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## Slegg Brings New Life to Keating

Author: Ryan Windsor,  
Citizen Journalist

While some retailers consider leaving the Keating area in search of greener pastures, Slegg Lumber owner Ron Slegg sees potential in the Keating Industrial Park. The decision to relocate their Sidney store followed an approval by the Town of Sidney to develop their location into a 500 unit residential development.

The news of Slegg's arrival has generated excitement from residents and business owners alike. Ellis Athem, majority owner of Keating Centre since 1977, states, "Slegg is a major player. It'll be great, there will be all kinds of fresh traffic...it is an indication that this is the place to be."

The family owned business began as a small hardware store in Sidney founded by Eric Slegg, and later be-

came Slegg Lumber in 1947. Currently with eleven locations, the new Keating site will become their twelfth store.

Leasing the 28,000 square foot former Home Hardware building was a natural choice. Given its central location on the Saanich Peninsula, Slegg said it will cut down significantly on delivery times to some building sites.

The building on Keating has a long history as a building supply and hardware merchant. Originally operated by the Butler brothers beginning in the 1950s, the location was leased to Beaver Lumber in 1997 and was subsequently taken over by Home Hardware "who left due to franchisee issues" according to owner Brian Butler. He adds, "we are happy to have Slegg as the new tenant in this location."

Vic Clive, owner of The Old Attic, believes that other businesses may receive a boost from the new store. "It's a positive thing to see that life

is coming back to the Keating area. It would be great if other people join the ranks."

During the recent Central Saanich municipal election, the need to revive the Keating business park was supported by all the candidates.

Councillor Zeb King welcomes the new hardware store and believes that Slegg may encourage new business in the area. Central Saanich Councillor and Peninsula Co-Op Board Director Cathie Ounsted agrees. "It's great to see Slegg moving into the Keating area, perhaps now the area can move forward on some of the necessary environmental remediation and revitalization," says Ounsted.

Continued online at:  
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The building is currently undergoing tenant improvements and may be open by the end of the year.



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## Absent Councillor Still On Payroll

Author: Ryan Windsor,  
Citizen Journalist

Central Saanich council has granted a leave of absence with pay to a councillor who appears to have left for work in the Cayman Islands.

Last month, Saanich Voice Online reported that Councillor Terry Siklenka might be removed from council for missing four regularly scheduled council meetings. He had already missed three meetings and the fourth meeting was scheduled for November 5th.

Shortly before the start of the fourth meeting, council held an in-camera meeting where it appears council granted Cllr. Siklenka a six month leave of absence with pay, instead of choosing disqualification and possibly holding a by-election. Mayor Alastair Bryson stated, "Council granted a request for leave of absence for Cllr. Siklenka for personal reasons."

Saanich Voice Online located the absent councillor through a company website and learned that Cllr. Siklenka is working for Polar Bear Air Conditioning in the Cayman Islands.

According to the company's website, "Terry is our Service Coordinator and has a wealth of experience, over 35 years! Terry has work (sic) as a technician, right up to being

GM of a multi million dollar operation."



Saanich Voice Online contacted Polar Bear, who confirmed that Siklenka works for them, but repeated attempts to speak to Siklenka himself were not successful.

Although the details surrounding council's decision are not being shared with the public, it is not out of place for a council to grant leave on occasion.

Former councillor Chris Graham recalls his experience. "During my twelve years on council there had only been a few leave of absence requests and they were all dealt with in an open council. This is the first account where I have heard of a leave of absence request being handled in-camera. In addition, when I took a leave of absence in 2001 for Summer holidays, I was not compensated."

According to the Peninsula News

Review (Nov 9), Chief Administrative Officer Patrick Robbins reportedly said that Cllr. Siklenka will continue to receive his pay during his leave. He explains, since the Community Charter does not outline rules for remuneration should a councillor take leave, the decision of pay is left up to council.

Sidney Chief Administrative Officer Randy Humble and Victoria Chief Administrative Officer Rob Woodland were both asked if their respective councils have policies relating to pay during leaves of absence. Both confirmed that no such policies existed and that direction on that matter would normally come from council.

Presently Cllr. Siklenka's commitments include Chair of the Public Works and Transportation Committee, Committee Member for the CRD Solid Waste Advisory Committee and council liaison for the First Nations Community to Community Forum, the Healthy Watershed Committee and the Chamber of Commerce.

At the Nov. 5th meeting, Mayor Alastair Bryson stated that council has been managing to fill Cllr. Siklenka's role, but said he "would like to bring back a recommendation to council on how we can more accurately cover his role for up to six months."

Cllr. Siklenka's wife, Maxine Siklenka, was asked by phone if her husband would be returning to council. She replied, "Yes, he is recovering and will be back in town shortly."

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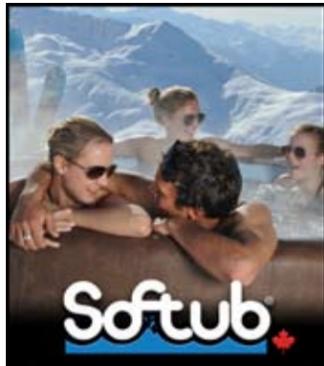
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The writer doing research. It's a tough job, but someone has to do it.

## The Great East-West Saanich Café Showcase! ...Continued

Author: Adam Gottlieb,  
Citizen Journalist

For a recap, we are talking about places between Royal Oak and McTavish, on East or West Saanich or within a stone's throw of it, and whose main business is café-style drinks and snacks. Go with a few bucks, nothing more, and an appetite. Start at upper East Saanich and loop around to West. Ready... go!!

### Spelt's Coffee Shop

Since: 1971  
Represented by: Ron  
Address: 7856 East Saanich Road  
Phone: 250-652-7609  
Hours: M-Su 7am-9pm  
Free wifi?: no  
Drink to have 1st time: Coffee  
Snack to have 1st time: Donuts (yes, more than one)  
Ambiance: Average Joe  
Favourite story involving a customer: The 9 o'clock gang, with their table – and the 10 o'clock gang – and the 11 o'clock...

Hardest thing about running this kind of business: Finding out what's changing in what people want  
Secret attraction: Fill up on gas in the same stop

### Fresh Cup Roastery Café

Since: 2002  
Represented by: Tyler  
Address: 104-1931 Mt Newton X Road  
Phone: 250-652-5678  
Hours: M-Su 7am-5:30pm  
Free wifi?: no  
Drink to have 1st time: Latte  
Snack to have 1st time: Grillen chicken & brie sandwich  
Ambiance: Family-oriented, welcoming  
Favourite story involving a customer: The couple who comes in to take care of us  
Hardest thing about running this kind of business: Doing it right the first time  
Secret attraction: House-roasted coffee beans brewed or bagged

**Tonolli's Deli**  
Since: 2011  
Represented by: Sue  
Address: 6991 East Saanich Road  
Phone: 778-426-2822  
Hours: Tu-F 8:30am-6pm, Sa 9am-5pm, Su 9:30am-4pm  
Free wifi?: yes  
Drink to have 1st time: Raspberry Italian soda  
Snack to have 1st time: Gluten-free chocolate torte  
Ambiance: Small European scratch café  
Favourite story involving a customer:

Peter who kept asking for poached eggs til we put them on the menu  
Hardest thing about running this kind of business: The long hours  
Secret attraction: Fridge full of Hungarian meals to go

### Georgie's Café and Emporium

Since: 2004  
Represented by: Georgie  
Address: 2-4649 West Saanich Road  
Phone: 250-479-6747  
Hours: M-F 7:30am-4pm, Sa 8:30am-4pm, Su 9am-4pm  
Free wifi?: no  
Drink to have 1st time: Latte  
Snack to have 1st time: Breakfast bagel

Ambiance: Family-friendly, down-to-earth  
Favourite story involving a customer: Getting to know all the regulars  
Hardest thing about running this kind of business: Making money  
Secret attraction: Scrumptious pet treats

**Tia's Heritage Café**  
Unavailable for interview  
Address: 5303 West Saanich Road  
Phone: 250-590-4912  
Secret attraction: "Prospect Lake Reflections" beautiful local history book

### JJ's Coffee House

Since: 2008  
Represented by: Jennifer & Alicia  
Address: 7088 West Saanich Road  
Phone: 250-544-4344  
Hours: M-F 7am-7pm, Sa-Su 8am-6pm  
Free wifi?: yes  
Drink to have 1st time: Long-brewed americano  
Snack to have 1st time: Fresh baked muffin or scone  
Ambiance: Cozy, community-oriented  
Favourite story involving a customer: pass

Hardest thing about running this kind of business: Staying fully stocked with top quality items  
Secret attraction: TV & computer for customers

### Screaming Bird Café

Since: 2010  
Represented by: Logan  
Address: 1191 Verdier Avenue  
Phone: 250-652-5162  
Hours: Tu-Sa 7:30am-3:30pm  
Free wifi?: no  
Drink to have 1st time: Strawberry milkshake  
Snack to have 1st time: Ham & cheese croissant  
Ambiance: Homey  
Favourite story involving a customer: People coming in every day and saying how much they love it  
Hardest thing about running this kind of business: Covering all the ground at once  
Secret attraction: Homemade pizza

**Honourable mention**  
– where you can also get tea or coffee and snacks:  
**R n R Diner**, 7816 East Saanich Road, 250-652-9966  
**Prairie Inn Neighbourhood Pub**, 7806 East Saanich Road, 250-652-1575  
**Red Barn Market**, 5550 West Saanich Road, 250-658-2998  
**Sassy's Family Restaurant**, 6719 West Saanich Road, 250-652-1764  
**Bleue Coyote Bar & Grill**, 7100 Wallace Drive, 250-652-3252  
**Zanzibar**, 1164 Stelly's X Road, 250-544-1475

With apologies for any errors or omissions. Send corrections to: info@saanichvoiceonline.com. This story was written on a volunteer basis and no freebies were received.

## Be a Local Hero

Author: Judy Barlow,  
Citizen Journalist

It's that time of year when thoughts turn to gift-giving. So what do you give the person who has everything?

Tough question. Here's another. What do you give the person who has nothing? Turns out – maybe it's the same thing.

Paul Latour, part waiter, part hero, all heart, might just be the fellow with the answer. And the best part is – it doesn't have to cost you a dime.

Paul Latour is the founder of Hero Work, a non-profit organization helping local charities get much-needed renovations through contributions from local businesses and the blood, sweat, and laughter (maybe a few tears too) of community volunteers. Think Extreme Makeover: Home Edition without Ty Pennington and the Disneyesque theme rooms.

Hero Work grew out of a desire to help a friend in need. When Paul realised his friend, Helle Kallas, living with MS (Multiple Sclerosis), could no longer negotiate her neglected, overgrown backyard, Paul put his big heart and exceptional organizational and networking skills to work. Seven weeks later Paul and his volunteer Extreme Team completed a one-day \$25,000 makeover on a \$380 budget, transforming the drab wasteland into a tranquil garden oasis. Looking at the smiling, cheering volunteers was an epiphany.

"... I thought – oh my God – look at this," says Paul. "I bet we can make a difference here."

Bitten by the makeover bug, Paul turned the spotlight on the Casa Maria Emergency Housing Society, a little-known non-profit organization that has helped more than 200 refugee families for over twenty years without government funding. With \$500 and the help of more than eighty-five local businesses, Paul and his volunteer Extreme Team completed a four-day \$100,000 indoor and outdoor transformation of a duplex.

So what does Paul have up his sleeve now? The Mustard Seed Food Bank and Street Church runs the largest food bank on Vancouver Island, feeding over 7000 people in the Capital Region every month, and providing a multitude of services and spiritual support. Unfortunately, their building is in desperate need of repairs and upgrades. Scheduled to begin in spring, 2013, at a projected cost of approximately \$300,000, Paul expects he'll be managing 150 – 200 business sponsors and 800 volunteers for the one-week reno.

The project has been in the works for some time now. "I volunteered at the Mustard Seed for six weeks and did every job possible. I wanted to get to know who they were and what they did before committing a whole year of my life to this makeover," says Paul.

Then Paul set to work (when he's not working at the Marina Restaurant overlooking Cadboro Bay) creating the systems and infrastructure necessary for such a massive project. "The first phase is what I call strategic storytelling," he explains.

Continued online at:

[www.SaanichVoiceOnline.ca](http://www.SaanichVoiceOnline.ca)

Go online now to register and make a commitment to help spread the word.

Hero Work [www.herowork.com](http://www.herowork.com)

& [www.mustardseed.ca](http://www.mustardseed.ca)



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