

# SPRING IN NORTH SAANICH

## Council Adopts the New Whole Community Agricultural Strategy


Council is very pleased to announce that the new Whole Community Agricultural Strategy has been adopted. This Strategy identifies 44 priority municipal actions and 11 community actions to improve and support the future of agriculture, both traditional and non-traditional, in each of the key food system factors.

The role of food and its production systems has become a key factor in discussions and strategies focused on sustainability. Such dialogues have identified the role of food in our economy, social health, environment as well as culture. Increasingly global issues like diminishing oil supply, green house gases and climate change along with public health concerns are underscoring the importance of having healthy regional and local food systems.

There are several benefits that may be achieved by supporting our local agriculture:

1. Maximizing local agricultural potential will reduce the impacts of Green House Gas, climate change and increasing energy costs. Agriculture is an important strategy to mitigate the impacts of global warming.
2. Food security will be enhanced by maximizing local food production capacity.
3. Nutrition will be improved as local food can be delivered to the tables of consumers faster than imported food and therefore less nutrient value is lost due to time.
4. Some non-traditional agricultural venues (e.g., community gardens) and agricultural activities can have community building results as people are brought together to plant, tend to, harvest and market produce.
5. Economic growth will result from better supported agriculture.

Over the next few months, staff will be preparing a work plan to implement the Strategy. For more information, please contact Mark Brodrick at 250-655-5471. Anyone interested in reviewing our new Whole Community Agricultural Strategy can view it on the District website.



**North Saanich Business** We have nominated five North Saanich businesses for six categories in the Peninsula Chamber of Commerce Crystal Awards ceremony, to be held at Butchart Gardens, Blue Poppy Restaurant on April 13, 2011, 6:00 p.m. Tickets: \$75 + HST

## COMING UP

### Wildfire – Public Information Meeting

Thursday, April 7  
3:00 - 4:30 p.m. AND 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.  
Saanich Peninsula Presbyterian Church located at 9296 East Saanich Road.

### Septic Savvy Workshop

**Wednesday, May 11, 2011**  
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
North Saanich Municipal Hall

### Indoor North Saanich Farm Market

Saturday, April 9 and May 14  
June 4 Regular Saturday Market begin  
All markets run 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

### District of North Saanich Open House

Sunday, May 15  
1:00-3:00 p.m.

### Shoal Harbour Bird Sanctuary Meeting

Please visit the District website for date and time.

### Neighbourhood Meeting

Ardmore:  
**Tuesday, April 26, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.**  
Ardmore Golf Course

### Council and Committee of the Whole Meetings

April 4 - Council  
April 11 - COW  
April 18 - Council  
May 2 - Council  
May 9 - COW  
May 16 - Council  
June 6 Council  
June 13 - COW

# AT YOUR MUNICIPAL HALL

## Secondary Suite Pilot ALERT

Attention Residents of the Southeast Quadrant:



Those residents of the Southeast Quadrant living in the area of the Secondary Suites pilot project need to be aware that the pilot is presently in place for one year which is due to expire October 2011. At that time it will be reviewed by Council to determine whether it should continue.

Council has decided to not pursue any enforcement action on existing illegal suites during the pilot project period in order to allow existing suites to secure permits and secure legal status. Please note that once a suite secures its legal status, it will maintain that status as long as it continues being used as a suite, with permits, even if the zoning bylaw is changed to remove secondary suites as a legal use. If an existing illegal suite does not receive a permit under this pilot project, it will be subject to bylaw enforcement after October 2011.

Suites are subject to requirements of the Zoning Bylaw and other applicable Bylaws and Regulations.

A Secondary Suite is defined as a self-contained dwelling unit, with no more than two bedrooms, located entirely within but clearly accessory and subordinate to a single family dwelling.

In order for a secondary suite to be authorized by the District, a number of bylaw and building code requirements must be met and these are detailed in the Guide to Secondary Suites on the District's Website.

A suite that is built to code and bylaw requirements can provide safe and affordable housing in our community. Secondary suites can also provide an extra source of income for families or enable elderly parents to live independently in the same home. Council recognizes and supports suites for these reasons. For further information please contact Mark Brodrick, Director of Planning and Community Services at 250 - 655-5470, who will be pleased to assist.

## Open House - Take a Tour of the Workings Behind the Hall

The District of North Saanich is hosting an Open House **Sunday, May 15 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.**

Come and meet and greet your Council and Staff. Partake in the many displays - everything from how to make compost to the history of Blauw Pier. There will be tours and refreshments.

## Burnable and Green Waste Drop-off Program

Please remember that all loads must be secured in accordance with the Motor Vehicle Act. Visit the District website for the 2011 Drop-off and Burnable Green Waste Schedule and complete details on considerations and regulations.

We thank all residents for their participation and cooperation in helping us continue to provide this public service.

## Budget Information

Council has completed the water and sewer budgets and the consideration of Grants-in-aid. Departmental budget deliberations continued on March 28 and April 4.

## Parks Commission

The Committee of the Whole meeting to consider the recommendations for the Parks Plan was held March 30.

## Community Wildfire Protection Plan

The residents of North Saanich are invited to attend the Community Wildfire Protection Plan Public Information Meetings. Two meetings have been scheduled for Thursday, April 7, 2011 at the Saanich Peninsula Presbyterian Church located at 9296 East Saanich Road. The first meeting is scheduled to begin at 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The second meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. There will be presentations and opportunity for questions and answers. Please attend the meeting to learn more about the Community Wildfire Protection Plan and Wildfire Interface Planning.

# SPRING HAS SPRUNG

*It took a little while but spring is finally here!* North Saanich is blessed with a clean and expansive natural environment which makes it easy and fun to see the signs of spring. Look for the native White Trillium in moist areas in our forests and trails. Did you know that the three white petals of the trillium turn a dark pink as the plant ages? To see a beautiful carpet of native wildflowers, take a walk up Horth Hill and look for this beautiful display of fawn lilies (North Saanich's official flower), stonecrops, sea pinks, flowering red currant and shooting stars in the grassy clearings and rocky view points.

Our Native shrubs in the hedgerows are also in bloom. Be sure to see our demonstration hedgerow at the municipal hall, and **please remember to wait until after the birds nest and fledge (from January to May) to prune and tidy your hedgerows and hedges.** Please try to hand prune to limit damage and disturbance to the vegetation.

North Saanich has a hedgerow policy which practices the care and preservation of these "natural fences" which serve as erosion and wind buffers, habitat and food for birds and wildlife, and pollution controllers.

Check out our local nurseries for an extensive selection of native plants for your hedgerows which suit our local climate and are most suitable as food sources for our local birds.

A few of our favorites are Salmonberry, Oregon Grape, Hazel Nut, and the Nootka Rose.



## Have you taken the Pledge?

The pledge campaign is a local CRD initiative to reduce our cosmetic use of pesticides and herbicides. Many municipalities are "taking the pledge" to be as chemical free as possible, and some municipalities have actually passed by-laws that restrict pesticide use. In rural areas such as North Saanich, farms are exempt from the restriction.

The Canadian Cancer Society supports restricting the use of pesticides, and in North Saanich we would like to keep our storm water run-off, water tables, beaches and fresh air as chemical-free as possible, so please consider alternatives to these chemicals such as hand pulling weeds and using natural substances to keep your weeds and pests at bay and your flowers and lawns beautiful.

Our municipal staff have restricted the use of pesticides considerably and the School District does not use pesticides on the school grounds.

The CRD web site offers many natural methods to control pests and invasive weeds.

Have you considered purchasing lady bugs to eat the aphids in your garden, or using vinegar to control moss?

See if you can take the pledge and reduce the use of these harmful chemicals. North Saanich will be cleaner and healthier if we all try to Take The Pledge!

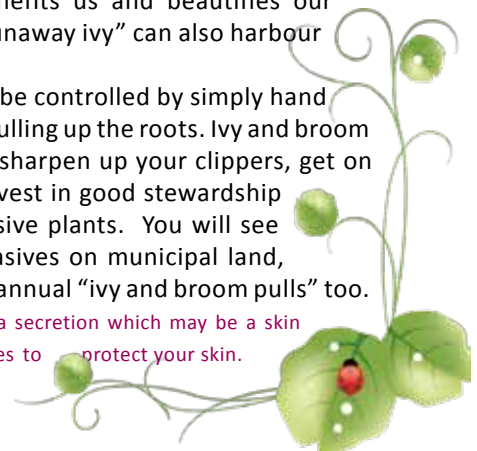
**Did you know** that there are two types of blackberries in North Saanich? The Himalayan Blackberry is the great invasive shrub which produces the fruit we love to pick in late August. This prolific shrub was introduced to Canada from India via England and therefore is not considered Native. The Trailing Blackberry is Native to our region. The berries are smaller with slender trailing canes. The First Nations people used the leaves to make tea with in the autumn, and the roots were eaten to cure many ailments.

## LET THE SUN SHINE IN: CUT BACK THOSE INVASIVES!

Spring is also a time of great growth of our invasive plants. It is a very time consuming and expensive process to have them professionally removed, however, they should be controlled before they choke out all the native plants, trees and shrubbery that benefits us and beautifies our gardens. A ground cover of "runaway ivy" can also harbour rodents.

We recommend that invasives be controlled by simply hand pruning back, and if possible, pulling up the roots. Ivy and broom are the two worst culprits, so sharpen up your clippers, get on your gardening gloves\* and invest in good stewardship effort to control these aggressive plants. You will see our staff out cutting back invasives on municipal land, and the Parks Commission has annual "ivy and broom pulls" too.

\*Broom has been known to contain a secretion which may be a skin irritant for some people - wear gloves to protect your skin.



# MCTAVISH ROAD

# INTERCHANGE

**OPENING SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2011, 7:00 P.M.**



With the near completion of the McTavish Road Interchange, Mayor Finall met with Jack Stuempel, President, Jack Stuempel & Associates Ltd, and Daisy Brooke, Public Affairs, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, to discuss the effects the interchange might have on the community when it opens on April 9. Mayor Finall was interested in the learning curve the community will encounter while adjusting to the new routes and adapting to the roundabout experience.

Jack reports, safer access to the airport and the local road network for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians is a key benefit to our community as a result of this project, which also sets the stage for improved transit service.

The District of North Saanich ensured the community was well represented in the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's public consultation process by appointing the McTavish Interchange Task Force, which met regularly with the interchange project team. Additionally, Lochside Drive residents provided important input into the landscaping design. Thanks are due to everyone who put in the time to keep the dialogue going.

It may take a little time to get used to the new traffic patterns and roundabouts, so please slow down and use caution, paying close attention to the new signs.

More information on the project and navigating roundabouts is online at: [www.th.gov.bc.ca/highwayprojects/Hwy\\_17\\_Mctavish\\_Interchange](http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/highwayprojects/Hwy_17_Mctavish_Interchange) Any questions or concerns may also be directed to Levi Timmermans at the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure at 250-387-2107.

## McTavish Interchange - Quick Tips and Navigation

- Slow down when approaching, following the signs to pick the correct lane;
- When entering, yield to any traffic already in the roundabout;
- Signal right when preparing to exit;
- Stop for pedestrians and cyclists at crosswalks;
- Cyclist have the option of following the marked path and crossings, or 'taking the lane' like a car for continuous passage;
- **Do not stop inside the roundabout. If an emergency vehicle comes up behind you, pull over to the right before entering or after exiting the roundabout.**



# MANAGING

# THE ROUTES

To Victoria from Airport



To Sidney & Swartz Bay from McTavish Road



To Sidney & Swartz Bay from Airport



To Airport from Sidney & Swartz Bay



To McTavish Road from Sidney & Swartz Bay



Southbound Lochside Drive – Through Traffic



To Victoria from Southbound Lochside Drive



Southbound Lochside Drive Cycling Route



# HELPING YOU STAY INVOLVED

## The Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC)

will hold its annual conference in Sidney, BC from April 8 - 10 this year. The Keynote speaker is Dr. Andrew Weaver, of the University of Victoria, on the topic of the foundations of the science of global warming. A large part of the program is focussed on agriculture and food, beginning with a Saanich Peninsula Agricultural Tour covering many aspects of farming on the peninsula. Workshops include the Vancouver Island-Coast Regional Agricultural Outlook Project, a Fisheries Issue panel and a presentation by the Centre for Plant Health regarding the Canada Food Inspection Agency. The British Columbia Aviation Museum, located in North Saanich off Canora Road in the southeast corner of

Victoria International Airport, will be the backdrop for one of the events during the annual convention of the AVICC. The AVICC is a body representing in one organization the various municipalities, regional districts and other local governments of Vancouver Island, Sunshine Coast, Powell River and the Central Coast. Attendance at the April convention will include municipal leaders from across this broad area. The British Columbia Aviation Museum's recently completed 12,000 square foot Henderson Hangar is being readied for the evening of April 9 with attendance expected to be in excess of 250 delegates. This will be the first event of this type hosted by the Museum. Attendees will enjoy a unique experience during a reception among the aircraft and exhibits in the older exhibition hangar followed by dinner and entertainment in the Henderson Hangar literally under the wings of the Museum's 40 passenger Vickers Viscount airliner. Aviation enthusiasts of all ages will find the Museum open seven days a week with winter hours of 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



**Are you Septic Savvy?** Find out Wednesday, May 11 at the Municipal Hall, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. when the CRD delivers a septic savvy workshop. The free workshop will help residents learn how to properly care for their residential septic system, save money, and help protect the environment. Proper maintenance has a significant impact on how well your system works and how long it lasts.



## Be a Responsible Dog Owner!

Help keep North Saanich beautiful and pick up after your furry friend. Remember, if your dog is over 6 months old, you are required to obtain a licence for your pet by the end of January each year. Further information can be obtained from Financial Services at 250-655-5450.



## Another Form Of Transportation, But Please Pass With Care:

Now that the warm weather has arrived, many of us will be out on our bikes, kayaks, and our equestrian friends enjoying our trails, country walks, beaches and green spaces. We'd like to remind motorists to please pass with care (and do not honk) when passing our horse riders. The horses and the riders appreciate your patience and consideration!



**FLAVOUR TRAIL COMING BACK SOON!** Our annual and very popular Flavour Trail is in the stages of early preparation. This years' celebration of local farming, food, arts and culture, and country fun will be held on August 20 and 21. We are currently reviewing venues and activities but welcome new ideas, events, tours and eateries! Please contact Councillor Anny Scoones at 250-656-9740 for more information and input into this weekend celebration which showcases our unique rural municipality.

# AT THE FIRE HALL

**Come and Say Hi to us at the Municipal Hall Open House** We will have Tsunami Preparedness and Emergency Preparedness Informational displays and handouts at the Municipal Hall Open House on May 15, 2011 from 1:00 until 3:00.

Tsunami information and emergency planning information is also available at the Wain Road Fire Hall.

## Incident Summary

January 1 - March 25, 2011

Incident Category	Incidents
Volunteer	
<b>Duty</b>	
Assistance	2
Burning	15
Hydro	1
Inquiry	2
Smoke	4
Smoke Alarm	2
<b>Total Duty</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Fire</b>	
Airplane	2
Alarm Activated	10
Chimney	4
Commercial	1
Hydro Lines	4
MVI	13
Residential	4
Vehicle	2
<b>Total Fire</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>First Responder</b>	
Accident	1
Ambulance Assist	3
Bleeding	1
Breathing Difficulties	8
Chest Pains	7
Collapse	1
Unconscious	5
Other	3
<b>Total First Responder</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Total Incidents</b>	<b>95</b>

## Burning Season Closes

Effective **May 7, 2011 at sunset**, **all outdoor burning is banned** within the District of North Saanich. This includes burning in incinerators, fire pits and open piles until further notice. The only exception is chimineas and outdoor fire appliances with a permit, which can be obtained by contacting the fire department.



Please consider alternatives to burning such as composting, recycling and chipping. Please check the municipal web site for the Green Waste Drop Off schedule at [www.northsaanich.ca](http://www.northsaanich.ca)

## Fire Hall Expansion

The results of the Towns for Tomorrow Provincial Grant Application have been delayed due to the change in government. Both phases of the project (new bays with training facility and the existing building renovations into offices) will be going to tender together once we've heard whether our grant application was successful or not. That will determine the extent of our existing hall renovations.

## “You guys are my heroes”



said a North Saanich woman after being well cared for by the North Saanich Volunteer Fire Department.

She said that the crew who came to help were “professional, pleasant, caring and generous in both spirit and competence”. Fortunately, when the motor vehicle accident took place between the semi truck and car, one of our members was in his vehicle right behind the incident. He immediately took charge, ensuring everyone was OK and directing traffic. Within minutes of the 911 call, the North Saanich Fire Department crew arrived to assist with traffic control and management of the scene.



# HAPPY SPRING



## NS Farm Market

Whoop hoo! The days are getting longer, the garlic is up and gardeners are beginning to feel the onset of Spring Fever. Spring is a great time to support your local farmers by buying their seasonal produce and there are many reasons to do so:

- 1) You know where the food comes from and you can talk to the grower to find out how best to store it and ways to prepare it.
- 2) Fresh picked has more nutrients and has not spent time in transport.
- 3) Buying local saves carbon by reducing the distance your dinner has to travel to your plate.
- 4) Local produce lasts longer- buying local means you get foods picked the same day.
- 5) Supporting our farmers contributes to the local economy.

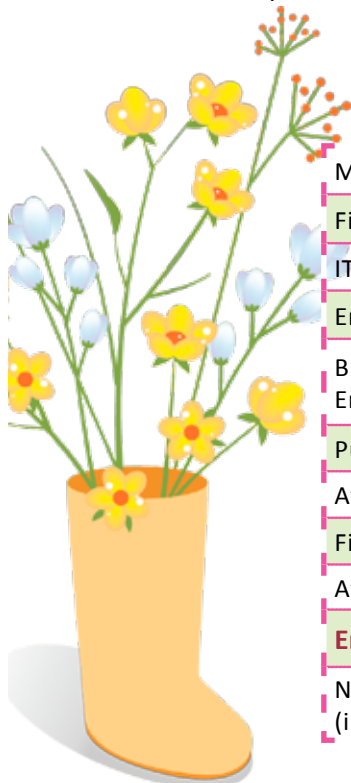
All good reasons to come out to the North Saanich Farm Market. To keep the flow of locally grown food going there will be indoor markets on April 9 and May 14, with weekly Saturday markets beginning on June 4. All markets run 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at St. John's United Church at 10990 West Saanich Rd.

The market also features fabulous baked goods, locally raised meat, eggs, crafts, and when the weekly markets start you will hear live music.

The North Saanich Farm Market is focused on supporting agriculture and food production on the Saanich Peninsula. As we gear up for the fourth season we are currently looking for new growers and food vendors to serve healthy food at the market. Please e-mail [info@northsaanichfarmmarket.com](mailto:info@northsaanichfarmmarket.com) if you wish to rent a table. If you do not wish to have your own table or want to sell extra produce from your home garden enquire about doing so at the Community Table. Volunteers will sell your product for a nominal fee.

## Do You Know the Killdeer's Secret?

The Killdeer is a brave little brown and white bird who makes her nests in open, rocky meadows. You may see her limping frantically and dragging one wing amongst the grass, but don't worry - she is doing this to distract predators from harming her young in the nest nearby, so now you know her secret but don't tell the birds of prey who are watching for their next meal high above.



## Municipal Hall

Main switchboard	250-656-0781
Financial Services:	250-655-5450
IT/GIS Services	250-655-5499
Engineering Services	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
<b>Emergency</b>	<b>9 1 1</b>
Non-emergency RCMP (i.e. traffic issues)	250-656-3931

## Mayor and Council

Mayor Alice Finall	250-656-6668
Councillor Dunstan Browne	250-655-4811
Councillor Peter Chandler	250-656-7226
Councillor Ruby Commandeur	250-655-3368
Councillor Cairine Green	250-656-3205
Councillor Craig Mearns	250-656-1173
Councillor Anny Scoones	250-656-9740

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