

North Saanich Council COVID-19 Message #3

April 15, 2020

Welcome to the third edition of our North Saanich Council communication! Please share this message with your North Saanich contacts.

We hope that you were all able to enjoy the sunshine and warm temperatures this past weekend. It sure did wonders for the flowers, which are popping up everywhere.

We are excited to share that 230 people have now signed up for the District's email notification system. The District uses this tool to share updates such as COVID-19 news, active development applications, road closures, flushing of the water main, project updates, road safety updates, and more.

Our goal is to increase our subscriptions to **500 people!** We encourage you to sign up at: <https://northsaanich.ca/register-for/notifications/#>. The District's website is your best source of information on North Saanich related matters.

Health & Safety

We want to thank you for the sacrifices you are making by staying in our community and not traveling, unless for essential reasons. We encourage everyone to continue to stay home and follow the rules set out by the Provincial government. The beautiful weather certainly gets us thinking about camping and travelling to cottages. While it may seem possible to travel safely, it does put our service providers at a greater risk, whether it be the ferry and gas station attendants, the grocery store clerks, folks responding to vehicle maintenance, first responders, etc. It isn't forever, but it is for now.

There was great interest in the number of people using the ferries this past weekend. Mayor Orr has added his signature along with many of the Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Mayors to a letter drafted by Mayor Al Siebring from the Municipality of North Cowichan, encouraging the Province to regulate travel to essential travel only and to create an enforcement mechanism.

We'd like to remind and encourage everyone to be cautious when making assumptions about people and their activities. This is a time for us to come together as a community and support one another in the best way we know how. Everyone is facing their own struggles, COVID related and otherwise. We must trust people's judgement.

We are noticing an increase in pedestrian and cyclist traffic throughout the District and remind everyone to please be mindful that we are sharing the road.

Business & Economy

The Sidney Breakfast Club (SBC), which usually meets once a month at the Victoria Flying Club, recently held their first virtual meeting. Several SBC members are offering free services to local businesses.

Sue Maitland is an ICF Accredited Professional Coach who specializes in helping people through transitions. Sue is offering Virtual Wellness Workshops and One-on-One Coaching at no charge to businesses and individuals impacted by the crisis. Contact Sue Maitland at 250-217-5027 or suemaitland@shaw.ca to inquire about accessing these services for yourself or your employees.

Kevin Bobroske from [Dream Technology Solutions](#) is offering a free (30minute) consultation or general technology/cybersecurity discussion to help organizations figure out what you need to consider given our new “normal”. People can contact Kevin at support@dream-techs.com or 250-744-7973

Kevin also shared this link to help bring awareness to some of the COVID related scams that are currently circulating. Please be cautious with calls and emails that you are receiving. [Antifraud Centre](#)

The South Island Prosperity Partnership (SIPP) wants to know how you would make the economy more resilient once recovery begins? The COVID-19 crisis has shown us again that we are not immune to global shocks. We need to make our economy as resilient as possible to weather any challenge - whether it's health, economic, financial, cyber threat, or environmental. Best answer this week is to receive a gift card from Picnic! [Have your say here](#).

Building Community

We would love to hear about (and see) the displays of solidarity and gratitude that you are observing around the community. Over the next few weeks we will be posting a few topics to the [North Saanich, BC Community Community](#) Facebook page. We encourage you to join the conversation and add your pictures and examples to the thread. Seaside magazine is encouraging the Peninsula to use the hashtag #communitylove when sharing uplifting photos.

On Friday, April 17th, at 8pm CHEK is hosting **Rock for Relief: A Living Room Concert for Vancouver Island**. The concert will help raise funds for Islanders who are most in need during the COVID-19 pandemic through the [Rapid Relief Fund](#) and the [Island Response Fund](#). The concert can be viewed on CHEK TV, their [Facebook page](#), and [YouTube channel](#).

Looking for something new to read? Here is the link to a map of the [Little Free Libraries](#) in Greater Victoria. There are a dozen locations in North Saanich.

Parents, [Victoria Literacy Connection](#) has trained literacy volunteers who are facilitating closed online reading groups of up to 3 children each. Depending upon the grade level, the sessions will be held two to three times a week from May 4th - May 22nd, 2020. Each session is up to one hour. Children are encouraged to keep to their respective groups and to attend all sessions.

Mayor Geoff Orr, as well as Councillors Heather Gartshore, Patricia Pearson and Celia Stock maintain public Facebook pages and we encourage you to check them out as another source of information about North Saanich.

Mayor Orr: <https://www.facebook.com/geofforrcampaign/>

Councillor Gartshore: <https://www.facebook.com/heatherfornorthsaanich/>

Councillor Pearson: <https://www.facebook.com/Pearson4NS/>

Councillor Stock: <https://www.facebook.com/CeliaStockforCouncillor/>

As a Council, we are honoured and humbled to represent such a thoughtful and caring community; thank you for looking after your neighbours during this unprecedented time. Every phone call, baking drop, email, or bouquet of flowers left on a doorstep is helping others get through! Thank you for what you are doing to bring joy to our community in such a challenging time.

We will get through this, and we thank you for the part you are playing to make it so.

Message #4 next week will include additional information related to finalizing the 2020 Budget and the green waste facility / outdoor burning feedback we have received.

As always, you are welcome to contact any one of us.

Sincerely,

Mayor Geoff Orr and Councillors Heather Gartshore, Jack McClintock, Patricia Pearson, Brett Smyth, Celia Stock, Murray Weisenberger