

Connect North Saanich: Summer 2020



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Message from Mayor & Council



Spring 2020 – a season we won't soon forget. The COVID-19 Pandemic has made us all rethink how we interact with one another, how we transact with business (local and otherwise), the importance of personal hygiene and essential services, and how all levels of government work together in a crisis.

We should be proud of how the South Island and Vancouver Island overall has responded to this all-consuming crisis. We must not become complacent as we emerge from Phase 2 of the Provincial Restart Plan and cautiously enter Phase 3.

Municipal hall opened for tax and utility payments on June 1, and we have seen a steady flow of residents paying in person. Please pay online if you can.

Economic and business activity has been significantly impacted by the crisis. The Saanich Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, the Sidney Emergency Operations Centre, and the South Island Prosperity Partnership Economic Recovery Task Force are all playing an important role as businesses try to adapt, remain solvent, and look toward a new future.

The 2020 Budget process was more challenging this year with varied opinions about future impacts of the pandemic. Council reduced the municipal tax increase by half to 1.4%. We also extended late payment deadlines for residents and businesses and set aside additional contingency funds.

This newsletter provides an in-depth look at projects that Council has prioritized in its strategic plan, including a review of the Tree Protection Bylaw in response to resident concerns about loss of trees and a review of the Official Community Plan (OCP). The OCP review will allow residents to peer into the next two decades and help shape our future. Sidney and Central Saanich are also proceeding with a review of their respective OCPs, and work is underway to take a coordinated Peninsula approach.

Outdoor burning and access to the green waste facility were the most pressing issues from March to May. The facility re-opened for a full week in mid-May to alleviate built up demand. Council is considering changes to outdoor burning and green waste before the burning season this fall. Read more in the newsletter about options

being considered and the survey to gather your feedback.

The District's volunteer commissions, committees and boards started meeting in June by combining physical separation in Council chambers with online participation. Other than in-person public participation, the District has been able to hold Council meetings in person largely as a result of the size of our renovated chamber.

And finally, Council would like to extend sincere thanks to District staff for the work they have undertaken during this crisis. Outside staff worked alternating shifts, and fifty percent of inside staff worked remotely during the first two months. They were able to effectively carry out District business including processing a higher than average number of building permit requests, development applications and bylaw complaints. Please communicate your appreciation when you have the opportunity.

COVID-19

Please check northsaanich.ca/covid-19 for the latest updates on public access to municipal hall and meetings, rules and restrictions for services in the District including parks facilities and services, and Council messages.

Engagement Portal

Stay informed, get involved!

What's it about?

Connectnorthsaanich.ca is a new website for District projects and initiatives, known as an engagement portal. The portal is designed to make it easy for you to get information and give feedback about the big projects underway. Each project is laid out in a consistent manner to make it easy for you to navigate. The portal has a mix of tools that the District may use to gather feedback including surveys, online forums, polls, mapping tools and subscriptions to project updates.

Why are we doing this now?

The District's Strategic Plan 2020 provides a roadmap for what the District hopes to accomplish over the next three years. It identifies key projects that will help shape the community. Many of those projects need your input to move forward.

How to use it?

Visit connectnorthsaanich.ca and spend some time exploring the variety of projects. After reviewing a project on the portal, you should be able to tell what the project is all about, the current status of the project and the timeline for the project. You may also be able to provide feedback on the project if it is in active engagement.



connectnorthsaanich.ca

Active Transportation Plan

How do you walk, ride and roll in North Saanich?

What's it about?

The Active Transportation Plan will identify how to improve roads and trails to make it safer and more comfortable for people to walk and cycle in North Saanich.

Why are we doing this now?

To provide the community with more transportation choices and support the overall health of North Saanich, now and into the future.

Get Involved

We need your help to understand what challenges and opportunities

exist to make it easier to walk and cycle in North Saanich. Get involved by visiting the Active Transportation Network page on connectnorthsaanich.ca and:

- Sign-up for project updates
- Complete the survey

Next Steps

The survey closes on August 17, 2020. We will summarize your feedback and make it available for your review.



Outdoor Burning & Green Waste

Let's work together to find solutions.



What's it about?

The District is considering what changes to make to the outdoor burning rules and expanding green waste services to provide other options for managing waste.

There is a growing concern about the impact of outdoor burning on air quality and, in turn, the impact of poor air quality on human health, particularly for vulnerable individuals including children, the elderly and people with pre-existing

health conditions. Island Health is encouraging municipalities to increase restriction of outdoor burning based on these health concerns. There is also a growing awareness that outdoor burning contributes to the emission of greenhouse gases.

Why are we doing this now?

We know that many people in North Saanich feel strongly about this

issue. We want to make sure that everyone has an opportunity to

voice their concerns and help shape the solutions. We have developed a survey to allow the community to provide their input. The survey results will help Council consider options for the outdoor burning rules and green waste drop-off services.

Current Status

We have launched a connectnorthsaanich.ca webpage that includes a survey and information and resources about what's currently allowed, changes to provincial rules, recommendations from health authorities and more.

Get Involved

Complete the online survey by August 17, 2020. The results will be provided to Council in September 2020 along with options for changing the rules for outdoor burning and green waste services.

Reminder

Be kind to your neighbours and refrain from using noisy machines and equipment during quiet hours:

- Monday to Friday 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.
- Saturday, before 8 a.m. and after 4 p.m.
- All day Sunday.

Official Community Plan Review

What will North Saanich look like in 20 years?

What's it about?

The Official Community Plan (OCP) guides decisions on planning and land use management. The new OCP will create a long term vision for the future of North Saanich for the next 20 years. It will provide guidance for growth and change in the District including identifying where new housing should be accommodated, where new businesses should be located, how we move around North Saanich and how we respond to climate change.

Why are we doing this now?

The current OCP, adopted in 2007, is due for a review and update.

Timeline

The review will take approximately two years to complete, but may take longer to ensure that everyone has a chance to get involved.



Current Status

The District is currently seeking a qualified consultant team to lead the project. While it may not be possible to get together in groups for some time, the project plan will identify creative alternatives to in-person engagement.

What do you think?

In order to build a vision for the next 20 years, we will need to hear from you. Residents and business owners and other key stakeholders all have a role to play in shaping the plan. Sign-up at connectnorthsaanich.ca to receive the latest updates and find out about opportunities to provide your feedback.

Drainage Master Plan

Good stewardship requires careful planning.

What's it about?

The Drainage Master Plan will guide the District's stewardship of its storm drainage system. The plan will include a review of the Tseycum Creek watershed, and an assessment of the overall replacement, operations and maintenance costs for the District's drainage system.

Why are we doing this now?

This work is being done as part of the overall asset management of the District.

Current Status

Check connectnorthsaanich.ca for project information and updates.



Public Engagement Framework

What's it about?

The District is planning on developing an engagement framework to guide meaningful public engagement on its projects and initiatives. It will provide guidance on how to better communicate with the public and establish a District standard for public participation in

projects and initiatives. The District planned on holding a workshop in spring 2020 to develop the framework. Due to the pandemic and the restrictions on gatherings, the District has postponed the workshop.

How can we stay connected?

In the meantime, please help us with planning engagement on all our projects. We would like to know what you want for engagement both during and after the pandemic. As we move towards using more online tools, particularly while in-person gatherings are discouraged or

not allowed, we want to know how we can make sure that nobody is excluded in our planning.

Send an email to connect@northsaanich.ca with your thoughts about engagement. Here's a few questions to help you:

- Which District projects interest you most?
- How do you like to provide feedback on topics that are important to you?
- Do you like to complete surveys, participate in on-line forums or do you prefer in-person events?

Flavour Trails

By Flavour Trails Organizers

It's Happening!

Summer is arriving, and many North Saanichers are wondering...is Flavour Trails happening this year? As the typical festival weekend is already a dispersed and multi-location event, we were able to explore options that support the mandate of Flavour Trails while maintaining COVID-19 protocols and keeping people safe. We are delighted to announce a 'reimagined Flavour Trails' for launch in early July—just around the corner!

What makes Flavour Trails different this year?

'Not a Flavour Trails weekend, but a Flavour Trails season'

Imagine a season-long, self-guided Flavour Trail route that invites the public to explore North Saanich country roads and visit venues that offer up the best flavours of the region and season. The public can bike, walk, or drive, and decide who and where they will visit. A regularly updated website, designed for mobile as well as desktop viewing, allows the public to "virtually tour" the Flavour Trail as they go...watching digital stories of each farm/venue, reading

up on each venue's hours and offerings, deciding on their route.

Each participating venue is featured in their own short "Meet Your Maker" digital profile for the Flavour trails website and social media. This filming is now underway, with six venues already filmed.

How can I learn more?

Our revamped website is ready to launch in early July, when you can tour the route, watch the videos, and plan your summer of Flavour Trails. In the meantime, make sure to subscribe to our mailing list through the website to receive our updates: flavourtrails.com



Tree Protection Bylaw Review



What's it about?

The District is reviewing the tree protection bylaw which regulates the cutting, removal or damaging of trees on private property and defines what a protected tree is. The review will include establishing requirements for replacing protected trees.

Why are we doing this now?

The bylaw was adopted in 2002 and has not been substantially updated since then.

Current Status

The District is currently seeking a qualified consultant team to lead the project.

Get Involved

Sign-up at connectnorthsaanich.ca to receive the latest updates and find out about opportunities to get involved.