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August, 2011

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ISSUE 07-01

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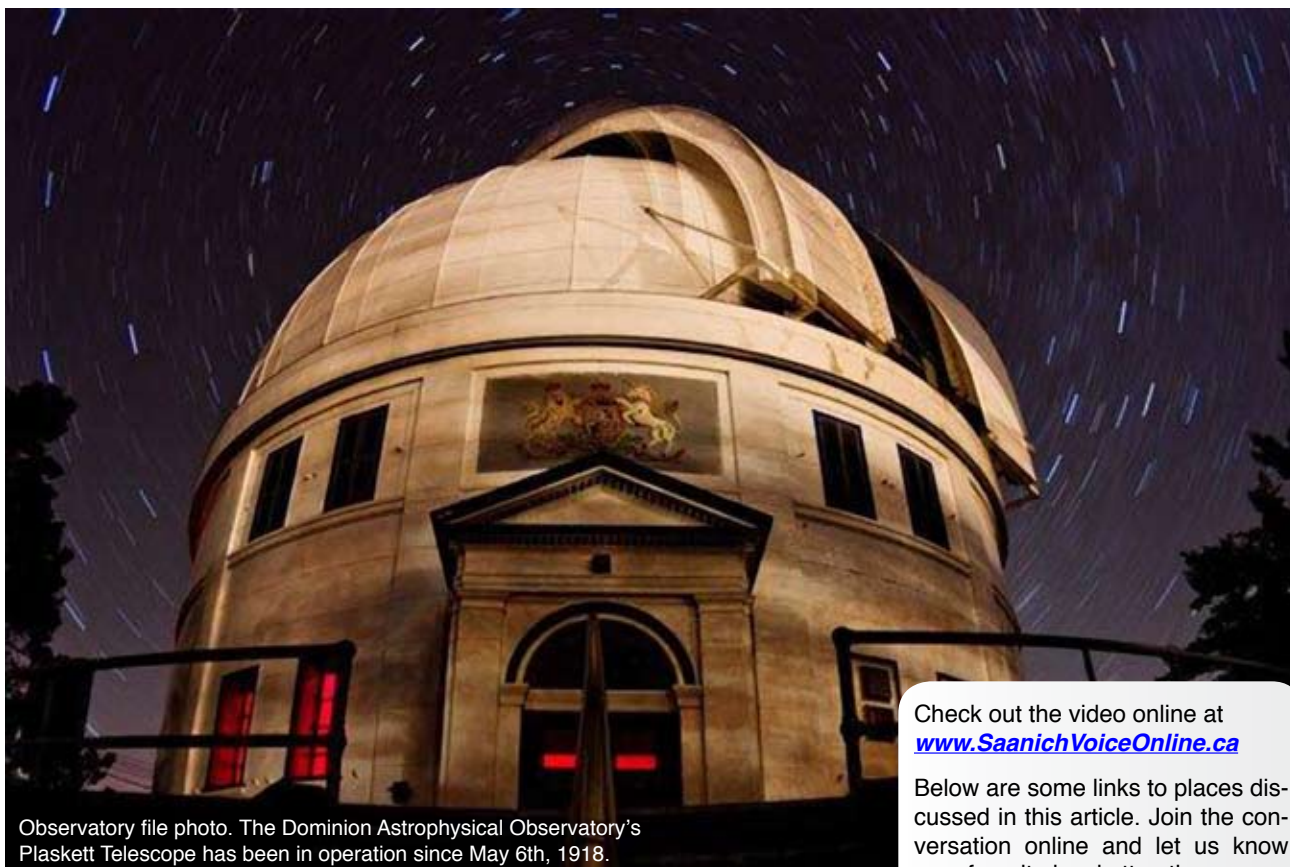
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Observatory file photo. The Dominion Astrophysical Observatory's Plaskett Telescope has been in operation since May 6th, 1918.

## Look Around

Author: Judy Barlow,  
Citizen Journalist

Look up. Look waaay up. No – it's not the Friendly Giant. It's the "Centre of the Universe" in your own backyard. You can get there and back in just a few billion years – or an afternoon; it's all relative. The Astronomy Interpretive Centre offers a universe of wonders;

think they're just having fun; moms know they've pulled a fast one on the youngsters – they're actually learning.

*"This place is awesome,"* says Cam.

If looking up gives you a crick in your neck, and salt water makes you wrinkled and pruned, and you've been missing those good old days when you walked five miles to school and back, in bare feet through a blinding

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planetarium and multimedia theatre; telescope tours; photos, exhibits, and specimens that make your head spin; and interactive attractions to spark the imagination of any budding rocket scientist. Thirteen-year-old Cam and sister, Carole, are in agreement for once. "This place is awesome," says Cam.

But if looking up isn't your thing, maybe you'd rather look down; deeeep down. No, that's not a pineapple under the sea. It's a sea urchin. No sign of Sponge Bob. The Shaw Ocean Discovery Centre has something much better.



Shaw Ocean Discovery Centre file photo

Here you can poke around on the "bottom of the Salish Sea" and you don't need scuba gear or a submersible to stay down as long as you want. You can get eyeball-to-eyeball with a wolf eel, share a one-finger handshake with a starfish, and find out why plankton isn't just another pretty face.

Joan Eaglesham, Director of Development and Special Events declares the Discovery Centre is, "the best bang for your buck on the Peninsula" and points out that it's, "a learning centre." And that might be the best thing of all. Kids

blizzard in the morning and scorching sun in the afternoon, try looking backward – in time. Heritage Acres might be the place for you. You won't meet Laura Ingalls Wilder, scribbling "Little House on the Prairie" stories, but you can look, poke, pump, pull, turn, and climb till the cows come home.

Eight-year-old Kieren likes the games and riding on the tractors. It's his fifth time here. Dad, Larry Smith recalls, "First time I was here I was about 9 years old with my grandfather and we used to sail little boats in the pond. We come here as often as we can. We love it here."

Don Williams shares their enthusiasm. "It's incredible ... we can actually touch the exhibits here, and museums don't usually allow people to handle stuff." Carl Wolford from Duncan agrees. "I was just watching a young family and the father was putting his kids on the tractors and there was no one to say 'you can't do that', and they can pull the levers up and down ... they had a wonderful time."



Photo by Judy Barlow. Dave, president of VIME

Alllll aboard! With the Vancouver Island Model Engineers (VIME) next

Check out the video online at  
[www.SaanichVoiceOnline.ca](http://www.SaanichVoiceOnline.ca)

Below are some links to places discussed in this article. Join the conversation online and let us know your favorite local attraction.

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

Dominion Astrophysical Observatory - The Centre of the Universe  
[www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/eng/services/hia/centre-universe.html](http://www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/eng/services/hia/centre-universe.html)

Shaw Ocean Discovery Centre  
[www.oceandiscovery.ca](http://www.oceandiscovery.ca)

Saanich Historical Artifacts Society - Heritage Acres  
[www.shas.ca](http://www.shas.ca)

Vancouver Island Model Engineers  
[www.vime.ca](http://www.vime.ca)

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## \$800,000 Racket Over New Tennis Courts

Author: A. Furtado,  
Citizen Journalist

Tennis courts may be the name of the game, but for Central Saanich taxpayers, the score could be ‘love’ when they see the price tag. According to Rosalyn Tanner, Director of Financial Services for Central Saanich, construction costs are expected to reach \$798,800. This amount is more than triple the original budget set in 2006, when the council of the day allotted \$262,000 for replacement costs. The initial plan was to replace the existing two tennis courts at Centennial Park in their original location. The project was deferred however, pending a consultant’s redesign of the entire Centennial Park.

When the new design was completed, the plan included moving the tennis courts to a new location across the street from Centennial Park on the corner of Wallace Drive and Hovey Road. In February 2010, the present council approved the relocation and this decision added \$428,000 to the previous council’s \$262,000, for a new budget of \$690,000. In September 2010, funding was approved and the contract was awarded to Saanichton Developments Ltd.

The project began the following month. During excavation, the contractor discovered a buried boat trailer, a decommissioned well and other surprises that changed the scope of the work. The land required remediation and costs escalated a further \$108,000. A memo from Bonnie McKenzie, Manager of Community Services, stated “...  
*the actual requirements could not have been predicted until the work was underway.*” On January 10, 2011, Council approved a final total budget of \$798,800 and authorized staff to create the necessary borrowing documents.

*“This tennis court is designed like the Taj Mahal-there is no other tennis court like it.”* - Adrian Woods

Councillor Ron Kubek, Parks and Facilities Committee Chair and Panorama Recreation Commission member, was asked what Council’s reasons were for relocating the tennis courts. Mr. Kubek informed Saanich Voice Online, that due to the new “Media Relations Policy” which Council unanimously passed in June, councillors are no longer allowed to speak to the media on behalf of Council and all inquiries must be directed to the Mayor. Mayor Mar responded by saying, “*The biggest reasons to move them across the street was because of the tree roots and the shade.*”

In addition to the three new tennis courts at Centennial Park, tennis players on the Peninsula can find an outdoor tennis court in Saanichton behind Thrifty Foods, six tennis courts in North Saanich and three tennis courts in Sidney. Panorama Recreation also has two outdoor tennis courts and four indoor tennis courts. Eric Knoester, Tennis & Racquet Coordinator for Panorama Recreation acknowledges that it is difficult to track the demand for outdoor tennis, but he believes that, “*On the peninsula there is a shortage of tennis courts.*”

Knoester is delighted that Central Saanich decided to take on this project and the design plans for the new  
*the actual requirements could not have been predicted until the work was underway.*” On January 10, 2011, Council approved a final total budget of \$798,800 and authorized staff to create the necessary borrowing documents.

courts are hanging on the wall, outside his office door. He explains that when he initially spoke to Central Saanich Council, he encouraged them to build “*a legacy facility*” that they could be proud of. Knoester also serves as a primary consultant for the new courts, advising Small & Rossell Landscape Architects on the design. He states that these courts are “*one of the highest technically built courts in the city.*”

Adrian Woods, President of Saanichton Developments Ltd. also believes that these tennis courts are unlike any other. He explains the new courts have a “*park-like setting*” and offer a variety of amenities such as ponds, peripheral landscaping, a practice wall and more. “*This tennis court is designed like the Taj Mahal-there is no other tennis court like it.*”

While enjoying a game of tennis on the original court at Centennial Park, recreational players Michael and Carole Steele offered their opinion on the new tennis courts. “*All they had to do to this court was paint the lines, which have been neglected forever.*” There are some uneven surfaces, but “*this just makes the game more interesting.*” The Steeles have been playing tennis at Centennial Park for six years and do not recall ever waiting to use a court. “*There are just not that many people using them,*” says Michael. Although this project will only increase the number of tennis courts by one, overall they like the idea of an extra court, because they believe people should get outdoors and exercise more. Michael laughs, “*Maybe more people will come out and play to get their tax dollars back.*”

At this time, the budget remains at \$798,800. However, the final amount will not be known until after the project is completed, which is scheduled for July, 2011.



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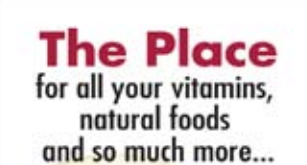


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## Lights Cameras Action!

Author: Judy Barlow,  
Citizen Journalist

It was a dream come true for one Central Saanich teen after entering a draw sponsored by the internationally acclaimed Gulf Islands Film and Television School (GIFTS) on Galiano Island. Fifteen-year-old Stelly’s Secondary School student, Kai Barlow was thrilled to win a runner-up prize – free tuition for a week of no-holds-barred immersion in film at GIFTS.

Offered her choice of documentary, drama, or video effects and animation, Kai followed her passion and opted for animation, working down in the “Nerd Hole” alongside two other computer geeks. Meanwhile drama and documentary students roamed the grounds shooting scenes for their films, before they too closeted themselves in post-production. **Continued online with video at [www.SaanichVoiceOnline.ca](http://www.SaanichVoiceOnline.ca)**

To see how Kai did, check out her video, ‘Things I Like’ at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ldnr5C9z2yg>

For more information about GIFTS visit [www.giftsfilms.com](http://www.giftsfilms.com)

## Neighbours Helping Neighbours

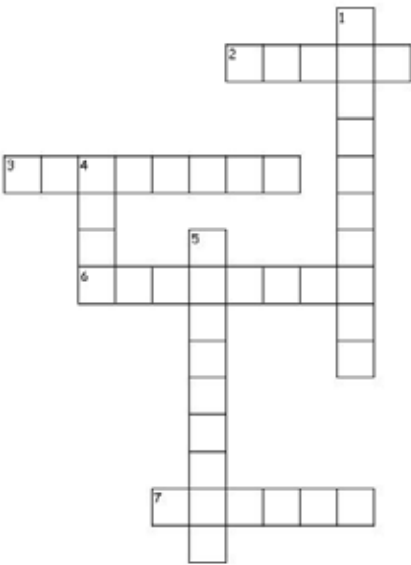
Author: Sue Stroud,  
Citizen Journalist

Neighbours helping neighbours, coming together in times of need; the Coast Salish people have a word that describes this concept perfectly - *tse-tsewaŋ*. You can see this principle in action right here in Saanich. This word epitomizes the mandate of Habitat for Humanity. The idea behind Habitat is simple, but brilliant. Skilled trades people and other volunteers work side by side with citizens in need, to create affordable homes. Those needing the housing contribute hundreds of hours of “sweat equity” towards their new home and then pay it forward by helping to build another Habitat house as well.

Habitat was founded in 1965 on a farm in Georgia. US President Jimmy Carter popularised the Habitat model in 1984 by working on a site in New York. Since then President Carter and his wife, Rosalynn have donated a week every year to work on a Habitat project somewhere in the world. **Continued online at [www.SaanichVoiceOnline.ca](http://www.SaanichVoiceOnline.ca)**

To find out more about how you can help contact Habitat for Humanity Victoria 250-480-7688 Be a good neighbour: get involved.

### Birds of the Pen



- Across**
- “Art thou the bird whom Man loves the best...” Probably the best known and easily identified
  - Double black breast bands on this most widespread shorebird of the area
  - Habit of moving head-first as it feeds down parts of a tree
  - Formerly known as the Pigeon Hawk (Arthur’s advisor)
- Down**
- Often hovers briefly before plunging bill-first into water for fish
  - The epitome of Canada’s wilderness (seen for one dollar)
  - Apparently the Chestnut-backed is the only type on Vancouver Island



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