

Connect North Saanich: Fall 2022

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North Saanich exists on the traditional territories of the **WSÁNEĆ** peoples. We thank them for caring for this land and look forward to working with the **BOKEĆEN** (Pauquachin) First Nation and **WSÍKEM** (Tseycum) First Nation for years to come.

Message from Mayor & Council



Fall – our typically warm, transitioning to wet, season. The Coast Salish or Saltwater People refer to the season as **ČENITŁONSET** “Earth Cooling Down”.

We are approaching the end of a second four-year term for the majority of the current Council. This term has been one of extremes: heat waves and snowstorms, COVID-19 lock downs and lifting of restrictions, a November 2021 heavy rain event, an OCP rally at the hall, and numerous very busy Council agendas.

My time as Mayor has been a highlight of my life. It has been an honour and privilege to serve the

residents of North Saanich. Early in the term I revised this section of the newsletter to reflect a message from Mayor and Council to demonstrate the collaborative nature of our work together. I am proud of what we accomplished and how we carried out the business of the District.

We are also proud of our efforts to enhance communication and strengthen relationships with Pauquachin Nation and Tseycum Nation.

We advanced many key strategic planning goals, some of which have been on the strategic plan for

many years: Tree Bylaw Review, Official Community Plan Review, Community Wildfire Management Plan, Sandown Centre, and Active Transportation Plan. We also saw the creation of a Climate Change Select Committee, Saanich Peninsula Accessibility Advisory Committee, First Nations Relations reserve fund, and a District Tree policy. Various policies were updated including the Council Parental Leave policy and elements of the Respectful Workplace policy which addressed Diversity and Anti-racism.

Council Chambers physical setup was incrementally modified to enhance the resident experience and allow for efficient use of the space during Council, Commission, and other meetings.

The Council Procedures Bylaw was revised to align with Provincial legislative changes and to allow for electronic participation at Council meetings. The latter will continue and provide for a much more flexible means by which Council members, presenters, and the public can participate.

During the first part of the pandemic, there was such a heightened awareness and

compassion for each other - we were constantly checking in to see what others needed and how we could help - there was an intense focus on supporting local - there was a keen sense of togetherness. Let's try to hold onto this way of being.

The municipal election is October 15, 2022. The incoming Mayor and Council will have an opportunity to establish their 2022-26 Strategic Plan, advance new initiatives and see projects such as the Official Community Plan, Zoning Bylaw review, and Parks Master plan through to completion. A number of Council members will not be running for re-election so there will be new faces at the Council table.

The election provides an opportunity to listen to each other, honour diversity in values and opinions, and find ways to move forward together – in a good way.

We hope you had an excellent summer with family and friends and plan to make the most of the cool fall to explore our wonderful community. We are indeed fortunate to call North Saanich home.

HÍSWKE – Thank you for your participation and support over these last four years.

Reminders

Important Reminders about Outstanding Property Taxes and Utility Bills

Any unpaid 2022 property taxes, including unclaimed Homeowner Grants, are subject to an additional penalty of 5% after October 3, 2022.

All utility bills outstanding on December 31, 2022 will be transferred to the property tax account on January 1, 2023, and will be subject to arrears interest thereafter until paid.

Green Waste & Outdoor Burning

Wondering what to do with the autumn leaves, woody debris, or branches scattered about your property and boulevard?

The District's Green Waste Facility, at 10180 Littlewood Road, is open from

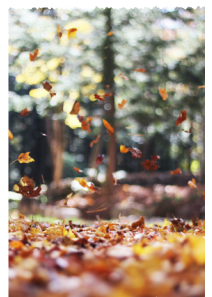
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. every Saturday and the second and fourth Thursday of each month. The facility is closed on statutory holidays.

For more details, including prices and a downloadable schedule, visit northsaanich.ca/green-waste.

Burning season will open on November 3, 2022. All outdoor fires require a permit, which you can obtain at the Wain Road Fire Hall (986 Wain Road).

You are permitted fires every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of the first and third weeks of the month until May 2023.

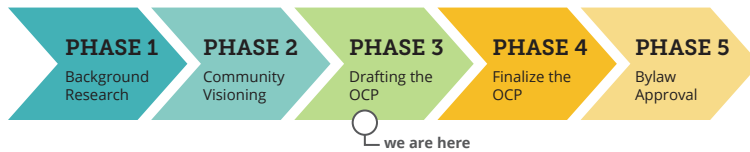
For more information, please contact the Fire Department at 250-656-1931, or visit northsaanich.ca/outdoor-burning.



Project Updates

Official Community Plan Review

COMMUNITY & FIRST NATIONS ENGAGEMENT



In late spring 2022, North Saanich residents participated in Phase 3 of community engagement for the Official Community Plan (OCP) review.

There were a number of ways to participate, including an online survey, three open houses (online and in-person), seven dialogue sessions with neighbourhood and community organizations, three council commissions, and a workshop for residents in the District's "southeast quadrant".

We thank all the participants for sharing their perspectives through these engagement opportunities.



In total, 489 people submitted feedback through the online survey, 174 people attended the open houses, 64 people participated in the dialogue sessions, and 52 people attended the southeast quadrant workshop.

On August 15, Council was presented with the Phase 3 Engagement Summary Report, which identified levels of satisfaction with information and engagement opportunities; what we heard in response to the draft vision, goals, policy directions, land use scenarios; and key takeaways and recommendations. Council directed staff to draft an Official Community Plan (OCP) per the 30 recommendations outlined in the report and to present the draft plan to Council and North Saanich residents in early 2023.

To learn more about the OCP, and to review the Phase 3 Engagement Summary and Recommendations Report, visit connectnorthsaanich.ca/ocp.



connectnorthsaanich.ca/ocp

Tree Protection Bylaw Review

At a Regular Meeting of Council on Tuesday, September 20, 2022, Council discussed a staff report that provided information, analysis, and recommendations on the Tree Protection Bylaw Review in response to Council's July 11, 2022 motions. It also presented the new Tree Protection

Bylaw No. 1548 and amending bylaws to amend the Municipal Ticketing Information Bylaw and the Fees and Charges Bylaw.

Council directed staff to amend the bylaws to:

- Change the definition of damage to allow items to be affixed to trees and trunk (and not be considered damage)
- Display a copy of a tree permit for 48 hours as opposed to 24 hours; and
- Allow trees recommended for a removal as a result of a wildfire risk assessment to be exempt from fees, tree requirements, and replacement requirements.

Following these amendments, Council gave three readings to the Tree Protection Bylaw No. 1548 and amending bylaws to amend the Municipal Ticketing Information Bylaw and the Fees and Charges Bylaw.

Next steps: Council will be presented with the bylaws for adoption and the District Tree Policy for Council endorsement.

To learn more about the Tree Protection Bylaw review, visit connectnorthsaanich.ca/tree-bylaw.



connectnorthsaanich.ca/tree-bylaw

Drainage Master Plan & Tseycum Creek Stormwater Management Plan

This summer, North Saanich residents were invited to learn more about the District of North Saanich's development of an Integrated Stormwater Management Plan (ISMP) for the Tseycum Creek watershed.

Local Indigenous communities, interest groups, key stakeholders, and property owners were invited to attend online information sessions and provide their feedback on the topic of the draft ISMP as the Project Team entered Phase 2 of the engagement process.

The ISMP is intended to help the District better understand the relationship between drainage servicing, land use, and the environment.

The ISMP is being completed as part of the District's overall asset management program.

Residents can learn more about the draft ISMP, what it means for their community, and details about the next stages of public engagement, at connectnorthsaanich.ca/drainage. An engagement summary from Phase 2 is also posted at this link.

Chalet Creek Culvert Repair

During the summer months, the District oversaw permanent repairs to the Chalet Creek culvert, which was damaged during the extreme rainfall event on November 15, 2021.

The repairs support the passage of fish beneath Chalet Road, whether they are swimming upstream or downstream.

The construction was substantially completed September 30, and we appreciate residents' patience as we have worked to fix the road and improve habitat for fish in the creek.

For more information, visit northsaanich.ca/chalet-road.

Project Updates (Continued)



KELSET Elementary School Traffic Safety Upgrades

At the start of the school year, students, teachers, and parents of students at KELSET Elementary School saw some changes along Forest Park Drive.

Over the summer, the District completed construction improvements to calm traffic, improve pedestrian safety, and change parking during high-traffic times at KELSET Elementary School.

During drop-off and pick-up times at the school, parking spaces closest to the school are now limited to 5-minute parking.

For longer stays, drivers should park at the unrestricted or 2-hour areas elsewhere on the street. Signs now identify whether parking spots are restricted to five minutes or two hours.

You can find more information, including background documents and traffic studies, at connectnorthsaanich.ca/kelset-traffic-study.

Jubilee Park Playground Upgrades

While we are excited to get this project moving, the projected timeline for engagement has been slightly modified.

Residents will still be able to weigh in via our project page and online survey and we will still be offering playground equipment options for park users to select from. We hope to have the survey and options available late fall 2022.

For survey and options watch for notices through

connectnorthsaanich.ca/jubilee-park, and signage at the park.

What's Happening

Municipal Elections

General local government elections are scheduled for Saturday, October 15. Voters are being asked to elect one Mayor, six Councillors, and two School Board Trustees for School District 63 (Saanich).

Voting will take place at Municipal Hall: 1620 Mills Road. Advance voting will be held on Wednesday, October 5 and Wednesday, October 12.

North Saanich electors may request a mail-in ballot to vote by mail. Important: To be counted, mailed ballots MUST be received by the Chief Election Officer by 4:00 p.m. October 14, or hand delivered to the Municipal Hall by 8:00 p.m. on October 15.

On September 9, the declaration of candidates for the election was made. Please see northsaanich.ca/election-candidates for a full list of candidates.

If you haven't put yourself on the voter's list, local election officials for North Saanich will accept new registrations on advanced voting days and the general voting day.

The District is dedicated to making the process of voting as free from barriers as possible. See northsaanich.ca/election-accessibility for information about options to make voting more accessible.

For more information, visit northsaanich.ca/elections.



Volunteer Firefighters – We are Recruiting!

The North Saanich Fire Department is inviting healthy, physically fit, and service-oriented people from the community to apply to join its volunteer firefighting team. It doesn't matter if you are a veteran firefighter or someone without any public safety experience.

We value diversity: the varied skills and experiences people bring to the department can make a significant and positive difference at emergency scenes.

After tryouts are completed, successful recruits will begin their training in late 2022.

To learn more and to submit your application, visit northsaanich.ca/fire-recruitment

Annual Halloween Bonfire

We are happy to welcome you back to this popular tradition, hosted by the North Saanich Fire Department. Join us at the Wain Road Fire Hall on Monday, October 31. Enjoy the bonfire and a free hot dog starting at 6:30 p.m., and fireworks at 7:45 p.m.



To help give back to the community, we will gratefully accept donations to CFX Santa's Anonymous.

Commission Appointments

Lending your expertise and experience to an advisory commission is a meaningful and tangible way to support your community. Later this fall, the District will begin accepting applications from individuals interested in serving on a number of Advisory Commissions and Committees.

Subscribe to our website's Public Notices or follow us on our social media platforms to learn which commissions and committees will have vacancies this fall.

For more information about these voluntary commissions and committees, visit northsaanich.ca/advisory-commission-application and click the "MEETINGS" button.

Did You Know?

Wildfire Preparedness

Although the hottest and driest days of summer are over, a changing climate means we can't predict what fall will bring.

It is wise to maintain your vigilance about the risk of wildfires when you live in a densely forested area like North Saanich.

So take advantage of resources, tips, and advice offered by the North Saanich Fire Department and other organizations—like FireSmart BC—to protect your homes and properties.

The North Saanich Fire Department makes home visits to help residents identify wildfire risks and prepare their houses and properties against this threat. To request a site visit, call the North Saanich Fire Department at 250-656-1931 or email firedept@northsaanich.ca.

After you have raked up your autumn leaves, make the most of the District's green waste facility (see the "Green Waste & Outdoor Burning" section for details).

For many excellent online tools (including a Homeowner's Manual and the FireSmart BC Landscaping Guide) to help you safeguard your home and property, visit firesmartbc.ca.

Reflective Address Signs

For \$65.00 (tax & installation) the North Saanich Fire Department will install a high-visibility reflective address marker. You can make your purchase at the North Saanich Fire Hall, 986 Wain Road (8:00 - 4:00, Monday to Friday).

We want to be able to locate your home in an emergency—quickly.

You can also assist our crews by keeping your driveway and access to your home clear of vegetation and branches. This can help fire trucks drive as close to your home as possible in an emergency. Helping us helps you.

Preparing for Fall Weather

The atmospheric river events of 2021 were a soggy wake-up call for many in the province.

North Saanich certainly wasn't spared. And with the wet season approaching, now is the time to prepare.

Homeowners and business owners can prepare for rainfall by clearing nearby catch basins and culverts of debris like leaves and making sure your yard waste isn't going to wash into drains or culverts.

These simple actions help manage the flow of water around properties, ensuring that drainage systems are working as they are designed.

While you're tackling this task, keep in mind that when it rains, water travels across our driveways, roofs, property, and perimeter drains, and picks up



any chemicals, metal, dirt, and oil. Ultimately, the rainwater then enters our stormwater system, which connects to our natural waterways. To learn more about preventing pollution in your rainwater, visit

www.crd.bc.ca/education/live-green

And where can you dispose of your yard waste? The District's Green Waste Facility: see northsaanich.ca/green-waste for details.



northsaanich.ca/green-waste

What is Emergency Support Services?

Peninsula Emergency Measures Organization Emergency Support Services (PEMO ESS) is a Government of BC program. ESS community volunteers coordinate supports for residents who have been affected by an emergency or disaster, from single-family home fires to larger scale disaster events such as wildfire, flooding or earthquake in Sidney, Central Saanich and North Saanich.

Larger-scale events may require a Group Lodging and Reception Centre to be set up to provide more extensive, longer-term services such as: family reunification, transportation, communication, health care, childcare and additional services provided by community stake holders and partners.

Interested in volunteering? Call 250.507.2183 or email essdirector@pemo.ca. More information at www.pemo.ca/ess

Earthquake Drill

"Drop, Cover and Hold On" during Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drill on October 20 at 10:20 a.m.



Partner Feature

Flavour Trails Festival Wrap-up

The North Saanich Flavour Trails Festival returned this summer, much to many delights.

Flavour Trails closed with a two-day celebration on August 27-28 with a tremendously successful old-fashioned Farm Festival at Sandown Centre for Regenerative Agriculture.

You can still learn about the growers, harvesters, fishers, vinters, chefs, and food producers from across North Saanich who create an amazingly rich bounty of food and beverages here in our own backyard at flavourtrails.com.

