

A look ahead

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Our View:

What will 2007 bring? We're having a look into our crystal ball to see if we can come up with some predictions. Here's what we see so far.

North Saanich council, after struggling with their Official Community Plan review for the past five years, wraps it up in 2007. In December. It's council's Christmas 2007 present to itself.

Village centres are gone, although there are two areas set aside that have been designated "for purposes of allowing a fruit stand or small flower stall." An eight-year-old girl is taken to court for setting up a lemonade stand in Deep Cove.

The Brentwood revitalization project is completed within the first three months of the new year. What took six years of planning took just one-tenth of that time to complete on the ground.

Sidney and North Saanich get the infrastructure grant for a new pool at Panorama Recreation Centre. Central Saanich, which doesn't want to pay for a new pool, finds itself suddenly faced with a natural one after a small earthquake creates a huge sinkhole under the municipal hall, actually solving two problems at the same time. Council decides to create a public swimming pool there, and apply for grants to build a new municipal hall, which they need anyway.

After all the studies done on Mary Winspear Centre's financial situation, the Centre makes a haul when it brings in Michael Richards ("Kramer") for a two-month run. People wait for him to make racist remarks, but he never does. The suspense is enough to keep the crowds coming, however.

The Centre also hosts a new Sherlock Holmes festival. In the lead role is Richard Holmes; his sidekick is, inexplicably, Michael Cullen.

Saanich Peninsula Hospital's stellar reputation, plus its scenic rural setting, attracts Hollywood. It becomes the plastic surgery centre for North America -- anyone who is anyone vies for a chance to have their face lifts and tummy tucks done here.

Anny Scoones' biographical books are made into a movie, complete with goats and horses. It's shot on location, which turns Sandown raceway into a camp for movie vehicles. The producer is so taken with the racetrack that he buys it and turns it into a movie set. It also serves as an acting and set-designing school, with a casino for after-hours entertainment.

The Town of Sidney, already in the kitchen business having bought the Shoal Centre kitchen, branches out into a catering service for the acting school. Mayor Don Amos takes a cooking course, with plans to be the chef once he leaves council after this term.

The new marine ecology centre at Sidney Pier Hotel turns out to be too successful as far as local orca pods are concerned. An odd underwater signal that is mistakenly emitted from the hotel brings the whales close to shore, hampering boaters from Port Sidney and the Sidney wharf from traveling in their boats. No one can figure out where the signal originates, and the whales, much enamored by the sound, won't go away.

The whales also interfere with the underwater park Reg Teeney finally gets to build. The underwater cameras, planes and statue are installed near Bevan Pier, but the whales continually play with them, making it hard for people to observe other sealife.

Gary Lunn gets his pilot's license, hoping to fly one of the new helicopters promised to the Canadian military. He actually just wants to wear the jumpsuits.

Murray Coell, who has dreams of playing drums with Cream -- gets to play with them when they open for the Bryden Street House Party at Mary Winspear Centre.

Senanus residents get water service. Oh wait, that's an April Fool joke.