

Connect North Saanich: Winter 2023

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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



As we embark upon a new year, we want to start by thanking you for trusting us to represent this community as your elected 2022-2026 Council. It is an honour and a privilege to work alongside District staff to establish a vision for the future.

We have four new members of council, and three familiar faces returning for another term—Mayor Peter Jones, along with Councillors Phil DiBattista, Irene McConkey and Sanjiv Shrivastava join incumbents Jack McClintock, Brett Smyth and Celia Stock. We bring a wide range of backgrounds and experiences and look forward to working together to serve all residents of North Saanich over the next four years.

An area of focus for Council is to support the vision of the Regional

Growth Strategy and to strengthen North Saanich in a sustainable way that enhances our rural roots. Since the inauguration in November, we have been immersed in reviewing the Official Community Plan (OCP) and creating a path forward. At the Regular Meeting of Council December 5, 2022, Council approved the establishment of the OCP Advisory Committee, as proposed by Mayor Jones. Mayor Jones has since appointed members of council and the public to sit on this committee, as well as its subcommittees (housing/planning; agriculture/food; climate/environment; and marine/water ways). Our goal is to be able to present to the public for review this summer. We are

also happy to report that we have filled all positions on the advisory committees and thank all who expressed an interest in joining.

These past few months, we have seen some great successes for our community. The project to replace the Chalet Creek culvert and restore the lower portion of Chalet Creek was completed, re-opening the road to residents in November. We also finalized the cost-sharing agreement with Town of Sidney and the Victoria Airport Authority on the Beacon Avenue West roundabout and engaged with residents on some exciting new playground additions for Jubilee Park.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the District of North Saanich Public Works team for

their hard work during the snow event in late December, making our roads safe for travel. Thanks also to the entire community for clearing walkways in front of your homes, and for moving cars off the road to help our crews and your neighbours.

When it comes to all issues affecting North Saanich residents, engagement is key to moving forward together, and your voice and viewpoints matter. Please watch for opportunities to connect with your 2022-2026 Council—we will be posting these on our website and sharing via social media soon. We are committed to communicating with all residents in a timely, clear, and open environment and look forward to a bright future for North Saanich.

Project Updates

Let's Talk Budget 2023

Each year, the District develops an annual budget outlining how tax dollars are invested to support our residents and community. We include a five-year balanced financial plan to guide our strategic investments and departmental service plans while keeping property taxes and utility fees affordable over the long term.

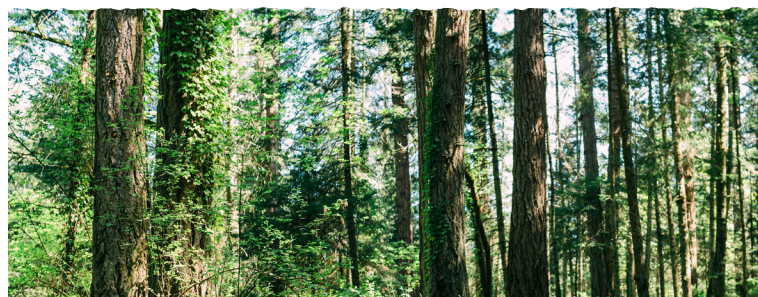
Council sets tax rates for each property class annually as part of the budget process. Council also determines the increase in property taxes needed to fully fund the operating budget each year.

In 2022, the District's financial plan included a 4.35% increase in residential taxes and 2.86% in commercial property taxes.

This year, we are asking residents for their feedback on our upcoming budget year through an online survey, which is open until February 17, 2023. Your input will help shape funding priorities, service levels, and property tax rates as we develop the 2023 District budget. Once available, you can review the 2023 survey results and keep up to date on the budget engagement process at: northsaanich.ca/budget.



northsaanich.ca/budget



Outdoor Burning

Burn Smart, Burn Clean

Outdoor burning has been allowed in North Saanich for many years to manage excess green waste. However, there is a growing awareness about the impact of the smoke from outdoor burning on human health, particularly for children, the elderly, and people with preexisting health conditions. You can help by choosing alternatives to burning.

If you must burn, burn smart & clean.

Alternatives To Burning



Dispose of green waste on your property by chipping and/or composting.



Drop-off at the green waste facility.



Hire a local contractor to dispose of waste.

Tree Protection Bylaw update and resources

Council adopted the new Tree Protection Bylaw No. 1548 at the October 3 Regular Council meeting. To find more information on the new Tree Protection Bylaw including educational guides, application forms, and the species list please visit northsaanich.ca/trees.



northsaanich.ca/trees



Chalet Road

The Chalet Creek culvert replacement and restoration of the lower part of Chalet Creek was completed in October, with the road opening to the public November 1. The District also worked with Peninsula Streams and Shoreline Society to improve the fish-bearing environment of the natural creek bed. We extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to the partners who worked collaboratively to see this important project through to completion.

Reay Creek Pedestrian Bridge

At the December 5, 2022 Regular Meeting of Council, staff were directed by Council to proceed with the project to create a pedestrian link between Reay Creek in North Saanich and Peter Grant Park in Sidney. A project schedule is currently in development, and we anticipate the project to be complete by fall 2023.

Burn Better

If you are going to burn, please reduce the smoke from fires by:

- Burning on good venting days only. The B.C. venting index can be found online.
- Burn hot. Ensure the fire has adequate oxygen.
- Burn dry material. Do not burn leaves, green grass, construction waste or household items



northsaanich.ca/outdoor-burning

Green Waste

The 2023 Green Waste schedule is now available. More details on fees and what is accepted at northsaanich.ca/services/green-waste.



northsaanich.ca/services/green-waste



Home Energy Navigator Program

Renovating your home? The Home Energy Navigator Program is a free program created by local governments in B.C. to engage and support homeowners throughout their retrofit journey. Participants are connected with an Energy Concierge, who will be available throughout their retrofit project to answer questions, provide support, and give local, expert advice and guidance to navigate the complex world of home energy retrofits.

The program goal is to reduce carbon pollution from homes and buildings, which make up approximately 40% of the carbon pollution in the Capital Region. If you have questions regarding rebate requirements, need support with deciding which upgrades are right for your home, reviewing quotes, or filling out your rebate applications, visit homeenergy.nav.ca.

2023	THURSDAY	THURSDAY	SATURDAY
JANUARY	12	26	Open every Saturday except December 23, 28, & 30
FEBRUARY	9	23	
MARCH	9	23	
APRIL	13	27	
MAY	11	25	
JUNE	8	22	
JULY	13	27	
AUGUST	10	24	
SEPTEMBER	14	28	
OCTOBER	12	26	
NOVEMBER	9	23	
DECEMBER	14	Closed	

Reminders

2023 Property Assessments

Recently, you would have received your 2023 property assessment from BC Assessment. An increase in your assessed value does not imply that your property taxes will increase. The most important factor is not how much your assessed value has changed, but how your assessed value has changed relative to the average change for your property class. See BCAssessment.ca for further information or call 1-866-825-8322.

Speculation Tax Declaration

By early February, the Province will issue speculation tax declaration notices. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/speculation-vacancy-tax>

*Please note your speculation tax declaration is separate from your home owner grant claim – this declaration does not claim your home owner grant. If eligible, you must apply annually for your home owner grant at gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant.

Upgrading your home?
Save your energy.
Free local energy experts are here to help.

home energy NAVIGATOR
New regional service brought to you by: CRD

Business Licences

Business licence renewal notices have been mailed out, and payments are due by Tuesday, Feb 28, 2023. We accept cash, cheque or debit at the Municipal Hall and look forward to seeing you! More info at northsaanich.ca/business-licence.



northsaanich.ca/business-licence



Dog Licences

Is your beagle legal? Renewal notices have been sent out and payments are due by February 28, 2023. More info at: northsaanich.ca/dog-licence.



northsaanich.ca/dog-licence

Weather Preparedness

Snow Removal

The District has over 140 km of road to maintain and keep safe and passable. In the event of a snowstorm, we prioritize our snow clearing efforts as follows:

- First priority: major and emergency routes, hills and curves
- Second priority: secondary and connector roads
- Third priority: residential streets and cul-de-sacs *Private roads and driveways are not cleared by the District

Please do your part by:

- Clearing walkways around your property
- Avoiding parking on roads (which can prevent them from being cleared)
- Checking on and assisting your neighbours

For more information, and to view the route clearing map, visit northsaanich.ca/snow.



northsaanich.ca/snow

Rainfall

In this climate, it's always a good idea to be prepared for heavy rain. Here are some simple actions to help ensure you are prepared in the event of a downpour:

- Clear nearby catch basins and culverts of waste or debris like leaves
- Keep yard waste away from locations near drains or culverts

Winter Storm Readiness

- Check your emergency kit to ensure you have enough supplies to last one week
- Stay away from downed hydro lines as they can be re-energized without any advance notice
- Have your vehicle fitted with winter tires: they perform better in cooler weather and are required by law on some highways



Upcoming Council Meetings 2023

Meetings are held at 7:00 pm in the Council Chamber unless otherwise posted.

Regular Meeting of Council

January 30	March 20	May 1
February 6	April 3	May 15
March 6	April 24	

Committee of the Whole

February 13	March 13	May 8
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Did You Know? If you are unable to join us in person, you can livestream from home, or watch the recording afterwards at your leisure.

Fire Department Happenings



The North Saanich Firefighters Association had an eventful fall and winter, supporting charities like the Peninsula Lions Food Bank, Muscular Dystrophy Canada, and Santa's Anonymous. The popular Halloween bonfire returned, along with other events, including the annual food bank drive and tree chipping. The Movember crew was also in full force again this year! A huge shoutout to all who supported with your donations and to those who helped to make these events happen.

Fire Hall Contact Information Non Emergency

Phone: 250-656-1931

Phone: 1-877-537-6725 (after regular work

during regular work hours)

hours; ask for North Saanich Duty Officer)

Email: firedepartment@northsaanich.ca

IN AN EMERGENCY, ALWAYS DIAL 9-1-1.