



The Week - August 20
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Flower power

It seems the thousands of dollars Central Saanich flower broker Ian Vantreight spent in November's municipal election to assist candidates sympathetic to his residential development dreams have paid off, as Central Saanich council gave preliminary approval on August 17 to a development proposal on a section of his family's farmland.

As Monday has previously reported, Vantreight donated a total of \$1,137.28 to the campaigns of rookie councillors Terry Siklenka and Ron Kubek, both of whom gave the thumbs up to Vantreight's development gambit on Monday.

Councillor Kubek also used the August 17 meeting to put forward a motion proposing piped water be brought to the entire northwest quadrant of Central Saanich, a move that observers say would contravene both Central Saanich's official community plan, as well the CRD's regional growth strategy.

Campaign crimes?

Speaking of Central Saanich campaign donations, word arrived this week from the RCMP's commercial crimes section that following an investigation based on complaints by Central Saanich resident David Wilson, the Mounties are recommending 19 charges under the Local Government Act against individuals and organizations for a variety of technical infractions related to their campaign and campaign finance paperwork from the November municipal election.

Citing provincial privacy legislation, RCMP spokesperson Cpl. Darren Lagan would not reveal who might be facing charges, adding Crown Counsel will return a decision in three to four weeks about whether charges will be laid.

The RCMP were brought in to handle the file because Central Saanich police chief Paul Hames sits on the board of the Peninsula Co-op, one of the organizations at the heart of the Wilson's complaint regarding its \$16,000 involvement in the election.