

## North Saanich Council COVID-19 Message #8

**May 20, 2020**

Just a short but important message for you this week! Please see below for a link to the British Columbia COVID-19 Survey, ***Your story, our future***.

The Government of British Columbia has extended the [Provincial State of Emergency](#) until the end of day May 26, 2020. The state of emergency allows the Province to continue to use extraordinary powers under the Emergency Program Act to support the COVID-19 pandemic response. The state of emergency may be extended or rescinded as necessary.

As of Tuesday May 19, we have officially moved into Phase 2 of [BC's Restart Plan](#). We're being asked to continue to stay close to home and avoid any non-essential travel. Some services and businesses are permitted to begin to reopen under enhanced protocols. We are also able to 'double our bubble', and that will look different for everyone; only you can decide how you'll move forward. The key takeaways from Dr. Henry are: smaller groups, outside and a shorter time together.

### **Council Updates**

District staff are in the process of developing the reopening plan for the Municipal Hall. Key milestones will include employees returning to the hall, public access to municipal hall for tax payments and other purposes (permits, inquiries, etc), and when public hearings can be held.

The green waste facility was open Monday to Saturday last week and the facility was well used! We had a total of 997 vehicles over the 6 days. A Saanich Peninsula Lions Food Bank donation box was placed at the entrance to the facility and Bev Elder, Executive Director was so grateful to receive the \$1,897 that made its way into the box! Thank you for your generosity during these challenging times. The donation box will remain at the entrance until the end of June.

Please check the District's [COVID-19 page](#) for updates, as well as our Social Media accounts on Facebook and Twitter. As things change, this is where you will find the most current information pertaining to the District of North Saanich.

## Health and Safety

COVID-19 Survey - The Province of British Columbia is interested in hearing about your experience during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please take 10 - 15 minutes to participate and complete the [COVID-19 Survey](#) *Your story, our future*. The survey contains an opportunity for you to consider participating in two important initiatives: blood testing to help determine immunity across the population and the use of technology as a way to identify, contain and trace infected persons. The survey will be open until **May 31, 2020**.

The Province has developed a [BC COVID 19](#) app. With this app you have great information right at your fingertips: stats, updates, resources and a self-assessment tool.

## Economy and Local Business

As Sidney is our downtown, you'll want to note that parking enforcement was restarted as of Friday May 15 to allow for more customer parking as businesses continue to reopen.

This recent article speaks to the importance of innovation and economic success in BC, more important now than ever before. [Innovation Key to BCs Economic Future](#)

As businesses begin to reopen on May 19 as part of the Phase 2 restart, they are required to develop a safety plan and make it publicly available. Worksafe BC has encouraged employers to engage with their workforce in developing these plans in an effort to help ease the stress and anxiety of workers. Thank you for your ongoing patience as we enter this new phase.

The [South Island FarmHub | Farmer Driven Produce Distributor](#) will be opening an online store in early June with a goal to make fresh local farm food available to everyone in our community!

## Community

The following Panorama outdoor amenities have now been reopened:

- Panorama Recreation Centre: outdoor tennis courts, outdoor basketball court
- Greenglade Community Centre: outdoor basketball court

Signage has been posted reminding users to observe best practices for physical distancing as well as health and safety precautions, thus ensuring a safe outdoor

recreation space for all. Users are expected to adhere to public health guidelines of maintaining two metres of physical distance, no sharing of equipment, practicing good hand hygiene, and staying home if sick.

Registration is now open for summer camps and programs.

The North Saanich Tennis and Pickleball courts at Wain Park are now open; to keep everyone safe, please follow the court rules.



CRD Public Art -- there are over 167 public artworks in the Capital Region. You are able to create a personalized self-guided tour at [LandMarks Public Art](#). Another local activity to enjoy in Greater Victoria as we stay close to home.

Thank you for all the actions you are taking to keep the curve flat. Now is the time for all of us to consider how we can contribute to restarting our local economy and strengthen our personal connections.

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