

North Saanich Council COVID-19 Message #6

May 6th, 2020

Welcome to the sixth edition of the North Saanich Council Message. We have a number of things to update you on this week.

The Provincial State of Emergency has been extended to May 12th, 2020. While the declining number of COVID-19 cases being reported is very encouraging, it is critical that we continue to follow the advice of our Public Health Officials. As restrictions begin to ease, you'll want to pay careful attention to the news and refer to the many resources that are available. We don't want to risk our collective health and well-being along the way.

We encourage you to check the [District's COVID-19 page](#) for up to date information.

Council Meeting Updates

The next council meeting will take place Monday, May 11th. The agenda will be posted [here](#) by the end of the day Thursday, May 7th. The public is not permitted to be in attendance. If you have feedback on agenda items, or just wish to communicate with Council, please email your thoughts to admin@northsaanich.ca (addressed to Mayor and Council) by noon on Monday for inclusion on the agenda as a late item. You can also find links to recent meetings, and to watch the upcoming meeting live at the same [link](#).

Health and Safety

May is Mental Health Awareness month. There are many resources available. The Victoria Office of the Canadian Mental Health Association can be found [here](#) .

[Here2Talk.ca](#) is an online Provincial resource for post-secondary students and provides mental health support and access to free counselling and community referral services.

If you or someone you know is experiencing violence or abuse, please contact VictimLinkBC at 1 800 563-0808 or by email: VictimLinkBC@bc211.ca

The [Vancouver Island Crisis Line](#) also provides excellent support.

[Parent Support Services Society of BC](#) has a variety of online support groups as well as a BC Parent Support Line.

Canadian Blood Services is in need of blood donors. The next clinic opportunity in Sidney is on May 25th. To find out if you're eligible, and book an appointment, visit: [Canadian Blood Services](#)

Economy and Local Business

The Institute for Sustainable Food Systems at Kwantlen Polytechnic University is doing research on BC consumer food purchasing behaviour during the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey can be completed online [here](#). Please consider contributing to this important work if you are able.

This [article by Kieran Buggy](#), South Island Prosperity Partnership Business Concierge, highlights nine ways we can support our local businesses right now. Did you know that “for every \$1.00 spent at a local business, \$0.48 is recirculated (compared to \$0.14 at chain stores). The re-circulation of money creates a multiplier effect as these businesses pay local suppliers, leases and employees”.

The Federal Government is in the process of developing their business aid package. Save Small Business is advocating for the prevention of evictions and deferral of debt obligations. Sign the petition [here](#).

[Crowdfund.ca](#) is offering Fee-free fundraising for Canadian businesses during the coronavirus crisis. 'Paying it Forward' enables businesses to generate advanced sales of goods and services by offering fixed value "business credits" to mitigate short-term cash concerns.

Community

We are pleased announce that the North Saanich Green Waste facility will reopen for North Saanich residents on **Monday, May 11th**, with extended hours for the first week. Operations will be adjusted to provide for physical distancing to protect both residents and staff and we thank you in advance for your cooperation. Monday May 11th to Saturday May 16th, the facility will be open daily from 8 am to 3 pm; the regular schedule will resume on Thursday May 28th from 8 am to 12 noon. Our staff look forward to welcoming you back next week!

Please note the following changes:

1. Fees have been waived to the end of June
2. Access the facility from Glamorgan Road; staff will be available to direct traffic.
3. Residents need to supply their own hand tools.
4. Access is limited to personal vehicles (cars, pickup trucks, utility trailers). Large commercial vehicles and contractors are not permitted until further notice.

If you are a BC Transit user, please take note: effective June 1st, safety measures will be in place to allow for a return to front door loading and collection of fares. Other safety measures already implemented will continue to be in effect.

The Tulista Boat Launch is open to all boaters under a set of new safety guidelines. The Sidney Anglers Association will provide safety ambassadors at peak times. Boat owners wanting to renew or purchase permits are asked to purchase an individual launch pass at the boat ramp and keep the receipt for a credit towards the purchase of a permit when Sidney Town Hall reopens.

The Red Cedar Cafe is a new not-for-profit organization that provides free, healthy meals to people in need in our community and is run by volunteers. During the first three weeks of operation, they have distributed more than 1200 meals to community members, including seniors, low-income families and people in self-isolation. They have a Facebook page; the order form can be found [here](#).

SW ,ØENENITEL Indigenous Foods Initiative was created in response to COVID-19 and is running a campaign for cash and in-kind donations to procure soil, garden boxes or plants to help grow a resilient food system.

More info here: [Indigenous Foods Initiative](#)

Our friends at the Town of Sidney have created some online puzzles that you might enjoy. Check out [Sidney: Puzzling by the Sea](#) Many of the scenes will be familiar to residents of North Saanich and Sidney.



For all of the Mothers who are putting in extra long hours, educating their children, and keeping everyone safe and happy - we salute you and we hope that you have an opportunity to take some time for yourself this weekend.

Thank you for taking the time to read and share our message; we're happy to receive your feedback. This is a challenging time for everyone, and as Mayor Orr reminded all of us on Monday, it's important that we be calm, be kind and be generous: generous in whatever way you can be, but most importantly, consider lending your spirit of goodwill to one another.

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 and Murray Weisenberger