

Connect North Saanich: Fall 2020

Municipal Hall: 1620 Mills Road, North Saanich, BC V8L 5S9 | admin@northsaanich.ca | northsaanich.ca
250-656-0781 | [f @northsaanichdistrict](https://www.facebook.com/northsaanichdistrict) | [@northsaanich](https://www.instagram.com/northsaanich)



Message from Mayor & Council



Fall 2020 – the COVID-19 pandemic has been with us now for six months. The South Island has responded well and the low case count reflects the collective effort. Recent case activity serves as a good reminder that everyone must remain vigilant as facilities and restaurants continue to reopen.

Retail, commercial, service, transportation, hospitality and

food sector businesses have all been negatively impacted by the pandemic. We encourage you to engage with local businesses whenever possible and observe all posted safety protocols.

These are still challenging times, and the impact on each of us will vary. We appreciate your patience as Council business progresses, and the opportunity for public input

is hampered by the restriction on in-person attendance at Council meetings. We have modified our correspondence procedures in order to maximize the opportunity for Council to receive input. Please remember to be respectful and considerate of others in everything you write, say or do.

Our first virtual community meeting is on Wednesday October 7, 2020 using Zoom. We look forward to your participation.

The municipal hall service counter remains open for tax and utility payments. The emergency operations team will determine when to expand in-person services based on our readiness and the guidelines issued by Provincial and local health authorities.

Work has started on the Official Community Plan (OCP) review and the Tree Protection Bylaw review. Opportunities for public input will be numerous and varied. We encourage you to visit connectnorthsaanich.ca for updates, monitor social media, and sign up for notifications.

This newsletter also provides an update on current projects, including Scoter Trail and Sandown, and provides preliminary commentary on the Outdoor Burning & Green Waste and the Active Transportation survey results. The surveys closed in mid-August: participation rates were very good. We appreciate the feedback and hope that you found our new engagement portal – Connect North Saanich – to be a positive addition to our suite of communication tools.

If you are able to, we encourage you to venture outside and enjoy all that North Saanich has to offer – trail walks through the forest, local and regional parks, beach access, farm markets and roadside stands, horse trails, or the extensive bicycle lane network.

Be Kind – to yourself and one another. Be Calm – when the road feels a little bumpy. Be Safe – in all that you do.

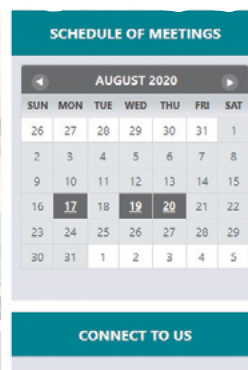
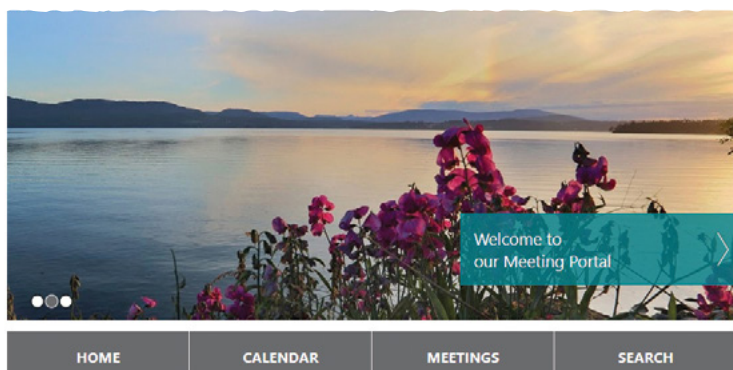
Connecting With Council

Meeting Portal

The District has a new meeting portal designed to make it easy to navigate the agendas, minutes and videos of Council and Commission meetings.



northsaanich.ca/council-meetings



Writing to Mayor and Council

You can write to Mayor and Council at mayorandcouncil@northsaanich.ca on any meeting agenda items or other topics of interest.

Written submissions will be included in the meeting agenda package unless they are deemed to be administrative in nature and directed to staff to respond. Written correspondence must be received by noon on the Wednesday prior to the meeting to be eligible for inclusion in Council agendas. In order to remain responsive through the pandemic, late items received by noon on the day of the meeting are presented to Council for consideration at the meeting if they are in response to an agenda item or are time-sensitive. All other late items will be placed on a future Council meeting agenda.

Official Community Plan **Review**



What's it about?

Where will new housing be accommodated? How will we move around North Saanich? How will we respond to climate change? Help shape these decisions by getting involved in the new Official Community Plan (OCP).

The OCP guides decisions on planning and land use management. The new OCP will create a long term vision for the future of North Saanich for the next 20 years. It will provide guidance for growth and change in the District.

How can you get involved?

We are getting started on the first steps of a two-year process and are excited to have you involved!

West Saanich **Bike Lanes**

The bike lane installation on West Saanich Road from McTavish Road to Frizell Road is now complete. This 1.7 km section of the project provides continuous bike lanes from McTavish Road to Birch Road. The installation cost just under \$1.8 million, with \$726,018 funded by BikeBC.

What will North Saanich look like in 20 years? We want YOUR help to answer this question.

Community Pop-Ups

We want to hear from you! What brings you joy in North Saanich? What makes life difficult? What will make North Saanich thrive for future generations? Check out our community pop-ups at various locations across the District between October 5 – 11 to learn more about the project and share your thoughts!

Advisory Working Group

Keen to be more deeply involved? Join our OCP Advisory Working Group. Check out connectnorthsaanich.ca to find out how to apply.

Project Updates

Sign up for regular project updates on connectnorthsaanich.ca. Go to the Official Community Plan Review and click on Stay Informed on right side of the screen.

If You Are a Local Community Group

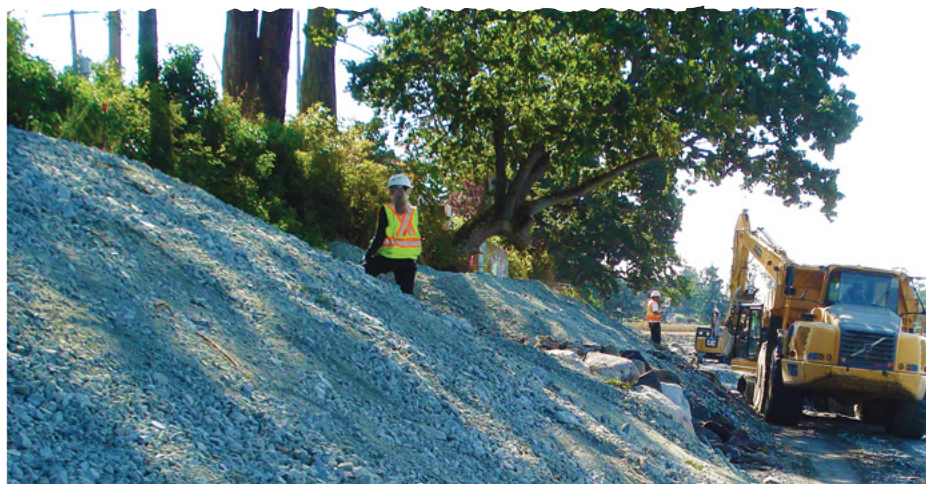
We want your help! We want to include all the diverse voices of North Saanich in this process. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact us at connect@northsaanich.ca.



connectnorthsaanich.ca/ocp



Scoter Trail **Rehabilitation Project**



The District is continuing the restoration of the shoreline along the north section of Scoter Trail from Munro Road to 10339 West Saanich Road. Construction is expected to be finished by the end of November 2020.

The majority of construction must take place below the waterline and within the fisheries window of July 1 to October 1. Council has approved early morning construction activities. These are required to take advantage of low-tide periods and ensure the project is completed within the fisheries window.

Thank you for your patience while we rehabilitate this important community asset.

northsaanich.ca/scoter-trail

Sandown Update

Through a Request for Proposals process, the District has chosen to move forward with lease negotiations with the Sandown Centre for Regenerative Agriculture. The District's vision is for the land to be used for sustainable food production.



northsaanich.ca/sandown

Outdoor Burning & Green Waste

We received 1,065 responses to the outdoor burning rules and green waste service levels survey. Council will be considering the survey responses and staff recommendations in early Fall.

Tree Protection Bylaw Update

Trees improve quality of life and provide significant environmental and health benefits to our community.

The District's Tree Protection Bylaw, which regulates the cutting, removal or damaging of trees on private property, was adopted in 2002. Since then, North Saanich's treed environment and the challenges it faces such as climate change have evolved. The District is launching a review and update of the Bylaw this Fall in order to align with current best practices

Events



North Saanich Community Meeting



Wednesday, October 7, 2020

Mayor and Council invite you to join them for the upcoming online community meeting. This is an opportunity to reconnect with Council and your neighbours virtually and have a conversation about current initiatives and District activities.

Active Transportation Plan



Thanks to everyone who got involved in the initial engagement on the plan. We received:

- 145 pins on the map with location-specific feedback
- 19 written ideas
- 218 survey responses

Your ideas and feedback will be used to draft a plan that will connect the community, be sustainable and allow active transportation throughout North Saanich.

and conditions, while ensuring it responds to our community values. The District has hired Diamond Head Consulting to lead the review of the Bylaw, including public engagement.

Public engagement on the Tree Protection Bylaw will begin in October. Sign up to get project updates by visiting the webpage and selecting Stay Informed on right side of the screen.

connectnorthsaanich.ca/tree-bylaw

Join by Video:

A Zoom link is available on the community meetings webpage. You do not need to download an application to participate. Once you have joined, you may need to unmute yourself in order to be heard and turn your camera on in order to be seen.

Join by Phone:

(778) 907-2071 — Meeting ID: 863 8099 9936

northsaanich.ca/community-meetings

North Saanich Repair Café

Organizers of the newly launched North Saanich Repair Café want you to bring your broken items to be repaired rather than taking them to the landfill. Volunteers are available to help repair lamps, small appliances, clothes, bikes, furniture and toys.

Repair Café North Saanich was launched in July in collaboration with the North Saanich Flavour Trails Festival. Bring your items to the Repair Café from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on October 17 and November 21 at 10990 West Saanich Rd. Organizers have COVID-19 measures in place to keep the community safe.

North Saanich Fire Department Annual Halloween Bonfire

Due to COVID-19, the Annual Halloween Bonfire has been cancelled.

Did You Know?



Chip Sealing

The District chip seals rural, low-volume roads to maintain and extend the life of the road. The District's busier roads are primarily asphalt and are not chip sealed.

What is Chip Sealing?

Chip sealing is a pavement surface treatment that combines asphalt with fine aggregate (gravel). In order to repair the holes and cracks that develop over time, the road is chip sealed to fill in the pavement. Essentially, a layer of oil is applied to the surface, followed by gravel. A roller then flattens the rock to help adhere the gravel to the oil. The treatment is left on the road for approximately three weeks to allow the oil and gravel to bond together and be compressed into the surface before it is swept clear. This will extend the time between treatments.

How Often Does It Take Place?

Depending on how busy the road is, it will need to be chip sealed every 12 to 14 years.

Can we convert all roads to asphalt?

The cost to lay an asphalt road is estimated to be \$48/m² compared to chip sealing at an estimated cost of \$3.50/m². The District estimates it could cost approximately \$19 million to convert to asphalt, requiring a substantial increase in the District's budget.

RCMP Project 529

North Saanich cyclists can now register their bikes with the RCMP. Project 529, an international bike registry program, is being launched for residents of North Saanich, Sidney and the Saanich Peninsula Indigenous Communities. Sidney/North Saanich RCMP believe Project 529 will improve bicycle recovery, deter thieves, improve the morale of the biking community, and help the police return lost and stolen bikes to their rightful owners. Visit project529.com to register.

project529.com

Online Crime Reporting

Did you know that you can now report a crime online? The Sidney/North Saanich RCMP is taking part in a pilot project for a new online crime reporting tool for certain crimes. Find out more:

bc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/sidney/report

Utility Bill Payment Reminder

Utility bill payment deadlines are back on schedule. That means if you are signed up for automatic payments, the May bill payment will be withdrawn on September 30, and the September bill payment will be withdrawn on October 26, 2020.

Home Renovation Rebates

North Saanich homeowners can receive a top-up for their energy efficiency home renovation in addition to rebates offered through the CleanBC Better Homes and Home Renovation Rebate Program. The District is offering the rebate top-up for heat pump installation and EnerGuide home evaluations.

The Clean BC Better Homes and Home Renovation Rebate Program, from BC Hydro, FortisBC and the Province of BC, provides rebates for select home energy efficiency upgrades. The program focuses on switching from fossil fuel heating systems to high efficiency air-source heat pumps.

The District is offering top-ups on a first-come, first-served basis until March 31, 2022 or until the \$10,000 allotted for the program is spent.

northsaanich.ca/clean-bc

Sign-Up For Emails

Did you know that you can sign up to receive public notices, news and newsletters by email? As of August 31, 2020, the District had 461 subscribers. Help the District get to 500!

northsaanich.ca/notifications