

MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL



Geoff

Heather

Jack

Brett

Celia

Murray

As we begin the 2018-2022 term, your Council members are feeling optimistic and prepared for the challenges that may lie ahead. Four returning Councillors, Heather Gartshore, Jack McClintock, Celia Stock, and Murray Weisenberger, along with new Councillor Brett Smyth and Mayor Geoff Orr are ready to serve North Saanich residents who can expect to see renewed and sustained attention to communication, transparency, and accountability.

We are pleased to welcome Tim Tanton, MPA, P.Eng. to North Saanich as the new Chief Administrative Officer. Tim's first day was January 7, 2019 and he has settled into the role very well. He has more than 20 years of Municipal Government experience serving in various positions. Council is looking forward to working with Tim.

NEW CAO FOR NORTH SAANICH

On January 7, Tim Tanton began work as our new Chief Administrative Officer. Tim's experience includes a decade as a private sector engineering consultant and two decades in the Capital Regional District, local governments of West Vancouver and Sidney. Tim has an engineering degree from UBC and Masters of Public Administration from Dalhousie. Since moving to North Saanich in 1998 Tim and his wife Theresa have raised a family of 3 children and will be familiar to many through their roles in local minor sports programs.



SANDOWN UPDATE

Sandown has seen a lot of change over the last year. The reclamation and drainage work, which was monitored by the District's agrologist, is now substantially complete. Fruit and nut trees have been planted in the berm and the site is now fenced. Select areas of the site require some final remediation work and will be completed by the developer once soil and weather conditions are suitable.

The Sandown Transition Team presented Council with their proposed farm plan for the agricultural lands in September 2018. In October staff provided Council with a report reviewing the plan and identifying next steps and implications of the plan. Council has directed staff to bring forward options for short term basic maintenance and short term land use of the property. Staff is to report back with advice for Council's decision on the long-term use of the property, including a Request for Expressions of Interest and recommended terms for a lease agreement.

The first phase of the commercial site is complete and the Canadian Tire store opened in October of 2018. The servicing work, which included improved drainage work, a new multi-use path, transit stop and pedestrian crossing on McDonald Park Road have been substantially completed. Final landscaping work will be completed in the spring when weather conditions are more favourable.

Council has participated in two Strategic Planning sessions. At the most recent session, January 23, Council reviewed high-level strategic priorities and established the preliminary action items for the term with a particular focus on 2019. Many ongoing initiatives including the Sandown lands, Marine Policy (Flood Construction Level), First Nations Relations, Housing (Affordable Housing Policy), Climate Change Mitigation, Parks Master Plan, and Communication received considerable attention. These strategic initiatives, combined with ongoing and extensive District service level obligations, will feed into the 2019 Budget process which will begin in late February.

The by-election is scheduled for Saturday, April 6, 2019, and Council has appointed Curt Kingsley as Chief Election Officer and Jackie Gretchen as Deputy Chief Election Officer. Additional details will be posted on the District website in the coming weeks. The nomination period will begin in late February.

All members of Council are committed to serving the public and working hard on your behalf.

2019 BY-ELECTION

A by-election for the office of one Councillor will be held Saturday, April 6, 2019.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE?

You are eligible to vote if you are registered as:

- a resident elector (i.e. you live in the District of North Saanich); or
- a non-resident property elector (i.e. you live elsewhere in BC, but own property in the District of North)

Avoid the crowds on general voting day by voting in one of the Advance Polls!

ADVANCE VOTING

Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at the Municipal Hall (1620 Mills Road) between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

ADVANCE VOTING

Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at the Municipal Hall (1620 Mills Road) between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

VOTING DAY

Saturday, April 6, 2019 at the Municipal Hall (1620 Mills Road) between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Election information can be found on the District website at www.northsaanich.ca/elections.

2019 BUDGET



This year's budget will be presented and reviewed in late February and the tax rates and the Five Year Financial Plan will be reviewed and adopted by Council in early May. All meetings will be open to the public.

Information on the dates will be posted on the main page of the District website: www.northsaanich.ca.

BUSINESS AND DOG LICENCE RENEWALS

A reminder that licence renewals are due by February 28, 2019.

Business Licence Renewal: If you do not intend to renew your business licence, please advise the Planning and Community Services Department at 250-655-5470. A Business Licence Guide is available at the Municipal Hall or upon request to admin@northsaanich.ca.

Dog Licence Renewal: A \$5.00 late fee will be applied to any licences purchased after February 28, 2019.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

2019 Council and Committee of the Whole Meetings 7:00 p.m.

February 4 - Council
February 11 - COW
February 25 - COW

March 4 - Council
March 11 - COW
March 18 - Council
March 25 - COW

April 1 - Council
April 8 - COW
April 15 - Council

May 6 - Council
May 13 - COW
May 27 - COW

Community Meeting

March 20, 2019
7:00-9:00 p.m.
Ardmore Golf Course (930
Ardmore Dr.)

North Saanich Farm Market

Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Beginning June 1, 2019
St. John's United Church
10990 West Saanich Road

BIKE LANE WEST SAANICH ROAD

Construction on the West Saanich Road bike lane project in the Patricia Bay area was substantially completed by Allterra Construction in late 2018. This project joins work previously completed to the north and south of this area creating a 4.5 km long section of uninterrupted bike lanes along West Saanich Road.

Some items remain to be completed for the project, including the removal of a utility pole conflicting with the southbound bike lane at Munro Road by BC Hydro. This work was delayed due to the damages caused by the December windstorm. Also, some of the installed traffic calming posts were not the ones specified in the contract; all posts have been removed. The contractor is sourcing the specified products for the centerline posts and these are expected to be reinstalled in early 2019.

Finally, in December 2018, staff were advised by the Ministry of Transportation that the District was successful in its grant application for the project. Assuming the full amount of the request is granted, the District could receive up to nearly \$720,000 towards the cost of the project completed in 2018.

DECEMBER 20 WIND STORM

On December 20, 2018, a severe wind storm brought sustained winds of 60 to 80 km/h with gusts peaking at nearly 90 km/h. The winds brought down many trees, branches, and debris onto power lines and roadways. Works crews responded quickly clearing roadways to provide access and egress for emergency services and residents during and following the event. The volunteers of the North Saanich Fire Department responded to 55 calls in a 24 hour period during the wind storm. The volume of debris generated was significant. Cleanup efforts have continued and are expected to be mostly complete by the end of January.

Residents are reminded to stay away from downed hydro lines as they can be reenergized without any advance notice and to check their emergency kit to ensure there are enough supplies to last one week.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Our recruitment drive was successful with eight new volunteers starting in January 2019.

Are you signed up for the Saanich Peninsula Alert System? If not please visit our website, www.northsaanichfire.ca to join or login to edit your information if it has changed.



NEW WEBSITE UPDATE

The redesign and development of a new website for the District is in its final stages. The District looks forward to introducing a new and fully functional website in spring 2019.

There will be an opportunity for public feedback after the site is launched.

The District would like to thank everyone for their patience. Please contact Corporate Services at 250-656-0781 for further information.

NEW WATER LEAK ADJUSTMENT POLICY

A new policy will apply to property owners who experience leaks in their water systems resulting in higher than normal water consumption. This policy is in effect for water consumed on or after September 1, 2018, and the consumption will appear on the water utility bill issued in January 2019. Additional information and the complete policy can be found at www.northsaanich.ca/LeakAdjustments.

CANADIAN AWARD FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded a Canadian Award for Financial Reporting to the District of North Saanich for the second consecutive year for its annual financial report for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017. The Canadian Award for Financial Reporting program was established to encourage municipal governments throughout Canada to publish high-quality financial reports and to provide peer recognition and technical guidance for officials preparing these reports.

BLOCK WATCH

Block Watch is a crime prevention program designed to engage the community in reporting suspicious activity in their neighbourhood to reduce crime. A Block Watch group is comprised of a Block Watch Captain, Co-Captain and participants. The Captain and Co-Captain are the communication link between their neighbourhood Block Watch participants and the RCMP. To start a Block Watch Group in the Sidney/North Saanich area, please contact Auxiliary Constable Ian Collis 250-656-3931 or lan.collis@rcmp-grc.gc.ca.



NEIGHBOURHOOD CHATS PROGRAM

Beacon Community Services is offering a Neighbourhood Chats Program for seniors on the Peninsula. The free program provides a service to help build a community where an aging population is given the support needed to continue to live independently in their own homes in a safe and healthy way. Please contact Lori Campbell, Seniors Outreach Facilitator at 250-896-9787 or lcampbell@beaconcs.ca for more.



EMERGENCY Police, Fire, Ambulance	9 1 1
MUNICIPAL HALL	250-656-0781
After Hours Public Works	250-360-8285
FIRE DEPARTMENT	250-656-1931
Non-emergency FIRE (after hours)	1-877-537-6725
Non-emergency POLICE (i.e. traffic issues)	250-656-3931
MAYOR AND COUNCIL	
Mayor Geoff Orr	250-656-4562
Councillor Heather Gartshore	250-656-0974
Councillor Jack McClintock	250-888-4890
Councillor Celia Stock	250-655-3437
Councillor Brett Smyth	250-656-1520
Councillor Murray Weisenberger	778-351-2213