

Message from Council



Above: 2018-2022 District of North Saanich Council in front of totem pole designed, carved and painted by local Tseycum First Nation artist James Jimmy.

Council began summer in a good way by walking with our colleagues in the Sidney Days Canada Day parade. The slogan on the banner carried by Mayor McNeil-Smith and Mayor Orr read *“Working Well Together”*. We believe the relationships between North Saanich, Sidney and Central Saanich are strong, and Council looks forward to continued advocacy on behalf of all Peninsula residents.

A good example of this collaboration was the May 4, 2019 Forum *“Health Care in Our Community”*, co-hosted by North Saanich, Sidney, Central Saanich, Saanich and the Saanich Peninsula Hospital and Healthcare Foundation.

Mayor Orr attended a full day Speculation and Vacancy Tax (SVT) meeting in mid-September hosted by Finance Minister Carole James. Most of the 40 municipalities affected by the SVT were at the table and all were provided an opportunity

to communicate the local impact. Preliminary figures for North Saanich indicate that 75 properties were non-exempt and the total SVT bill paid by the respective owners was \$618,000. This represents 17% of the total SVT bill paid within the CRD, and on a non-exempt per-property basis was 33% higher than the average in the region. Minister James did indicate that the Provincial Government may consider changes to the SVT during the fall Legislative session.

In response to a motion put forward by Councillor Pearson, Council approved the creation of a new Climate Change Committee and associated Terms of Reference. We expect to finalize the process in the next month and will then begin accepting committee applications. Councillor Pearson and Councillor Weisenberger have also agreed to represent North Saanich on a Canada-wide non-partisan Climate Caucus group.

Residents may recall that the District’s Agricultural Land Commission subdivision and non-farm use application for the Panorama Recreation Centre lands was denied. Council is still interested in pursuing a library on the site and allowing for future expansion of the Panorama facility, therefore, staff will be preparing an application to exclude the entire recreation centre parcel. Council received support to move in this direction from all three District Commissions as well as the Peninsula Recreation Commission.

Please read on in this newsletter for further community information and updates, including the 2019 Flavour Trails events and the Sandown Agricultural Lands initiative.

We encourage you to stay engaged and help promote a healthy, connected, and prosperous community.

What’s Happening

Sandown Update

Earlier this year, the District opened a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) process to seek applications from parties interested in operating the Sandown Agricultural Lands on a long-term basis. The RFEI closed in May, with two submissions received. Following this, Council decided to extend the RFEI to August 30, and four new responses were received. Council is currently considering these responses, along with other options for the Lands. A full history of the Sandown Lands can be found at northsaanich.ca/sandown.

Whole Community Agricultural Strategy

In June 2019, Council adopted the Whole Community Agricultural Strategy (WCAS) Implementation Plan, which highlights top priority actions and next steps for the District to take in improving and supporting the future of traditional and non-traditional agriculture in local food systems. Municipal actions included in the Implementation Plan will

inform upcoming Strategic Plan deliberations and subsequent staff work plans. For further information on the WCAS and agriculture in the District, visit northsaanich.ca/agriculture.



Flavour Trails

The 12th annual Flavour Trails festival held in August was a great success! This event celebrates local agriculture and showcases the flavours of our region for all to enjoy, featuring farm tours, indigenous food system educational opportunities, farmer’s markets, local food sampling, dog herding, sheep shearing, horse carriage rides, a pancake breakfast, and more.

We are excited that this event keeps growing and hope to see you out next year!

Halloween Bonfire & Fireworks

The North Saanich Fire Department will be hosting the annual Halloween bonfire and fireworks at the Wain Road Fire Hall on Thursday, October 31. Bonfire and hotdogs are planned for 6:30p.m. with fireworks at 7:45p.m. Come out and take part in one of our biggest community events of the year and enjoy a free hot dog and drink. Donations to CFAA Santas Anonymous are gratefully accepted.

Website Email Subscription

Did you know that you can now subscribe to receive automatic email updates when news items, public notices, and newsletters are posted on the District’s website? Visit northsaanich.ca/notifications to sign up!

Commission Appointments

This fall, the District will be accepting applications from individuals interested in serving on the following Commissions and Committees:

- Board of Variance
- Community Stewardship Commission
- Community Planning Commission
- Community Agricultural Commission
- Victoria Airport Authority Noise Management Committee
- Saanich Peninsula Water & Wastewater Commission
- Peninsula Recreation Commission

For further information about these volunteer opportunities, or to obtain an application form, please visit northsaanich.ca or come to the Municipal Hall from 8:00a.m. to 4:30p.m. on weekdays (excluding statutory holidays).

What's **Happening** / Cont'd



Green Waste & Outdoor Burning

Looking to get rid of your yard waste?

Our green waste processing facility is open from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on the first and third Saturday and the second and fourth Thursday of each month. For more details, including prices and schedule, visit northsaanich.ca/green-waste.

Burning season will open on Thursday, November 7. All outdoor fires require a permit which can be obtained at the Wain Road Fire Hall (986 Wain Road). For more information, please contact the Fire Department at 250-656-1931, or visit northsaanich.ca/burning.

Reminder

Outstanding Utility Bills

A reminder that all utility bills outstanding at December 31, 2019 will be transferred to the property tax account on January 1, 2020, and will be subject to arrears interest thereafter until paid.

It's Not Too Late to Claim Your Home Owner Grant!

Have you claimed your Home Owner Grant for 2019? If not, you can still claim it at the Municipal Hall, or online at northsaanich.ca. It is also still possible to claim a 2018 Home Owner Grant if you do so before December 31, 2019. Please visit the Municipal Hall to claim a 2018 Grant.



Accessible Parking

A review of existing accessible parking regulations was recently conducted in response to requests from the community, following the removal of accessible parking requirements from the BC Building Code. As a result of this review, the District amended its zoning bylaw to bring accessible parking standards into alignment with the Canadian Standards Association Standard B651. The amendment provides enhanced requirements for developments which require more than four parking spaces, such as multi-family or commercial/ industrial projects. These regulatory changes will not apply to existing developments unless a change of use is being considered.

For further information, please contact the Planning and Community Services Department at 250-656-0781.

Abandoned Boats Program

The CRD's Abandoned Boats Program was created to assess and remove abandoned boats in the region, and raise awareness about proper end-of-life practices for recycling and disposing of old boats.

To report an abandoned boat so that it can be considered for removal under the program, contact the CRD at infoline@crd.bc.ca or 250-360-3030. When reporting an abandoned boat, you can assist the CRD in their process by providing exact location, vessel name, vessel description, license number, how long the boat has been in that location, and/or photos.

If you have a boat that you no longer want, visit crd.bc.ca/boat for a step-by-step disposal guide.

Upcoming Events

Halloween Bonfire & Fireworks

Thursday, October 31
Wain Road Fire Hall

Bonfire & Hotdogs 6:30p.m.
Fireworks 7:45p.m.

Fire Prevention Week

October 6 – 12

Community Meeting

Wednesday, October 16 @ 7:00p.m.
McTavish Academy of Art

Strategic Planning Meetings

Fall 2019 - dates TBA

Stay tuned to northsaanich.ca and our Facebook & Twitter pages for updates!

Outdoor Burning Season Opens

Thursday, November 7

The Great BC Shake Out Drop! Cover! Hold On!

Thursday, October 17 @ 10:17a.m.

Invasive Plant Removal

10:00a.m. – 2:00p.m.

October 5, Denham Till Park
October 26, Nymph Point Park
November 9, Denham Till Park
November 23, Lillian Hoffer Park
December 7, Nymph Point Park

Council & Committee of the Whole (COW) Meetings – 7pm

- October 7 – Council
- October 21 – Council (Cancelled due to Federal Election)
- October 28 – COW
- November 4 – Council
- November 18 – Council
- November 25 – COW
- December 2 – Council
- December 9 – COW
- December 16 – Council

Department Contact Information

Corporate Services

250-656-0781

Financial & Information Technology Services

250-656-0781

Planning & Community Services

250-655-5470

Engineering

250-655-5460

Public Works & Parks

250-655-5480

Fire Hall (Non-Emergency)

250-656-1931

