

# DISTRICT QUARTERLY



## District of Sooke

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The District of Sooke's Council Newsletter

Issue #27

## Mayor's Message:

It has been another exciting quarter. Many of the projects that Council and Staff have been working on for the last few years are now being built. The main one of course is the opening of the Prestige Oceanfront Resort. This 122 room 5 star hotel and conference centre has raised the bar for Sooke, by not only offering fabulous food, a wonderful spa and gym, but the opportunity to view our beautiful harbour and basin. This hotel will draw visitors from all over the country and they will discover what wonderful amenities Sooke has to offer both tourists and residents. We congratulate the owners for having the commitment and vision to invest in our great community, we welcome you all.

We have also seen the start of Mariners Village first buildings and congratulate them on their success in pre-selling their units and look forward to seeing the whole project completed in the next few years.

Staff has been successful in getting the memorandum of understanding agreed to with the Ministry of Transportation and now we can move forward with infrastructure work on Highway #14. We now know where MoT wants the alignment so we can proceed with storm drains, sidewalks and the round-about.



We have approved many new bylaws and policies and are currently working on the review of the zoning bylaw, which will align the land uses with our Official Community Plan (OCP). Other plans we are working on are: Agricultural, Affordable Housing, Wildland Fire and the Fire Department Master Plan.

Sooke still has the second lowest taxes in the region and Council strives to make every dollar count. We have approved the 5 year budget which allocates funds into the capital budget to deal with sidewalks, storm drains, road work, Phillips Road to Thrup Road extension, and parks and trails, just to name a few. We continue to contract out our road maintenance, waste water treatment, parks and trails, and recreation in order to keep costs as low as possible for our residents.

### July/August Meeting Schedule

**Sooke Economic Development Commission**

Wednesday, July 13, 2011 at 7:00 pm

**Sooke Program of the Arts**

Thursday, July 14, 2011 at 9:30 am

**Committee of the Whole**

Tuesday, August 2, 2011 at 7:00 pm

**Regular Council**

Monday, August 8, 2011 at 7:00 pm

As this will be my last newsletter message to the residents of Sooke, I would like to thank all the hard working district staff, the wonderful volunteer firefighters, the protective service employees and the great volunteers that make Sooke such a great place to live, work and play. Thank you for making my job enjoyable, I will miss you all. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve the residents of Sooke for the last 12 years and I thank you for all your support.

**Mayor Janet Evans**

### BC HYDRO IS EXCHANGING OLD METERS WITH NEW SMART METERS

Starting in July 2011 through December 2012, BC Hydro will be replacing all residential and commercial electrical meters with new "Smart Meters". These meters will create the foundation for modernizing B.C.'s electrical system and will help to ensure safe, reliable, and more affordable power for decades to come.

BC Hydro customers will receive a letter a few weeks prior to their meter upgrade. The letter will notify customers when their meters will be exchanged and what they can expect during the process. In most cases the meter exchange will take less than 10 minutes to complete. Customers do not need to be home so long as there is safe, clear access to their meters. Most customers will experience a short power interruption, lasting no longer than 60 seconds.

Installers will be identified with BC Hydro and Corix logos on their trucks and uniforms, and will have photo identification badges. Installers will leave written notification onsite for customers once the work has been completed.

Should you require more information on the project please check out [www.bchydro.com](http://www.bchydro.com) or contact Ted Olynyk, Community Relations Manager, BC Hydro at [ted.olynyk@bchydro.com](mailto:ted.olynyk@bchydro.com)

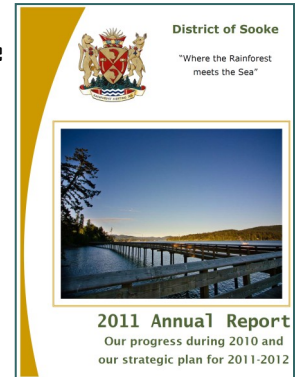
### 2011 ANNUAL MUNICIPAL REPORT

The 2011 Annual Municipal Report was made available for public inspection June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

The Annual Report includes:

- the municipality's audited annual financial statements for 2010;
- a list of the permissive tax exemptions for 2010
- a report on the municipality's services and operations for 2010;
- a progress report on the performance of the municipality with respect to established objectives and measures for 2010;
- a statement of objectives and measures that will be used as the basis for determining the municipality's performance during 2011 and 2012;
- the details of any declarations of disqualification made against individual council members during 2010.

Copies are available at the municipal office and on the municipal website [www.sooke.ca](http://www.sooke.ca). The Annual Municipal Meeting to consider the Annual Municipal Report was held in the Council Chambers, 2205 Otter Point Road, on Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011.



### Community Grants Awarded

At the June 9, 2011 Council meeting, Council approved the recommendations made by the Community Grant Review Committee and awarded the following Community Grants:

Sooke Canada Day Society	\$1,100
Sooke Fine Arts Society	\$7,000
Scouts Canada – Camp Barnard	\$6,910
Juan de Fuca Marine Rescue Society	\$12,600
Sooke Region Food CHI Society	\$6,700
Sooke Philharmonic Society	\$4,625
Greater Victoria Film Commission	\$1,000
EMCS Student Art Bus Shelter Project	\$2,357
Sooke Horseshoe Pitching Club	\$3,000
Ladybug Garden and Greenhouse	\$4,808
Royal Canadian Legion Branch #54	\$5,000
Community Prevention Education Continuum	\$2,400
Sooke Classical Boating Society	\$3,000
Navy League of Canada – Sooke Branch (Admiral RC Waller)	\$300
Navy League of Canada – Sooke Branch (Admiral Girourd)	\$2,000
Journey Middle School Hockey Skills Program	\$3,200
Addiction Recovery Coach of Canada Society	\$5,000
Citizens on Patrol Sooke	\$4,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>

### Sooke Starlight Cinema's first season!

For three Fridays this summer Ed Macgregor Park will be transformed into an outdoor movie theatre! For details on three great pre-release movies see <http://www.sokestarlightcinema.com/>.

Bring your family and friends for a night of entertainment featuring some of the most anticipated movies of the year. Admission and concession are by donation.

These event has been made possible by the District of Sooke's Communities in Bloom program And all proceeds are donated to Cops for Cancer – Tour de Rock and local families in need.



## ZONING BYLAW REVIEW

The District of Sooke is developing a new Zoning Bylaw that will assist with the implementation of the OCP's objectives and policies for development in Sooke. The purpose of the Zoning Bylaw review is to implement the directives of the OCP.

In March, the Technical Review Committee established by the District of Sooke Council recommended that Council move forward with a public consultation process on the draft Zoning Bylaw. In May, the draft Zoning Bylaw moved through Phase 3 where a "next-to-final" Draft of the Zoning Bylaw was sent to Agencies and neighboring jurisdictions for review and comment, as well as for legal review by the District of Sooke. These comments were presented to the Committee of the Whole on May 30.

On June 20, 2011 between 4-6 pm in Sooke Council Chambers the draft Zoning Bylaw was reviewed again by the public at a Public Information Meeting. The changes to the draft Zoning Bylaw and the comments gathered at the Public Information meeting and all comments received after May 26, 2011 were presented to the Committee of the Whole on July 4, 2011 at its regularly scheduled meeting. The Committee of the Whole recommended that Council introduce and give first and second reading to the proposed Sooke Zoning Bylaw at its next regularly scheduled meeting on July 11, 2011.



To keep updated on the status of the draft Zoning Bylaw, to view the results from public consultation sessions, to view reports to Committee of the Whole and Council, and read the latest draft of the Zoning Bylaw please visit the District of Sooke website [www.sooke.ca](http://www.sooke.ca). The direct link to the Zoning Bylaw Review page is [http://sooke.ca/EN/main/government/devservices/planning/zoning\\_bylaw.html](http://sooke.ca/EN/main/government/devservices/planning/zoning_bylaw.html).

If you have further questions about the Zoning Bylaw Review, either contact the Sooke Planning Department at (250) 642-1634 or visit the website provided above.

## SIGN BYLAW REVIEW

The District of Sooke is developing a new Sign Bylaw. In December 2008, the Sign Bylaw Review Committee was established by the District of Sooke Council and after much review, the Sign Bylaw Review Committee resolved on December 14, 2010 to approve the draft Sign Bylaw and to recommend to the Committee of the Whole that the draft Sign Bylaw be forwarded to Council for first and second reading after the District's legal solicitor reviewed the Bylaw.

In April, the District's legal solicitor completed the legal review of the draft Sign Bylaw and on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011 the Committee of the Whole directed Staff to forward the draft Sign Bylaw to Council for first and second reading, to schedule a public input meeting and to forward the draft Bylaw to the Sooke Harbour Chamber of Commerce and other stakeholders for comment. To keep updated on the status of the draft Sign Bylaw, and read the latest draft of the Sign Bylaw please visit the District of Sooke website [www.sooke.ca](http://www.sooke.ca). The direct link to the Sign Bylaw Review page is [http://sooke.ca/EN/main/government/devservices/planning/sign\\_bylaw.html](http://sooke.ca/EN/main/government/devservices/planning/sign_bylaw.html).

If you have questions about the Sign Bylaw Review, contact the Sooke Planning Department at (250) 642-1634 or visit the website above.

### **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.

**Development Updates:****Planning Department Activity:**

	<b>Apr 1-Jun 30, 2011</b>	<b>Jan 1-Mar 31, 2011</b>
Agricultural Land Reserve	2	0
Board of Variance	2	2
Combined OCP/Rezoning	0	0
Development Permit	3	1
Development Variance Permit	1	3
Land/Water Referral	4	0
Sign Permit	8	4
Liquor License Referral	0	1
Temp Commercial/Industrial Permit	1	0
Zoning Amendment	3	0
<b>Total Applications Received</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>11</b>

**Building Department Activity:**

	<b>Apr 1-Jun 30, 2011</b>	<b>Jan 1-Mar 31, 2011</b>
# of residential permits issued (single and multi-family)	30	32
# of other permits combined (commercial, industrial, demolition, Oil tank, plumbing, sewer, additional suite, renovation, woodstove)	11	30
<b>Total Number of Permits Issued</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Total New Units created</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>67*</b>

\* January through March included the 33 Unit Condominium at Mariner's Village, without these, the total number of units would be less than April-June.

**Engineering Department Activity:**

Work completed or ongoing during the April-June 2011 quarter is as follows:

- Completion of the Public Boat Launch construction is anticipated near the end of summer 2011.
- The design for the Grand Road Connector is underway and consultation with neighbouring properties is going well.
- A new conceptual design for the Waterview Street round-about is currently being reviewed internally as well as with neighbouring property Owners. Town Centre parking will need to be addressed with this design to limit the impact on neighbouring businesses.
- A tender for construction of the Townsend Road intersection and cross-walk realignment will be issued this summer, with construction commencing soon after. The work is expected to be completed this year.
- City hall parking lot LED lighting retrofit design is complete and construction will commence as soon as the lights arrive.

**Developer Initiated Projects:**

- Drennan Street upgrades started in early 2011 and are ongoing.
- Wright Road reconstruction and sewer servicing is ongoing.
- Mariner's Village road construction, Church Road extension and new portions of Lincroft and Goodmere Roads are underway.
- The expansion of the sewer system along Grant Road and Winfield Drive started in June and is ongoing.

**Permits:**

The Engineering Department processed 86 Permits this quarter

- 1 Blasting
- 2 Soil Removal
- 2 Soil Deposit
- 81 Highway Use Permits

**Subdivision Approvals:**

Total lots approved January-June, 2011 88

**Phased Strata Approvals:**

Total units approved January-June, 2011 22

## Elections Update

### *When is the next Election?*

The next general local election will be held on **Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011**. Electors in the District of Sooke may vote to elect the following:

- One Mayor and Six Councillors: (*Nomination packages will be available from the Deputy Clerk on August 26, 2011.*)
- Three School District #62 School Trustees (*Please contact the School District #62 Secretary-Treasurer at 250-474-9800 for information regarding nomination packages.*)

### *Are you on the Voter's List?*

The District of Sooke uses the Provincial Voter's List. To vote in the upcoming local general election, you must be registered with Elections BC. If you have not registered, you may do so online before September 2011 at <http://www.elections.bc.ca/index.php/voting/online-voter-registration/> or at the voting place on the day of voting (with identification).

### *District of Sooke Election Information*

The voting place for General Voting Day will be at Edward Milne Community School, 6218 Sooke Road. The voting place will be open from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm on Saturday, November 19, 2011.

### *Advance Voting*

Two advance voting opportunities will be available for those who are not able to vote on General Voting Day for those who:

- expect to be absent from the jurisdiction on voting day;
- will be unable to vote on general voting day for reasons of conscience;
- will not be able to attend on general voting day for reasons beyond their control;
- have a physical disability or are mobility impaired;
- are a candidate or candidate representative;
- are an election official.

The advance voting will take place downstairs at the Sooke Community Hall from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm on Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

### *Mail Ballot Voting*

Mail Ballot voting is available for those who have a physical disability, illness or injury that affects their ability to vote at a voting opportunity. Contact the District of Sooke for further information.

### *Candidate Orientation September 15, 2011*

The District of Sooke will present a candidate orientation session for those who may be considering running for local government office this fall. Roycroft Consulting Ltd. has been engaged as facilitator for the orientation. Watch for further details on time and place in the local newspapers.



## **Human Resources Update**

The District is pleased to welcome Nicole Mountan as the new General Support Clerk. Prior to joining the District, Nicole was a customer service representative with the Sooke branch of CIBC.

Jan Stope is now the part-time clerical support for the fire department and Tina Hansen has been promoted to Building Inspection Clerk. Gerard LeBlanc has also joined us as a full time Municipal Planner and Tracy Olsen has joined the Planning department as a Planner for a one-year term.

## **Canada World Youth Update**

The District of Sooke proudly reports that Stephen Kyoto, a former participant of the Canada World Youth (CWY) Program is truly a young man of "Distinction".

Stephen volunteered at the District of Sooke office in 2008 as a part of the CWY program and has remained in close contact with the staff since returning to Kenya. Stephen's most recent correspondence with the office reports that he has received his final grades from JKUAT University and he has attained an "A" average throughout his studies in the faculty of Information Technology. As such, Stephen will receive his degree in July with the added esteem of having graduated with DISTINCTION. Steven is a very ambitious young man who writes that "hard work pays off" and "the sky is the limit".

The District of Sooke is very proud of Stephens's accomplishments. Congratulations Stephen!

## Local Firefighter makes a difference in El Salvador

When David Chung, a volunteer firefighter with Sooke Fire Rescue Service, heard about the opportunity to deploy with Firefighters without Borders Canada to El Salvador, he couldn't pass up the opportunity.

David was the recipient of a One World Scholarship, funded by the Irving K. Barber British Columbia Scholarship Society in partnership with the Victoria Foundation, which enabled him to take part in the three week training exercise.

During his time in El Salvador, David learned how fire and safety services are delivered in a developing country and helped to train local firefighters. Working hand in hand with members of the Cuerpo de Bombero de El Salvador, David had a rigorous schedule of Spanish lessons, fitness training and visits to all 17 fire stations in the country. As well, David attended a house fire, a body recovery, visited a local orphanage and participated in live fire training.

His favorite part of the trip? The camaraderie with his fellow fire fighters. According to David, "There is definitely a sense of family in the fire service, and being shown this hospitality in El Salvador further confirmed that I have chosen the right career."

## Sooke Fire Rescue Service News:

### Summer Burning Regulations

Small campfires (up to 24 inches in diameter) are permitted year round in the District of Sooke (check with your local fire department for regulations in other areas). Only clean dry wood or charcoal briquettes are permitted to be burnt. Fires must be extinguished by 1:00 am. In the event of a Provincial Fire Ban – the use of campfires will be PROHIBITED. When you are out hiking or enjoying nature, please be careful in the wildland area. The fire danger has already reached HIGH and it only takes a carelessly discarded cigarette to start a forest fire. If you see a fire, call 911 immediately.

### Emergency Preparedness Kits for Sale:

The Sooke Emergency Program is offering Personal Disaster Preparedness Kits for sale. These kits contain a variety of essential tools and products as well as a 72 hour supply of food and water all contained in a durable back pack. Cost of these is \$95.00 each including all taxes and can be picked up at the Sooke Municipal Hall during regular office hours.

### Now Recruiting Volunteer Firefighters:

The Sooke Fire Rescue Service is seeking new volunteer firefighters to join our ranks. No experience is necessary however you must be in good physical condition, at least 19 years of age and have a valid driver's license. This year, we are particularly seeking individuals living in the Saseenos area however will accept new members from anywhere within the District. Applications are available at the fire station or visit the website [www.sooke.ca](http://www.sooke.ca) or contact Deputy Chief Rick McLeod at [rmcleod@sooke.ca](mailto:rmcleod@sooke.ca)

## The 3/50 Project

With a tag line "Save your local economy three stores at a time," the 3/50 Project's goal is to promote shopping in locally owned businesses while thanking customers for the positive impact that decision has on a local economy. The project has a straightforward theme, free flyers for local businesses and a blog to promote their message.

"We ask consumers to think about which **three** stores they'd miss if they disappeared, then remind them to return there," says Cinda Baxter, founder of the project. "Shoppers have become so rooted in thinking about the essentials that they've forgotten about the little gift store on the corner whose owner remembers their name."

"Fifty comes from the idea that if even half the employed population spent a mere \$50 per month in locally owned retail stores, those purchases would generate more than \$42.6 billion in revenue," she continues. "That's a huge impact for a relatively small investment."

Which leads to a third number on the flyer, sixty-eight—the dollar amount that remains in a community's economy for every \$100 spent in locally owned stores. By contrast, only \$43 per one hundred remains local when spent in national chains; little or no revenue results from online purchases.

"In essence, the whole thing boils down to "Pick 3, spend 50, save the economy." It's really that simple." Check out their website at [www.the350project.net](http://www.the350project.net) for more information or to download free flyers.

## Bylaw Enforcement—Reminder of Parking Regulations

When the hot weather finally arrives, crowds of people will be converging on the Sooke Potholes. Enjoy the swimming and tanning but please keep one thing in mind; parking. As most people head to the Potholes in vehicles and the parking lot quickly fills, Sooke River Road is then used as a parking lot. Signs are up. Be aware of the "No Parking, Tow Away" signs, they are there for your safety and that of your family and friends. If vehicles are parking on the pavement, fire rescue cannot reach those who need them most. Obey the signage and you will not have to walk or call for a taxi to retrieve your vehicle from impound.

All signage, including road markings are enforceable. Please be aware of what signs, markings, etc are around you when you park. The District of Sooke would prefer not to enforce parking regulations, and will not have to, if drivers comply with the traffic control devices. All traffic control devices are where they are, for a reason. If you have any questions regarding Parking enforcement or Traffic Control Devices I would be happy to discuss them with you. - Medea Mills

## Did You Know? The District of Sooke is on Twitter!

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