

Connect North Saanich: Summer 2026

Municipal Hall: 1620 Mills Road, North Saanich, BC V8L 5S9 | northsaanich.ca | 250-656-0781

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North Saanich exists on the traditional territories of the W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. We thank them for caring for this land and look forward to working with the BO̱KÉĆEN (Pauquachin) First Nation and WSÍ,KEM (Tseycum) First Nation for years to come.

Message from Mayor & Council



Back: Jack McClintock, Celia Stock, Kristine Marshall, Phil DiBattista
Front: Sanjiv Shrivastava, Mayor Peter Jones, Irene McConkey

As North Saanich transitions from spring into summer, Council and staff continue advancing projects and initiatives that support community connection, local agriculture, parks, infrastructure, and long-term financial sustainability. Over the past several months, North Saanich Council has approved a number of significant initiatives aimed at enhancing services and quality of life for residents.

Earlier this spring, North Saanich

Council approved the 2026–2030 Financial Plan, establishing a 5.5% municipal property tax increase for 2026. This was reduced from the initially proposed 7.54% increase. The Financial Plan supports ongoing investments in infrastructure renewal, protective services, parks, and community amenities while balancing affordability considerations for residents. The Financial Plan also includes approximately \$8.8 million in capital works focused

on infrastructure renewal and improvements to parks, trails, roads, underground utilities, municipal buildings, and cycling infrastructure.

In April, the District also broke ground on the new Harvest Hub facility, marking a significant milestone for the community-focused food security initiative. Construction is progressing well, with work continuing on the site throughout the spring, summer and fall. The project is intended to support local food aggregation, storage, processing, and community programming while strengthening regional food resilience and agricultural partnerships.

In May, Council members attended the reopening of Wolf Orchard Park alongside more than 80 students and staff from School District 63 (Saanich), District staff, and members of the community connected to the park's history. Council had approved concept development for improvements to Wolf Orchard Park through the 2026 budget cycle and work plan.

This spring, the District also recognized the important contributions of local volunteers

during a volunteer appreciation lunch, celebrating the many individuals who dedicate their time to community organizations, events, and initiatives throughout North Saanich.

In support of local agriculture and food tourism, funding was also renewed for the Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable (CRFAIR) to once again deliver the North Saanich Flavour Trails Festival in the community. This year's festival marks its 20th anniversary and continues to showcase North Saanich's farms, food producers, artists, and rural character.

Together, these initiatives reflect Council's continued commitment to investing in the long-term health, vibrancy, and sustainability of North Saanich while supporting the parks, programs, infrastructure, and community partnerships that residents value most. As the community heads into the summer months, the District looks forward to continuing this work alongside residents, volunteers, local organizations, and community partners.

- Mayor and Council

Growing Community at the North Saanich Farm Market

For nearly two decades, the North Saanich Farm Market has been bringing neighbours together while celebrating the rich agricultural roots of the community. Now entering its 19th season, the market continues to thrive from its charming location in the garden behind St. John's United Church.

What began with humble beginnings and a small number of vendors has grown into a vibrant weekly gathering that showcases the very best of local agriculture, food, and artisan talent. According to Susan McIntyre, President of North Saanich Food for the Future society, the market was originally created to support local growers at

a time when vendor participation could sometimes be limited. Today, that challenge has disappeared.

"Agriculture is alive and well in North Saanich," she says. "We now have more than enough growers to support the market."

Visitors can expect a wide variety of locally grown and handmade products, including fresh produce, mushrooms, flowers, eggs, baked goods, and specialty artisan creations. The market has also become known as a welcoming community space where residents can connect with one another while supporting small businesses.

Susan first became involved with the market shortly after moving to

North Saanich, looking for ways to meet people in the community. She began by helping with simple tasks like setting up tents before gradually taking on a larger leadership role and eventually becoming president of the non-profit society that operates the market.

"Our main goals are to support agriculture and small businesses in North Saanich," she explains. "But we also really appreciate the opportunity to create community. We love bringing neighbours together and talking about the things happening in our community."

This season, the market welcomes

back many familiar vendors while also introducing some new faces. Visitors can also enjoy live music every Saturday and a playground area for children, making it a fun outing for the whole family.

The North Saanich Farm Market runs every Saturday morning from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at 10990 West Saanich Rd. until October 10.



Project Updates

Wolf Orchard Park Ceremony

The District officially celebrated the reopening of Wolf Orchard Park with a community ceremony on May 13, attended by more than 80 residents, community members, and two classes from Deep Cove Elementary School.

The restored park was shaped through public feedback and has been transformed into a welcoming community space featuring parking, a bike rack, a covered picnic table, garbage receptacles, and new landscaping enhancements.

Thank you to everyone who contributed ideas and feedback throughout the process: the renewed park is now open and ready for the community to enjoy.



www.connectnorthsaanich.ca/wolf-orchard-park

Wain Park Upgrades

Work is continuing on the future vision for Wain Park, following extensive public engagement and feedback from the community over the past several months. Earlier this year, Council directed staff to move forward with "Scenario B" for the park, which includes a new nature

play area, swing set, and enhanced community gathering space.

The project aims to create a welcoming, family-friendly park while respecting the site's heritage and natural features.



View the updated concept plans on the project page:
www.connectnorthsaanich.ca/wainpark

Zoning Bylaw

This spring, the District continued work on the Zoning Bylaw Update project, including two well-attended public open houses held in April that gave residents an opportunity to learn more about the proposed changes and share feedback with staff. The draft Zoning Bylaw was presented to Council on April 27, marking another important milestone in the process.

Keep an eye on the project page for event details and updates:
www.connectnorthsaanich.ca/zoning-bylaw-update

District Website Redesign

The District's website redesign project continues to move ahead and remains on track for launch in September. The project is currently in the development and content migration phase, with staff working closely to streamline information, improve navigation, and modernize the overall user experience.

The new website will make it easier for residents and visitors to quickly find the information, services, and updates they're looking for, while also improving accessibility and mobile usability across the site.

Cy Hampson Park

Visitors to Cy Hampson Park may have noticed new fencing installed in April as part of ongoing efforts to help keep the park safe, welcoming, and enjoyable for everyone.

Cy Hampson Park is an inclusive community park where dogs are welcome, but it is not a designated dog park. Park users are reminded to respect the space and other visitors by keeping dogs under effective control at all times, keeping them within sight, picking up after them, and ensuring gates are closed behind them when entering or leaving the park.

For animal control concerns, residents can contact CRD Animal Control at 250-478-0624.

Harvest Hub



Work continues to move forward on the Harvest Hub project at the Sandown Lands, a new shared-use facility designed to support local farmers, food producers, and community food security initiatives in North Saanich and across the Saanich Peninsula.

Following several months of planning and design work, construction officially began in April, with excavation now underway at the site. The project will include space for food aggregation, processing, storage, and community programming, while also supporting future expansion opportunities.

Follow the project's progress and view regular updates at:
northsaanich.ca/harvest-hub

What's Happening

Strategic Plan

The updated 2023-2026 Strategic Plan was adopted by Council during the March 23 Regular Meeting of Council.

View the status of the District's projects and initiatives such as the Harvest Hub, Zoning Bylaw review, and more.

You can find the updated Strategic Plan on our website at:

northsaanich.ca/annual-reports



KELSET Spring Fair

KELSET PAC is inviting the community to celebrate spring at the 2026 KELSET Spring Fair on Friday, June 12, from 5 to 8 p.m. at KELSET Elementary School.

This family-friendly event will feature live music, inflatables, crafts, face painting, food trucks, 50/50 draw, raffle, and plenty of games and activities for all ages. Unlimited games are available for \$15, while children under four receive free admission.

North Saanich Flavour Trails

In 2026, Flavour Trails celebrates its 20th anniversary. The festival returns to the Saanich Peninsula on August 15 and 16, 2026, celebrating the region's vibrant farms, food producers, and culinary businesses.

This popular self-guided experience invites visitors to explore local stops across the Peninsula, meet farmers and makers, and enjoy tastings, tours, and special festival experiences along the way. A central festival hub will also feature food, live music, and family-friendly activities, making it a great summer outing for all ages.



flavourtrails.com



CRD Updates

Goose Watch: Help Track Canada Geese in the Region

Have you spotted Canada geese in your neighborhood or grazing in local fields?

Participate in the CRD's "Goose Watch" program by submitting sightings to help track seasonal movement patterns and support future wildlife management decisions across the region.

Observations can be submitted online using a simple form, and residents are encouraged to contribute sightings throughout the year.

Learn more at the CRD's Goose Watch webpage:

www.crd.ca/environment/biodiversity-flora-wildlife/regional-geese-management

Municipal Election, October 17

North Saanich residents will head to the polls on Saturday, October 17 for the 2026 General Local Government Election. The election provides an opportunity for residents to help shape the future of the community by electing members of Council and School Trustees for the next four-year term.

As the election approaches, the District will continue to update the 2026 Elections project page with important information, key dates, voter details, and candidate resources: northsaanich.ca/elections

Noble Garden Summer Events

The Noble Garden will once again host a variety of community events, workshops, and garden activities throughout the summer season, celebrating local music, art, literature, and agriculture.

Upcoming highlights include "Art in a Summer Garden" on June 14, and "Writers Read" on July 19 - all featuring talented local performers, artists, and authors in a unique garden setting.

The garden will also host weekly Tuesday garden gate markets beginning in June, along with seasonal workshops and monthly volunteer sessions. Support this vibrant community space and enjoy the many opportunities to connect, learn, and celebrate local creativity throughout the summer.

Contact: www.instagram.com/welcometothegenoblegarden

Home Navigator Program Webinars

The Home Energy Navigator Program is hosting a series of free online webinars this summer focused on home energy retrofits, efficiency upgrades, and improving home comfort. All sessions are held virtually on Zoom from 12 to 1 p.m. PT and include presentations and Q&A opportunities. Here are the upcoming webinar dates and topics:

- June 18, 2026 - Matching Motivations to Upgrades
- July 16, 2026 - Draftproofing & DIY
- August 20, 2026 - After the Retrofit

The webinars are being promoted throughout the Capital Region and are open to residents across participating communities, including Greater Victoria and the Saanich Peninsula.

Learn more and register through the program's official Events page: homeenergynav.ca/events

Protect Our Waterways This Spring

Spring is a great time to enhance your garden, while also helping protect local waterways. When it rains, stormwater flows across lawns, driveways, and streets, carrying chemicals such as pesticides and fertilizers into nearby creeks, rivers, and the ocean, where they can harm fish, wildlife, and sensitive ecosystems.

The good news? Small changes at home can make a big difference. The CRD encourages residents to:

- Manage pests without pesticides
- Properly dispose of unwanted pesticides and chemicals
- Never pour chemicals down storm drains or onto the ground
- Use natural gardening techniques and plant native species
- Encourage beneficial creatures like bees, ladybugs, frogs, spiders, and bats
- Fertilize with organic compost that is safer for the environment

Learn more about protecting local waterways at:

www.crd.ca/preventingpollution

Reminders

Property Taxes due July 2

Notices have been mailed! If you have not received it, please email admin@northsaanich.ca or call 250-656-0781.

At this time, the District does **not accept credit card payments** at Municipal Hall (cash, cheque or interac only).

Claiming your Homeowner Grant? Residents must apply with the Province every year. Call 1-888-355-2700 or go online at gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant. Avoid late fees and submit your application by July 2, 2026.

Deferring your taxes? Do so directly with the Province. Call 1-888-355-2700 or go online to gov.bc.ca/propertytaxdeferment by July 2, 2026. Claim your homeowner grant and pay any overdue amounts prior to deferring. You still need to claim your homeowner grant every year, even if you auto-renew your deferral.

Property Tax Pre-Authorized Installment Program

All taxpayers who have signed up will have their payments withdrawn on the 1st of the month for 10 months, from August 1 to May 1.

Find more information about payment options and online banking on the District website.



northsaanich.ca/property-tax-payment-options

Sidney/North Saanich RCMP

Fraud Alert: "Bank Investigator" Scam

Residents are being reminded to stay vigilant following reports of a growing "bank investigator" scam affecting communities across the region. In recent incidents, fraudsters have impersonated financial institution representatives or fraud investigators, convincing victims to withdraw cash and either mail it away or deposit it into Bitcoin ATMs. Local losses linked to these scams have already exceeded \$15,000 in the first three months of 2026.

Scammers may claim they are working with a bank's fraud department or alongside police and may even provide partial banking information to appear legitimate. Residents are reminded that financial institutions and law enforcement will never ask individuals to withdraw cash, transfer funds, or provide remote access to a computer as part of an investigation.

Fire Department Updates

FireSmart Gardening Workshop, June 28, 1-4pm, at Municipal Hall

Come learn how to create and maintain beautiful, wildfire-resilient gardens in this practical and engaging workshop led by FireSmart Landscape Professional and horticulturalist, Bethany Couture of Garden Alchemist.

Learn to identify vulnerable areas around your yard and how informed garden design can help reduce wildfire risk without sacrificing beauty or biodiversity. Explore resilient plant choices, safer mulch options, safe maintenance strategies, water wise practices, and practical FireSmart landscaping techniques tailored to our local climate.

Email firesmart@northsaanich.ca to register!



Upcoming Council Meetings

Regular Meeting of Council: June 15, 29, July 13, Aug. 17

Committee of the Whole Meetings: July 13, Aug. 17

Council Recess: July 14 to Aug. 16

Regular Council and CoW meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at Municipal Hall (1620 Mills Road) unless posted otherwise.

To attend a meeting via Zoom, please register in advance by contacting Corporate Services via email at corporateservices@northsaanich.ca or by phone at 250-656-0781, by 12:00 p.m. the day of the meeting.

Stay informed about upcoming meetings, agendas and notices by subscribing for updates at northsaanich.ca/council-meetings

Service Request Form Now Available

The District of North Saanich has launched a new online Service Request Form to make it easier for residents to report public works concerns and request assistance. Quickly submit issues related to roads, drainage, parks, trails, streetlights, drinking water, sanitary sewer services, traffic safety, and more through a simple online form available on the District website.

Residents can include details about the issue, its location, and even upload photos to help staff respond more efficiently. Infrastructure Services receives more than 1,500 service requests each year, and the updated system helps staff log, track, prioritize, and respond to requests in a timely manner.

The new form is available online at: northsaanich.ca/service-request

To help protect yourself:

- Do not trust call display information, as phone numbers can be spoofed
- Hang up and contact your bank directly using the number on your debit or credit card
- Never provide remote access to your computer
- Be cautious of urgent requests involving cash, cryptocurrency, or gift cards

Anyone who believes they may have been targeted is encouraged to contact their financial institution and report the incident to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre.

More information is available through the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre: antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca

Reminders

- **Reflective Address Signs** available for \$65 at the Wain Fire Hall (includes installation).
- **Emergency Preparedness Booklets** available for residents at Municipal Hall and the Wain Road Fire Hall

Events We're Attending

- June 12 - KELSET Spring Fair
- July 1 - Canada Day Parade
- Aug 2, 3 - BC Aviation Museum Open House
- Aug 8 - Panorama Recreation: Foam Party

Share your feedback

