

# Connect North Saanich: Winter 2025



Municipal Hall: 1620 Mills Road, North Saanich, BC V8L 5S9 | [admin@northsaanich.ca](mailto:admin@northsaanich.ca) | [northsaanich.ca](http://northsaanich.ca)

250-656-0781 | [f @northsaanichdistrict](https://www.facebook.com/northsaanichdistrict)

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.

## Message from Mayor & Council



As we enter 2025, Council would like to share updates on recent decisions and upcoming initiatives. Your feedback continues to shape our community, and we appreciate your engagement.

Last year, we endorsed the Citizen Engagement Strategy to improve communication between residents and Council. In 2025, we will host four town hall events across the community to encourage open discussions.

We also conducted a survey on loneliness and isolation, and the results will help guide future initiatives aimed at strengthening social connections.

The Official Community Plan (OCP) review is moving forward, with advisory committees examining the proposed vision, goals, and objectives of the plan. This process ensures the OCP reflects community values while addressing growth and sustainability. We also approved

a public engagement strategy for a multi-use path on Lands End Road, aimed at improving safety for pedestrians and cyclists. Additionally, we supported the purchase of hydrant cap adapters to enhance emergency response capabilities.

In November, staff presented the North Saanich 2025 Interim Housing Needs Report to Council. This report serves as a crucial tool for understanding and addressing the future housing demands in North Saanich.

Council continues to support local food production through a Food Hub Feasibility Study. We are also working on enhancing local parks and green spaces, with discussions on improving trails, playgrounds, and outdoor gathering areas. The Parks Master Plan final draft, to be presented to Council in early 2025, is available on [connectnorthsaanich.ca](http://connectnorthsaanich.ca). Jubilee Park Playground was very busy in 2024, and we're happy to

see so many people using it!

With a continued commitment to safety, Council approved three new career firefighter positions, including a full-time FireSmart Coordinator, and designated Fire Inspectors and Investigators under the new Fire Safety Act. We reviewed RCMP crime statistics, with a focus on traffic enforcement and mental health response, and were pleased to see the launch of the Sidney North Saanich Scam Alert video series, which you can view on YouTube. Each month a new video focuses on a current scam or fraud, and offers tips on how to protect yourself.

In 2025, we endeavor to increase updates from the District and Council's activities and decisions as well as promote upcoming events. We encourage you to participate in upcoming town hall events, provide feedback, and stay engaged with local initiatives.

- Your North Saanich Council

## Public Engagement

2025 is poised to be an active year for public engagement in North Saanich, reflecting our commitment to community involvement in shaping our district's future. With the endorsement of our new Citizen Engagement Strategy by Council, we are eager to integrate your insights into several upcoming initiatives.

We kicked off the year with our 2025 Budget survey, and an open house to discuss the CRD Onsite Sewage Bylaw in late February, setting the tone for a series of important engagements. Spring brings consultations on the

Lands End multi-use path and the Wolf Orchard Park project, alongside the final rounds of engagement for the Official Community Plan in March and April. Traffic calming strategies for Tatlow and Deep Cove will be discussed in May, ensuring community input is central to our approach.

The momentum continues into the fall with discussions on the Noble Garden and updates to the Zoning Bylaw. November will focus on developing our Climate Plan, Mitigation and Adaptation Plan, a critical step towards our environmental commitments.

We wrap up the year with our

annual Peninsula Firefighters Christmas Food Drive in December, a testament to our community's spirit of giving.

Each of these initiatives offers a unique opportunity to contribute your thoughts, concerns, ideas, and suggestions. Your participation is vital to the success of these projects and the well-being of our community.

Stay informed and involved by visiting our public engagement platform:

[connectnorthsaanich.ca](http://connectnorthsaanich.ca) and send any feedback to our dedicated communications and engagement team at [communications@northsaanich.ca](mailto:communications@northsaanich.ca)

We look forward to engaging with you throughout the year!



## Official Community Plan (OCP)



Building from the significant planning work undertaken to date in the District (studies, mapping, etc.) and the engagement input received throughout the OCP amendment process, a proposed OCP outline, vision, goals and objectives went before Council in December and was referred to the Council Committees for input. A revised OCP outline, vision, goals and objectives will be presented to Council for approval at the January 27 meeting. In the meantime, staff have been continuing with policy drafting. A first draft of the OCP is anticipated to be presented to Council in March 2025. Further public engagement will occur at that time.

For the latest information, please visit the OCP project page at [connectnorthsaanich.ca](https://connectnorthsaanich.ca)

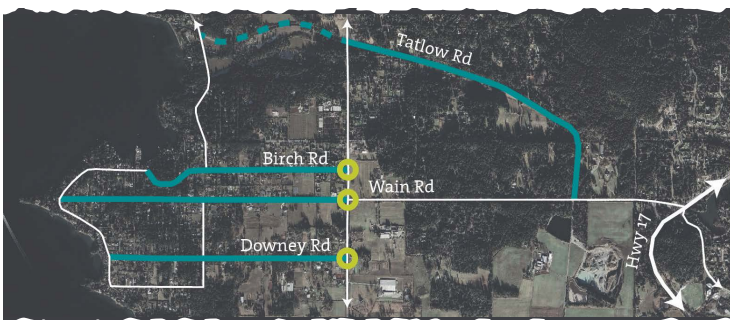
## Parks Master Plan

The updated draft **Parks Master Plan** will be presented to Mayor and Council in early 2025. We thank the community for their valuable input and enthusiasm during this process. The plan will guide efforts to enhance and preserve North Saanich's parks and natural spaces. Your continued support and involvement are essential as we enrich our community's green spaces together.

To review the plan, its appendices, and maps, visit the North Saanich website. For questions or comments, please email [parksplan@northsaanich.ca](mailto:parksplan@northsaanich.ca).

## Tatlow / Deep Cove Traffic Calming

The District of North Saanich is working to enhance safety along Tatlow, Birch, Wain, and Downey Roads and key intersections in Deep Cove through traffic calming and gateway treatments. These improvements aim to reduce speeds and increase awareness for all users, including pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians, and drivers. Following community engagement in spring and summer 2024, a public open house was held in September. The **What We Heard Report**, summarizing community feedback, is now available and will shape final recommendations to be presented to Council by early 2025. For updates and details, visit the project page at [connectnorthsaanich.ca/tatlow-deep-cove-traffic-calming](https://connectnorthsaanich.ca/tatlow-deep-cove-traffic-calming)



## Lands End Multi-Use Path

The District of North Saanich is planning a multi-use path along Lands End Road, from Pat Bay Highway to West Saanich Road, as part of its **Active Transportation Plan**. This four km project aims to improve safety and accessibility with two design options: a separated multi-use path (MUP) or bike lanes on both sides of the road. Estimated costs are \$8 million for bike lanes and \$10 million for the MUP, with phased construction over four years. Community engagement will begin in early 2025, with feedback guiding the final design to be presented to Council in spring 2025.

## Wolf Orchard

The Wolf Orchard property at 11004 West Saanich Road was donated to the District in 2023 by Gerhard (Gerry) Furstenau, with the condition it becomes a public park named "Wolf Orchard" in honor of his brother. Gerry's strong ties to the community included a gardening program for Deep Cove Elementary students, which will continue. Plans for the park include preserving the orchard, maintaining planting boxes, improving traffic and pedestrian safety, and adding features like a gazebo, picnic tables, and a memorial sign. The project is estimated to cost \$125,000, with community engagement planned to refine the design and gather input.



## Loneliness and Isolation Survey

The District recently conducted a Loneliness and Isolation Survey to address community needs and foster stronger social connections. Introduced by Councillor Sanjiv Shrivastava and approved by Council on September 23, the initiative aimed to understand the prevalence of loneliness and social isolation among residents. The survey is now closed, and its findings will be presented to the Healthy Community Living Advisory Committee for review and discussion. Insights from the survey and community feedback will help evaluate the need for a potential community gathering center to support a more connected and vibrant community. Thank you for participating!

## Citizen Engagement Strategy



The District's Citizen Engagement Strategy, endorsed by Council on December 16, will be implemented in early 2025 and applied to all public engagement initiatives moving forward. This strategy reflects the District's commitment to transparency, trust, and meaningful opportunities for residents to share their voices. It aims to enhance how we connect with the community and ensure your feedback shapes decisions.

View the strategy here:

[connectnorthsaanich.ca/citizen-engagement-strategy](https://connectnorthsaanich.ca/citizen-engagement-strategy)

We look forward to working with you in 2025 to build a more engaged and collaborative community.



# What's Happening



## Heritage Week 2025: Celebrating Our Community's Past

Mayor Jones has officially proclaimed February 17-23, 2025, as Heritage Week in North Saanich, highlighting the importance of preserving and celebrating our rich and diverse heritage.

Join us at Municipal Hall from February 18-21 for "Pastimes in Past Times," a special event that delves into the leisure activities of the past and their lasting impact on the cultural fabric of today. This engaging theme offers a unique opportunity to reflect on the traditions that have shaped our community and to connect with the stories of previous generations.

To learn more about Heritage Week and this year's theme, visit the Heritage BC website for additional resources and information. Celebrate with us and embrace the vibrant history that makes North Saanich so unique!



[HeritageBC.ca/events-activities/heritage-week](https://HeritageBC.ca/events-activities/heritage-week)

# CRD Updates

## What You Put Down the Drain Matters!

Protect your home and practice conscientious drainage by learning what should and shouldn't be put down the drain.

The top two items to avoid putting down the drain are:

1. "Flushable" wipes, and
2. Fats, oils and grease.

Wipes don't break down as easily as toilet paper and can cause serious blockages when combined with other solid waste.



- ✓ Compost small amounts of grease
- ✓ Cool larger amounts in a container until solid, then compost or trash
- ✓ Liquid oil can be recycled at Hartland Depot



- ✓ Only flush the Three Ps (pee, poo, and toilet paper)
- ✓ Keep unflushable waste out
- ✓ Don't use the toilet as a trash can



[crd.bc.ca/education/rethink-waste](https://crd.bc.ca/education/rethink-waste)

## Next Generation 9-1-1

Council in January approved the bilateral agreement between the District and the Capital Regional District to facilitate the implementation of Next Generation 9-1-1. It follows the Government of Canada's move from analog emergency telecommunications to a new digital system by March 2025. The new system will allow the public to send text, photos, and video to 9-1-1 call centres.

## Budget Engagement

Once again, we are asking residents for their feedback on our upcoming budget year through an online survey, which is open until February 4, 2025. Your input will help shape funding priorities, service levels, and property tax rates as we develop the 2025 District budget.

Once available, you can review the 2025 survey results and keep up to date on the budget engagement process at:

[northsaanich.ca/local-government/departments/financial-services-information-technology/budget](https://northsaanich.ca/local-government/departments/financial-services-information-technology/budget)

## Strategic Planning

On January 20, 2025, our Council and Senior staff convened to participate in a strategic planning session, aiming to outline and refine the priorities and initiatives that will guide our community's development. This Strategic Plan sets out Council's focus and strategic goals for the 2023-2026 period. The Plan is based on many previous plans and public input opportunities, and is the result of the collaboration efforts of Council and staff. We believe the Plan's vision and goals reflect the overall spirit of the community we serve. The strategy is currently being updated and will be available shortly.

## 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 at [northsaanich.ca/local-government/employment](https://northsaanich.ca/local-government/employment) to learn more about current vacancies, benefits, and how you can apply. Join us in shaping the future of our community!

## Rethink Waste Community Grant

The CRD's **Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP)**, which was approved by the Province of BC in 2023, is a guide for long-term management and reduction of material being sent to Hartland Landfill.

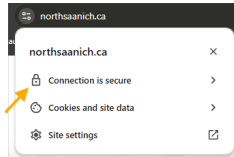
Part of this plan is the **Rethink Waste Community Grant** program. Open to community-based projects aimed at reducing landfill waste, they must fulfill at least one of the following:

1. Foster long-term behavioral change through consumer responsibility
2. Increase awareness of reuse and recycling opportunities and access to services
3. Educate on/and or apply proper waste sorting and recycling practices
4. Projects that promote the movement of materials to higher and next best use
5. Advance the life cycle of materials towards a circular economy (i.e. product care/maintenance, repair, and upcycling)
6. Establish or expand local services for managing unwanted items

## Reminders

### RCMP Scam/Fraud Videos

Holiday scams was the chosen topic to kick off our new educational YouTube channel, produced in collaboration with Sidney/North Saanich RCMP, the Town of Sidney, and the Sidney Business Improvement Area (BIA). The channel is called Sidney North Saanich Scam Alert and will feature monthly videos about the latest scams and frauds affecting our communities. The RCMP's Crime Analyst urges caution about emails that indicate a 'package is on its way', especially if it contains an embedded link. Fraudsters can access your personal information with a click of a button, receiving data straight from your keyboard. Avoid public Wi-Fi when making transactions or accessing your banking information, use multi-factor authentication whenever possible, and review account transactions frequently for unusual activity. Lastly, be conscious not to buy online from websites missing a secure connection padlock symbol.



[youtube.com/@SidneyNorthSaanichScamAlert](https://youtube.com/@SidneyNorthSaanichScamAlert)

## Fire Department Updates

### Live Fire Training

Fire Department staff participated in live fire training at the Otter Point Training Centre in November. The centre features a model home where trainees can experience conditions similar to that of a real house fire, with temperatures between 500°F and 700°F!



### Recruitment

Call for recruits went out in November and eight new recruits will start in February 2025!

### Reflective Address Signs

With winter weather on the horizon, how visible is your address sign? Is it reflective? We want to make sure emergency responders can find your home. Contact the Wain Rd Fire Hall to purchase your own reflective address sign for \$65.

### Smoke / CO Detector Check

Ensure your home has working smoke and CO detectors. Making sure your batteries are changed, and the detectors are tested regularly, will help keep your family safe. You can always reach the Fire Hall at **250-656-1931** if you need assistance.

## License Renewals

It's time to renew your dog and business licences! Avoid late fees and renew by the end of February.



[northsaanich.ca/services/dog-license](https://northsaanich.ca/services/dog-license)



[northsaanich.ca/business-development/business-license](https://northsaanich.ca/business-development/business-license)

## Stay Connected

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

## Upcoming Council Meetings

### Regular Meetings of Council:

Jan 13, Jan 27, Feb 3, Feb 24, Mar 10, Mar 24, April 7, April 28.

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](mailto: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](https://northsaanich.ca/council-meetings)

## Annual Food Drive & Tree Chipping

These annual fundraisers were a huge success! In December, the food drive for the Saanich Peninsula Lions Food Bank brought in five pallets of food and \$3,963 in cash donations. January's tree chipping event raised \$2,587.95 for CFA X Santas Anonymous. Thank you to everyone who donated so generously!



## Saanich Peninsula Alert Information

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](https://northsaanich.ca/spa)



## We Want to Hear From You!

We're looking for feedback on our quarterly Newsletters. Let us know what works, what doesn't, and if you have any comments or suggestions!

