



Biosolids will be a byproduct of the region’s sewage-treatment plant, under construction at McLoughlin Point. DARREN STONE, TIMES COLONIST

Long-term plan wanted by mid-2023

> FROM A1: BIOSOLIDS

The treated biosolids will turn into a granular material, with pieces between one millimetre and three millimetres in size. The material will be at least 90 per cent dry, according to the request for proposals.

Bulk trailers should be able to hold up to 50 tonnes, the document said. The contractor will need to supply two trailers that can be swapped out every two to three days. Interested companies have been asked to provide an approximate range of cost per tonne. The CRD said consideration should be given to using B.C. Ferries’ trailer-drop service to keep costs down and to back-hauling

(carrying a product on the return trip rather than transporting an empty trailer on the return trip). Expressions of interest are being sought to transport the biosolids for the first three to five years. Once the contract is in place, the CRD plans to send its biosolids to cement plants near Richmond, where they will be used with coal in cement kilns, a 2019 CRD staff report said. Any ash created

would be incorporated into the cement product. The goal is to have a long-term biosolids plan crafted by mid-2023, the report said. The aim is to “capitalize on the energy value of biosolids while minimizing the potential risks to the environment and human health,” the report said. Options will be short-listed and First Nations feedback and public consultation are anticipated. cjwilson@timescolonist.com



It’s not too late to donate to the fund

Please donate to the Times Colonist Christmas Fund. The fund assists individuals and families in need during the Christmas season. Here are ways to donate:

- Go to timescolonist.com/donate. That takes you to the Canada Helps website, which is open 24 hours a day and provides an immediate tax receipt.
- Mail a cheque, payable to the Times Colonist Christmas Fund Society, to the Times Colonist Christmas Fund, 2621 Douglas St., Victoria V8T 4M2.
- Use your credit card by phoning 250-995-4438 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday to Friday. Outside those hours, leave a message, we’ll call back.

CALENDAR: Lights of Wonder to Saturday

FRIDAY, JAN. 3

Lights of Wonder at Centennial Square, featuring themed light exhibits, four interactive light tunnels and a 40-foot festive tree, as well as live entertainment and warm nibbles. Today and Saturday, 4-10 p.m. The giving booth will be open and accepting donations for local charities. Free; tourismvictoria.com.

Hoo-Ville at the Raptors! With Hands On Encounters, flying demonstrations, crafts for kids, Kyle Talks, Ravens in the

Winter, hot chocolate and apple cider. Today through Monday, noon-3 p.m. at Pacific Northwest Raptors Ltd., 1877 Herd Rd., Duncan. Tickets and details at pnwraptors.com.

SATURDAY, JAN. 4

New Year, New Beginnings, a guided adult hike at Thetis Lake Regional Park to discover wooded parkland. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Pre-registration required, more at Capital Regional District Parks programs, crd.bc.ca/parks, tel. 250-478-3344.

Music at Wentworth Villa presents A Potpourri of Song for the New Year! Featuring Ingrid Attrot, Sarah Fryer, Benjamin Butterfield, Gary Relyea, Stephen Ralls and Bruce Ubukata. Saturday, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, 2:30 p.m. at 1156 Fort St. Tickets at eventbrite.ca; details at wentworthvilla.com.

Early Music Society of the Islands presents Bach and Buxtehude at Christ Church Cathedral Chapel of the New Jerusalem, 930 Burdett Ave., 8 p.m. Tickets at rmts.bc.ca or tel. 250-386-6121.

What to do with your Christmas tree? What experts think

PEDRO ARRAIS
Times Colonist

Should you keep your Christmas tree and share it with nature, or take it to one of the many collection programs that will chip it in return for a donation to charity? Leaving the tree in your backyard over the winter can provide many benefits for wildlife, according to the Nature Conservancy of Canada. “Evergreens offer a safe place for birds to rest while they visit your feeder,” said Dan Kraus, a senior conservation biologist with the non-profit land-conservation group. “Another benefit is that if you leave the tree in your garden over the summer, it will continue to provide habitat for wildlife and improve your soil as it decomposes.” If you choose to keep your tree in your yard, the Nature Conservancy suggests redecorating it with pine cones filled with peanut butter or strings of peanuts and suet. Once the tree has lost most of its needles, cut the branches, lay them where spring flowers are starting to emerge in your garden and place the trunk on soil. Kraus said the tree branches and trunk provide habitat, shelter wildflowers, hold moisture and help build the soil, mimicking what happens with dead trees and branches in a forest. Drilling holes in the trunk will speed up the decomposition process and encourage insects, including pollinators such as carpenter bees, to burrow into the wood. If you can’t do that, or don’t

want to, a number of service organizations and community groups offer drop-off locations that will take your Christmas tree. “We have been accepting trees for a donation for almost 30 years,” said Lee Richardson, executive director of the Braefoot Community Association. “It’s not a huge money-maker, but it comes at a good time for us, as winter is typically when our cash flow is at its lowest.” The community group sells more than 2,000 fresh Christmas trees during the holiday season. “Combined, the two events are significant to our organization, realizing close to \$7,000, which will go toward funding our community programs in the summer,” said Richardson. While he recognizes that trees left in backyards contribute to biodiversity, Richardson noted that the trees collected by his group are chipped to serve as landscape cover or mixed with compost to make rich soil. For the Sidney Lions Club, the annual collection event is an opportunity to renew old acquaintances and make new ones. “We get a fair number of repeat customers,” said Bill Deslauriers, past president of the club. “Our collection numbers were down last year — I suspect from increased competition and the move toward fake trees. But most people are pretty decent and we still managed to collect \$800 last year for one day’s work.” Regardless of which option you choose for your tree, said Deslauriers, “both beat throwing them out on the side of the road.” parrais@timescolonist.com

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January 3 - March 31, 2020		
<i>Schedules are subject to change without notice.</i>		
VANCOUVER ISLAND – LOWER MAINLAND		
SWARTZ BAY – TSAW WASSEN		
LEAVE SWARTZ BAY		
7:00 am	● 12:00 pm	5:00 pm
⊗ 8:00 am	● 1:00 pm	⬢ 6:00 pm
9:00 am	⊗ 2:00 pm	7:00 pm
⊗ 10:00 am	3:00 pm	9:00 pm
11:00 am	□ 4:00 pm	
LEAVE TSAW WASSEN		
7:00 am	⊗ 12:00 pm	5:00 pm
⊗ 8:00 am	● 1:00 pm	⬢ 6:00 pm
9:00 am	● 2:00 pm	7:00 pm
⊗ 10:00 am	3:00 pm	9:00 pm
11:00 am	⬢ 4:00 pm	
⊗ Mar 7 only.		
⊗ Feb 15, Mar 14, 21 & 28 only.		
⬢ Mar 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 26-27 & 29 only.		
□ Fri, Sun, & Feb 13, 17, Mar 12, 19 & 26 only.		
⊗ Feb 14, 17, Mar 8, 13, 15, 19-20, 22, 26-27 & 29 only.		
● Fri, Sun, & Feb 15, 17, 22 Mar 12, 14, 16, 19, 21, 23, 26, 28 & 30-31 only		
NANAIMO (DUKE POINT) – TSAW WASSEN		
LEAVE DUKE POINT		
⊗ 5:15 am	12:45 pm	★ 8:15 pm
⊗ 7:45 am	3:15 pm	★ 10:45 pm
10:15 am	5:45 pm	
LEAVE TSAW WASSEN		
⊗ 5:15 am	12:45 pm	★ 8:15 pm
⊗ 7:45 am	3:15 pm	★ 10:45 pm
10:15 am	5:45 pm	
★ Except Sat.		
⊗ Except Sun.		
NANAIMO (DEPARTURE BAY) – HORSESHOE BAY		
LEAVE DEPARTURE BAY		
6:15 am	1:00 pm	8:45 pm
8:25 am	3:20 pm	⊗ 10:10 pm
10:40 am	5:55 pm	
LEAVE HORSESHOE BAY		
6:15 am	1:00 pm	⊗ 8:05 pm
8:25 am	3:45 pm	10:10 pm
10:40 am	6:35 pm	
⊗ Fri-Sun, & Feb 13 & 17 only.		
BRENTWOOD BAY – MILL BAY		
LEAVE BRENTWOOD BAY		
⊗ 7:30 am	11:00 am	3:35 pm
8:40 am	1:15 pm	4:45 pm
9:50 am	2:25 pm	5:55 pm
LEAVE MILL BAY		
⊗ 8:05 am	11:35 am	4:10 pm
9:15 am	1:50 pm	5:20 pm
10:25 am	3:00 pm	6:30 pm
⊗ Except Sun.		
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Christmas tree chipping events

This is a list of tree-chipping events as compiled by the Capital Regional District. Dates and times are subject to change.

Central Saanich
• Saturday and Sunday, and Jan. 11 and 12, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. 1700 Keating Cross Rd., across from Central Saanich municipal works yard. By donation to Central Saanich Lions Club.

Colwood
• Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Colwood Fire Station, 3215 Metchosin Rd. By donation to the Colwood Volunteer Firefighters Historical Fund.

Langford
• Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Westshore Town Centre. By donation, with proceeds to Easter Seals.
• Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Slegg Lumber, 2901 Sooke Rd. By donation to support Juan de Fuca Search and Rescue.

Oak Bay
• Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Jan. 11, noon-4 p.m., at Windsor Park on Currie Road by the rose garden. With Castaway Rugby Club; proceeds support youth fitness age five and up. By donation.

• Saturday and Jan. 11, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Joseph the Worker, 753 Burnside Rd. W. By donation to the Knights of Columbus.
• Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at McKenzie Elementary School, 4005 Raymond St., north, back parking lot. By donation.
• Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Reynolds Secondary School parking lot, 3963 Borden. By donation, proceeds to Reynolds music program activities.
• Sunday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Strawberry Vale Elementary School parking lot, 4109 Rosedale Ave. By donation. They will also be collecting cans and bottles for recycling.
• Sunday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Lansdowne Middle School, 1765 Lansdowne Rd. By donation; drop off your cans and bottles for recycling, too. Funds raised will help students attend Camp Thunderbird.

Sidney
• Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the overflow parking lot at Iroquois Park. By donation to the Sidney Lions Club.

Victoria
• Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Save-on-Foods parking lot at Fort and Foul Bay. By donation, with proceeds to Easter Seals.
• Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Central Middle School, 1280 Fort St. By donation, benefiting the Central music program.

Do you know of another tree-collection event? Let us know and we'll add it to our list. Send an email to localnews@timescolonist.com with the words "tree chipping" in the subject line.