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You asked, we listened! Key phone numbers and hours of operation for community resources have been included in this and future issues. To advertise, or to suggest a story idea, contact Hello@GoSayward.com. Thank you to our advertisers and the SRD for making this newsletter possible.

# SAYWARD Taxpayers ALLIANCE

Residents of Sayward,

We all care deeply about our home. We take pride in raising our kids in such a beautiful place. We enjoy relaxing by the ocean, hiking on our lovely trails, fishing at the pier and rivers. Unfortunately, we have watched our community struggle.

We have watched the Kelsey Centre close. We've seen legal fees ballooning from ongoing dysfunctional amongst council. Now we face an unprecedented property tax hike so large it made the national news!

These are just some of the reasons why Sayward Taxpayers Alliance is advocating for dissolution of the Village of Sayward municipality. **READ MORE ON PAGE 10**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Front Page, Sayward Taxpayers Alliance
2. Table of Contents, Sayward Community Food Table Society
3. Key Contacts, Hours of Operation
4. Community Partners
5. Community Partners
6. Sayward Community Health Society
7. Word Search, Sayward Fish & Game
8. Sayward Historical Hub, Literacy Now
9. Garden Club News
10. Sayward Taxpayers Alliance
11. Sayward Taxpayers Alliance
12. SRD Spotlight, Seniors Luncheon
13. Men's Shed Society
14. Greg's Medic Minutes, Men's Shed
15. SRD Spotlight continued
16. SCA Heritage Hall Highlights, SCHS continued
17. SCRA Heritage Hall Highlights continued
18. Sayward Clinic Column
19. Advertise In The Newsletter
20. Community Partners

## SAYWARD COMMUNITY FOOD TABLE SOCIETY

**Food Sort Dates:** March 27, April 24,  
May 22, June 19, July 24, August 21,  
September 18, October 16, November  
13, December 11.



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# SAYWARD CLINIC COLUMN

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Labs 9-11:30 NP BP checks 9-12	3 NP Ask a Community Medic 9-12	4 NP	5 NP	6 CLINIC CLOSED	7
8	9 Labs 9-11:30 BP checks 9-12	10 Ask a Community Medic 9-12	11	12	13 CLINIC CLOSED	14
15	16 Labs 9-11:30	17	18	19	20 CLINIC CLOSED	21
22	23 Labs 9-11:30 BP checks 9-12	24 Ask a Community Medic 9-12	25	26	27 CLINIC CLOSED	28
29	30 Labs 9-11:30 BP checks 9-12	31 Ask a Community Medic 9-12	1	2	3 CLINIC CLOSED	4

The clinic remains open for patients of the clinic, with Nurse Practitioner Enid O’Hara covering some shifts.

**Clinic hours remain the same:**

Monday to Wednesday: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Thursday: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

**Call 250-282-3815**

The following services are available to everyone (you do not need to be a clinic patient): Lab, ECGs, 24-hour Holter monitoring, Injections, Wound and dressing care.

Please call when you can’t make your lab or NP appointment. We have very limited spots.

# KEY CONTACTS

- Ambulance / Fire / Police 9-1-1
- Area A Director Gerald Whalley 250.282.3787
- Clinic 250.282.3815
- Community Paramedic 250.201.7539
- Elementary School 250.282.3314
- Harbour Authority 250.282.0178
- Mainroad North Island 877.215.7122
- Mayor Mark Baker 250.203.5428
- MLA Anna Kindy 778.902.8544
- MP Aaron Gunn 250.434.0300
- Post Office 250.282.3223
- School Trustee Shannon Briggs 250.282.3364
- Village Office 250.282.5512

# HOURS OF OPERATION

**Library**

Tue 10a-230p  
Wed & Thu 230p-7p  
Fri & Sat 10a-230p

**Post Office**

Mon-Fri 9a-5p  
Sat 830a-1230p

**Recycling Depot**

Thu-Sun 9a-5p

**Share Shed**

Tue,Thu,Sat 10a-1p

**Village Office**

Mon-Fri 8a-4p  
Closed 12p-1p

**Mens Shed @ Legion**

Fri 1pm

*This spot reserved for a great ad.*



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ARE  
LOOKING!



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# SCRA HERITAGE HALL HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED)

📌 Heritage Hall - What's On in March 2026

Here's what's happening at Heritage Hall this March.

🛍️ Indoor Market Saturday, March 7 | 10am-1pm

Spring Clean-up/Easter Egg Hunt- March 28 at 9 am, volunteers needed to come to hall bring their tools and help get grounds ready for the Easter

Egg hunt April 5<sup>th</sup> at 1pm (New Time). Please register with Barb Bowbrick 250-282-3741 so she will know how many to make lunch for!

🧶 Sayward Helping Hands Every Tuesday | 10am

Bring your sewing, knitting, or craft projects. \$2 drop-in — everyone welcome.

👶 Kids Club. Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays. Registration required. Email: saywardcrew@gmail.com

🎵 Music Night First Thursday of the month Bring your instrument or your voice and join in. \$2 drop-in — everyone welcome.

📅 Monthly Meeting. Tuesday, March 10 @ 7pm

All events are subject to change. Thanks for supporting Heritage Hall and our community.

## SCRA HERITAGE HALL HIGHLIGHTS

🐰 **Easter Egg Hunt Sunday April 5th 2026**  
1pm at the Heritage Hall. (New Time)

**We Need Helpers!** 🐰

The Easter Bunny needs some extra hands to help with candy sorting and event set-up! If you're able to volunteer, please contact Ann at 250-203-8332 or message her on Facebook.

We are also gratefully accepting donations of candy or cash to help make our 2026 Easter Egg Hunt a success. E-transfers can be sent to the [heritagehallsdra@gmail.com](mailto:heritagehallsdra@gmail.com)

Thank you for supporting this free community event! SCRA - Heritage Hall

**READ MORE ON PAGE 17**

## SCHS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

So, to recap, you do not need to be a member of SCHS to use the Clinic, but by joining as a member, you help to keep it open and your support is truly appreciated. Membership is only \$10 per person per year, and members receive a discount on our already very cheap drivers medicals, so please consider joining us. Membership forms are available at the Clinic, and dues can be paid there, or e-transfer to [schs.clinic@gmail.com](mailto:schs.clinic@gmail.com).

Thank you.

Angie Hibbert  
Director/Treasurer  
Sayward Community Health Society  
Registered Charity Number: 84707 8706 RR0001



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# SAYWARD COMMUNITY HEALTH SOCIETY

We have recently heard that some people are a bit confused about the membership scheme, so I will try and clarify things a bit.

The Sayward Community Health Society (SCHS) raises the money and pays the bills to keep the building going, provides equipment, computer systems, propane, hydro, custodian etc. to give the staff a place to work. Staff are provided by Island Health, and while we can exert a bit of pressure, SCHS has absolutely no say in staffing, regulations, or anything Island Health related. YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE A MEMBER OF SCHS TO USE THE CLINIC.

The membership scheme is to support SCHS, and as a registered charity, members are a necessity and are vital to our continued existence, as it proves that the community is supporting us, and we are providing something people want. We also facilitate and apply for the grants for the seniors lunches.

This is a community Clinic, and was created from the ground up in 2011 by local people, and has evolved massively over the years, to the facility it now is.

We appreciate that things are difficult currently with no NP, and can confirm that Island Health are trying very hard to find a replacement. In the meantime, the Clinic remains open for labs, use of Holter monitors (purchased by us) to avoid patients having to travel to CR wherever possible, and SCHS are looking at ways we can help to provide more services. Stay tuned. (Read more on page 16)

## SRD SPOTLIGHT (CONTINUED)

But no, they were actually serious! After it became obvious that the SRD Board was not willing to defeat their motion, I then modified the motion to read, "THAT staff write a letter to Fortis BC to evaluate whether there is an interest in extending a natural gas pipeline to the Village of Sayward." This motion carried, although I believe that it's just a "pipe dream" (pun intended).

### Electoral Area Planning Service

Whereas Campbell River was promoting that the municipalities join the Electoral Area Planning Service for the purpose of taking over complete control of all housing development in all the Electoral Areas, now that the 2026 budget has been passed, it seems that this municipal initiative has fallen into the dustbin for this year. If it reappears in the future, I will continue to oppose it.

If you have any questions on these or any other issues, please do not hesitate to contact me. My door is always open.

Gerald Whalley  
Regional Director (Area 'A')  
Phone: 250-282-3787  
[gwhalley@srd.ca](mailto:gwhalley@srd.ca)



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# GREG'S MEDIC MINUTES



## March Event Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Blood Pressure checks 9:00-12:00 Sayward Clinic	3 "Ask a Community Medic" 9:00-12:00 Sayward Clinic	4	5	6 Chair Fitness 10:00-11:00 Kelsey Centre	7
8	9 Blood Pressure checks 9:00-12:00 Sayward Clinic	10 "Ask a Community Medic" 9:00-12:00 Sayward Clinic	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 Blood Pressure checks 9:00-12:00 Sayward Clinic	24 "Ask a Community Medic" 9:00-12:00 Sayward Clinic	25	26	27 Chair Fitness 1:00PM-2:00PM Kelsey Centre	28
29	30 Blood Pressure checks 9:00-12:00 Sayward Clinic	31 "Ask a Community Medic" 9:00-12:00 Sayward Clinic				



**Calling All Men**  
Join the Men's Shed Society of Sayward every Friday at 1pm at the Legion.

# SAYWORD SEARCH

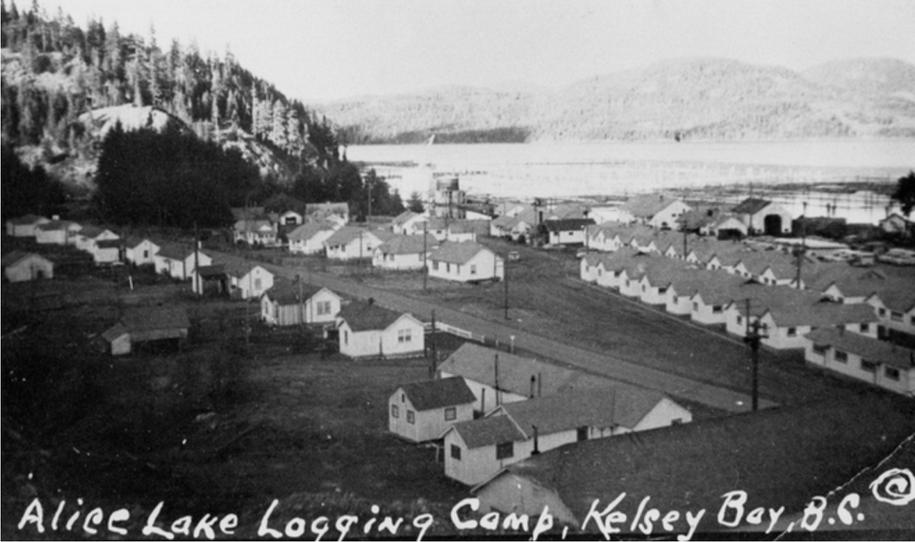
## Sayward Ocean Dwellers

O T T E R S O W U E E U E Y E K C O S K Q Y J H  
 S R Y J U P F P X Z Z C L H S I F Y L L E J U J  
 S O M N C L A M S N E E D L E F I S H B C M V R  
 H O Y S T E R S N S X D I Y F S Z E Q B P E C O  
 R C S N I H P L O D R M O L L U S C S B I R X M  
 I X F I K H I I S N K G O Q P M O C A Z A K C Q  
 M W E D D B U C O O U G Q R U C A C V B B O R S  
 P U A T I K Y M O F C O A H T L K P P C Q E S E  
 W G T N U E L N P M Y W C O L S R N V I D U E L  
 A N S T Q A I S O A N K P O P E R C H S N H W C  
 P I L P S H L N R S T U P Y J S S W N W P K J A  
 S R A L C S I I P M S S V Z O B K A Z B D J S N  
 L R E A S I N H O E V E O J Q D P B K S A T P R  
 E E S N L F G C I L L A Q F Z P G E N N L U Q A  
 S H O K E G C R S T R S I D E V L O E L T B S B  
 S K R T E O O U E T L T R R E O I M I N C I S C  
 U Y C O Z D D E S F D A I Y S L O R G F J L G N  
 M C A N D L E F I S H R B I A N K R M U V A L B  
 Q W S D O T N X K T T S I E E H C O H O S H M B  
 J P F L O U N D E R P W S S R M Q Y X Y Y S O E

1. ORCAS 2. HUMPBACKS 3. SEALIONS 4. DOLPHINS 5. PORPOISES 6. SEALS
7. PLANKTON 8. KRILL 9. PINKS 10. CHUMS 11. COHOS 12. CHINOOK
13. SOCKEYE 14. SALMON 15. OCTOPUS 16. EELS 17. SEASTARS
18. URCHINS 19. ANEMONES 20. BARNACLES 21. MOLLUSCS 22. CLAMS
23. OYSTERS 24. MUSSELS 25. SCALLOPS 26. CRAB 27. PRAWNS 28. SHRIMP
29. SQUID 30. OTTERS 31. DOGFISH 32. HALIBUT 33. LINGCOD
34. REDSNAPPER 35. SOLE 36. FLOUNDER 37. HERRING 38. NEEDLEFISH
39. SMELT 40. CANDLEFISH 41. PERCH 42. JELLYFISH

**SAYWARD FISH AND GAME MEETS AT THE HERITAGE HALL, 730PM ON THE LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH. THERE ARE NO MEETINGS IN JULY, AUGUST AND DECEMBER.**

# SAYWARD HISTORICAL HUB



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Ann Vansnick at  
 annvansnick3@gmail.com  
 250-203-8332

# MEN'S SHED SOCIETY

The Men's Shed Society of Sayward has recently achieved official status as an incorporated non-profit society!

**What is a Men's Shed you ask?** It is a place for:

- Men to gather to learn new skills, discover new interests, and make new friends.
- Men to communicate "shoulder to shoulder".
- Men to chat and collaborate on projects.
- Creating a welcoming environment where men create shared experiences and build community.

Check us out! - We are actively looking for new members. We have weekly meetings Fridays - 1:00PM at the Sayward Legion. \*

Come help us brainstorm future community events! Snacks and light refreshments (usually) provided.

*\* While the Sayward legion has graciously donated their facility to host weekly Men's Shed meetings, The Men's Shed Society of Sayward is a separate organization and therefore does not use any of the amenities of the Legion during meetings, meaning that the bar and kitchen are closed.*



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# SRD SPOTLIGHT

Strathcona Regional District  
Area 'A' Director's Report – Feb. 28, 2026

## Strathcona Regional District (SRD) Budget

The SRD budget has been finalized for 2026. While property taxes are dramatically rising 42% for the Village of Sayward, I have kept our Sayward Valley property tax requisitions as the envy of the entire Regional District. I am pleased to announce that this year's property taxes for the Sayward Valley will only increase by \$4.95 for the average household; but please note that although this portion of our property taxes includes everything that the SRD is responsible for, it DOES NOT include the Provincial Rural Tax, and tax for schools and police, over which I have no control. This modest SRD tax increase is required to keep the needs of our splendid Sayward Volunteer Fire Department fully funded. It has certainly been rewarding to realize the recent improvements to our Valley Firehall and the acquisition of new equipment.

## Natural Gas Pipeline

I thought it was a premature April Fool's joke when the Village of Sayward brought their request to the SRD Board on February 25, "THAT the Strathcona Regional District (SRD) be requested to undertake a study to determine the cost to extend natural gas service to the Village of Sayward and surrounding area." *Continued On Page 15*

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**Free Seniors Luncheon March 11<sup>th</sup>  
and 25<sup>th</sup> at the Kelsey Centre from  
12pm to 1pm. Hosted by the  
Sayward Community Health Society.**

# GARDEN CLUB NEWS

At the time of this writing Winter is hopefully coming to an end and the early Spring flowers will soon be in bloom. Some gardeners are already starting seeds indoors under lights. Tomatoes and peppers can get an early start this way and lettuce and spinach can be started to be ready to be set out in the garden at the first sign of Spring.

As the weather improves there is an opportunity to spray fruit trees. This can be done with a lime/sulphur and dormant oil spray. This treatment is acceptable for organic growing and should be completed before the trees begin to bud out. The spray is most effective when there is no rain or freezing temperatures.

The Garden Club had the first meeting of the year when we held our early seed exchange. Some members brought seeds collected from non-hybrid vegetables and flowers. The club also has a collection of donated seeds to choose from. Seed orders will be coming through the mail and there will be future chances to get a few seeds from other member's packages.

We have plans for a series of guest speakers in the coming months. Our March 12 meeting will feature Ben Baykiw, an arborist from Campbell River, who will speak on Landscaping With Trees. We will have an opportunity to learn about and ask questions on shape, colour, pruning, potential size and FireSmart qualities.

There is no fee to join the club and we collect two dollars at each meeting to cover the cost of hall rental. For first time attendees there is no charge for the first meeting. We also have some wonderful door prizes to be won. Please come and join us at the Heritage Hall at 7:00 on the second Thursday of each month.

## **SAYWARD TAXPAYERS ALLIANCE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)**

Due to years of poor financial management across subsequent councils, Sayward is now facing a substantial property tax increase beginning in 2026. Current projections show a 42% increase this year, followed by an additional 14% increase next year. The estimated impact for 2026 includes an increase of municipal property taxes by approximately \$725 per year, an increase of sewer user fees by approximately \$19 per year and an increase of water user fees by approximately \$121 per year. The total estimated increase for an average home is approximately \$865 per year!

Despite this significant tax hike, these increases do not fund new services or amenities, nor do they open the Kelsey Centre. Instead, they are intended solely to keep the Village financially afloat. At the council meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, residents repeatedly heard that the Village is in 'survival mode'. Council stated plainly that the current model is unsustainable, that there is no money left and that the Village cannot continue operating as it has. Unfortunately, taxpayers are now being asked to shoulder the cost of years of mismanagement, along with escalating legal fees that show no clear end in sight.

Dissolution is not about giving up — it is about adapting. Communities evolve. Remaining an incorporated municipality places an increasing strain on financial stability and governance capacity. Exploring dissolution to join the SRD is a call for fiscal responsibility of our governance.

As we explore change, we note that our forests, our harbour, our identity and our sense of community will remain. We advocate only for a change of the administrative structure. This is a decision that deserves thoughtful discussion, transparency, and a careful review of the financial realities we face. Considering dissolution is not a sign of decline. It may be a strategic step toward long-term resilience, allowing Sayward to thrive without carrying a bloated municipal structure that no longer serves the community effectively.

We now have a website that provides background information, financial context, and FAQ's.

**[SaywardTaxpayers.com](https://SaywardTaxpayers.com)**

Please take the time to review the information and reach out if you have questions that are not addressed on the site. The goal is not to lose Sayward, it is to preserve it.

Sincerely,

***Jessica Bennett***  
250-204.6221

**SAYWARD**  
**Taxpayers**  
**ALLIANCE**

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