

# Connect North Saanich: Spring 2022

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 | [t](#) @northsaanich



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 **BOKEĆEN** (Pauquachin) First Nation and **WSÍKEM** (Tseycum) First Nation for years to come.

## Message from Mayor & Council



Spring – our typically cool and reasonably dry season – is trying to take hold. The Coast Salish or *Saltwater People* refer to the season as C’ENKILES: “Rebirth of the Earth”. It is a time of growth and renewal as days lengthen, flowers bloom, and the air begins to warm. Perhaps a metaphor for the return to in-person engagement with friends, neighbours, and community as the COVID-19 restrictions begin to lift.

2022 Budget deliberations are complete, with an overall municipal

tax increase of 3.95%. Council continued the long-term tax burden policy, which results in 4.35% increase for residential properties and a 2.86% increase for business properties.

We recently wrapped up the third phase of public engagement on the Tree Protection Bylaw review, hosting three open houses and another online survey. This was a positive experience, marking the first time since summer 2021 that

residents were able to attend an engagement event in-person.

Opportunities for additional in-person engagement will continue in late May and June as we start the Official Community Plan (OCP) review Phase 3 engagement activities. You can read more about these events in the “Official Community Plan Review” section of the newsletter.

As we head into the hottest and driest months of the year, please take stock of your homes and vegetation now, with an eye to minimizing future wildfire risk. Clearing dry (or now drying) brush and woody debris from your properties is a smart move and will reduce risks.

Please see the “Green Waste” and “FireSmart” sections for more information about cleaning up your property and contacting the North Saanich Fire Department for their expert advice on preparing for the wildfire season.

The spring and summer months are a time of agricultural bounty for North Saanich. Please support local farmers by stopping in at a farmstand or asking your go-to merchants to help you pick out local produce, meat, flowers, and beverages. Increasing economic support for our farmers and agri-producers is vitally important for the whole region.

The municipal election will take place on October 15, 2022. Now is the time to consider your interest in becoming a candidate or encouraging others to step forward. Contact Council members to find out more about being an elected official or to learn more about current initiatives.

We hope you have an excellent spring and summer and can make the most of the warmer weather to explore our wonderful community. We are indeed fortunate to call North Saanich home.

## Heads Up!

### Green Waste

This time of year, North Saanich gardens and yards may be lush and green, but we encourage residents to be proactive about removing yard waste from their properties. What is damp and verdant now can easily become dangerously dry in the summer and fuel for wildfires. Consider safely disposing of your waste now.

The District’s Green Waste Facility, at 10180 Littlewood Road, is open from 8:00 am to noon every Saturday, as well as the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. The facility is closed on statutory holidays.

This is a great venue for residents to dispose of their yard waste year-round, particularly when outdoor burning is prohibited (mid-May through October).


### Alternatives To Burning



Dispose of green waste on your property by chipping and/or composting.



Drop-off at the green waste facility.



Hire a local contractor to dispose of waste.



[northsaanich.ca/green-waste](http://northsaanich.ca/green-waste)

## Heads Up! (Continued)

### Apply for your 2022 Home Owner Grant

Residents who are eligible to claim the home owner grant must apply annually directly to the Province at [gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant](https://gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant) or 1-888-355-2700.

To avoid penalty, eligible home owners must submit their application by the July 4, 2022 property tax due date.

### Home Renovation Rebates

The CleanBC Better Homes and Home Renovation Rebate Programs, administered by BC Hydro, FortisBC and the Province of BC, provides rebates for improving your home's energy efficiency.

Municipalities are able to offer their residents additional top-up rebates. The District of North Saanich is offering a \$350 top-up to participants who switch from a fossil fuel (oil, natural gas, or propane) heating system to an electric air-source heat-pump.

As funding is subject to availability and approved on a first-come, first-served basis, top-up rebates are not guaranteed.

To learn more, visit [betterhomesbc.ca/rebates/gpr](https://betterhomesbc.ca/rebates/gpr).



### Time for a Trim?

We always appreciate it when residents trim back the vegetation around their water meter boxes.

A little springtime clipping can help make meter reading much easier and less time-consuming for our crews. Not only do we require access to the box to read the meter, but it allows us to check for leaks and meters that have stopped working. Helping us, by trimming back your greenery and moving any other obstructions, helps you.

## Project Updates

### Official Community Plan Review



In late May and June, North Saanich residents are invited to participate in the Official Community Plan review, as the District kicks off the next phase of community engagement.

We are offering opportunities for all residents to gather in person at open houses or a workshop for residents in the McTavish, Bazan Bay, Terraces and Eaglehurst neighbourhoods to meet staff, discuss the OCP, and provide feedback.

We are also offering virtual means to participate, recognizing that this provides more flexibility for people with busy work lives, small children, and other circumstances that may make in-person events challenging.

Residents are also invited to participate in a survey (open from May 16-June 12).

Additionally, a number of resident and environmental associations, as well as the Advisory Working Group, will be invited to attend dedicated community dialogue sessions.

For a link to the survey and more information about the OCP, visit [connectnorthsaanich.ca/ocp](https://connectnorthsaanich.ca/ocp).



[connectnorthsaanich.ca/ocp](https://connectnorthsaanich.ca/ocp)

Event	Date	Time	Location
Virtual Open House	Tuesday, May 31	6:00-8:30 pm	Online
Workshop (Southeast Quadrant)	Wednesday, June 1	6:00-9:00 pm	Saanich Peninsula Presbyterian Church 9296 East Saanich Road
In person Open House	Saturday, June 4	2:00-5:00 pm	McTavish Academy of Art 1720 McTavish Road
In person Open House	Thursday, June 9	6:00-9:00 pm	Deep Cove Elementary School 10975 West Saanich Road

### Budget 2022

Thanks to all residents who participated in the Budget 2022 survey, which ran from January 10-February 7, 2022. The survey results are available at [connectnorthsaanich.ca/2022-budget](https://connectnorthsaanich.ca/2022-budget).

The survey feedback, as well as the draft budget, were presented and discussed during meetings of the Budget Committee on February 24 and March 7.

Ultimately, Council approved the 2022-2026 Financial Plan, which includes an overall increase in property taxes of 3.95%; Council also moved to distribute the tax increase amongst the property classes, to reduce the business class share of taxes by 0.25%.

You can read more about the budget process and access the 2022-2026 Financial Plan Bylaw at [northsaanich.ca/annual-reports](https://northsaanich.ca/annual-reports).

## Project Updates (Continued)



### Tree Protection Bylaw Review

In late March we started another round of public engagement on the draft Tree Protection Bylaw, which regulates the cutting, removal, and damaging of trees on private property. The current bylaw was adopted in 1999, and much has changed since then.

The public was invited to participate in an online survey and to attend in-person and virtual open houses to learn more about the bylaw, the reasons for updating it, and the specific questions that Council wished to ask the public for their feedback.

Engagement also included presentations and meetings with relevant commissions and stratas.

Feedback from these activities will be presented to Council this summer in an engagement summary report to help inform potential revisions to the draft Tree Protection Bylaw.

[connectnorthsaanich.ca/tree-bylaw](https://connectnorthsaanich.ca/tree-bylaw).



[connectnorthsaanich.ca/tree-bylaw](https://connectnorthsaanich.ca/tree-bylaw)

### Chalet Creek Culvert Repair

During the extreme rainfall event on November 15, 2021, the District closed Chalet Road at Chalet Creek, which runs beneath the road through a culvert.

Later the same day, the culvert failed—which resulted in a loss of the roadway embankment and a section of water main. Soon after, the District completed interim emergency construction repairs to the site.

Now the District has scheduled permanent repairs to the site for the summer of 2022.

The repairs will support the passage of fish beneath Chalet Road, whether they are swimming upstream or downstream.

Until the road is reopened, the District asks residents to use alternate routes and respect the presence of temporary fencing, which prevents access to the site.

For more information, visit [northsaanich.ca/chalet-road](https://northsaanich.ca/chalet-road).

### Deep Cove Water Main Replacement

In April, the District invited tenders for the supply of labour, materials, and equipment to complete the water main replacement on Downey Road, Kalitan Road, Meldram Dr., Cove Crescent, and Birch Road.

This work will be the fifth phase in the District's Water Main Renewal Project, which is replacing old water mains with new ones that have an 80-year life expectancy.

After contracts have been awarded, the District will provide more information, including timelines for this work, on [northsaanich.ca/water-main-replacement](https://northsaanich.ca/water-main-replacement).

### KELSET Elementary School Traffic Safety Upgrades

Traffic safety around KELSET Elementary School has been a concern since the school opened in 2008. The District has scheduled construction work to improve safety during the summer of 2022.

Changes to on-street parking and the addition of safety features on Forest Park Drive will help address the issues brought forward by local residents and the school community.

You can find more information, including background documents and traffic studies, at [connectnorthsaanich.ca/kelset-traffic-study](https://connectnorthsaanich.ca/kelset-traffic-study).



### Jubilee Park Upgrades

The popular playground at Jubilee Park is getting some new equipment, and the District wants residents to weigh in!

We will be inviting the public to explore two equipment options and take part in an online survey this summer.

Site preparation will be implemented this summer and the selected equipment will be installed in Spring 2023.

This summer you'll be able to find more information, including detailed illustrations of the equipment options, a link to the survey, and a list of FAQs, at [connectnorthsaanich.ca](https://connectnorthsaanich.ca).



[connectnorthsaanich.ca](https://connectnorthsaanich.ca)

## What's Happening



### Flavour Trails

The 2022 North Saanich Flavour Trails Festival is back! We will be showcasing local farms and foods over the summer, topped off with a community celebration on August 27. Mark your calendars and find out more at [flavourtrails.com](https://flavourtrails.com).

### Saanich Peninsula Alert

The Saanich Peninsula Alert system is an easy-to-use notification tool for your mobile or landline phone.

Saanich Peninsula Alert delivers critical, potentially life-saving alerts for events like earthquakes, tsunami alerts, evacuation notices, or other safety threats. It can provide you with crucial advance warning in the event of an emergency.

To sign up for free, visit: [northsaanich.ca/spa](https://northsaanich.ca/spa)



## Reminders

### Municipal Elections

General local elections are scheduled for Saturday, October 15. Voters are being asked to elect one Mayor, six Councillors, and two School Board Trustees for School District 63 (Saanich).

Whether you are preparing to vote or considering running for office, we thank you for participating in the process in North Saanich, and have assembled information about the upcoming election at [northsaanich.ca/elections](https://northsaanich.ca/elections).

Voting will take place at Municipal Hall: 1620 Mills Road. Additionally, all North Saanich electors may request a mail-in ballot to vote by mail.

There's no better time than now to ensure you are on the voter's list! Visit Elections BC for details about who can vote, to register to vote if you are 18 years or older, or to update your information: [elections.bc.ca](https://elections.bc.ca).

Please check our website for more details about the election, including key dates: [northsaanich.ca/elections](https://northsaanich.ca/elections).



Photo by Glen Carrie on Unsplash

## Did You Know?

### FireSmart

The North Saanich Fire Department makes home visits to help residents identify wildfire risks and prepare their houses and properties against this threat.

Staff can identify risks like dead trees, firewood piles, and propane tanks that are too close to your home.

To request a site visit, call the North Saanich Fire Department at 250-656-1931 or email [firedepartment@northsaanich.ca](mailto:firedepartment@northsaanich.ca).

Already wildfire-prepared? Talk to the Fire Department about becoming a community champion, to help your friends and neighbours identify and mitigate wildfire risks.

This spring, if you're considering upgrading your property with new plants, look for the FireSmart™ Plant Tags at nurseries, which identify plants that help make your property and community more resilient to wildfire.

For many more excellent online tools, including a Homeowner's Manual and the FireSmart BC Landscaping Guide, visit [firesmartbc.ca](https://firesmartbc.ca).



#### Tips to FireSmart™ your home and property include:

- Ensuring your roof is free of combustible materials, so embers don't have a place to collect (it should also be a fire-rated roof).
- Gutters should be non-combustible and free of debris.