

2009 GOALS

Healthy Community

- ***Deliver Active Communities initiatives by implementing programs and services that promote healthy lifestyles and increased physical activity.***
 - Offer a regional Grade 7 pass program providing local Grade 7 students with free access to drop-in recreation opportunities
 - Deliver a pass program that enables citizens' access to recreation facilities and drop-in programs throughout the Capital Region
 - Provide nutrition workshops and healthy eating programs for families, seniors, youth, and children

- ***Implement recommendations from strategies created to address the needs of specific interest populations.***
 - Implement three recommendations from the World Health Organization's Global Age Friendly Cities Report
 - Complete an audit of recreation facilities and information delivery systems assessing the needs of persons with disabilities (subject to receipt of Measuring Up Community Grant)

- ***Complete the Arts and Culture Strategy and utilize the recommendations presented in developing future action plans.***
 - Implement two recommendations identified in the Arts and Culture Strategy

- ***Complete a planning study of the Shelbourne Corridor by December 2010*** to enable the community to better protect and enhance unique attributes of the surrounding neighbourhoods, capitalize on opportunities to secure amenities such as trails and parklands, and to proactively address challenging issues

- ***Update Development Permit Guidelines by December 2009*** to ensure that we have the necessary tools in place to secure development that enhances the quality of life for current and future residents

- ***Publish two heritage walk/cycle brochures by March 2009*** to highlight and promote the history and culture of the community and help to better connect residents to their own neighbourhood and Saanich

- ***Implementing an Affordable Housing Work Plan in 2009*** will ensure a consistent and coordinated approach to securing a range of housing options within Saanich. The work plan will follow up on the recently adopted Official Community Plan and include three specific initiatives:
 - A secondary suites pilot project
 - A Saanich Affordable Housing Fund/Land Bank
 - Rental Unit Retention Strategy

- ***Explore and develop partnerships with local cultural and youth serving agencies during 2009*** to expand the diversity of participation in teen programs, special events and youth leadership training opportunities.

- ***Deliver a series of cooperative forums in 2009 in partnership with the Vancouver Island Health Authority*** to explore future opportunities for shared programs and services, and develop strategies to sustain existing partner programs
- ***Expand “Community Space” at Cordova Bay Elementary School by September 2009*** to provide social and physical activity space for seniors during the day and community recreation program space for the neighbourhood evenings and weekends
- ***Renovate and expand the Gordon Head Community Recreation Centre by March 2010*** to revitalize the well used community facility and provide valuable new multi-use space for citizens of all ages and interests.
- ***Complete a new artificial turf field by September 2009 at Braefoot Park in partnership with the Lakehill Soccer Association.*** The field is the latest of five fields recently completed in the community which will provide all-season/weather access to maximize public use of the facilities.
- ***Replace and upgrade playgrounds at Rogers, Ambassador and Majestic parks; and trail development and site improvements at Mt. Tolmie*** to ensure safety and accessibility for residents and tourists. Saanich will continue annual maintenance programs of its park amenities.

Safe Community

- ***Implement the first 40% of 2007 Fire Service Review recommendations by the end of 2009.***
- ***Increase growth in all “Watch” programs to assist in the reduction of crime in Saanich neighbourhoods and communities.*** By having a unified commitment, participating communities can be proactive in promoting safety for themselves, their families, and their neighbours. Several watch groups are in existence including the following:
 - Block Watch - builds safer communities through training, education, and communication, and aims to reduce the opportunity for property crime at the neighbourhood level;
 - Business Block Watch - recognizes that local merchants are an important part of community safety
 - Park Watch - the goal of the Park Watch program is to increase legitimate use and decrease illegal activity in parks. Users of the parks are encouraged to phone the Police to report illegal activity and contact the Parks Department to report damage, garbage, etc.
 - U-Watch - partners with the U-Vic Residence Community (22,000 students) in an effort to reduce the risk of crime.

- ***Saanich continues to battle crashes involving vulnerable pedestrians and cyclists.*** Continued targeting of cyclists riding without helmets and pedestrian safety will continue in 2009 as a focus on traffic safety continues.
- As one of the three pilot sites in BC chosen by the National Police Services to participate in the Real Time Identification project in 2009, Saanich Police will ***be one of the first agencies to go live with the most up-to-date technology in Canada for obtaining and then searching fingerprints kept within the national database.*** The Department will continue to work closely with the Regional Crime unit as it enters phase 2 and sees an ***increase of 2 Saanich Police members to reach its full complement of 17 personnel.*** Work continues to refine information sharing and working relationships with the Regional Crime Unit in an effort to create and improve business rules, reduce crime, improve clearance rates and target specific prolific offenders.
- Providing education through interactive emergency preparedness presentations to Grade 4's in all schools will enhance emergency preparedness awareness and capacity within the community. Collaboration involving Emergency Program staff, local School Districts, the Canadian Red Cross and residents is the key foundation to making this public safety initiative a success. ***Twenty emergency preparedness presentations to the Grade 4 classes in Saanich schools are planned for 2009.***
- The school lock-down education program in all Saanich schools originated in partnership with School District 61's 'School Emergency and Incident Response' program. It is designed to provide education, guidance, direction, and support to staff and students on how to respond to a wide variety of incidents at their schools, such as intruders with and without weapons, bomb threats, etc. Effectively dealing with such situations, and their aftermaths, will minimize the impact on our students and help our schools recover and build resiliency. ***Twenty presentations to Saanich schools are planned for 2009.***

Sustainable Environment

- ***Develop an Environmental Management System in 2009*** which will focus on making sure that decisions respecting municipal operations and purchases are viewed through an environmental lens with the goal of reducing long term costs and reducing or eliminating negative environmental impacts.
- ***Develop an Urban Forest Strategy in 2009*** to establish a comprehensive and coordinated municipal approach to the retention and planting of trees and the urban forest. The strategy will also aim to preserve community aesthetics, ground water balance, and increase carbon retention/sequestration.
- ***Implement a Pesticide Bylaw and Pesticide-Free Pledge Program during the year.*** The program will expand the Municipality's Pesticide Free Pledge of 2008 for the municipal hall precinct to all municipal operations and develop and enact a regionally consistent bylaw to promote the reduction of cosmetic pesticide use in the community.

- **Complete a Climate and Energy Action and Reduction (CLEAR) Plan in 2009** which will provide a road map for Greenhouse Gas/Energy reductions for both municipal operations and the general community. It will also be geared to meet municipal commitments under the Provincial Climate Action Charter and the Federation of Canadian Municipality's Partners for Climate Protection program.

Balanced Transportation

- During the next three years the next phase of Centennial Trails will be completed. **Begin a detailed planning and design for three sections of Centennial Trails - Phase 2 by the fall of 2009.** The three sections include: additional work along the Colquitz River Park, a connection from Saanich Commonwealth Place to Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park, and detailed work for the Browning Park section. The timing of construction is subject to funding availability.
- **Reconstruct Admirals Bridge by 2010.** The planned bridge reconstruction on Admirals Road is an example of complex trade-offs. The bridge will provide dedicated pedestrian and cyclist facilities, enhanced pedestrian crossing opportunities and a safer road layout for vehicles. The work is currently in the conceptual design phase and is slated to begin construction in 2009.
- Working in cooperation with BC Transit **the number of bus stops upgraded will be increased to a minimum of 10 upgrades per year.** One very important issue is the conditions at the transit stops, where every public transit trip starts and ends. Shelter from the weather, security, and ease of boarding are factors which can affect ridership. In the coming years we intend to significantly increase our investment in transit stops on a prioritized basis.
- The municipality has experienced increased demand for new and improved pedestrian facilities in recent years as result of increased densification and evolving attitudes toward the impact of motorized travel. **Increasing the level of sidewalk construction over the next three years and reassessing Engineering Design Standards** to reflect these new attitudes will ensure that the needs and expectations of residents are met. A minimum of four sidewalk construction projects totalling at least 2 kilometres in locations such as Wilkinson Road, Mt Douglas X Road, Cordova Bay Road and the San Juan/Gordon Head Coastal Greenway will be completed in 2009.
- **Implement recommendations from the recently completed 'Access to Transit' study.** Several design issues related to transit stops that could deter or prevent some users from accessing the system will be addressed through changes recommended by the study. Improvements will enhance user comfort (shelters and lighting) while others address accessibility for disabled patrons.
- **Integrate road condition information into the Saanich Geographic Information System (GIS) by end of 2009.** This integration will make this valuable information easily and readily accessible and will lead to better decisions regarding expenditures on the network and facilitate planning of future improvements.

Vibrant, Connected Economy

- Future planning must also provide for economic opportunities: ***Beginning a Planning Study of the Douglas Corridor and the Town and Country “Uptown” Centre in 2009*** will help focus effort on promoting the best long term use of the area and taking advantage of the momentum created by the new development. Providing local business opportunities, increasing commercial space and employment will help the local economy.
- ***Maintaining support of the Greater Victoria Development Agency, Victoria Film Commission, Tourism Victoria and the Vancouver Island Technology Council*** will help these organizations continue to work with local business on regional economic development. The Greater Victoria Development Agency is implementing Business Retention and Investment Attraction Strategies in 2009, both of which will benefit Saanich directly.
- ***Maintaining Comparable taxes and fees*** within the region in 2009 will provide residents and businesses with stability during any period of economic change.
- ***Maintaining infrastructure replacement capital spending*** will continue to move the municipality toward sustainable levels of infrastructure replacement, provide for the efficient movement of people, goods and services, and support the local economy through job creation and local spending.
- ***Completing a study of industrial and high-tech trends, related land and infrastructure requirements*** will help maintain capacity to meet these needs and provide information for decision makers to plan for future economic opportunities.

Service Excellence

- ***All Saanich services will be assessed using the service delivery assessment model in 2009.*** Implementation of the model will make assessing how the Municipality delivers services a regular organizational activity and will create capacity to handle increasing requests for service.
- ***Implement a corporate records and document management strategy by the end of 2010.*** In a large organization, a corporate records and document management strategy is a critical step in aligning records and resources in an environment that contributes to staff effectiveness.
- ***Develop a Citizen Survey Customer Service Action Plan*** based on the results of the survey completed in February, 2009. The action plan will provide a corporate focus on continued improvements in customer service as well as valuable input to the Financial Plan process.
- ***Implement an Employee Survey Action Plan during the year.*** Employees are a key stakeholder group in the same way as customers. The development and implementation of an action plan to address employee feedback ensures that we continue to attract, retain, and develop a highly skilled workforce.