

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

We are nearing the end of the first four year term for local governments in British Columbia. For me personally it is the end of a decade in the Mayor's chair. One of the main advantages for having been able to serve three consecutive terms has been the ability to see completion of a number of major initiatives.



Two large land areas in the District, the Sandown property and Dunsmuir Lodge have moved to new uses and ownership. During 2017 we saw the completion of the transfer of 83 acres of Agricultural Land Reserve at Sandown to North Saanich and the transfer of the Dunsmuir lands to Homewood Health and the Pauquachin First Nation. These are major aspects of the extensive work completed by this Council.

Our next Council will have the responsibility of working through the future uses of these properties in the best interests of our residents. Two other major initiatives, the culmination of the extensive and forward looking planning work done over the past four years on sea level rise, and the implementation of Affordable Housing policies, will also rest with the next Council.

Looking further into the future of our municipality, I have some observations arising from my experience of serving as your mayor for ten consecutive years. Municipal governance touches the everyday lives of our residents in many ways, whether it be policing, fire protection, water and sewer services, parks and recreation, to name but a few of the myriad of local services.

A primary Council responsibility is land use policy and zoning, which directly affects the character and livability of our community. The guideline for that land use planning is our Official Community Plan (OCP). All zoning in the

District must fall within those guidelines. The values of our OCP were strongly reinforced by our residents in a survey conducted by Council two years ago. The cornerstone vision for our OCP and for all our strategic planning is "to retain the present rural, agricultural and marine character of the community". The terms of our strategic planning reinforce that principle by adding the need to enhance these values.

Carrying out the work of Council with the additional responsibilities of the Mayor has become increasingly challenging through the past ten years. Visionary efforts must increasingly accommodate changing climactic and world conditions that directly affect our municipality. The responsibilities for food security in North Saanich are expanding with longer and more severe summer drought conditions here but also worldwide. This aspect of our municipality is one of our major roles in the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS). We cannot afford to ignore the importance of enhancement of our food producing lands.

The additional regional pursuit of affordable housing also affects our District and makes the implementation of a meaningful Affordable Housing Policy that fits within our OCP and our role in the region an additional challenge.

In closing, I extend to our outstanding and hardworking staff my sincere thanks for their ongoing support to Council throughout this term. I must add an additional note of gratitude to our exceptional and innovative Chief Administrative Officer, Rob Buchan, without whose encouragement and sound advice we could not have achieved the level of work we managed this term. Additional thanks are due to our many volunteers, particularly those serving on our advisory commissions for their valuable advice to Council in its deliberations.

Finally, my thanks to you, our residents for your consistent input and support to me throughout these ten years.

COMING UP

Fire Prevention Week

Sunday, October 7-13, 2018

The Great BC Shake Out

Drop! Cover! Hold On!
Thursday, October 18, 10:18 a.m.

Halloween Bonfire & Fireworks

Wednesday, October 31
Wain Road Fire Hall
Bonfire & Hotdogs 6:30 p.m.
Fireworks - 7:45

Invasive Plant Removal

R.O. Bull Park - 400 block Wain Rd
Friday, October 19, 10-2

Quarry Park
Saturday, October 20, 9:45-1

Denham Till Park - 744 Birch Rd
Saturday, October 20, 10-2

Lillian Hoffer Park - 10612 McDonald Park Rd
Saturday, November 24, 9:45-1

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

October 1- Council
October 15 - Council
October 22 - COW
November 19 - Council
November 26 - COW
December 3 - Council
December 10 - COW
December 17 - Council

Inaugural Meeting (swearing in of new Council)

November 5 - 2:30 p.m.



Happy Thanksgiving



2018 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

The next general local election for the office of Mayor will be held Saturday, October 20, 2018. The office of Councillors and School Trustees have been won by acclamation.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE?

You are eligible to vote if you are registered as:

- a resident elector (i.e., you live in the District of North Saanich); or
- a non-resident property elector (i.e., you live elsewhere in BC, but own property in the District of North)

Avoid the crowds on general voting day by voting in one of the Advance Polls!

ADVANCE VOTING

Wednesday, October 10 at the Municipal Hall (1620 Mills Road) between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

ADVANCE VOTING

Wednesday, October 17 at the Municipal Hall (1620 Mills Road) between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

GENERAL VOTING DAY

Saturday, October 20, 2018 at the Municipal Hall (1620 Mills Road) between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Election information can be found on the District website at www.northsaanich.ca/municipalhall/elections.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

In August 2018 Council adopted a zoning bylaw amendment permitting the development of 10 Habitat for Humanity affordable housing units in North Saanich, along with the creation of 17 single family market homes in the area of Lochside Drive and Bakerview Street. The location is close to transportation routes and access to various peninsula amenities. This significant contribution to affordable housing is intended for families with minor children, or families with adult children with special needs living in their home. The developer has entered into an agreement with the District to ensure that the homes remain part of the Habitat program for a minimum of 25 years.

SANDOWN UPDATE

Reclamation and drainage works on the 83 acre Sandown site are actively underway, scheduled for completion in the Fall of 2018. The Sandown Transition Team, retained by Council to prepare a transition plan for the Sandown agricultural site, has presented a proposed plan to Council in September. Completion of construction of the new Canadian Tire on the commercial site is also anticipated for Fall 2018.

PEDESTRIAN ROAD SAFETY

The district has received inquiries about whether pedestrians can utilize the bike lanes as a walkway. In accordance with the Motor Vehicle Act, the following guidance is provided:

Pedestrian walking along highway

182 (2) If there is no sidewalk, a pedestrian walking along or on a highway must walk only on the extreme left side of the roadway or the shoulder of the highway, facing traffic approaching from the opposite direction.

The bike lanes would be considered part of the highway and Section 182 (2) would apply. As part of the bike lane project on West Saanich Road, a 0.5m wide shoulder will be constructed along the edge of the roadway and should be used by pedestrians where it is available. Where the shoulder is impassable or not present, pedestrians are allowed to use the left-most edge of the roadway, in this case the left-most edge of the bike lane (not the left-most edge of the vehicle lane).

Consistent with the Act, DriveSmartBC and BC RCMP's websites both recommend pedestrians face oncoming traffic as this allows pedestrians to see approaching vehicles and cyclists and to take evasive action if necessary. Other valuable guidance from the BC RCMP's site includes:

- Dress to be seen especially at night and on dark/overcast days;
- Make sure you can hear and see oncoming cars (and cyclists);
- Make eye contact with drivers (and cyclists). Keep your head up and look where you're walking. Never assume that drivers (or cyclists) see you.

JUBILEE PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

Construction on the next phase of development in Jubilee Park has begun. Posts for the new shade structure have been installed in the southwest corner of the park and concrete curbs have been poured to delineate this area. An area has been cleared for a new climbing structure and saucer swing to the east of the shade structure. Delivery and installation of the swing and climbing structures are anticipated within the next few weeks. Surfacing works and installation of the shade sails will complete the project, likely in early October.



REAY CREEK GARDEN PLOTS

Twenty garden plots were constructed in the District's Reay Creek Park by the developer of Eaglehurst. Earlier this summer, the Eaglehurst Community Garden Society was formed by a volunteer to manage the garden plots.

An irrigation service and small storage shed were also provided in support of the plots with the water usage metered and charged to the Society. For more information on the Society and access to the plots please contact Trevor Davis at tdavis70@gmail.com.

HALLOWEEN BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS

The North Saanich Fire Department will be hosting the annual Halloween bonfire and fireworks at the Wain Road Fire Hall on Wednesday, October 31, 2018. Bonfire and Hotdogs at 6:30 with the Fireworks at 7:45. Please come and enjoy the show and have a free hot dog and drink.

Donations to CFAx Santas Anonymous are gratefully accepted.



SAANICH PENINSULA ALERT SYSTEM

North Saanich, Sidney, and Central Saanich municipalities have joined together to provide public safety alerts to the residents of the Saanich Peninsula. The Saanich Peninsula Alert system is designed to deliver, in real time, critical and potentially life-saving alerts to residents and stakeholders who have registered.



To receive alerts, please visit our website www.northsaanichfire.ca and register with Saanich Peninsula Alert. Your participation in this system is voluntary and all information you provide is protected and confidential.



BURNING SEASON OPENS NOVEMBER 1, 2018

Effective Thursday November 1, 2018 the burning season will be open with all fires requiring a permit.



Please consider alternatives to burning such as composting, recycling, chipping, or for a fee, you can drop off material at the Municipal Green Waste Drop-off on Littlewood Road.

For your permit, or any questions, please call the Fire Department at 250-656-1931 or visit our website www.northsaanichfire.ca

DISTRICT EMERGENCY: WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

In the event of a District emergency there are primary and secondary actions you can do to keep informed.

PRIMARY:

1. Prepare Yourself: Stop by the Fire Hall to pick up our "Prepare Yourself Guide". Information from this Guide will help you to stay safe in a disaster, be self-sufficient for seven days, assist you in reuniting with family members, and reduce the risks of property damage.
2. Like and follow us at: www.twitter.com/dns_fire or www.facebook.com/northsaanichfiredept.
3. Listen to C-Fax radio 1070 (remember to keep a battery operated radio in your emergency kit).
4. Check the municipal website at www.northsaanich.ca.

SECONDARY:

1. Phone the municipal hall 250-656-0781 (might be a recorded message).
2. Contact the Fire Hall 250-656-1931 (be aware, this line may be overloaded with other callers).

If any of the above is not possible, make your way to the fire hall at 986 Wain Road as there will be someone available to assist you.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Do you have what it takes to be a Volunteer Firefighter? The North Saanich Volunteer Fire Department is accepting applications for Volunteer Firefighters. The recruit class will commence in December. For an application and more information, please visit our website www.northsaanichfire.ca

GRADE 5 FIRE SAFETY EXPO

North Saanich, Sidney, Central Saanich, and Saanich Fire Departments will be holding the annual Fire Safety Expo for the Grade 4/5 students of SD63 at North Saanich Wain Road Hall from October 2 – 5.

FIRESMART UPDATE

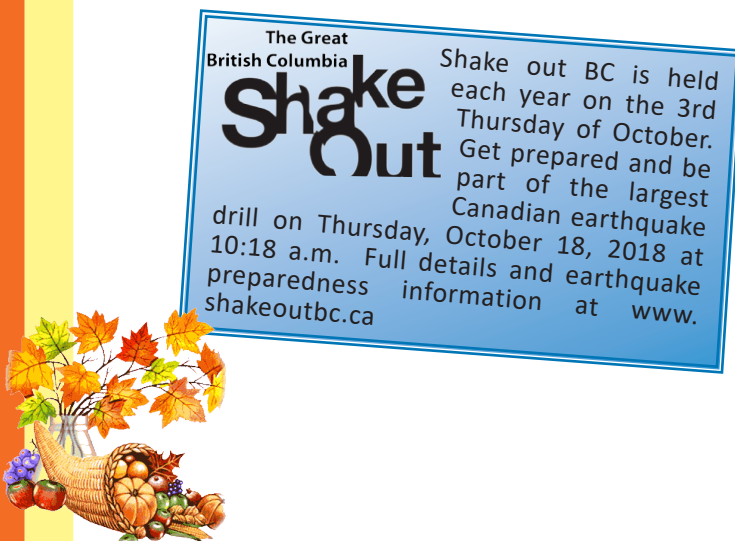
The North Saanich Fire Department and volunteers from the North Saanich Wildfire Prevention Committee (comprised of members of DPECA, NSRA, and PROW) have been diligently working together on the implementation of the North Saanich FireSmart Planning and Activities grant. This grant is funded by the Union of BC Municipalities Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative Program.

North Saanich FireSmart activities include conducting over 20 complimentary FireSmart property assessments; delivering FireSmart resource kits to local commercial areas/businesses, wildland urban interface residential areas deemed "high to extreme" risk, Pauquachin First Nation, and Tseycum First Nation; and posting "no smoking" signs throughout the District of North Saanich. As well, a "Call for Action on Wildfire Prevention" communiqué containing pertinent information about wildfire issues, actions, and strategies for all of us to consider on wildfire prevention and risk reduction in North Saanich was distributed (via Canada Post).

Through the North Saanich FireSmart grant, there are also plans to hold fall 2018 FireSmart forum(s). Visit www.northsaanichfire.ca for further updates.

GROUNDWATER LICENCING

Please be advised that under the BC Water Sustainability Act (WSA) new wells are required to be licensed immediately. Existing wells are grandfathered in until March 1, 2019, after which time your priority over the water may be lost (first in time, first in right). If existing users apply before March 1, 2019 the province will waive the application fee. The BC WSA has been in force since February 29, 2016. All agricultural, commercial, industrial, and municipal groundwater supply wells must be licensed under the Act. You can find the new regulations at the following website: www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water



GARDEN REFUSE

A reminder that it is illegal to dump or deposit any household, business, construction, or garden waste in parks. The District provides a green waste drop off service at the Municipal Hall every month on the first and third Saturday, and second and fourth Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Visit www.northsaanich.ca/services Green Waste link for the annual schedule.

INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL WORK PARTIES

Friends of North Saanich Parks are holding several invasive plant removal work parties. Everyone is welcome with training provided along with snacks and refreshments. It is advised that you dress for the weather and while some spare gloves and clippers are available, it would be helpful if you could bring your own. More information can be found at www.fnsp.ca. Work party dates are on the 1st page under "Coming Up".



Emergency Police, Fire, Ambulance	9 1 1
NON-EMERGENCY POLICE (i.e. traffic issues)	250-656-3931
NON-EMERGENCY FIRE (after hours)	1-877-537-6725
MAIN SWITCHBOARD	250-656-0781
Building Inspections, Bylaw Enforcement, Licensing, Planning & Zoning	250-655-5470
Corporate Services	250-655-5458
Engineering Services	250-655-5460
Financial Services	250-656-0781
Fire Department	250-656-1931
Public Works	250-655-5480
AFTER HOURS Public Works	250-360-8285
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