

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 BOKÉĆEN (Pauquachin) First Nation and WSÍ,KEM (Tseycum) First Nation for years to come.

MAYOR'S ZUCCHINI RACE



The North Saanich Flavour Trails were once again a highlight this year, featuring the much-anticipated Mayor's zucchini race. In an exciting close finish, Saanich barely edged out North Saanich in this year's race.

Running for Charity

Five intrepid North Saanich volunteer firefighters laced up their boots on May 26 to tackle the 10km stretch of the Oak Bay Half Marathon, demonstrating both endurance and heart. Their goal was more than just crossing the finish line; they ran in support of Power to Be - a charity dedicated to making nature accessible to those living with disabilities or barriers since 1998. Inspired by the charity's powerful mission, "Everyone Belongs in Nature," these firefighters not only pushed their physical limits but also championed a cause close to their hearts, highlighting the spirit of community and the transformative power of nature.



From left to right: Jordan Cunningham, Colin Campbell, Marika De Haitre, Gavin Chamberlain, Alex Rutten.

A Q&A with our New Career Firefighter, Shane Newcombe

1. What inspired you to become a firefighter, and how did your journey lead you to North Saanich?

I joined as a volunteer in Ngongotaha, New Zealand at 16 years old. My dad was in the brigade and it was a big part of our lives. I then became a career firefighter in New Zealand in 2008. I moved to North Saanich in 2020 with my family (my wife is Canadian, and her family are all here). I joined the department here in 2020 with the aim of getting my qualifications and a career firefighter job somewhere.

2. What excites you most about serving the community in your new role?

Helping the department grow and adapt to the growing needs of the community.

3. What do you think is the most important quality for a firefighter to have, and how do you embody that in your daily work?

I think adaptability is one of the most important qualities of a firefighter. Although coming to North Saanich with a lot of experience, I have had to adapt to the way things are done and terminology used.

4. What's one surprising thing about firefighting that most people wouldn't know?

There are approximately 90,000 Volunteer firefighters in Canada making 71% of all firefighters. Only 29% - 36,000 are career firefighters.

5. When you're not on duty, what do you enjoy doing to relax and unwind?

Family is very important to me, so I spend as much time with my wife and kids, outdoors as much as possible hiking, biking, and snowboarding.



Reflection Bench Outside Municipal Hall

In alignment with our ongoing commitment to reconciliation and to honor the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we are pleased to announce the installation of a new reflection bench outside the Municipal Hall. This dedicated space is intended for contemplation and remembrance, specifically honoring the survivors of residential schools, and reflecting on the history and enduring effects of the residential school system. We invite all residents to use this space to reflect, learn, and acknowledge the resilience and experiences of Indigenous communities affected by this chapter of our history. This bench serves as a symbol of our community's commitment to reconciliation and understanding.



Parks Master Plan



We are immensely grateful to everyone who participated in our Parks Master Plan Engagement Phase 2. Thanks to your valuable input, we have made significant progress. We are excited to announce that the summary of Engagement Phase 2 report is now available on ConnectNorthSaanich.ca for review. Our team and consultant are diligently working on the draft of the final plan, which we will soon post on the project page for public viewing. This draft will be presented to Mayor and Council later this fall for discussion and potential adoption. Stay tuned for further updates and thank you once again for helping us shape the future of our community parks!

Official Community Plan

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to share their interests and ideas with the North Saanich planning team during the many engagement sessions held over the last few months. Informed by Council and its Committees' discussion of the summary of these engagement sessions, next steps for the team include confirming with community and interest groups what we've heard so far and beginning to develop draft policies. For the latest information, keep an eye on the OCP project page on ConnectNorthSaanich.ca



ConnectNorthSaanich.ca

Wolf Orchard & Pavelic Park

We are excited to update you on the progress of the Wolf Orchard and Pavelic Park initiatives. The detailed staff report on our meeting portal outlines our plans for these cherished community spaces, focusing on enhancing accessibility and usability while preserving the natural environment. Key components of the Wolf Orchard plan include upgrading walking paths, improving signage, and installing new benches to create a more welcoming area for all residents. Pavelic Park will be kept in its natural state for all to enjoy. For further details on the project developments, please refer to the full staff report on northsaanich.ca/council-meetings, Regular Council meeting, September 9. We look forward to continuing to make Wolf Orchard and Pavelic Park valuable assets for our community.

Sandown Compost Delivery

Our Public Works crews delivered a substantial amount of Grade-A compost to Sandown earlier this summer to lend support to its summer programs and activities. The Sandown Centre is hosting



a two-hour, hands-on workshop with Shellie MacDonald on October 6 from 1-3 p.m. identifying and explaining different techniques for dealing with weeds in a no/low till context. Register on sandowncentre.com

Citizen Engagement Strategy

We want to hear from you! The District of North Saanich recognizes the importance and value of involving local residents to help shape District projects, policies and initiatives. Engaging residents and interest holders on issues that affect their lives and their city is a vital component of a well-functioning democratic society and is a key priority of the District's Strategic Plan. We want to ensure that all residents have a voice in how the District communicates and engages with the community. Find out more and fill out the survey at ConnectNorthSaanich.ca

Lands End Bike Path

We are currently awaiting the completion of the recommended concept and alternative designs for the Lands End Bike Path from our consultant. We anticipate receiving these documents this fall. Once received, they will be made available on our project page for public comments and information. The concept design will play a crucial role in guiding the detailed design and construction phases of the project, pending approval by Council. We appreciate your patience and look forward to sharing these developments with you soon.

Tatlow & Deep Cove Traffic Calming

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Open House on September 18 at the Wain Rd Firehall. Your participation and the insights gathered from our earlier online survey have been instrumental in shaping potential safety improvements for Tatlow Rd and the Deep Cove area. We invite you to continue sharing your thoughts through a second online survey, which will focus on the options presented during the Open House. Your feedback is crucial as we move towards finalizing our recommendations for Council this fall. Visit our project page on ConnectNorthSaanich.ca to fill out the survey.

Tracked Trail Chipper

This summer, our District proudly began utilizing a brand new tracked wood chipper to enhance trail maintenance across our 43 km of trails. Since the beginning of August, our dedicated staff have been actively clearing and brushing trails at a 45-degree angle, using hedge trimmers to feed debris into the chipper. This sustainable practice allows us to spread the chipped material back into the natural environment, maintaining the ecological balance. The acquisition of this chipper was a strategic response to a key recommendation from the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2021) and was included in our 2024 budget. Our staff, who received the chipper at the end of July, are on track to complete the trail clearing by early October. This initiative not only helps keep our trails safe and accessible but also significantly contributes to our community's wildfire prevention efforts.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Hawaii Mars Water Bomber



It was an historical event as thousands attended to watch the Hawaii Mars water bomber's final flight to Pat Bay on Sunday, August 11. Nine Canadian Forces Snowbird jets accompanied the water bomber passing over a number of communities en route to its final destination at the BC Aviation Museum. The Mars is available for public viewing during the museum's regular hours of operation. Visit bcam.net for full details.

New Advisory Bodies Meeting Monthly

We are excited to announce that our newly-formed advisory bodies are convening on a monthly basis! The Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee is set to play a pivotal role in shaping agricultural policies, offering input on land use, by-laws, and permits as guided by the Local Government Act, Community Charter, Agricultural Land Commission Act, and Soil Conservation Act. Similarly, the Community Planning Advisory Committee will provide valuable insights on community planning and land use, ensuring alignment with the Local Government Act and Community Charter. Lastly, the Healthy Community Living Advisory Committee will focus on promoting healthy community initiatives through informed decision-making on land use and planning matters, also under the guidance of the Local Government Act and Community Charter. These committees empower members to leverage their expertise and provide strategic recommendations to Council, impacting the future of North Saanich. For more information and to view the meeting schedule, please visit our Meeting Portal.



northsaanich.ca/council-meetings

CRD UPDATES

Cross Connection Control Program

Private residential irrigation systems require a backflow device that is registered with the CRD and tested every three years. The Cross Connection Control Bylaw No. 3516 applies to all users connected to the Greater Victoria Drinking Water System. A properly maintained backflow preventer helps avoid potential connection between the drinking water system and a source of contaminated water. If you have a residential irrigation system, ensure it is protected with backflow devices installed by a certified plumber, the backflow information is registered with the CRD and the backflows are tested every three years and results reported to the CRD.

Additional information can be found at crd.bc.ca/service/drinking-water/cross-connection-and-backflow

File Room Improvements

2024 has been a busy year for records management at the District. We have scanned many permanent records – agreements, building permits, bylaws, minutes. Electronically storing records improves access and provides disaster mitigation. We have saved operational costs by integrating a records management software into our main system, DocuWare. We have reviewed and categorized records located at an interim off-site storage facility and further managed records beyond their retention date, as per the District's approved schedule.

The main file storage room at the Municipal Hall houses all the District's municipal records. Council approved budget to re-purpose an unused HVAC unit bringing environmental controls to the room; and to extend the movable shelves, increasing our capacity from 849 boxes to 1236 boxes. Some of the existing shelving was reused in the smaller adjacent file room which improved accessibility and provided more storage space for permanent records.

Future projects include continuing to scan all District permit files, completing the review of records ready for destruction, and re-organizing the file storage room to separate permanent records from those that can be destroyed in 2025 and beyond.



Peninsula Recreation Commission

Are there ways you'd like to see recreation facilities improve on the Peninsula? The Town of Sidney is working with North Saanich and Central Saanich through the Peninsula Recreation Commission to consider how recreation services in the area could expand in the future. As a first step, the three communities are undertaking a recreation facility needs assessment study, which will involve a telephone survey of residents across the Peninsula in October. The study will also look at how well-used current recreation facilities are utilized.

The three municipalities have a long history of partnering on recreation services for citizens, including Panorama Recreation, which is managed on each communities' behalf by the CRD. Information about the needs assessment will be made available at panoramarecreation.ca

Septic Maintenance Bylaw

The Capital Regional District (CRD) will begin rolling out North Saanich's inclusion in the new septic system regulations in 2025. Once the bylaw is adopted, all septic system owners will have five years to complete their required septic tank pump-out. Be sure to keep an eye out for upcoming "Septic Savvy" events in North Saanich, where residents can learn more about maintaining their systems and ensuring compliance. For more information and tips on protecting your septic system, visit the CRD's website crd.bc.ca/education/stormwater-wastewater-septic-at-home/protecting-septic-system

Reminders

Outstanding Utility and Property Tax Reminder

Any unpaid 2024 property taxes, including unclaimed Homeowner Grants, are subject to an additional penalty of 5% after October 1, 2024. A reminder that all utility bills outstanding at December 31, 2024, will be transferred to the property tax account on January 1, 2025, and will be subject to arrears interest thereafter until paid.

Mayor's Open Door

Join us for the Mayor's Open Door event on November 14 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Municipal Hall. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to come and discuss issues that matter most to you directly with the Mayor. No appointment is necessary—attendance is on a first-come, first-served basis. Whether you have questions, concerns, or ideas you wish to share, this event is designed to foster open communication and ensure your voices are heard. We look forward to seeing you there and engaging in meaningful conversations!

RCMP Scam/Fraud Videos

We are pleased to announce a new initiative to enhance community safety, created in partnership with the Sidney/North Saanich RCMP, the Town of Sidney, and the Sidney Business Improvement Area (BIA). Starting shortly, we will be releasing a series of educational videos on our new YouTube channel: Sidney North Saanich Scam Alert. These videos aim to empower you with the knowledge needed to recognize and protect yourself from potential scams and frauds. We encourage all residents to watch and share these important resources to help safeguard our community against these deceptive practices.

Explore Career Opportunities With Us

Are you or someone you know looking for a rewarding career right here in our community? Our municipality is growing, and we need passionate individuals to join our dedicated team. From public works to administrative roles, we offer a variety of exciting opportunities for you to make a real difference. Visit our careers page today northsaanich.ca/employment/ to learn more about current vacancies, benefits, and how you can apply. Join us in shaping the future of our community!

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Burning Season

Burning season opens November 7, 2024. Permits will be available for purchase at the Wain Road Fire Hall (986 Wain Rd) starting the week of October 14. Permits are available for purchase Monday to Friday, 8:00 – 4:00 p.m. To review burning regulations, please visit northsaanich.ca/outdoor-burning

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

Fire Department Approved as IAFF Local 5509

The Labour Relations Board conducted a hearing and further approved an Order to certify the North Saanich Fire Department as IAFF Local 5509. This is exciting news for the growth of fire and emergency services in North Saanich and staff look forward to collaborating with the newly-formed union.

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

Stay Connected

Stay in the loop with what's happening at the District by signing up for news and public notices: northsaanich.ca/notifications and by registering for updates on ConnectNorthSaanich.ca

Upcoming Council Meetings

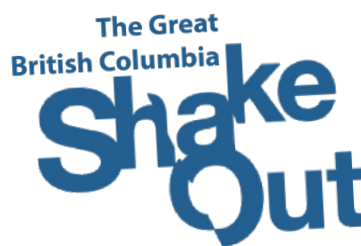
Regular Meetings of Council:

Oct 7, Oct 28, Nov 4, Nov 18, Dec 2, Dec 16

Regular Council and CoW meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Hall, 1620 Mills Road, unless posted otherwise. Advanced registration to attend a meeting via Zoom is required. Please contact Corporate Services via email at corporateservices@northsaanich.ca or by phone at 250-656-0781 prior to noon on the day of the meeting. Subscribe to receive meeting notice updates at northsaanich.ca/council-meetings



northsaanich.ca/council-meetings



Shake out BC is held each year on the 3rd Thursday of October. Get prepared and be part of the largest earthquake drill on October 17, 10:17 a.m.

Full details and earthquake preparedness information at shakeoutbc.ca

Annual Halloween Bonfire

This popular tradition, hosted by the North Saanich Fire Department, will happen Thursday, October 31 at the Wain Road Fire Hall. Free hotdogs at 6:00 p.m. followed by fireworks at 7:15 p.m. To help give back to the community, we gratefully accept donations to CFA Santa's Anonymous.



Three New Firefighter Positions

At the September 9 Council meeting, Council approved three new career firefighter positions: two firefighter positions, and one FireSmart Coordinator/Firefighter. We look forward to them joining our crew.