



# North Saanich News

## Greetings from your new Mayor and Council!

Mayor Alice Finall and your North Saanich Council would like to wish everyone a very positive and happy 2009. We began the year with the most successful levee we have ever had! The Municipal Hall was packed, with good cheer and good hope for our new term. We began our hard work in December of 2008 by meeting with senior staff to canvass the issues facing our Council and begin establishing priorities for the term. We have already received creative ideas and suggestions from you to keep our rural and beautiful North Saanich thriving and improve our quality of life, economically, socially, culturally and environmentally. We are always willing to listen to you and your concerns.

One of our main concerns is improvement of communication with residents and direct access to Council. To that end we will be amending our Council Procedures Bylaw to eliminate the need to register to speak at meetings, and allow better opportunities for residents to speak during debate at Committee of the Whole meetings. And we will soon be setting dates for our informal meetings with the community to be held at various local venues. Please check the District's website for updates on dates and progress of the bylaw amendment.

Council understands the necessity for support and encouragement of North Saanich's agricultural sector. One of our main initiatives this year is completion of an Agricultural Area Plan. The creation of this Plan will require community participation, input and involvement; we urge you to become involved in its creation.

Council is cognizant of ongoing speeding and traffic issues in several areas of the District. Problems will be monitored closely and brought back to Council for review and possible remedy.

As stated in the new Official Community Plan, Council is committed to "*retaining the present rural, agricultural and marine character of the community*". Council has considered and voted on two applications for high density development in areas outside of multi-family zones. The principles of the Official Community Plan governed Council's decisions. This Plan is our land use plan created with extensive consultation from our residents and unanimously approved by Council in May 2007. The Official Community Plan does not support increased high density growth. Without a clear overriding benefit to the community, Council did not approve the fundamental amendments to the OCP which each of these applications would have required.

Mayor and Council are committed to serving you in a pro-active and open manner. We look forward to a positive and productive term, looking at innovative initiatives to enhance our beautiful municipality.

- Mayor Alice Finall  
250-656-6668
- Councillor Peter Chandler  
250-656-7226
- Councillor Ruby Commandeur  
250-655-3368
- Councillor Sheila Fea  
250-656-2719
- Councillor Cairine Green  
250-656-3205
- Councillor Anny Scoones  
250-656-9740
- Councillor Bob Shaw  
250-655-9610



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## **2009 Budget**

Council has begun its deliberations on the 2009 Budget. Budget meetings are being held before regular Council and Committee of the Whole meetings on Monday afternoons beginning at 4:30 p.m. until completion in March. Additional dates may be necessary, please contact Curt Kingsley at 250-655-5453 for more information.

***Please feel free to attend and participate in the budget making process for your community!***

## **Garden Waste Drop-Off**

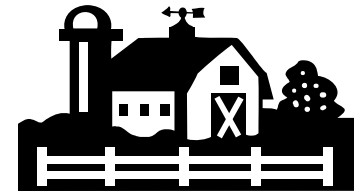
With Spring just around the corner, many property owners are starting their annual yard and garden clean up. Please keep in mind that the District operates a Municipal Pit for the drop-off of garden waste and burnables. The drop-off area is open the first and third Saturday of every month from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for North Saanich residents and property owners, and is located off Littlewood Road behind the Municipal Hall. ***And for a 3 month trial period starting April, the pit will be open the second and fourth Thursday of the month from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.*** The cost is \$5.00 per carload or \$10.00 per pick-up truck or trailer load, and you will be required to show proof of residence or property ownership. Please remember to secure large loads so that debris is contained, as required by the Motor Vehicle Act.

***For more information on the Municipal Drop-Off Pit, please contact Brian Robinson, Works Superintendent, at 250-655-5481.***

## **Farmer's Market**

***Did you know that North Saanich has a Food Charter?***  
***For more information, contact Councillor Scoones.***

The North Saanich Food for the Future Society obtained the temporary use permit that led to the creation of last summer's farmer's market. Its members are hard at work planning for this year's market. For more information, please contact Susan Chandler at 250-655-3378.



## **2009 North Saanich Flavour Trail**

North Saanich will once again celebrate the agricultural importance of our region by hosting the ***3rd Annual North Saanich Flavour Trail August 22 and 23, 2009***. We are currently looking for volunteers willing to assist during the event as well as help with coordinating the event. We are also requesting that any farms, wineries, nurseries, markets or restaurants wanting to participate contact the municipality to express their interest as soon as possible. Please contact Curt Kingsley at 250-655-5453.

## **Wain Road Firehall Training Tower and Vehicle Bay Expansion**

The North Saanich Fire Department invites all interested residents to attend an information meeting to present and discuss the new addition and training tower. It will be held Sunday, April 5th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Wain Road Firehall, 986 Wain Road, and refreshments and light snacks will be provided. The presentation will include a site tour, hall tour, Power Point presentation, questionnaire, and time for questions and comments. For more information please call Fire Chief Gary Wilton at 250-656-1931.

## **News from the Commissions**

Every year Council interviews candidates for District Commissions and Committees. Council thanks you for your enthusiasm and willingness to assist our community as a volunteer. It is gratifying to see strong volunteer support and involvement continue.

### **Parks Commission**

A new Parks and Trails Guide is in the final stages of editing. Watch for this informative, hugely improved brochure soon!

In 2009, the Parks Commission will be updating the 1993 Parks Plan for the District. Contact Councillor Scoones for more information.



### **Agricultural Advisory Commission**

Work has begun on preparation of the Agricultural Area Plan. With funding support from Investment Agriculture, the plan will look at edge planning, encouraging active use of farmland, and policy development.

### **Tree and Hedgerow Committee**

Council recently passed a policy to protect hedgerows on public lands, and encourages residents to also protect and maintain hedgerows, especially from March to July when birds are nesting.

### **Recommendations of the Marine Task Force**

Watch our website for information and future agendas regarding implementation of recommendations in this report by Council.

## **Tri-Municipal Matters**

We are working with our neighbouring communities, Sidney and Central Saanich, on a number of matters which affect us all. The first Tri-Municipal Council meeting of the year was held on February 3, 2009. A working Committee composed of the Mayors and Chief Administrative Officers of all three municipalities, with additional Council representatives on specific issues, was created. A major topic of discussion was a proposal for a new interchange at the intersection of McTavish Road and Highway 17, which has the additional involvement of the Victoria Airport Authority. Both Sidney and North Saanich will be directly affected by changes at this intersection and require careful consideration of community needs in any approval process. Other issues included the imminent closure of Dunsmuir Lodge, agricultural and farming issues affecting all three municipalities, the expansion project at Panorama Recreation Centre, and promoting tourism for the Saanich Peninsula.

## **Council agendas and minutes on the website**

Did you know that you can now subscribe to receive weekly e-mail notifications when Council agendas and minutes are posted on our website? For more information, please see the notice on the District's homepage at [www.northsaanich.ca](http://www.northsaanich.ca).

***Utility bills are mailed out three times a year.  
Watch for one in your mailbox soon!***

## District of North Saanich

**1620 Mills Road  
North Saanich, BC V8L 5S9**

### **Hours of Operation:**

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays excluding  
Statutory holidays

**Main switchboard:** 250-656-0781

**Fax:** 250-656-3155

**Administration:** 250-655-5450

**Finance:** 250-655-5496

**IT/GIS:** 250-655-5499

**Engineering:** 250-655-5460

**Building Inspections, Bylaw Enforcement and licensing:** 250-655-5470

**Public Works:** 250-655-5480

**After hours Public Works:** 250-920-9235

**Fire Department:** 250-656-1931

**After hours non-emergency fire:** 250-475-6111

**Emergency: 9 1 1**

**E-mail:** [admin@northsaanich.ca](mailto:admin@northsaanich.ca)

**Website:** [www.northsaanich.ca](http://www.northsaanich.ca)

## Advisory Commissions of North Saanich

**Advisory Planning Commission** (meets at 7:30 p.m. every 4th Wednesday of the month in Council Chambers)

**Agricultural Advisory Commission** (meets at 4:00 p.m. every 1st Thursday of the month in Council Chambers)

**Environmental Advisory Commission** (meets at 7:30 p.m. every 3rd Wednesday of the month in Council Chambers)

**Heritage Advisory Commission** (meets at 10:00 a.m. every 1st Wednesday of the month in Council Chambers)

**Parks Commission** (meets at 4:30 p.m. every 3rd Thursday of the month in Council Chambers)

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### *What do you think of our new look?*

Please forward all newsletter suggestions, comments or concerns to Charlene Nash at [cnash@northsaanich.ca](mailto:cnash@northsaanich.ca).



## Who to contact at Municipal Hall

**Bruce Williams—Chief Administrative Officer** (implementation of Council policies and programs). E-mail: [bwilliams@northsaanich.ca](mailto:bwilliams@northsaanich.ca) Phone: (250) 655-5452

**Curt Kingsley—Manager of Corporate Services** (Council meetings/procedures, human resources matters and local government elections). E-mail: [ckingsley@northsaanich.ca](mailto:ckingsley@northsaanich.ca) Phone: (250) 655-5453

**Ralph Gillis—Director of Financial Services** (the District's budget and taxation). E-mail: [rgillis@northsaanich.ca](mailto:rgillis@northsaanich.ca) Phone: (250) 655-5496

**Tracy Olsen—Director of Development and Community Services** (planning, zoning, building, bylaw enforcement and licensing). E-mail: [tolsen@northsaanich.ca](mailto:tolsen@northsaanich.ca) Phone: (250)655-5471

**Patrick O'Reilly—Director of Infrastructure Services** (sewage treatment, drainage, subdivision development, roads and public works). E-mail: [poreilly@northsaanich.ca](mailto:poreilly@northsaanich.ca) Phone: (250)655-5461

**Gary Wilton—Director of Emergency Services** (burning regulations, the North Saanich Volunteer Fire Department and emergency planning). E-mail: [gwilton@northsaanich.ca](mailto:gwilton@northsaanich.ca) Phone: (250)656-1931

**Brian Robinson—Works Superintendent** (District parks and trails, repairs and maintenance of drainage systems, roads and utilities). E-mail: [brobinson@northsaanich.ca](mailto:brobinson@northsaanich.ca) Phone: (250)655-5481

**John Carnell—IT/GIS Manager** (information technology, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and website). E-mail: [jcarnell@northsaanich.ca](mailto:jcarnell@northsaanich.ca) Phone: (250)655-5499