

Connect North Saanich: Fall 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



We hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits. As your elected representatives, we wanted to take a moment to update you on some important developments in our community.

Interim CAO appointment

We are pleased to inform you that the search for a permanent Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) is well underway. In the meantime, we have appointed a highly qualified interim CAO (Stephanie Munro) to ensure the continued efficient operation of our municipal government. Rest assured that we are committed to finding the right leader to serve North Saanich for the long term.

Summer progress on key projects

This summer, our staff and crews have made significant headway on several important projects that will enhance our community's quality of life. These include accessible playground equipment at Jubilee Park, West Saanich Road corridor improvements, and the McDonald Park Road multi-use path. From infrastructure projects to environmental initiatives, we are diligently working to make North Saanich an even better place to live.

Engaging with residents

We look forward to engaging with you this fall to discuss our Parks Master Plan. Your input and ideas

are invaluable in shaping the future of our parks and recreational areas. Stay tuned for more announcements about community meetings and opportunities to provide your feedback in the near future.

New Councillor elected

This summer, we held a by-election on July 8 for one councillor position. Kristine Marshall was declared the winner, and elected to the District of North Saanich Council. We are pleased to welcome Kristine – her wealth of experience and expertise with various boards and stakeholders will be invaluable to this team.

Sights and sounds of summer

It was great to see so many of you out

enjoying the summer to the fullest at events such as the North Saanich Flavour Trails, and the Saanich Fair. These longstanding events, some of which date back more than 150 years, are as captivating and fun as ever.

We are honored to serve as your Mayor and Council, and we remain dedicated to the well-being and prosperity of North Saanich. Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions, concerns, or ideas you may have. Your input is important as we work together to shape the future of our community.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to a vibrant and engaging autumn in North Saanich!

Project Updates

Accessibility Plan

The District of North Saanich, Town of Sidney, and District of Central Saanich are collaborating to create their first-ever municipal accessibility plans. The plans will identify common barriers, and create a roadmap to accessibility on the Saanich Peninsula. The provincially mandated plans will be developed in consultation with the Saanich Peninsula Accessibility Advisory Committee (SPAAC), and is expected to be completed by the Fall.

Briarwood Beach Access Review

The District would like to thank everyone for their input, it is greatly appreciated. At the Council meeting held on September 11, 2023, staff were directed to proceed with recommendation 1 for the road standard and parking improvements along Glynnwood Park Road and defer the remaining recommendations (2, 3, 4 & 5) to the up-and-coming Parks Master Plan discussion scheduled for the Fall of 2023. Staff will begin design work on the roadway and parking improvements to support a 2024 summer construction implementation. Results of the public engagement survey and the draft recommendations report are available on the project website at northsaanich.ca/briarwood

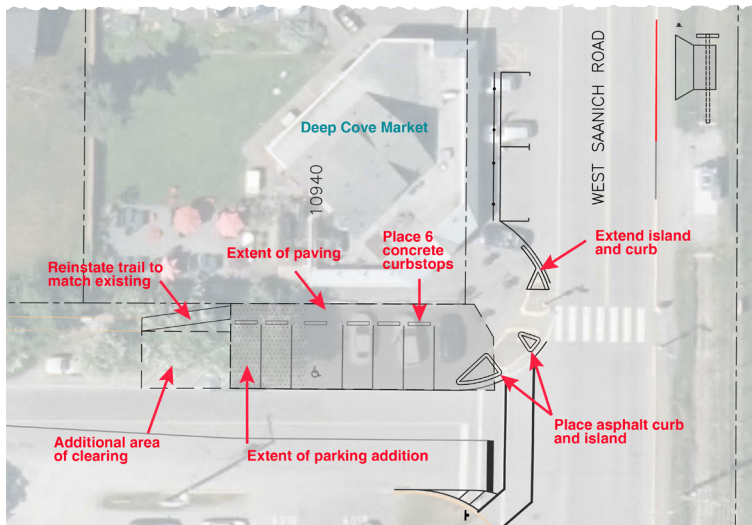


Reay Creek Pedestrian Bridge

The District is pleased to have recently received permitting approval from the Province. However, due to the environmental sensitivity of the site, work on the Reay Creek Pedestrian project has been delayed until early 2024. This will ensure environmental protection measures are in place and a competitive construction procurement is obtained.

West Saanich Road Corridor Improvements

At the Regular Meeting of Council held May 15, Council directed staff to proceed with the recommended vehicle safety improvements at the Deep Cove Market parking area and the West Saanich/Wain Road intersection. This construction work is now underway with an expected completion by the end of September. For further information please visit the project website at northsaanich.ca/WSCorridor



Parks Master Plan

The District of North Saanich is preparing a Parks Master Plan to meet the needs of our community. The purpose of the plan is to strategically guide staff work and Council decisions on parks policy, planning, capital improvements, and management over the next 10 years (2024-2034). The plan will provide guidance for managing parks, trails and beach accesses in a cost-effective and ecologically minded manner. The Parks Master Plan will be informed through a multi-phased engagement process to ensure the plan reflects the community's vision and meets local interests and needs. Opportunities for engagement will include community surveys, an open house and discussions with key stakeholder groups. Subscribe and stay informed at connectnorthsaanich.ca/parks-master-plan



connectnorthsaanich.ca/parks-master-plan

Jubilee Park Upgrades

We are pleased to announce that we were recently selected as a grant recipient (\$30,000) under the *Tire Stewardship BC's (TSBC) 2023 Community Grant Program*. Accessible playground equipment has been installed with paving and landscaping expected to be completed by the beginning of October – weather permitting. Visit northsaanich.ca/jubilee for updated project information, and to find out more about opening ceremony details.



northsaanich.ca/jubilee

What's Happening

The Great British Columbia **Shake Out**

Shake Out

Practice how to “Drop, Cover and Hold On” during Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills Thursday, October 19, 10:19 a.m.
shakeoutbc.ca



By-election results

A by-election was held July 8, 2023 with three candidates in the running. A total of 1,731 residents turned out to vote. We would like to congratulate Kristine Marshall, the newest District of North Saanich Councillor.



Annual Halloween Bonfire

This popular tradition, hosted by the North Saanich Fire Department, will happen Tuesday, October 31 at the Wain Road Fire Hall. Free hotdogs at 6:30 p.m. followed by fireworks at 7:45 p.m. To help give back to the community, we gratefully accept donations to CFA Santa Anonymous.

Reminders



31, 2023, will be transferred to the property tax account on January 1, 2024, and will be subject to arrears interest thereafter until paid.

Green Waste and Outdoor Burning

Autumn leaves, woody debris, or branches scattered about your property and boulevard can be taken to the District's Green Waste Facility, at 10180 Littlewood Road. Open from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. every Saturday and the second and fourth Thursday of each month (closed on statutory holidays). For more details, including prices and a downloadable schedule, visit northsaanich.ca/green-waste



Outstanding Utility Bills and Property Tax

Any unpaid 2023 property taxes, including unclaimed Homeowner Grants, are subject to an additional penalty of 5% after October 3, 2023.

A reminder that all utility bills outstanding at Dec

Burning Season

All outdoor fires require a burning permit, which you can obtain at the Wain Road Fire Hall (986 Wain Road) starting mid-October. The burning season officially opens on November 2, 2023. Residents are permitted fires every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of the first and third weeks of the month, until May 2024. For more information and the burning schedule, please contact the North Saanich Fire Department at 250-656-1931, or visit northsaanich.ca/outdoor-burning

Don't forget: as an alternative, you can use the Green Waste Facility. Information and schedules at northsaanich.ca/green-waste



northsaanich.ca/green-waste



northsaanich.ca/outdoor-burning

Did You **Know?**

Strategic Plan

The North Saanich Strategic Plan sets out Council's focus and strategic priorities on a multi-year basis. The plan is an "umbrella policy" that sets the context for all that we do and helps to align specific plans having to do with finance, land use, solid waste, information technology, infrastructure and parks. The 2023-2026 Strategic Plan was adopted by Council on July 10 and is available on our website at northsaanich.ca/annual-reports



northsaanich.ca/annual-reports

Wildfire Preparedness

From coast to coast to coast, we've seen unprecedented wildfires this summer. This makes wildfire preparedness exceptionally challenging and all the more crucial in terms of protecting your home and property. We live in a densely forested area so it's important to be as prepared as possible – this can be achieved by reaching out to the North Saanich Fire Department and other organizations such as FireSmart BC. The North Saanich Fire Department makes home visits in order to help residents identify wildfire



risks, and prepare their homes and properties against the threat of wildfires. To request a visit please call the North Saanich Fire Department at 250-656-1931 or email firedept@northsaanich.ca

Wildfire protection kits (W.A.S.P.) gutter kits are available for purchase at the Wain Road Fire Hall (986 Wain Road).

Partner **Feature**



Flavour Trails 2023 Wrap Up

We asked you and you did it! You "jumped on" the 2023 North Saanich Flavour Trails this past August 18- 20 and experienced a tasty route of local food and drink delivered by our Flavour Trails Festival venue partners! Thank you to everyone who came and to our community sponsors for supporting our local food makers and growers! While the festival is over, it's

always a good time to enjoy and experience our venue partners locations - all listed at flavourtrails.com



flavourtrails.com