

DISTRICT QUARTERLY



District of Sooke

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Hours: 8:30am-4:30pm

Monday-Friday

Excluding

statutory holidays

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Mayor's Message:

Welcome to Spring...we have had an unusual wet and windy winter but we are all looking forward to some dry sunny days. With those dry days coming, landscaping will be completed at Evergreen Mall and pothole repair and paving will be completed on our roads.

Work is progressing on our public boat launch and the Prestige Hotel will host their first conference on April 15th. Phase one of Mariner's Village is moving along well and they are looking to proceed with phase two shortly.

We have had a very busy first quarter, and lots of investors interested in coming to our community. We have had confirmation from TD Canada Trust of a new bank in town and they will be starting construction next spring. We are excited about a possibility of a community wellness centre; medical clinic, VIHA, library, seniors and youth centre, x-ray, physio, etc. and look forward to seeing this project brought forward.



Photo Credit: Angie Bailey

The District of Sooke is hosting an Open House on April 14th at the Community Hall from 4:00 - 8:00 and welcome all to come and learn about the amendments to the zoning bylaw that are being proposed, the 2011 budget, the EPCOR agreement and many other projects that are on the go. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Mayor Janet Evans

Sooke Walking Tour and Community Open House

Thursday April 14th, 2011

Walking Tour 1:00 - 3:00 Departing from the
Municipal Hall

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

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY?

Then join the District of Sooke Council and staff on a guided walking tour of Sooke's trail network and attend the Community Open House. Residents will have an opportunity to talk to Council and Staff on current municipal projects and initiatives, including:

- New Zoning Bylaw
- 5 Year Financial Plan
- Transportation Updates
- Galloping Goose Crossing
- Community Health Initiative
- Climate Action Change Initiatives
- AND MUCH MORE!

Questions? Comments? Suggestions?

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

Zoning Bylaw Update

The District of Sooke is developing a new Zoning Bylaw that will, through its application, assist with the implementation of the community's vision and policies for redevelopment and new development in Sooke. The project consulting team, working with the District of Sooke Staff is comprised of Chris Hall, Beverly Suderman, Michael Kelly, working as Island Planning Services.

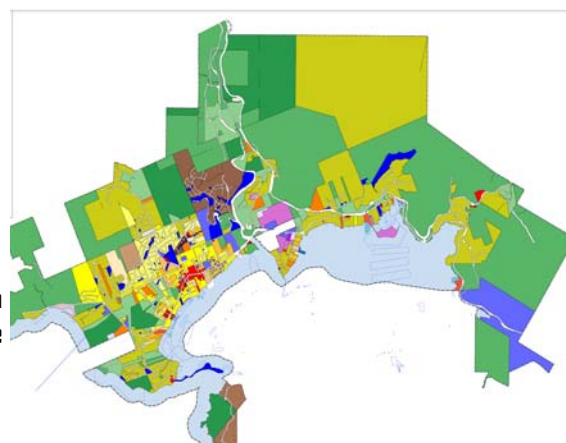
The draft Zoning Bylaw, is now posted on the District of Sooke's website for public review. Should you so desire, we also invite you to participate in one of the open houses scheduled for early April (see schedule below):

The Project Process

The project is anticipated to be completed by June 2011, conducted through four phases:

Phase 1: Technical review and recommendations (December/January) – The first phase required the consultant team to understand the challenges faced by staff in using the existing Zoning Bylaw, as well as a review of Sooke's vision as captured in its various plans:

- Sooke OCP (2010)
- Parks and Trails Master Plan (2009)
- Town Centre Plan (2009)
- Transportation Master Plan (2009)
- Sustainability Strategy (2008)
- Accessibility and Inclusiveness Study (2008)
- Community Amenity Contribution Policy (2010)
- Liquid Waste Management Plan (2010)



The technical review phase resulted in a draft new Zoning Bylaw which incorporates a series of recommendations about how to resolve existing issues, and addresses the implementation requirements of the various plans.

Phase 2: Public Review (February/April) –

The Technical Review Committee established by the District of Sooke Council has recommended that Council move forward with a public consultation process on the draft Zoning Bylaw. The public review process is scheduled to launch on March 28, with an online survey, which was announced in newspapers and other media. The online survey will run for 2 weeks only, closing on April 11.

Open Houses:

- April 4, 11-2, a poster board session specifically for seniors with a presentation of the new Zoning Bylaw at 1:00 pm (Location: Sooke Municipal Hall);
- April 4, 4 – 7 pm, a poster board session at SEAPARC, to catch parents as they drop off and pick up their children for recreation events;
- April 14, 4 – 8 pm, a poster board session as part of a larger District of Sooke Open House, showcasing various initiatives by the District (Location: Community Hall).

The public review phase is anticipated to result in revisions to the draft Zoning Bylaw, and a recommendation to Sooke Council as to how to proceed.

Phase 3: Legal and Agency Review (May) – A "next-to-final" draft of the Zoning Bylaw will be sent to agencies and neighbouring jurisdictions for review and comment, as well as for legal review by the District of Sooke. There will be a three-week comment period.

The legal and agency review phase may result in further revisions to the draft Zoning Bylaw, as required, and a recommendation to Sooke Council as to moving towards adoption.

Phase 4: Adoption Process (June) – It is hoped that Sooke Council will move towards 1st and 2nd reading in late May/early June, following which an Open House and Public Hearing are planned to showcase the new Zoning Bylaw to Sooke community members. 3rd reading is anticipated for late June. You, or representatives from your organization, are most welcome to attend any events. We hope that you will be available to provide comment and input as we move forward.

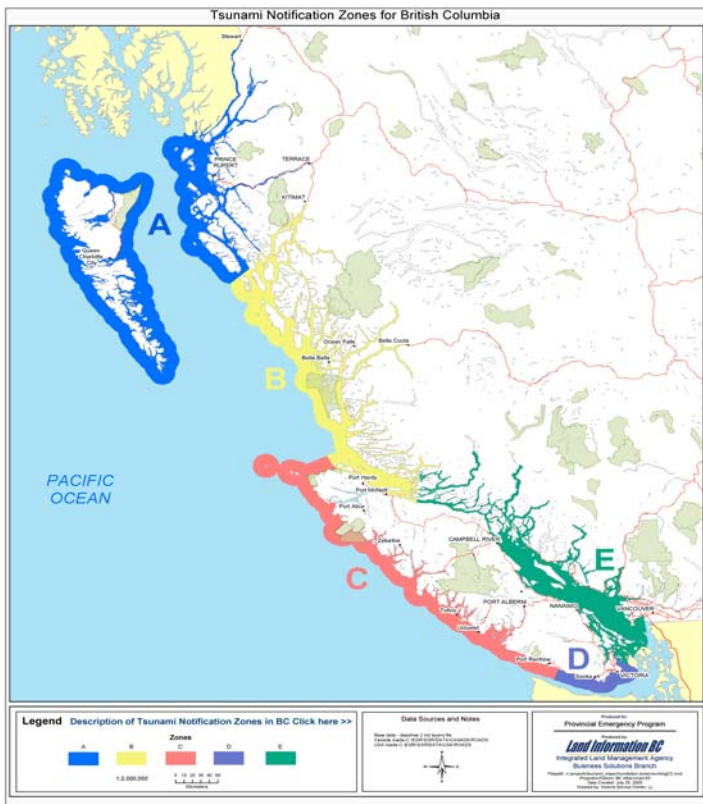
Please direct any inquiries about this project to:
Katherine Lesyshen, Planner District of Sooke
 Email: klesyshen@sooke.ca Phone: 250-642-1627

Tsunami Preparedness

(Excerpt from the Provincial Emergency Preparedness website www.pep.bc.ca)

Tsunamis are a rare but serious threat. There are two main types of tsunamis that could impact British Columbia's coast. The first threat is from tsunamis that are generated out in the Pacific Ocean. These **off-shore tsunamis** could impact BC's outer coastal communities with waves from either the north, south or west. The second type of threat is from tsunamis that are generated in local waters. These **near-shore tsunamis** may be triggered by earthquakes, landslides or underwater slides and could impact any coastal area of British Columbia.

It is generally agreed by the scientific community, that areas including the lower mainland, Greater Victoria, the Georgia Basin and the east coast of Vancouver Island are, in most cases, not at risk from tsunami waves generated as a result of a distant off-shore earthquake. The following map shows the Tsunami Notification Zones for coastal BC.



The chart below shows the recommended planning levels for the worst case-scenario of a distant earthquake and tsunami **and** a local major earthquake and tsunami event. All levels are to be measured from the **normal highest tide** at each location and are shown in metres.

Wave height represents the best consensus of scientific estimates of wave height at this time.

Run-up allows for run-up which is expected to be less than a factor of 2 except at the heads of some inlets.

Safety adds a safety factor of 50% to allow for uncertainties in scientific interpretation and non-tidal variations in sea level (e.g. storm surge, El Nino).

Subsidence allows for subsidence that will occur during a Cascadia subduction earthquake.

Planning level is the sum of the values *Safety* plus *Subsidence*.

Tsunami wave heights can vary due to location, shape of the coast-line, effects of offshore bathymetry and/or onshore topography and tide. This variation can occur over very short distances and it is impossible to predict accurately what these localized variations will be without additional modeling work. Detailed modelling of run-up and inundation is not currently available for most areas of coastal British Columbia.

For more information on the District of Sooke's Emergency preparedness program visit www.sooke.ca or call Steve Sorensen, Emergency Operations Coordinator at (250) 642-5422

ZONE	WAVE HEIGHT	RUN-UP (x 2.0)	SAFETY (x 1.5)	SUBSIDENCE	PLANNING LEVEL
Zone A (North Coast)	2.0	4.0	6.0		6
Zone B (Central Coast)	2.0	4.0	6.0		6
Zone C (West Coast Vancouver Isl.)	3.0	6.0	9.0	1.0	10
Zone D (Juan de Fuca Strait)	1.3	2.7	4.1		4
Zone E (Strait of Georgia)	0.5	1.0	1.5		2

2011 Municipal Elections

When is the next Municipal Election?

The next local government elections will be held on Saturday, November 19, 2011. We will be updating the District of Sooke website as to Elections in the months leading up to Election Day 2011.

Should you have any questions or require more details on the District of Sooke election, please contact or visit our municipal office.

Voter Registration

The District of Sooke will be using the Provincial Voters list, so to ensure that you are on the voters list, it is important that you register with Elections BC before September. If you have not registered, you may do so online at <https://eregister.electionsbc.gov.bc.ca/ovr/welcome.aspx>.

Running for Office

If you are elected to local government office, you are expected to serve a full three-year term. Most people elected to local government in BC are able to balance family, job and public office. You should be aware that the duties of elected office are time-consuming. District of Sooke Council meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday evenings of each month and Committee of the Whole meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday evenings of each month. In addition to these regular meetings, you will be asked to sit on committees, commission and boards that also require a significant investment of time. The Mayor and Councillors receive remuneration plus approved expenses for the time and energy they devote to their community.

You may run for municipal office if you:

- Are a Canadian citizen
- Are at least 18 years old on election day
- Have lived in BC for at least 6 months
- Have not been disqualified from voting in a BC election



George Cuff, a well-known name in the work of local government, says that there are 12 hallmarks of a successful elected official:

- Prepared to Learn
- Servant of the Community
- Respectful of Others
- Well-prepared
- Understands and Accepts Democracy
- Prepared to Ask "Dumb" Questions
- Understands Teamwork;
- Resists Groupthink
- Prepared to Work
- Ability to Stay the Course and Sound Enthusiastic
- Accountable
- Multi-Dimensional
- Personal Integrity

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Regular Council Meetings

April 11 & 26

May 9 & 23

Committee of the Whole Meetings

April 4 & 18

May 2 & 16

Unless otherwise noted, meetings take place at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers (upstairs at 2225 Otter Point Rd., Sooke). Agendas are available for pick up at the District of Sooke Municipal Hall or online www.sooke.ca.

Finance Update:

The 2011 Property taxes are due by July 4, 2011. You should expect to receive your tax notice by the third week of May.

Pre-authorized 2012 tax payment plan

You can prepay your 2012 property taxes on a monthly basis starting August 2, 2011. This is an optional payment plan which provides an opportunity to make equal monthly payments for property taxes. Payments will be processed and collected on the first business day of each month commencing in August of the year preceding the tax due date and ending in May of the year in which the taxes become due. Application form and additional information may be obtained from the municipal office or online at

www.sooke.ca

Electronic Home Owner Grant

Did you know that you can claim your 2011 Home Owner Grant Online? You will need to use your property folio number and access code printed on the tax notice. Then visit our website before the property tax due date.

Community Grants

The Community Grant Review Committee is searching for groups to put forth proposals for local projects. If you have a project in mind that you would like to pursue please obtain an application form, along with the rules for eligibility, application procedures and conditions of funding on our website or come by the municipal office at 2205 Otter Point Road. Deadline for submission of applications is April 30th of each year.

Engineering Updates

Sewer Long Term Agreement

The District of Sooke staff continue to work through the final stages of the wastewater franchise agreement, which includes incorporating the public feedback gathered through several consultation sessions. Once finalized, the details of the agreement will be presented to Council and the public for their review. An Alternate Approval Process will follow.

What is an Alternate Approval Process?

On January 1st, 2004 the *Community Charter* came into force and prescribes two methods by which a municipal council may seek approval of the electors. These are:

- A) *Assent of the Electors*, which is approval by voting (referendum), or
- B) *Alternate Approval Process* which allows a council to proceed with an action unless at least 10% of the electors state their opposition within a prescribed period. If at least 10% of the electors state their opposition to the proposed action, the matter requires *the Assent of the Electors* if the Council wishes to proceed.

Recently, Council has chosen the Alternate Approval Process (AAP) for public consent of certain park closures within the District of Sooke. More information may be obtained by contacting the Corporate Officer, at the District of Sooke municipal office.



Construction of the Public Boat Launch is well underway and is anticipated to be completed by Summer 2011.

Sooke Agricultural Plan - Help Make it Grow

Wherever we are, our quality of life depends on having ready access to food. Fresh, available and locally grown vegetables, meat and eggs and knowing where it comes from is increasingly important to people in Sooke. It's important to our farmers who grow food as a living, and to our local economy to have a supportive, ready market for local crops.

Sooke is fortunate to have active interest in agriculture throughout the community. In Sooke, we have good land to grow food on. There's an active Farmers' Market where great locally grown food and products are available. Sooke Food CHI is a community interest group creating and promoting food issue awareness. The growing food network web has a strong community base, including allotment gardens. Sooke is looking to work with farmers, Food CHI, consumers and residents to strengthen the existing web and "grow" the network through a *Sooke Agricultural Plan*.

The *Agricultural Plan* will be based on the Sooke OCP goal to protect available agricultural lands and to produce food locally. District staff are starting to sow the seeds for the *Agricultural Plan*.

On *April 14* we'll be at the *District Open House* at the *Community Hall* with information about the plan, an outline and a schedule of the project, maps and a questionnaire to establish the roots of the plan. Come talk with us, help prepare the *Agricultural Plan*!!

Geothermal Homes in Sooke

Callumwood Lane, the latest phase of Woodland Creek, offers homes with geothermal heating and cooling. Woodland Creek is the first neighbourhood in Sooke to offer this energy and cost efficient form of climate control for homes.

The homes on Callumwood Lane incorporate ground source heat pumps that move heat to and from the earth by circulating fluid through a vertical ground loop. Unlike conventional heating systems that burn fossil fuels or use electricity to create heat, heat pumps simply move heat from one place to another.

During the winter, a geothermal system collects this low-grade thermal energy from the earth and concentrates it inside the house or building to provide space heating. In the summer, the process is reversed and the heat pump moves heat from the building and stores it back in the ground.

Key Benefits of Geothermal Systems are:

- Lower Operating Costs
- Environmentally Friendly
- Comfort
- Safety
- Quiet



Frequently Ask Questions about
Geothermal Heating Systems can be found at:
<http://www.geotility.ca/page.php?6>

VIHA RFP SEEKS SERVICES TO BENEFIT PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC DISEASE

Better health outcomes and an improved quality of life for people living with chronic diseases are the goals of a Request for Proposal (RFP) from the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA). The RFP is seeking community-based organizations to provide health-related services such as fitness and exercise programs, nutrition and healthy cooking programs, and stress management to support the care provided to patients through VIHA's Sooke Integrated Health Network.

"Our region is facing a growing and aging population, so helping patients manage chronic diseases is increasingly important," said Howard Waldner, VIHA's President and Chief Executive Officer. "VIHA's Integrated Health Networks are achieving positive health outcomes for patients supported through these Networks. This coordination in care also helps reduce trips to the hospital."

In 2008, as part of a provincial initiative, VIHA's Integrated Health Networks were developed to improve the coordination of care at the local level for patients suffering from chronic disease. Local partnerships were developed between primary care physicians, other health professionals including Registered Nurses and Registered Dietitians, and community-based organizations. The goal of the Sooke Integrated Health Network is to provide adults who suffer from one or more chronic diseases such as diabetes, kidney disease, and depression with a variety of health care services and supports to improve their health and well-being.

More details are available in the Request for Proposal posted on BC Bid at www.bcbid.gov.bc.ca, and the deadline for submission is April 20, 2011 at 2:00 pm. An information session for proponents will be held in Sooke on April 7, 2011, at 5:30pm at Edward Milne Community School Staff Meeting Room, 6218 Sooke Road.

There are five Integrated Health Networks located in Campbell River, Port Alberni, Oceanside (Parksville/Qualicum), Nanaimo and Sooke serving approximately 4,800 patients with chronic disease.

Opportunity for free convention or meeting space to Sooke non-profit organizations

The Prestige Oceanfront Resort & Convention Centre ("Prestige") is opening shortly! The District of Sooke has entered into a partnering Agreement with Prestige for the provision to the community of the grand meeting hall and/or other meeting and event spaces in the Prestige convention centre complex. The District will have 12 days' FREE usage per calendar month of the convention centre complex (subject to user payment of standard Hotel set-up charges, equipment rental charges and food and beverage charges). The District of Sooke administers the booking of any usage of the convention centre complex for non-profit organizations. For further information, please contact Bonnie Sprinkling, Corpo-

Communities in Bloom is back in 2011

2011 will be the fifth consecutive year that the District of Sooke has taken part in the Canada-wide Communities in Bloom competition, which encourages Canadian municipalities to **foster civic pride through the promotion of environmental responsibility and urban beautification.**

In 2010, Sooke was awarded 4 out of a possible 5 "blooms" for our efforts and this year we are hoping to improve yet again. The "bloom" rating system evaluates Tidiness Effort, Environmental Awareness, Community Involvement, Natural Architectural Heritage Preservation, Trees/Urban Forestry Management, Landscaped Areas, Floral Displays, and Turf and Ground Cover Areas.

The entire community can get involved! Sooke residents and business owners are also encouraged to take part in the community beautification effort by taking part in one of two contests being held by the District of Sooke. Contest registration forms can be found here: [..\Communities in Bloom\CiB Beautification Contest Nomination.pdf](#)



Parking and Traffic Rules

The "Rules of the Road" apply to all communities in the Capital Regional District. Although Sooke is considered a rural area, the District of Sooke enforces parking regulations under the Motor Vehicle Act and the Traffic and Highways Regulation Bylaw. Among others, the following is a general list of parking situations that are enforced by the District of Sooke and RCMP:

Parking in front of a fire hydrant is prohibited, as is **parking on a crosswalk**. You must be 5 meters (16.4 ft) from a fire hydrant and the approach to a crosswalk.

Parking closer than 6 m (19.7 ft) to a stop sign is prohibited. This involves safety issues and contravention will result in a fine.

Parking on a sidewalk; some drivers believe it will make more room for traffic on the road. While this might be true, parking on a sidewalk will result in a fine. Parking on the road, even a narrow one, will cause traffic to slow down as they maneuver around your vehicle. A sidewalk is a passage intended for pedestrians.

Yellow curbs and No Parking Signs mean the same thing. You cannot park against a yellow curb just as you cannot park where there is a No Parking Sign.

Bike Lanes. A new sign to some Sooke motorists is the "Bike Lane" markings. Most notably, currently there is a Bike Lane on Otter Point Road between Ayre Road and Eustace Road. As more Bike Lanes are planned for the District, remember vehicles are not permitted to stop or park in a Bike Lane.