



|| Crowds returned to Beacon Avenue this summer for another season of the Sidney Street Market. Credit: Colin Smith

Public waterfront washrooms ready to open near Beacon Park

Experiencing downtown events and strolling along the Waterfront Walkway will be even more enjoyable with the opening of a new public washroom building near Beacon Park.

The waterfront washroom includes five toilets: two standard and two accessible toilets, and one Changing Places washroom for people with complex disabilities. The Town is awaiting some specialized equipment to make the Changing Places washroom fully functional.

Care was taken with the exterior design to ensure the washroom exterior fits in well with other buildings along the waterfront.

The washroom will be open seven days a week, from 8am to 8pm during the spring/summer season (April 1 to September 30) and 8am to 6pm during the fall/winter season (October 1 to March 31) with extended hours during special events.

With these permanent washrooms in place, the Town will no longer place seasonal portable toilets on Beacon Wharf.

PLANT A TREE IN SIDNEY



Take part in Tree Appreciation Day on September 21 at Philip Brethour Park from 9:45am to 1pm and consider picking up a free sapling to plant at home.

[LEARN MORE AT SIDNEY.CA](https://www.sidney.ca)

Backyard hens now permitted in Sidney



In recent years, the Town has heard from residents who are eager to raise hens in their backyards to both harvest fresh eggs and teach youth about animal care. The current Official Community Plan includes a policy to “encourage food production on private property in Sidney where there is sufficient and appropriate available space”.

This spring, that policy took shape with Council approving hen keeping on lots that are 550 square metres (5,920 square feet) or larger.

Sidney was the last community in the Capital Regional District to permit hen keeping, and restrictions around this type of activity reflect best practices across the region. For instance, residents must first obtain a Hen Keeping Permit from the Town, and keep no more than five hens. Roosters and chicks are not permitted. Find further details at Sidney.ca.

Message from Mayor and Council

We hope you are reading this edition of Town Talk following a memorable summer. As we head into fall, it is a pleasure to mark the completion of some significant projects in our community that are improving daily life here in Sidney.

Traffic is now moving more smoothly in West Sidney thanks to the completion of the Beacon West Roundabout connecting to Galaran Road and a newly aligned Stirling Way. With significant growth underway in the area, these roadway improvements will benefit a growing number of residents, workers, and visitors to Sidney.

Knowing that active transportation is also critical to moving around this busy area safely, the Town is currently completing upgrades to the West Side Highway Path, ensuring the northern half of the pathway is widened, repaved, and enhanced with lighting, just as the southern section was in recent years.

If you enjoy spending time along Sidney’s beautiful downtown waterfront, or attending annual events downtown, you will surely appreciate the opening of a new public washroom building downtown, just north of Beacon Park along the Waterfront Walkway.

And if you have young people in your life, I hope you have had the chance to visit the new playground with accessible features that opened this spring in Philip Brethour Park on the west side.

Our community will continue to evolve in the years ahead, in part as a result of the new Zoning Bylaw that was comprehensively updated earlier this year. You can learn more about those changes as you read on. Thank you for your continued interest in the Town’s initiatives in our wonderful community.



Back row from left to right: Councillor Scott Garnett, Councillor Richard Novek, Councillor Steve Duck, Councillor Chad Rintoul. Front row from left to right: Councillor Sara Duncan, Mayor Cliff McNeil-Smith, Councillor Terri O’Keeffe.



New playground opens at Philip Brethour Park

This past spring, Philip Brethour Park transitioned from a quiet greenspace to a lively neighbourhood park, with the addition of a playground.

The park is now a great place for toddlers and school-aged kids to play, with different structures for each age group. There are also features designed for children and caregivers with mobility limitations, including a fully rubberized surface, friendship swing, and a We-Go-Round, which is the first wheelchair accessible merry-go-round of its kind on the Saanich Peninsula.

The playground design reflects input from a community survey and recommendations from the Saanich Peninsula Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Some of the costs of building the playground were offset by Kal Tire's Replay Fund and the Provincial Growing Communities Fund.

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



Lighting and surface improvements coming to West Side Highway Path

The final stage of improvements to the West Side Highway Path are now underway. The Town is widening the path, repaving the surface, and adding lighting between Malaview Avenue West and the McDonald Park Road overpass.

Path improvements have already been made in recent years to the southern sections of the pathway between Beacon Avenue West and Malaview Avenue West.

The pathway is used by residents in the area, along with employees who work in the West Side Industrial Area and youth travelling to middle school and high school on McDonald Park Road. The pathway also connects to a growing commercial centre near the McDonald Park overpass.

Improvements have already been made to the southern section of the West Side Highway Path

The work is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Have you checked your smoke detector recently?

If you own or rent in Sidney and would like your existing smoke detector checked, or a new battery powered smoke detector installed, please arrange for a free appointment by contacting the Sidney Fire Department:

- 250-656-2121
- firedept@sidney.ca

Please note that hard-wired alarms requiring replacement must be serviced by a qualified electrician.



||| In May, the Sidney Fire Department worked with community partners to practice safely evacuating residents and staff from Resthaven Lodge.

Sidney Fire Department practices emergency evacuation of care home

In case of an emergency, the Sidney Fire Department aims to be as prepared as possible to help safely evacuate citizens and staff from complex situations, including care homes. Each year, the fire department works with partners and community groups on real-life simulation exercises to identify possible challenges in advance.

This May, the fire department successfully simulated a full evacuation of residents and staff from Resthaven Lodge in a fire scenario, and learned how they can strengthen their response strategies.

Since the exercise could have created stress for residents, volunteers from local Peninsula high schools and Beacon Community Services stood in for residents, portraying different limitations and medical needs.

As part of the exercise, the volunteers were taken to Sidney Care Home and Sidney All Care, in keeping with mutual aid agreements.

The following agencies also participated in the exercise: Sidney/ North Saanich RCMP, PEMO Emergency Support Services, PEMO Search and Rescue, BC Transit, Health Emergency Management BC, along with staff from the Norgarden, the Peninsula, the SHOAL Centre, and Beechwood.

Volunteering with Emergency Support Services

Community Member Profile: Ken Kuntz has volunteered with the Peninsula Emergency Measures Organization (PEMO) as part of the Emergency Support Services Team for the past three years. He became involved in the organization following his retirement from the City of Delta.

What does the Emergency Support Services team do in Sidney?

The Emergency Support Services Team is there to help people who are in crisis because they have been evacuated from their home. We are there to get people through the first 72 hours after a major incident like a fire or flood. We are part of a provincial program that helps people who have no insurance (or are unable to access their insurance) with shelter, food, clothing, and applying for different types of assistance.

We also have a dedicated PEMO trailer, located at the Community Safety Building in Sidney, equipped with supplies to ensure we can be mobile if needed.

If there is a larger-scale disaster, we have items to help set up community Reception



Centres at places in town where we have pre-existing agreements in place, such as the Mary Winspear Centre.

What makes this kind of volunteer work satisfying?

Volunteering with Emergency Support Services is a good fit for me because it is extremely tangible work. Someone who has had to leave their home in an emergency may not even have shoes on their feet, and they may find it hard to take some initial steps like contacting their insurance provider and applying for emergency support.

As a volunteer, I can help them navigate those early days and know that I am making a difference.

What can people do to be better prepared for an emergency?

When I talk to people about Emergency Support Services, I always say “I hope I never see you, because if I do, you may have suffered a tragedy”. But that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t be prepared for an emergency.

One thing people can do to be better positioned if they do have to evacuate their home one day is to register in advance with the Province’s Evacuee Registration & Assistance program (era-evacuees.embc.gov.bc.ca/registration-method). This is one less step you’d have to take in a crisis, making it easier to access help. It is also important that people register for Saanich Peninsula Alerts and have a 72-hour emergency kit prepared for their family.

Rules of the Road: Roundabouts

Roundabouts improve traffic flow and reduce the risk of serious collisions. It is important to know how to navigate roundabouts properly. Consider these roundabout rules below, courtesy of ICBC.

1. **Slow down:** As you approach a roundabout, slow down and prepare to stop for pedestrians or oncoming traffic. Be sure not to block the crosswalk

2. **Yield to traffic in the roundabout:** Traffic already inside the roundabout has the right-of-way. Do not enter the roundabout until there is a safe gap in all approaching lanes.

3. **Choose the proper lane:** If your exit is on your right, take the right lane. If your exit is on your left, choose the left lane. If your exit is straight ahead, take either lane.

4. **Signal your exit:** As you approach your exit, signal right so drivers waiting to enter the roundabout, and pedestrians, know your intentions.



Beacon Avenue West Roundabout now complete

In May 2024, a roundabout was completed at the intersection of Beacon Avenue West and Galaran Road, made possible through a partnership between the Town of Sidney, District of North Saanich, and Victoria Airport Authority. Stirling Way was also realigned to connect to the roundabout.

This major infrastructure improvement increases public safety, reduces congestion, and supports ongoing economic development in the area.

The majority of the project costs were offset by a grant through the Federal Government's Strategic Priorities Fund. The Town of Sidney's contributions were sourced from the Canada Community-Building Fund and the Provincial Growing Communities Fund.

Thanks to these funding sources, as well as the contributions from our funding partners – the District of North Saanich and the Victoria Airport Authority – no Town tax dollars were used for the project.



MORE PEDESTRIAN-ACTIVATED CROSSWALKS LIGHT UP TOWN

To continue to support safe walking in Sidney, the Town has added five more pedestrian-activated lights at crosswalks in the community. The crosswalks include:

- Henry Avenue & Third Street
- Resthaven Drive & Amelia Avenue
- Three along the newly upgraded Galaran Road.

The crosswalk improvements are part of the Town's ongoing efforts to implement the Active Transportation Plan. Funding came in part from the ICBC Road Improvement Program.

NEW ZONING BYLAW TO GUIDE NEW CHAPTER OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

There are more opportunities to develop different types of housing in Sidney as a result of an updated Zoning Bylaw, adopted in June. The most significant updates to the Zoning Bylaw reflect new and mandatory provincial housing legislation.

As a result of the Province's Bill 44, greater housing density is now permitted in Sidney's previously single-family-home neighbourhoods. Residential lots can now accommodate up to three or four dwelling units, depending on lot size, if the property owner is interested in taking this step.

Additional changes to the Zoning Bylaw reflect community feedback and efforts to align the bylaw with the current Official Community Plan. This spring, approximately 350 people attended in-person events to learn about the draft Zoning Bylaw and shared their thoughts.

Some notable changes from the previous zoning bylaw include new zoning around 14 rental apartment buildings in Sidney to ensure these properties continue to provide much-needed rental housing. There are also larger required setbacks for new development in Sidney's Environmentally Sensitive Areas to support environmental protection. Learn more about the new Zoning Bylaw at Sidney.ca.

PREPARING YOUR HOME FOR HEAVY RAIN

The rainy season is coming and it is time to take steps to prevent the risk of flooding on your property. This September, be sure to:

- Clean out your catch basin
- Ensure your gutters are clear
- Remove leaves and debris from storm drains near your home

If you live in a flood-prone area, consider installing a backwater prevention valve that will prevent sewage from backing up into your home during an unusual event, such as a flood.



SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON EXPANDING RECREATION FACILITIES ON THE PENINSULA

Are there ways you would like to see recreation facilities improve on the Peninsula?

The Town of Sidney is working with North Saanich and Central Saanich, through the Peninsula Recreation Commission, to consider how recreation services in the area could expand in the future.

As a first step, the three communities are undertaking a recreation facility needs assessment study, which will involve a random telephone survey of residents across the Peninsula in October.

The three municipalities have a long history of partnering on recreation services for citizens, including Panorama Recreation, which is managed on each communities' behalf by the Capital Regional District.

Information about the needs assessment will be made available at panoramarecreation.ca



Ever wonder where to look for a detailed list of upcoming community events? Visit www.sidneybia.ca/events to view or add events.

LOST LIBERTIES: THE WAR MEASURES ACT

New featured exhibit running from August 5 until November 29

Sidney Museum (2423 Beacon Avenue, Lower Level)

The new travelling exhibit, "Lost Liberties: The War Measures Act" focuses on the three times in Canadian history the War Measures Act was enacted, during World War I, World War II, and the 1970 October Crisis.

TOT TUESDAYS

Every Tuesday beginning October 8, 10:30am to 11:15am

Shaw Centre for the Salish Sea (9811 Seaport Place)

Parents and preschoolers are invited to join Shaw Centre educators on Tuesday mornings for special ocean-themed stories, crafts, and activities. A new topic is explored every week, from Squishy Squids to Turtle Time.

TREAT STREET

October 31, 4:30pm to 6pm

Downtown Sidney

Part of Beacon Avenue will be closed to traffic as little witches, superheroes, and ghosts are invited to enjoy a family trick-or-treat event on Halloween! Visit various Treat Stations around Sidney as well as at some of the local merchants.

SIDNEY SISTER CITIES ASSOCIATION MARKS 40-YEAR RELATIONSHIP WITH CAIRNS, AUSTRALIA

October 2024

Mary Winspear Centre (2243 Beacon Avenue)

In May 1984, the tropical city of Cairns, Queensland, Australia, became Sidney's first sister city. To mark the 40th anniversary, an exhibit about Cairns, which serves as a gateway to the Great Barrier Reef, will be on display at the Mary Winspear Centre.