

Connect North Saanich: Winter 2024

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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 (Tseycūm) First Nation for years to come.

Message from Mayor & Council



As we welcome the start of a promising new year, we are filled with optimism and excitement for the journey ahead. We are eager to share some updates and plans that will shape North Saanich in the months to come.

A Warm Welcome to our new CAO:

First and foremost, we are delighted to have appointed Stephanie Munro as our new Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) in early November. Stephanie brings a fresh perspective and innovative ideas to our municipality and we are confident that under her leadership, North Saanich can reach new heights of success and efficiency.

Parks Master Plan – your voice matters:

The next stage of our Parks Master Plan is unfolding. We understand the importance of trails, beach accesses and parks in enriching community life. A public engagement summary will be presented

to Council in early 2024, and it will include the feedback you left through our project site, in our surveys and via e-mail. Your feedback and participation have been invaluable, and we encourage you to continue sharing your thoughts as we embark on another round of public engagement shortly.

Subscribe and stay informed at northsaanich.ca/parks-plan

Shaping our future – the Official Community Plan:

The Official Community Plan process will continue to move forward in 2024. This plan is more than a document – it’s a vision for our future as a community. It will guide our growth, development, and collective aspirations. We are committed to making this a collaborative process and look forward to your active participation in shaping a plan that reflects our shared values and goals.

More community engagement initiatives:

We are also excited to announce several public engagement initiatives that will invite your voices and ideas including the Land’s End bike path, the allocation of the Growing Communities Fund, and traffic calming initiatives in Deep Cove. Your insights will be instrumental to achieving these important initiatives.

Finally, we also expect to report back to the community later this year on a long-term plan for the land known as Noble Garden. The adjacent properties, generously donated to the District by Sandra Mae Holloway, will benefit people of all ages for generations to come.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. Here’s to a hopeful and prosperous year ahead!

Project Updates



Official Community Plan

The Official Community Plan review is ongoing. The Mayor's Official Community Plan Advisory Committee (MOCPAC), the MOCPAC working groups and staff liaisons are meeting regularly to share resources and identify potential opportunities. Staff will be forwarding a report to Council in the first quarter of 2024 which will provide a proposed public engagement plan and updated work plan for approval. Through grass roots consultation, staff will be listening to residents regarding their thoughts on the future of North Saanich and will include topics such as climate adaptation and food security, agriculture, character and community, infrastructure as well as numerous other topics. A public validation component will ensure the community is heard properly with a formal draft of the document going through further public input. The OCP process

will continue to move forward under Council's direction with staff being cognizant of provincial initiatives.

Reay Creek Pedestrian Link

Reay Creek is currently out to tender for construction, closing on January 24. Construction is anticipated to start in the spring and be completed in September. Strict conditions are required of the contractor to protect tree, fish, and wildlife habitat throughout the construction period.

Lands End Multi-Use Path

Conceptual design for this project is proceeding, with work being performed by Stantec to prepare options. Recommended options and costing will be available for public comment in early spring. The report will be finalized in late spring and will be the guiding document for future detailed design and construction phases.

Deep Cove Traffic Calming

A traffic calming analysis will be performed on Tatlow, Birch, Wain, and Downey Roads in Deep Cove in early 2024. Initiating traffic calming at these neighborhood gateways are prioritized projects in the District's Active Transportation Plan, and will encourage slower speeds and greater care when leaving the major road network and entering neighborhoods. A public engagement campaign (consisting of two phases) will take place in the spring and summer.

CRD Stormwater Bylaw



Did you know that rain falling on your property can cause pollution?

Stormwater is surface water that includes water from rain, snowmelt, and irrigation. The water runs across rooftops, lawns, pavement, and other surfaces into storm drains, or seeps directly into the ground. Along its journey the water picks up contaminants like litter, fluid leaks from cars, pesticides used on lawns, and spilled paints or solvents. Storm drains are typically found in streets and parking lots to collect stormwater, ending up in our nearby waterways, creeks, rivers and the ocean. By reducing pollution in our watersheds, we can make sure natural spaces are clean and healthy.

CRD Saanich Peninsula Stormwater Source Control Bylaw No. 4168

Residents and businesses of the Saanich Peninsula must not allow the release of domestic, business, or prohibited waste into the municipal drainage system or water course. **This includes** never pouring or allowing anything but rainwater or uncontaminated water to flow into storm drains, ditches, parking lots, outdoor work areas or roadways.

Learn more about Bylaw No. 4168 and ways you can manage stormwater:



crd.bc.ca/bylaw4168

2024 Property Assessments

Recently, you would have received your 2024 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.



bcassessment.ca



What's Happening

Business Licence Renewal

Business license renewal notices have been mailed out, and payments are due by Thursday, Feb 29, 2024. We accept cash, cheque or debit at the Municipal Hall and look forward to seeing you! If you are too busy to stop by during regular working hours, use our drop box for your payments. More information at:



northsaanich.ca/business-licence

Dog Licence Renewal

Did you receive your dog licence renewal notice in the mail? Last day to renew before the price goes up by \$5.00 is February 28, 2024. Further information at:



northsaanich.ca/dog-licence

443 Squadron Freedom of the Town of Sidney Parade

On Thursday, February 8, the Town of Sidney will be honoring the 80th anniversary of the 443 Maritime Helicopter Squadron and the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Air Force. by holding a Freedom of the Town of Sidney Parade.

This military march is a tradition that occurs approximately once a decade in Sidney. The event is an opportunity for residents across Sidney and North Saanich to recognize and show their support for the service of the 443 Maritime Helicopter Squadron.

Beginning at 10am, members of the 443 Squadron will march from the Mary Winspear Sidney to Town Hall along Beacon Avenue. At Town Hall, there will be a short ceremony, including a Proclamation, speeches, and a military helicopter fly over. Community members of all ages are invited to attend. A detailed parade route map can be found online at:



www.sidney.ca

Weather Road Maintenance

During winter weather events, our priority is to ensure emergency services, residents and public transit can safely navigate priority routes throughout North Saanich.

We prioritize our snow clearing efforts as follows:

- Priority one: major and emergency routes, public transit routes, hills, and curves
- Priority two: secondary and connector roads
- Priority three: residential streets and cul-de-sacs

Please note that the District does not clear private driveways, roads, and community mailboxes. For all other inquiries regarding snow and ice on District of North Saanich Roads, please direct all requests, comments, and concerns to Public Works at **250-655-5480**.

Tips For Safe Winter Driving

During winter weather events, our priority is to ensure emergency services, residents and public transit can safely navigate priority routes throughout North Saanich.

- Get your vehicle ready for winter in the fall
- Don't drive under the influence
- Pack an emergency kit
- Learn and practice winter driving techniques before you need them
- Plan your trip, and tell your friends and family
- Check road and weather conditions
- Remove all snow from your vehicle before each trip
- Give yourself extra travel time in bad weather
- Avoid using overdrive and cruise control on slippery roads
- Travel with a fully charged cell phone for emergency situations
- Slow down and wear your seatbelt

Find out more at: northsaanich.ca/services/winter-road-maintenance/ and www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/driving-and-cycling/traveller-information/seasonal/winter-driving

Upcoming Council Meetings

- January 29, 2024
- February 5, 2024
- March 11 & 25, 2024
- April 8 & 29, 2024
- May 6 & 27, 2024
- June 3 & 17, 2024

Upcoming Committee of the Whole (CoW) Meetings

- February 12, 2024
- March 18, 2024
- May 13, 2024

Regular Council & COW Meetings are held at 7:00 pm in the Council Chamber at the Municipal Hall, 1620 Mills Road, North Saanich, BC V8L 5S9, unless posted otherwise. Advanced registration to attend a meeting via Zoom is required. Please Contact Corporate Services by email at corporateservices@northsaanich.ca or by phone at **250-656-0781** prior to noon on the day of the meeting.

Reminders

Saanich Peninsula Alert

North Saanich, Sidney, and Central Saanich municipalities have joined together to provide public safety alerts to the residents and visitors of the Saanich Peninsula. The system is called Saanich Peninsula Alert and is designed to deliver critical and potentially life-saving alerts to anyone who has registered. Alerts are sent for events such as earthquakes, tsunami alerts, evacuation notices, or other safety threats. There is no sign-up fee for Saanich Peninsula Alert. Find out more at: northsaanich.ca/spa



- Beware of upfront fees
 - Many scams request you to pay fees in advance of receiving goods, services, or a prize
- Protect your online accounts
 - By taking the following steps, you can better protect your online accounts from fraud and data breaches:
 - Create strong passwords
 - Enable multi-factor authentication
 - Only log into your accounts from trusted sources
 - Don't reveal personal information over social media

Remember, if it seems too good to be true, it is!

If you want more information on frauds and scams circulating now please visit the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre website at www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca

If you have questions or concerns please call the Sidney/North Saanich RCMP at **250-656-3931**

Scam Awareness

Fraudsters and Scammers continue to victimize citizens of Sidney and North Saanich.

Sidney and North Saanich community members continue to be targets of online frauds and scams. Unfortunately in 2023 there was a shocking amount of dollars lost by victims of these crimes. Please keep the following things in mind when online, checking your mail or answering the phone:

- Don't be afraid to say no
 - Don't be intimidated by high-pressure sales tactics. If a telemarketer tries to get you to buy something or to send them money right away hang up
- Do your research
 - Always verify that the organization you're dealing with is legitimate before you take any other action
- Don't give out personal information
 - Beware of unsolicited calls or emails that ask for your personal information



Fire Department



Address Signs

Is your house number visible at night? If not, NSFD may have a hard time finding you when they need to! For \$65.00 they will install the popular blue and white address marker for you. Purchase at the North Saanich Fire Hall, 986 Wain Road (8 am to 4 pm, Mon-Fri)

Reminder About Chimney Cleaning

Cleaning your chimney is an important part of preparing your home for the colder incoming weather. Annual cleaning and inspection can keep your fireplace or woodstove burning safely and efficiently. Find out more at hpbacanada.org/the-crucial-role-of-chimney-cleaning-ensuring-safety-and-efficiency/

Changing Your Batteries in Smoke Detectors / Co Detectors

Ensure your home has working smoke and CO detectors. Making sure your batteries are changed, and the detectors are tested regularly, will help keep your family safe. You can always reach the Fire Hall at **250-656-1931** if you need assistance. Find out more at www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/rsrsc/sfttps/tp201011-en.aspx