

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

The reconstruction of the Council Chambers and East wing of the municipal hall is nearing completion, which should occur in the next few months. The groundwork and planning for this initiative began over two and a half years ago and construction began in November 2015. I am sure that Council and residents, particularly those who regularly attend meetings, are looking forward to the finish. The partial completion and move of some staff occurred last July. Apart from the continued evidence of ongoing construction, I think that many residents have already experienced the improved lobby and counter service.

In this newsletter, I want to provide for residents a picture of what might be considered the invisible efforts, contributions and sacrifices made by municipal staff and volunteers through this year of construction. I believe that our municipal staff members are the people most looking forward to completion and most deserving of the improved convenience that will result.

Our approach to this project was innovative and cost effective. Working with our legal counsel, our CAO devised a two phase design build approach that resulted in Council receiving contract ready plans at firm costs without any obligation to proceed with the contract. We also saved a considerable sum with our CAO managing this project rather than hiring a project manager. Our approach has maximized the District's flexibility in the process and delivered a proposal which likely saved us hundreds of thousands of dollars. Our building costs are approximately \$200 per square foot including the solar panel array, back up battery system to power the municipal hall and emergency operations center and all demolition costs. We continue to be under budget.

The approach to the project also enabled staff to continue working in the old part of the building until the partial completion was ready, rather than having staff relocate to alternative rental premises throughout the building period. This proposal had a number of advantages, not least of which was a considerable saving of taxpayers' money and the ability to provide



uninterrupted service to our residents. In balancing the inconvenience and cost of a move against the difficulties of working in noisy and constantly changing conditions, staff members reacted with good spirits, good will and continued

necessary productivity.

In planning for the demolition of the old part of the East wing, including Council Chambers, our staff worked to find alternative premises for Council meetings, which led to the generous offer from our Fire Department and volunteers of the temporary use of their vehicle bay and training room. This cooperative solution resulted in further considerable financial savings for the District.

Finally the District has reason to be grateful for the timing of this construction. We were able to complete contract arrangements and begin building before the recent regional construction boom, providing much more favourable financial terms than we would have been able to achieve even a few months later.

This project has been a rewarding example of close liaison and direction by Council, supporting the well considered work of our CAO and staff. The result will be an attractive, functional municipal building that incorporates many environmentally desirable elements and will serve our staff and residents for many future years. The planning and attention to careful cost considerations and the ongoing diligent management are factors for which we can all be proud.

I am personally proud of the planning and efforts by our municipal staff in working with Council through this considerable endeavor in a manner that so well serves the District, and wish to publicly express my thanks to them. I am grateful that Council moved forward so expeditiously in this project, addressing the safety and work conditions that so badly needed to be remedied.

2017 ASSESSMENT NOTICES

BC Assessment released their 2017 assessment notices at the beginning of January. BC Assessment is responsible for all property assessment in British Columbia.

In North Saanich, BC Assessment has

reported that a typical residential home has risen approximately 19% in assessed value. This does not mean that property taxes will be increasing at the same rate as the assessments. The municipal property tax increase is determined by Council as part of the budget deliberation process. Changes in the property assessment determine how an overall tax increase is distributed to each property owner. Only properties with assessments that go up by the average assessment will experience the average tax increase determined by Council. For example, a property owner with a 30% increase in their assessed value will experience a higher than average tax increase, while a property owner with a 5% increase in their assessed value will experience a lower than average tax increase.

2017 BUDGET PROCESS

This year's budget will be presented and reviewed in March and the tax rates and the final Financial Plan will be reviewed and adopted by Council in late April and early May. All meetings will be open to the public. Information on the dates will be posted on the main page of the District website www.northsaanich.ca.



COMING UP

North Saanich Farm Market

Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
April 8 and May 13
St. John's United Church
10990 West Saanich Road

Neighbourhood Meeting

Dean Park/South East Quadrant
Wednesday, March 15, 7:00 p.m.
Saanich Peninsula Presbyterian Church - 9296 East Saanich Rd.

2017 Council and Committee of the Whole Meetings - 7:00 p.m.

February 6 - Council
February 20 - Council
February 27 - COW

March 6 - Council
March 13 - COW
March 20 - Council
March 27 - COW

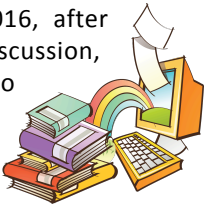
April 3 - Council
April 10 - COW
April 24 - COW

May 1 - Council
May 8 - COW
May 15 - Council

Property owners with questions about their assessment notice should refer to the BC Assessment’s website at www.bcasessment.ca or contact BC Assessment as indicated on their notice.

NEW LIBRARY FOR NORTH SAANICH

On November 21, 2016, after two years of discussion, Council resolved to move forward with the Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) to have a new library branch built in North Saanich on the Panorama Recreation Centre property. This new branch will provide additional parking on that site to meet the needs of library users and VIRL will consult with the neighbourhood and community on the design and services of the new branch.



The development of the new branch will increase the level of library services for North Saanich and Sidney residents alike and it will be in addition to renovations approved for the current library branch in the Town of Sidney. VIRL informed the Town of Sidney and the District of North Saanich that the current library is in need of improvement and that the two communities are underserved with library services according to VIRL standards. The two projects will address this shortcoming.

Residents may be interested in how we pay for library services. As a member of VIRL, North Saanich pays

a per capita share towards the entire VIRL library system on Vancouver Island. For example, we pay towards improvements in Courtenay and Courtenay residents would pay towards any improvements here in North Saanich. In other words, the new branch in North Saanich and the renovated branch in Sidney will be paid for by the entire membership of VIRL under the current levies our municipalities pay to VIRL. The only financial increase resulting from the new library in North Saanich will be the costs of operating it. This is estimated to be about \$1.40 per resident in North Saanich, per year.

BUSINESS AND DOG LICENCE RENEWALS

A reminder that licence renewals are due by February 28, 2017.

Business Licence Renewal: If you do not intend to renew your business licence, please advise the Planning and Community Services Department at 250-655-5470. A Business Licence Guide is available at the Municipal Hall or the District website www.northsaanich.ca - Business link

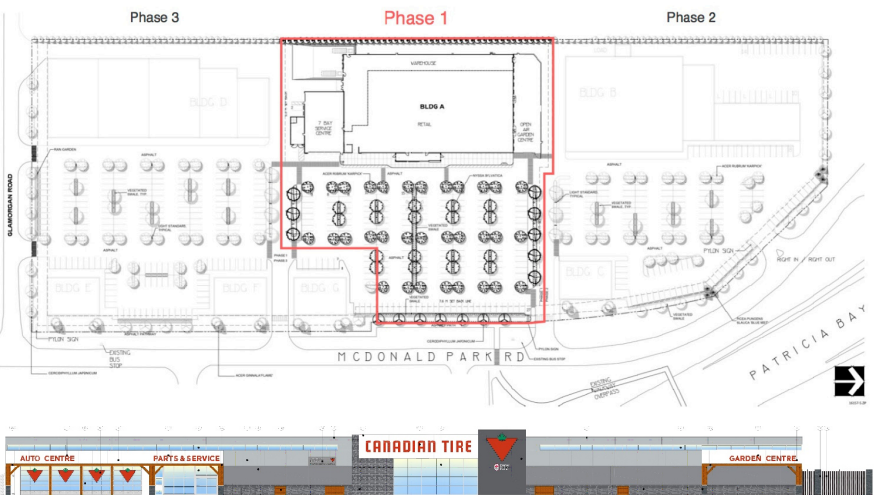


Dog Licence Renewal: A \$5.00 late fee will be applied to any licences purchased after February 28, 2017. For more information on dog licence fees please visit our website www.northsaanich.ca - Residents link.

SANDOWN UPDATE

The District received a Development Permit application in September for the first commercial building, a proposed Canadian Tire, on the first phase of the Sandown Commercial site. The Development Permit was issued in December, subsequent to the issuance of a variance for parking and signage for phase one and pylon signage for the site.

In November the Agricultural Land Commission granted a one-year extension to their conditions of exclusion, extending the date for completion to November 14, 2017. The applicants have most recently submitted an application to subdivide the commercial portion of the site from the agricultural portion, consistent with the conditions of exclusion. Staff continues to work with the applicants and the Agricultural Land Commission to ensure the conditions of the ALC and the Phased Development Agreement are met.



(Application drawings prepared by Neoteric Architecture & PMG Landscaping)

GREEN WASTE SCHEDULE

The 2017 Green Waste schedule is available in hard copy at the District of North Saanich Municipal office and electronically on the District website www.northsaanich.ca - Green Waste Drop-off link

WATERMAIN FLUSHING

The District of North Saanich advises residents that flushing of watermain will commence February 6 and continue until May 31, 2017. Watermain flushing occurs annually throughout the District to remove sediment and maintain satisfactory water quality within the distribution system.

Temporary water discolouration and/or low water pressure may occur as a result of this activity. This water discolouration is not a health hazard and may require you to clear your water lines by turning on your cold water tap until the water runs clear.

Upon request, the District will provide advance warning of flushing in your vicinity for persons with special requirements for water clarity. Please contact the Public Works department at 250-655-5480 if you require advance notification.

The District does not accept responsibility for damages caused by low water volume or the use of discoloured water. We therefore advise consumers to be on the alert for reduced water volume and/or temporary discolouration of water.

EMERGENCY Police, Fire, Ambulance	9 1 1
Non-emergency POLICE (i.e. traffic issues)	250-656-3931
Non-emergency FIRE (after hours)	250-475-6111
MAIN SWITCHBOARD	250-656-0781
Corporate Services	250-655-5458
Finance	250-656-0781
Planning and Community Services	250-655-5470
Engineering	250-655-5460
Public Works	250-655-5480
After Hours Public Works	250-360-8285
Fire Department	250-656-1931
MAYOR AND COUNCIL	
Mayor Alice Finall	250-656-6668
Councillor Heather Gartshore	250-656-0974
Councillor Jack McClintock	250-888-4890
Councillor Geoff Orr	250-656-4562
Councillor Celia Stock	250-655-3437
Councillor Jack Thornburgh	250-665-6314
Councillor Murray Weisenberger	778-351-2213