the baskets in each night. The new boulevard area at Evergreen Centre includes a large raised bed planted with bright flowers.

Businesses are careful to select plants that are drought tolerant (xeriscaping) while being conscientious of colour choices and preserving old heritage species and landscaping (Dentist on West Coast Road).

The businesses on Shields Road exemplify the use flowers and colour for a dramatic street front display — bird houses and street furniture are incorporated in the display.

The churches in Sooke consider themselves to be part of their neighbourhood and approach their gardens and floral displays as a community.

As mentioned before, the Ayre Manor society volunteers plant and maintain a wonderful interactive flower and vegetable garden for the residents.



### Residential

Being a Vancouver Island community, gardening has always been a major way of life for its residents and can be a year round activity. This is showcased annually in the Secret Garden Tour. Residents use innovative water conservation techniques (rain barrels, mulching) and are dedicating more of their flower beds to vegetables to promote local food and sustainability — many new greenhouses are being added to residential lots.

### Community Involvement

The Sooke Region Museum gardens and flower beds include heritage varieties of plants and they use the flower beds fronting Highway 14 as living directional signage. The Royal Canadian Legion and Housing Society cooperatively create a wonderful tulip bed each year dedicated to Legion members, past and present.





When discussing the volunteers of Sooke, it is hard to differentiate where the line between service club ends and resident contribution begins. The District is extremely fortunate to have a number of like-minded citizens who feel that their efforts will result in the development of a social consciousness which in turn will propagate a clean, lovely and vibrant community setting. Through organizations and programs such as the Sooke "Crisis Centre", Meals on Wheels, and many more, Sooke looks to meet real needs of those less fortunate individuals living in the area.

The District of Sooke supports all local volunteer organizations and distributes annual grants to assist in capital projects which benefit the community as a whole. The Mayor, Councillors and District staff are very involved in community activities and regularly attend functions that honour the District's volunteers and corporate citizens. They are also on a number of Committees which provide benefits to all the citizens of Sooke whether it be youth or seniors.

The citizens of the District of Sooke have long been well known for their strong sense of community involvement.

#### **District Financial Support and Volunteer Recognition**

To provide financial support for individual community projects, applications are received the District of Sooke Community Grant program. A Council advisory committee reviews the applications from local organizations. Some past projects include the Kaltasin Road Neighbourhood project and Idlemore Road Totem Pole.

The Sooke Region Chamber of Commerce bi-annually joins the Sooke business community in honouring people who give exceptional service to their community, their volunteer organizations, or to their neighbours.

The support of local groups is highly valued by the community and the District of Sooke recognizes the many volunteers through various ongoing events; the bi-annual Volunteer recognition ceremony, tiles and commemorative plaques for donations, etc. In 2013, Elida Peers was presented with a "Certificate of Recognition" for her years of volunteering.

The Sooke CiB Committee was honoured to accept on behalf of Sooke the CiB "crystal vase" for community participation in 2009.

## Community Involvement cont'd.

Many Sooke organizations have donated time, effort and funds to community facilities and projects - too many to mention, but for example:

- ◆ Sooke Rotary Club - the Sooke Rotary Pier and the Throup Road skateboard park
- ◆ Sooke Community Association - community parks and hall
- ◆ Sooke Lions - Sooke Harbour Cemetery (management), Murray Road playground, Canada Day celebrations
- ◆ Sooke Legion - Seniors housing
- ◆ Sooke Region Historical Society - museum
- ◆ Sooke Philharmonic Orchestra Society - Ed Macgregor Park amphitheatre
- ◆ Sooke Fine Arts Society— internationally recognized adjudicated art show and Cultural Plan
- ◆ Sooke Region Tourism Association— Tourism Plan
- ◆ Community Health Initiative — Sooke Food CHI
- ◆ Sooke Fall Fair Society—Annual Fall Fair
- ◆ In 2009, Sooke Region Chamber of Commerce began

its first annual Sooke Spirit Festival which included the light-up of the Christmas Trees, the annual Santa Claus Parade and Sail Past of decorated boats in the harbour. Citizens are treated to free hot chocolate, games and musical entertainment and carolers, while not-for-profit groups sell refreshments.



- ◆ Financial and material donations are always forthcoming from business to support community activities. For a small community there is tremendous financial support for events, especially those involving youth.
- ◆ "Sewer Pump Station Art Project" - In partnership with EPCOR, the District's SPA Committee selected artists who live in the District of Sooke to paint/decorate the four large pump stations located in Sooke. The artists selected to paint the pump stations in a West Coast theme are Michel DesRochers, Allan Wesley Johnson, and Corinne Oraziattie. As well as group of EMCS students have participated;

Maggie Evans, Delilah Richelle, Jaimie Davy-Saxyl, Shelby Edgington, and Natassia Davies. This is an ongoing project with several more electrical and sewer boxes painted in 2013.



- ◆ The Tourism Alliance (Sooke B&B Association, Sooke Harbour Chamber of Commerce, Sooke Region Historical Society and the Sooke Region Tourism Association) built a Tourism Kiosk in the downtown centre that provides directional maps and community information - and greatly improves the appearance of the shopping centre boulevard. Funding for this project is through the UBCM Tourism grant program. With the construction in 2011 of a new Shoppers Drug Mart in the centre, the community kiosk has been greatly improved with new landscaping, pathways, lighting, etc. The kiosk is the site of the annual "Christmas Tree Light-Up" event — part of the "Spirit Festival" organized by the Sooke Region Chamber of Commerce.



## Community Involvement cont'd.

### SOOKE REGION COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVE

The Sooke Region Community Health Initiative (CHI) is a group of community members and health and social service providers who have worked collaboratively for ten years to increase capacity and improve the overall health of the community by focussing on the social determinants of health. Among CHI's many projects are: the Mental Health Navigator Project, which went on to become a funded program; the Sooke Region Food Security Project which went on to form its own society and momentum (Sooke Food CHI); the Sooke Region Community Health Information Project which collected area-specific anecdotal and research data; a regional transportation and health study; and a collaboration with the Vancouver Island Health Authority's Integrated Health Network to develop and provide community-based services and activities for their patients.

In December of 2012, the District of Sooke received confirmation from the Union of B.C. Municipalities that their Age-Friendly Communities grant application was successful. The District then entered in to a Letter of Understanding with the Sooke Region CHI for that group to carry out the work of the grant.



CHI's current focus, in addition to the Age-Friendly contract, is to support the development of a Sooke Region Volunteer Centre and the help guide the building of a Community Centre (see "What's New" section). To this end a committee has been working towards a sustainable entity that will serve the needs of volunteers and the agencies that engage them. The Centre will be a place where 'everybody volunteers' either passively (i.e. making casseroles for a sick neighbour, picking up groceries for an incapacitated friend) or actively, through participation with an organized group or event. A virtual volunteer centre has been created at <http://www.sookeregionresources.com/volunteer-opportunities/browse>.

The Sooke Region is home to more than one hundred seventy non-profit clubs, organizations, societies and charities. The dynamics of volunteering are evolving with changing demographics and economics. Volunteer-based organizations that have historically been able to be substantially self-supporting are now struggling. The Boards of Directors of many of these organizations are seniors looking to re-retire. A sustainable, well-structured Volunteer Centre will support and enhance Sooke's claim to be the 'Volunteer Capital of Canada'.

The flexible and responsive organization of CHI allows it to grow and undertake new projects as they are identified. CHI for ten years has had no formal structure and worked collaboratively. CHI is now working to merge with the Sooke Cooperative Association of Service Agencies (CASA) to deepen their ability to serve and support the Sooke Region.

- ◆ The Sooke Food Community Health Initiative (CHI) Society was formed in 2008 and are a very busy group:
  - ◇ Coordinate activities for 3 Community Gardens (which each host a Community Kitchen)
  - ◇ Support Sooke Farmers Market
  - ◇ Ensured food sustainability was included in the *Official Community Plan*
  - ◇ Develop and update annually Sooke Region Local Farm Guide
  - ◇ Support Children Garden Club

## Community Involvement cont'd.

### Sooke Firefighters Association

In celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sooke Fire Rescue Service, members of the Sooke Firefighters Association are currently completing a frame up restoration of their 1942 International Bickle Fire Truck. This truck was the first purpose built fire truck to serve the Sooke area and was acquired from the Victoria Airport in 1954 after it was declared surplus. The truck served the community until January 1970 when it was sold to the Barriere Fire Department where it remained until October 2011. It was at this time that Sooke Firefighters exercised an old gentlemen's agreement that had the truck returned to Sooke. A small group of dedicated volunteers have been diligently working on restoring the truck ever since and are currently about half way to completion. The truck will be kept for parades and special events and stored in the fire station with hopes of eventually completing a fire museum to display this and other historic firefighting artifacts including the original 1913 hose reel.

### Support for Communities in Bloom Program

Direct support for the Communities in Bloom Initiative is received from the T'Sou-Ke Nation, RCMP, District of Sooke, Sooke Region Chamber of Commerce, Sooke CHI and Sooke Food CHI, and Sooke Region Historical Society. The Sooke Rotary Club, Sooke Lions, Girl Guides, Boy Scouts, Parents for Play, Sooke Minor Fastball Association and Sooke Soccer Association – and many others – all contribute efforts during the year to improve the fields and play grounds of the community.

A positive response to the Communities in Bloom program is always received from the Town Centre business and commercial property owners. For example, DoubleD Gardens, Sooke Home Hardware and the Sooke Flower House provide plants and baskets at cost and Sooke Backhoe and Wittich Environmental Services Ltd. have donated trucking, sponsored the wild roses planted around the town pole and provided machinery to dig up the hard packed ground or install a bench.

Frederique and Sinclair Phillip, owners of the Sooke Harbour House and the District of Sooke co-host the "Welcome Reception" for the Communities in Bloom judges. At the reception there is a recognition ceremony for the participants who have earned window decals in the Sooke Communities in Bloom Recognition Program.

The support of local groups is highly valued by the community and the District of Sooke recognizes the many volunteers through various ongoing events; the bi-annual Volunteer recognition ceremony, tiles and commemorative plaques for donations, etc.

The Sooke CiB Committee was honoured to accept on behalf of Sooke the Communities in Bloom "crystal vase" for community participation in 2009.



# Supporting Documentation

## School District 62

### **Ecole Poirier Elementary School (grades K-5 English/French)**

#### **Tidiness:**

- ◆ individual classes assume responsibility for clearing the playground and playing fields

#### **Environmental Action:**

- ◆ compost collection containers are located in each classroom; compost bins are located on the west side of the school (surrounded by a fence to keep the bears out)
- ◆ greening committee made up of teachers, parents and students (curriculum based Science, Health and Nutrition and Social Responsibility focus)
- ◆ each classroom has a recycle box for paper and recycles bottles, cans and juice containers; hard plastics are collected and taken home by teachers to be picked up by recycling every second Monday
- ◆ students and staff take Bear Awareness seriously and understand that a Fed Bear is a Dead Bear

#### **Heritage Conservation**

- ◆ dual track school is named after the historic Poirier family (this family brought together First Nations and French cultures which continue to be a part of the school community)
- ◆ photograph and brief biography about the Poirier family is displayed in the main entrance
- ◆ each of the 18 divisions from Kindergarten to Grade 5 visits the Sooke Region Museum to enhance their learning in several curriculum areas

#### **Urban Forestry:**

- ◆ a stand of mature fir and cedar trees was intentionally left standing when the school was built and students find the area they affectionately call, "The Forest" the most interesting place to play each recess and lunch (trees are checked by district staff regularly); students remove windfall when needed
- ◆ new trees of various species planted for the "New Forest" and to provide a natural break from the ever growing housing developments on neighbouring properties (watering over summer months by local teachers Poirier families)

#### **Landscape:**

- ◆ Sooke School District maintains the grounds at Poirier
- ◆ parents, students and teachers maintain the gardens (although it is a struggle)
- ◆ parents purchased the playground equipment and paid for the installation

#### **Floral Displays:**

- ◆ parents, teachers and parents have planted the vibrant perennials blooming from Spring until Fall

#### **Community Involvement:**

- ◆ parents are very involved at Poirier and have created all of the gardens around the school with special attention given to the "Learning Garden" which includes raised beds for students to plant, care for and harvest (Hands in the Dirt Project—this year 4 varieties of potatoes planted)
- ◆ parents and teachers planned the plantings of trees (cedar, maple, grand fir, oak, hemlock and dogwood) to be part of the "Outdoor Classroom"; donations of trees, perennials and bulbs from the community (businesses and individuals)
- ◆ With the help of two local artists one of the grade 5 classes created a mosaic of what is important about the school
- ◆ Team of teachers and principal on the steering committee assisted in the development of the Charters River Salmon Interpretive Centre and its educational program (students involved in ground-breaking ceremony and with artwork for official opening in September 2011)

## Supporting Documentation cont'd.

### Journey Middle School (grades 6-8)

#### Tidiness:

- ◆ Each week one of the eighteen divisions is responsible for picking up litter from the school grounds

#### Environmental Action:

- ◆ each year classes release salmon fry into DeMamiel Creek which runs through the school's property
- ◆ creek ecosystem is monitored and cared for by students
- ◆ exploratory courses offered at school: Outdoors in Sooke and Exploring Sooke Parks
- ◆ each classroom has a recycle box for paper
- ◆ each classroom recycles bottles, cans and juice containers

#### Heritage Conservation:

- ◆ First Nations button blanket and paddles created by students hang in foyer of school
- ◆ Mural created by students under the direction of famed artist Norval Morriseau

#### Urban Forestry:

- ◆ School designed around the grand old maple tree (seedling from original growing on grounds now to take its place if/when needed)
- ◆ Commemorative trees planted for two students

#### Landscape:

- ◆ Sooke School District maintains grounds at Journey

#### Community Involvement:

- ◆ students created "Where the Rainforest Meets the Sea" creatures which hang on the fence along Anna Marie Road from supplies/paint donated from Sooke Home Hardware
- ◆ annual general litter clean up at Ed Macgregor Park
- ◆ share fields and facilities with SEAPARC
- ◆ created murals for the Kaltasin Project



Journey Students participate in Broomhill Park Clean-up

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### John Muir Elementary School (grades K-5)

#### Tidiness:

- ◆ a "green team" was created to promote keeping the school ground clean.
- ◆ the "green team" presented to classrooms through out the school to raise awareness about pollution and the great pacific garbage dump.

#### Environmental Action:

- ◆ students decorated grocery bags for our local grocery store to remind customers to use reusable bags and to spread environmental awareness through the community.
- ◆ students also took a field trip to T' Souke Nation to learn about energy conservation and Solar Panels.

#### Community Involvement

- ◆ Grade five students participated in the DARE program sponsored by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- ◆ Teachers distributed community information from the Art Council, Canada Day Committee and Sooke Fall Fair and encouraged students to attend events sponsored by each group
- ◆ There is a bulletin board in the school which is devoted to advertising community events

## *Supporting Documentation cont'd.*

### **Saseenos Elementary School (grades K-5)**

#### **Tidiness:**

- ◆ On a weekly basis, individual classes assume responsibility for clearing the playground and playing fields of rubbish
- ◆ Once a year, students are organized into sections to go throughout the surrounding area to collect garbage from along the roadside, ditches and fence lines

#### **Environmental:**

- ◆ On an annual basis and each year for over 15 years Saseenos Elementary School has participated in Earth Week activities
- ◆ Activities include garbage-less lunch days, recycling materials into created works of art, guest speakers, bulletin boards, garbage cleanup in the community and school grounds
- ◆ Students from a volunteer student environmental group wrote essays which were presented at an Earth Week assembly
- ◆ A representative from the Department of Fisheries was a guest speaker
- ◆ Each classroom has a recycle box for paper
- ◆ Each classroom recycles bottles, cans and juice containers

#### **Heritage:**

- ◆ Grade five students were given the assignment of producing an informational brochure about Sooke which includes a section on history, things to see and do, places to stay, eat, etc.
- ◆ Grade two students used the Galloping Goose Trail to walk over 2km to an outing related to organic farming in our community
- ◆ Numerous classes visited the Sooke Region Museum and participated in programs
- ◆ First Nations' cultural activities took place 2x per week during the noon hour
- ◆ First Nations' bulletin board was maintained throughout the year by the First Nations' Teaching Assistant
- ◆ First Nations' hoop dancer gave a dance presentation to the school
- ◆ African drumming presentation was given to the school
- ◆ Local beaches and parks are utilized by all classes throughout the year
- ◆ The whole school participated in the "Up the Stream" project where wooden fish are painted and displayed on the school grounds - Fall 2007

#### **Urban Forestry:**

- ◆ older fir trees on school property were assessed for strength, root damage etc. - grade four and five students organized a "protest" to have the "wise old trees" protected as they did not want to see them taken down - two trees had been removed as they had suffered damage during the wind storm
- ◆ plans for the new playground may include green space with trees as part of the plan

#### **Landscape:**

- ◆ Sooke School District maintains the landscaping at Saseenos Elementary School
- ◆ Plans for the new playground may include green space with landscaping at a future date

#### **Floral Displays:**

- ◆ Montessori preschool program, who rent space at Saseenos School, developed a flower garden at the main entrance - preschool students planted the flowers, a group of intermediate students worked at noon hours and a volunteer will water the flowers throughout the summer months
- ◆ The Parent Advisory Committee was responsible for fundraising enough money (over \$180,000.00 was generated through private, corporate and public funds) for an all inclusive playground to be erected at Saseenos School summer 2007
- ◆ Students in the grade five class participated in the annual essay, poetry and art contest sponsored by the Royal Canadian Legion

## Supporting Documentation cont'd.

### Sooke Elementary School (grades K-5)

**Tidiness:** Students participated in a neighbourhood clean-up of the area surrounding the school, with the District of Sooke providing garbage bags.

**Environmental Action:** Students undertook a letter writing campaign to raise awareness of the excessive use of plastic water bottles.

**Heritage Conservation:** Interpretative signage has been added to the front of the school designating the school as a heritage site.

**Community Involvement:** Grade 4 students toured the area around the school with a T'Souke Nation Elder learning more about native plants and how the First Nations in our area found plants to eat.

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### Edward Milne Community School (Grades 9-12)

**Tidiness:**

- ◆ Participated in The Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup at Ella beach

**Environmental Action:**

- ◆ Started up and managed a composting and plastics recycling programs at the school
- ◆ Participated in Broom pulling
- ◆ Gardened in the school ethno-botanical garden and vegetable garden
- ◆ Learned about local forest and marine ecosystems with emphasis on ethnobiology and sustainable practices
- ◆ Participated with the Galiano Conservancy to learn more about Reforestation practices
- ◆ Learned about water conservation through the CRD watershed tour
- ◆ Learned about alternative energy resources with the T'Souke Nation solar tour and created alternative energy sources for the Energizing Sooke Fair
- ◆ Learned more about Salmon enhancement from the Jack Brookes hatchery and Charters River Salmon Enhancement society
- ◆ Studied marine ecosystems at Whiffin Spit and forest ecosystems around Sooke

**Urban Forestry:**

- ◆ Learned about reforestation practices and participated in a reforestation project

**Community**

**Involvement:**

- ◆ Participated in the Sunriver community gardens, weeding, planting and improving garden space for the non-profit society



# Supporting Documentation

## District of Sooke

### Park Projects

#### Pineridge Park Improvements

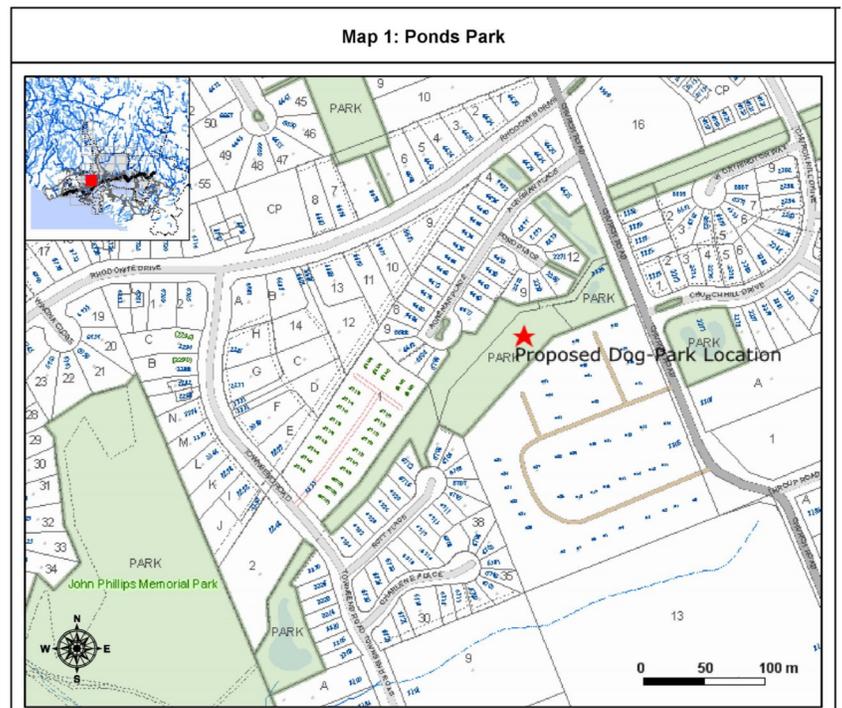
New drainage works, native plantings, exercise equipment and an improved trail to connect Pineridge Place and Rhodonite Drive took place in 2013. The design work is complete and the construction is anticipated to commence pending Council direction. The improvements will build upon already completed hazardous tree removals which increased visibility and safety in the park.

#### John Phillips Memorial Park/SEAPARC Bike Park

The Sooke Slow Food Cycle, in cooperation with the Sooke Bike Club, proposed to develop a bike skills park on a portion of John Phillips Memorial Park. After lengthy public consultation, Council voted on a new location, which would see the existing Bike Skills Park at SEAPARC refurbished. This proposal is supported by the Parks and Trails Master Plan, the Sustainable Development Strategy, and the *Official Community Plan, 2010*. The intention is to have a community partnership to design, build and maintain a bike skills playground. This will be a community project in partnership with the District of Sooke.

#### Off Leash Park

The District of Sooke is assessing options for an appropriate off-leash dog park. Off-leash dog areas are typically fenced in parks where well-behaved canine citizens can exercise in a clean, safe environment without endangering or annoying people, property or wildlife. The objective of these spaces is to develop a beautiful, well-maintained space open to all dog lovers and friends who are willing to uphold the park's rules and restrictions. The Parks and Trails Master Plan suggests Ponds Park be considered for an off-leash dog park given its location and size of the open field area. 2014 saw continued public input and preliminary design process for the proposed off-leash dog park. The process is expected to be completed in 2014.



## Supporting Documentation cont'd.

### District of Sooke - Parks and Greenspaces Photo Tour

A collection of photos of locations throughout the District of Sooke are being compiled and added to a map. Once completed, the photos, locations, and descriptions will be combined on an online interactive "Parks and Greenspaces Photo Tour". The photo tour will combine an interactive map, a photograph and descriptive caption, with a carousel containing photos from each location. The collecting of photos is currently underway and will continue throughout the summer.

**Parks and Greenspaces**  
A photographic tour of greenspace locations in the District of Sooke.

Interactive Map

Photograph and Caption

John Phillips Memorial Park  
Located at 2201 Otter Point Road

← Photograph Carousel →

John Phillips Memorial Park  
Ed Macgregor Park

