



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Council is halfway through the last year of this term which has seen the successful completion of several lengthy initiatives.

Residents will be aware of a few of these: the transfer of the Sandown agricultural land to the District, the transfer of one parcel of the Dunsmuir lands to Homewood Health and a society formed to hold the other two parcels for the Pauquachin First Nation, and also, the completion of the new wing of the municipal hall. The work on the Sandown Project began in 2010 and spanned three councils. Dunsmuir Lodge closed in March of 2009. Work toward completion began in 2015 with the application by Homewood Health. All rezoning and transfers are complete. The municipal hall reconstruction began with studies in 2014, construction began in November 2015 and final completion in October 2017.

Other more recent matters that have caught some public notice include:

- (1) the proposed development of the Baldwin property, adjacent to Horth Hill Park;
- (2) efforts begun to pursue new wild fire legislation and broader public education on these efforts;
- (3) sea level rise education and planning; and
- (4) reconstruction of our website to better inform and serve our residents.

On a Regional level, the review of the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS), in which the District played an active role, resulted in a mediated resolution and the adoption of the new RGS in March this year.

Each year Council plans and approves its strategic priorities. Our current Strategic Plan can be found on our website and contains a section listing all the priorities that have been completed, year by year, through this term. This document illustrates the broad range of matters that Council deals with on behalf of our residents in considerably more detail than I can address in newsletters. I have had the benefit as mayor of observing the work done by three different Councils over three terms. This term has certainly been unusually busy, in part because of the new four year term served by this Council.

Council's achievements during this term have been made possible by the excellent and dedicated support we consistently receive from our administrative staff, particularly our Chief Administrative Officer and departmental Directors.

Council members and I continue to value the information and communications we receive from our residents, as well as their many expressions of support for Council work.

MUNICIPAL HALL PROJECT

If you have not been to visit the new Municipal Hall facilities, please come for a visit. We think this is a building that the community can be proud of. After



considering the costs and benefits with replacing a portion of the Municipal Hall versus making major renovations to correct a number of serious problems, Council elected to proceed with the partial replacement option. However, there was a strong desire to avoid as best we could any significant cost overruns. To achieve that goal, the District used a two phase process.

The first phase was to have building designs prepared in sufficient

COMING UP

North Saanich Farm Market

Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
June 3 - October 7
St. John's United Church
10990 West Saanich Road

Community Meeting

Wednesday, June 20, 7 p.m.
Ardmore Golf Course
930 Ardmore Drive

Food & Farm Festival (aka Flavour Trail)

August 17-19, 2018

Local Gov't Election Candidate Forum

September 6, 2018
Mary Winspear Centre
2243 Beacon Ave W

2018 Council and Committee of the Whole Meetings - 7:00 p.m.

May 14 - COW
May 28 - COW

June 4 - Council
June 11 - COW
June 18 Council
June 25 COW

July 16 - COW/Council

August 20 - COW/Council

September 17 - Council
September 24 - COW

detail to secure contract ready plans along with firm pricing. A stipulated price contract for the construction phase was used to achieve this. Council authorized a contract in the amount of \$125,000 plus GST for the design work. With legal fees and a preliminary concept drawing, our total costs associated with this phase were \$139,247.00.

The second phase was the construction phase totalling \$2,606,500.00. This is \$2,117.00 over the budgeted amount of \$2,604,500.00. This phase included building a new wing, moving into that wing to allow the demolition of the old Council Chambers and Administration and Finance wing and then rebuilding the Council Chambers wing. This phase also included all landscaping, parking, hazardous material removal, solar panels, new Council table, servicing, legal and construction costs, but did not include District staff time, regular equipment replacement, or the artwork Council recently commissioned.

The competitive design build process for the new facilities proved to be very cost effective for the Municipality. In addition to this approach we looked for other savings in an effort to be effective stewards of municipal resources. One significant cost savings measure was to undertake project management with District staff rather than hiring a project consultant. Another was to use the Fire Hall bays for Council meetings during the construction phase. Also, our phased approach to construction allowed our operations to continue on the same site and avoid the need for renting interim accommodations while maintaining access to services at the Municipal Hall.

In total, the combined design and building phases amounted to \$2,745,747.00 and we avoided any significant cost overruns. Staff reports including all progress reports

can be reviewed on the Municipal website at www.northsaanich.ca.

2018 BUDGET



The draft 2018 Budget was reviewed by Council on April 23, 2018. Council approved a tax increase of 1.36% for residential properties and a 0% tax increase for business properties, a 4.1% water rate increase, and 0.76% sewer rate increase. Farm water rates will remain the same as the previous year. The overall increase in property taxes to be collected amount to 0.97%.

Major cost drivers for the tax increase include:

- Increase in Infrastructure Reserve Funding 2.52%
- Increase in Operating Budget due to cost drivers 3.56%
- Decrease in Operating Budget due to growth (5.11%)

Council approved the Five Year Financial Plan in May.

For further information on the 2018 budget, please contact Financial Services at 250-656-0781.

2018 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Did you know? The Province changed the date of the General Local Government Election to Saturday, October 20, 2018. Please visit the District's website at www.northsaanich.ca for more information on the Election, including information about voter registration, nominations, mail ballots and advanced poll dates.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CANDIDATE FORUM

The District of North Saanich and the Town of Sidney are co-sponsoring a new candidate forum for the upcoming municipal elections. This forum will be provided by Mr. Rob Roycroft and will be held 6 p.m., September 6, 2018 at the Mary Winspear Centre.

Objective of the Forum

- Leave participants with a good understanding of what they may be getting into;
- Provide information about what it takes to run a municipality;
- Improve ability to discuss real issues during the campaign;
- Why Offer this Forum;
- Shorten the steep learning curve and make more effective use of time;
- Facilitate good governance.

Topics that will be covered are time commitments, compensation, conflict of interest, impact on personal life, decision making, elected official roles and responsibilities, and a discussion of the complexity of municipal issues.

SANDOWN UPDATE

An exciting new Sandown Community farm is being planned in North Saanich....

In 2017 the District of North Saanich took ownership of 83 acres of precious ALR land, the majority of the Sandown Raceway, securing it as a long-term community asset for food. There was no net loss of ALR. To support the farm's success, North Saanich Council approved allocation of half the commercial tax revenue to an Agriculture Reserve Fund, a CRD first!

Site remediation and planning for food production are underway. The Sandown Transition Team is

engaging broadly for a site plan, 3rd party governance options, ongoing community involvement, and a financial plan. The Team is evaluating ways to support local food, community, learning, and ecosystem sustainability.

It is a big vision developed by the community in the Vision Sandown process led by CRFAIR (2015/16). To connect with the Team, please contact info@crfair.ca. The public can provide feedback during the North Saanich Food and Farm Festival August 17 to 19, 2018

NEW BIKE LANES ON WEST SAANICH ROAD

A road widening project to provide bike lanes on West Saanich Road is planned to begin in early summer 2018. Shoulder widening and drainage work will add bike lanes from the intersection of Willingdon Road to match with existing lanes at the south border of the Tseycum First Nation. The work is Phase 3 of a multi-year plan that will complete a gap in on-road cycle facilities to create continuous bicycle lanes on West Saanich Road from Frizell Road north to Wain Road.

This work is in support of the District's Transportation and Cycling Plan as described in the Official Community Plan (OCP), as well as forming an important part of the CRD's Regional Pedestrian and Cycling Masterplan. Already a popular route for the recreational and utilitarian cyclist, the completion of this project will enhance safety for cyclists and road users along one of the most scenic stretches in the network.

A community Open House was held in February that presented the project to interested residents and received feedback on their concerns. Adjustments were made to the alignment, where feasible, in an effort to maximize safety for residents and road users while

maintaining the natural state of the shoreline and bank along Patricia Bay. Traffic calming measures will be included in the areas of highest residential density in an effort to slow traffic to safer speeds.

The changes in character along this phase, from airport and park land to residential and foreshore, create some unique challenges in constructing consistent cycle facilities. Restrictions in the right of way caused by topography, existing infrastructure, and areas of potential archaeological interest limit how and where the additional width for the cycle lanes can be built. Drainage works will be added where it is necessary to enclose roadside ditching to support the road widening.

This work will be awarded through a tendering process in spring 2018. The successful proponent will devise a construction schedule that will identify how and when the work

will be undertaken and show when specific sections of the route will be affected. A single lane closure may be necessary at times during the construction day, but two-way traffic will be restored nightly and over weekends.

Cyclists within the District and visitors from outside its borders will enjoy the enhancements in cycling safety and the additional options this project provides for active transportation. The District will continue to add cycling facilities in subsequent years to support the healthy living goals of the Official Community Plan and to do our part to connect the regional cycling network of bike lanes, paths and trails.



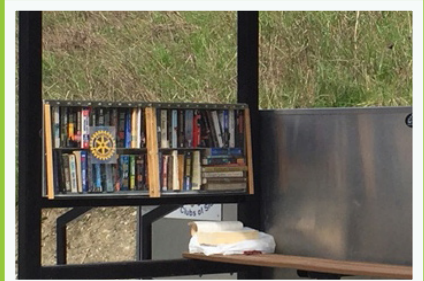
NEW BUS SHELTERS

In 2016 the Rotary Club of Sidney approached the District with a generous offer to fund a pilot project involving the installation of bus shelters, benches, bike racks, and bike lockers.

The shelters would provide an opportunity for children catching a bus to ride their bikes to a bus stop and store their bike in a secure lock-up.

In collaboration with District staff, the club identified three different sites. After the sites were prepared by Public Works, the first site shelter was installed in March 2017 on the corner of Bradley Dyne and West Saanich Road. The second site was installed in May 2017 on the corner of Ardmore Drive (North) and West Saanich Road and the third site was installed in December 2017 on Wain Road West of Patricia Bay Highway. The last shelter included the added feature of a small book exchange library inside the shelter.

These are attractive and functional amenities which will serve to encourage both active and public transportation in the District.





BURNING SEASON CLOSURE

All outdoor burning is banned within the District of North Saanich as of sunset May 5, 2018. This includes burning in incinerators, fire pits, and open piles until further notice. The only exception is approved manufactured outdoor fire appliances which require a permit and can be obtained by contacting the fire department at 250-656-1931. Please consider alternatives to burning such as composting, recycling, and chipping. Visit the municipal website www.northsaanich.ca for the Green Waste Drop Off schedule.

STRATEGIC WILDFIRE PREVENTION

The District of North Saanich has received a grant for the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative FireSmart Planning and Activities Program.

The proposed FireSmart education project will cover the entire North Saanich community and will be implemented in collaboration with the North Saanich Residents Association, Dean Park Estates Community Association, and Property Responsibility on the Waterfront. The project focuses on public education, citizen engagement, and strengthening local capacity. The proposed activities will include a series of 2-3 community workshops to educate citizens on how to create and maintain wildfire safe homes, communication materials for distribution, and hosting a Wildfire Preparedness Day community event.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

To receive Emergency Notifications from the North Saanich Emergency Program, please register through our website www.northsaanichfire.ca.

NEW WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

The District is pleased to announce Atomic Crayon Web Development as the winning bid for its new website redesign and development project. Work on the project has now begun, and the District looks forward to providing residents with a new fully functional website in the Fall of 2018.

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

The District would like to thank everyone for their patience. Please contact Corporate Services at 250-655-5458 for further information.

PICKLE BALL AND TENNIS

Spring has arrived and the District would like to remind players that the pickle ball and tennis courts are operational and ready for the public.

WATERMAIN REPLACEMENT

In the fall of 2017 the CRD undertook a project to replace their existing watermain from their Deep Cove Pump Station on West Saanich Road to the Cloake Hill Reservoir. The purpose was to replace existing under-capacity pipe constructed of an obsolete pipe material subject to premature failure. The installation of the new piping and connection to the existing system was completed in early April. It is anticipated that the CRD will be completing restoration of the disturbed surface areas over the month of May.

2018 FLAVOUR TRAILS

Hit the trails and taste the flavour of North Saanich August 17-19. Visit www.flavourtrails.com for current information.



THANK YOU PARK VOLUNTEERS

The District is fortunate to have many thoughtful volunteers who participate diligently in caring for our parks. Some of those volunteer groups are Friends of North Saanich Parks, Friends of Dominion Brook Park, Friends of Dean Park, Green Team Canada, and individuals who take the time to pick up garbage, trim back brush, or help with invasive species. The District appreciates your dedication.

EMERGENCY Police, Fire, Ambulance	9 1 1
Non-emergency POLICE (i.e. traffic issues)	250-656-3931
Non-emergency FIRE (after hours)	250-475-6111
MAIN SWITCHBOARD	250-656-0781
Corporate Services	250-655-5458
Finance	250-656-0781
Planning and Community Services	250-655-5470
Engineering	250-655-5460
Public Works	250-655-5480
After Hours Public Works	250-360-8285
Fire Department	250-656-1931
MAYOR AND COUNCIL	
Mayor Alice Finall	250-656-6668
Councillor Heather Gartshore	250-656-0974
Councillor Jack McClintock	250-888-4890
Councillor Geoff Orr	250-656-4562
Councillor Celia Stock	250-655-3437
Councillor Jack Thornburgh	250-665-6314
Councillor Murray Weisenberger	778-351-2213