



NORTH SAANICH NEWS

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May 2004

2004



BUDGET

North Saanich Council has adopted the Five Year Financial Plan for the years 2004 to 2008. Included in the plan are recommendations from the corporate review that was undertaken earlier this year. The following highlights the significant projects and changes in the 2004 budget.

General Government Services is responsible for all administrative services of the District including Legislative, Municipal Clerk's Department, Finance, Computer Services, and maintenance of the Municipal Hall and rental properties owned by the District. The corporate review identified the need for additional staff in the Government Services section of the organization. Several planning issues as identified in the corporate review, such as a strategic plan and space needs analysis, will be undertaken in the very near future. The District has undertaken a Joint Website Project in conjunction with Sidney and Central Saanich to coordinate our efforts in establishing a new website which should be up and running before the end of June. Your comments and feedback on the site would be greatly appreciated.

Policing Services includes a 20 year contract with the R.C.M.P. for police services which will expire in March of 2012. North Saanich currently funds 9 officers out of a compliment of 26. The R.C.M.P. detachment is located in Sidney and the costs of the operation are shared between Sidney and North Saanich based on the number of officers assigned to each municipality.

Fire Services & Emergency Services The North Saanich Volunteer Fire Department is equipped and trained to provide structural fire fighting services to the residents of North Saanich including institutional, recreational and commercial facilities. North Saanich has entered into Mutual Aid Agreements with Sidney, Central Saanich and the Airport to assist in fire fighting when required. We also have contracted our fire fighting services to the Tseycum and Pauquachin First Nations.

The Fire Department has commissioned a Fire Underwriters Survey to be done this year (FUS). FUS classifications are a measure of the fire protection within a community. Many progressive communities use this classification system to assess the performance of their fire protection programs.

The ability of a community's fire defenses are measured against recognized standards of fire protection relative to fire hazard and fire/life safety risk present within the community. Our analysis indicates that an improved fire protection grade has a positive effect on fire insurance rates.

Development Services is responsible for issuing building permits and business licenses and for managing bylaw enforcement and planning issues. It was identified in the corporate review that the District required the services of a planner to assist Council and other departments on planning issues. Funding for the position of a planning technician was approved in the 2004 Budget and the position will be filled later this year.

Animal Control Services The District was advised by the SPCA that they no longer would be providing animal control services after Dec. 31/03. The District along with Sidney and Central Saanich sent out an Expression of Interest for persons to provide the Peninsula with Animal Control and Poundkeeping Services. The Capital Regional District (CRD) was selected and a contract entered into for a one year period. The CRD's contract price is \$11,791 greater than the SPCA contract.

Engineering Services is responsible for the construction, operation, maintenance and records management of the District's infrastructure. The District has prepared and updated professional studies on its entire major infrastructure. In the 2004 budget, funding has been allocated for the development of an On-site Sewer Maintenance Guide, the Tseycum Watershed Study, and the McDonald Park Rd. Drainage Study

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services

The Parks Department is responsible for the maintenance of the District's 20 developed parks and approximately 25 km of trails. The corporate review identified the need for the services of an Arborist in dealing with the increasing number of tree issues in North Saanich. Funding for additional arborist services has been approved in the 2004 budget on a fee for service basis.

Cultural Services: North Saanich uses the service of the Vancouver Island Regional Library Association for library services. The District shares the library on Resthaven Drive with the Town of Sidney. The District also has an informal agreement with Sidney to cost share the maintenance and repairs to the Silver Threads Centre on a 75 (Sidney) – 25 (North Saanich) split. This formula is based on the percentage of members who live in both communities. The building is being replaced and a new formal agreement will be considered when it is up and running.

Contributions to General Capital and Reserves General Capital Expenditures for this year total \$1,139,567, of which \$406,000 is funded from Statutory Reserve Funds for the replacement of equipment; \$380,000 from the accumulated surplus account; and \$353,567 from 2004 property taxes.

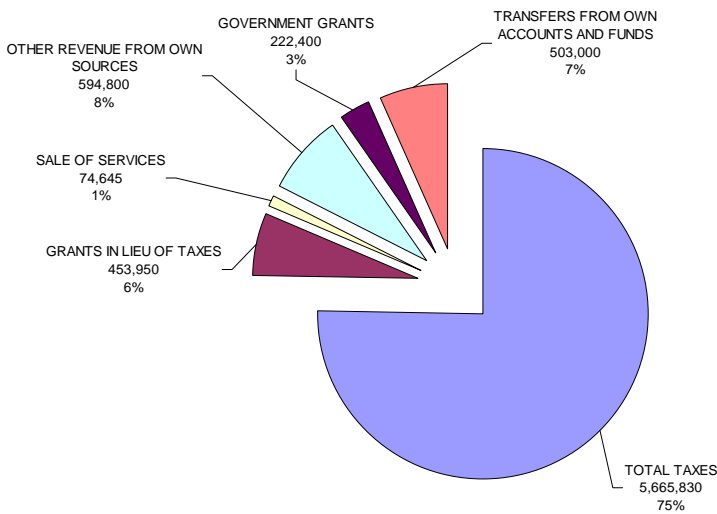
The following are the significant capital projects for 2004:

General Government	\$61,000
Protective Services	35,567
Purchase of Land	295,000
Bike Paths	70,000
Upgrade E Saanich/Willingdon Intersectn.	85,000
Public Works Equipment	432,000
Drainage Projects	90,000
Other Public Works Projects	25,000
Parks and Trails	46,000
Total General Capital	\$1,139,567

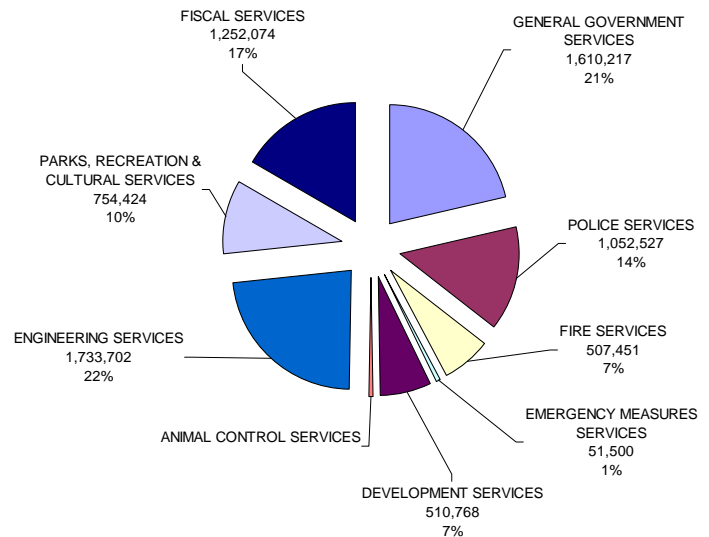
Details of the District's 5 Year Financial Plan are available at the Municipal Hall. If you have any questions or comments about the budget, please contact the Municipal Treasurer.

REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES AT A GLANCE

2004 REVENUES



2004 EXPENDITURES



TAX DEFERMENT

You may qualify to defer payment of property taxes on your principal residence if you are...

Age 60 years or older (only one spouse must be 60) **OR**, A widow or widower **OR**, A person with a disability as defined by regulation; **AND** A Canadian citizen or landed immigrant and have lived in B.C. for at least one year prior to applying for tax deferral benefits. Information is available at the Municipal Hall about the deferral of taxes.

TAX PAYMENT REMINDER

Taxes are due on **JULY 2, 2004** and are payable at participating financial institutions. Please check with your bank in advance to ensure payments can be made through your branch or through their on-line service. ***IF YOU QUALIFY FOR THE HOME OWNER'S GRANT, THE APPLICATION MUST STILL BE FILLED OUT AND RETURNED TO THE MUNICIPAL HALL PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE TO AVOID PENALTY.*** To avoid line-ups, mail or drop off a cheque post dated to July 2, 2004 along with your signed Home Owner's Grant application if applicable, and your payment will be processed on that date.

THINK TWICE BEFORE CUTTING DOWN YOUR HEDGEROW



The North Saanich Council recently approved the establishment of a **Tree/Hedgerow Policy Committee** to evaluate, and, in consultation with legal and industry experts (including arborists and geotechnical advisors) and the BC Assessment Authority, recommend changes to existing policies and by-laws on all District related tree issues. Any proposed changes will be presented to Council for adoption within one year. The Committee will be made up of three members of Staff, one member from Council, one member from the Environmental Advisory Commission, one member from the Parks Commission and one member from the Heritage Advisory Commission.

You may have a property with a hedgerow, or live in an area where hedgerows line your road. A **hedgerow** is a natural and/or manmade border of mixed species of shrubs, bushes, flowers and trees which separate rural acreages and properties, and line roads, parks and trails.

Hedgerows are of crucial importance to our landscape, rural character, and natural environment. They serve as wind breaks, privacy screens, noise barriers, environmental buffer zones, wildlife habitats and provide wildlife corridors through common land, parks and trails. Hedgerows define rural character and provide an aesthetically pleasing environment for walkers and cyclists. Hedgerows also prevent soil erosion and water run-off, thus alleviating our drainage problems, and contribute to roadside weed control. Europe has embarked on a hedgerow restoration program and England passed a hedgerow legislation policy in 1995 under their Environmental Act. Please think twice if you feel you want to remove your hedgerow – there are other options, such as restoration and appropriate maintenance. Invasive plants growing in a hedgerow can be removed (broom, ivy and blackberry for example), and other shrubs planted, such as Indian Plum, Saskatoon Berry, Ocean Spray, honeysuckle, red currant, huckleberry, fruit trees, wild rose, jasmine and quince. Hedgerows can also be pruned for proper maintenance and require very little water. Please take care of your hedgerow – it can be an environmentally sound and pleasing addition to your property by providing you and North Saanich with many natural benefits. Three good websites for further information:

http://www.yolorcd.org/hedgerows/hedgerow_ss.shtml

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/conservation/hedgerows.htm>

<http://www.cpre.org.uk/campaigns/landscape-and-beauty/hedgerows/the-value-of-hedges>

WATER & SEWER CHARGES

The water consumption rates for 2004 will remain at \$3.49/ 1,000 gallons, the same as last year. The water parcel tax (found on your tax notice), which is charged on all property that has a water line fronting the property, has been reduced from \$200.00 to \$187.00. This charge offsets the District's debt payments that are now coming to the end of their term. The sewer user rate will increase from \$225.00 to \$300.00 per year and will appear on the tri-annual utility bill as \$100.00 per bill for property connected to the sewer collection system. The sewer parcel tax (found on your tax notice), will increase from \$81.00 to \$86.50. This charge offsets the District's share of the debt payments for the Saanich Peninsula Sewage Treatment Plant. If you live in an area that has a Local Improvement Charge or Specified Area Charge, additional parcel taxes maybe applicable. The Parcel Tax Assessment Rolls may be inspected at the Municipal Hall weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

BROOM & ENGLISH IVY

Your Parks Commission recommends the removal of English Ivy and Broom from your hedgerows and your property. These two invasive plants kill our indigenous species by choking them out, and English Ivy, which may be used as a ground cover if carefully controlled, kills trees if left unpruned by wrapping itself around the trunks.

Pull out broom or cut it back if it is large. Pull out all English Ivy by the roots and cut it off your trees. Our forests and gardens will thrive if you help keep these invasive plants at bay.



TRAILS, PARKS & BEACH ACCESSSES GUIDE

Each North Saanich resident is entitled to receive **one** complementary copy of the Guide to Trails, Parks and Beach Accesses in North Saanich so be sure to pick up your free copy at the reception desk in the Municipal Hall soon.

WHO TO CONTACT AT THE MUNICIPAL HALL

Bruce Williams – Chief Administrative Officer (for information on implementation of Council policies and programs) bwilliams@northsaanich.ca

Sandy Bowden – Municipal Clerk (for information on Council meetings, agendas, correspondence, and local government elections) sbowden@northsaanich.ca

Ralph Gillis – Treasurer (for information on the budget and taxation) rgillis@northsaanich.ca

John Carnell – GIS/IT Coordinator (for information on electronic mapping and information technology) jcarnell@northsaanich.ca

Vacant – Director of Community & Development Services (for information on zoning, building, bylaw enforcement, and licensing)

Jack Parry – Municipal Engineer (for information on sewage treatment, drainage, subdivision, development, roads, and public works) jparry@northsaanich.ca

Brian Robinson – Works Superintendent (for information on district parks and trails, repairs and maintenance of drainage systems, roads and utilities) brobinson@northsaanich.ca

Gary Wilton – Fire Chief (for information on burning regulations, the North Saanich Volunteer Fire Department and emergency planning) gwilton@northsaanich.ca

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Council meets at 7:00 p.m. every 1st and 3rd Monday of the month at the Municipal Hall; Committee of the Whole meets at 7:00 p.m. every 2nd and 4th Monday at the Municipal Hall except holidays and during the summer. Check with the Municipal Clerk's Office for the dates of summer meetings. All agendas and minutes are posted on the District's website.

Mayor Ted Daly.....656-8700
Councillor Bill Bird.....656-7833
Councillor Heather Goulet.....656-1115
Councillor Dorothy Hartshorne.....655-3034
Councillor Anny Scoones.....656-9740
Councillor Keith Thomas.....655-0441
Councillor Anthony Utley.....655-3982

ADVISORY COMMISSIONS

Advisory Planning Commission

...meets at 7:30 p.m. every 4th Wednesday of the month at the Municipal Hall

Chair	Richard Nordlund
Vice Chair	Michael Shoemaker
Members	Don MacKinnon
	Ted Izard
	Kit Spence
	Michael Stanlake
	Carolyn Stout
Council Liaison	Councillor Anthony Utley

Environmental Advisory Commission

...meets at 7:30 p.m. every 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Municipal Hall

Chair	Al Burgoyne
Vice Chair	Richard Bailey
Members	Alice Finall
	Cairine Green
	Ian Norie
	Graeme Richardson
	Brian Sibley
	Dwayne Smith
	Elizabeth Stanlake
	Gerry Still
	David Work
Council Liaison	Councillor Keith Thomas

Parks Commission

...meets at 7:00 p.m. every 2nd Thursday of the month at the Municipal Hall

Chair	Brenda Shoemaker
Vice Chair	Joan Coldwell
Members	Farrell Boyce
	John Braithwaite
	John Enright
	Sheilah Fea
	Floyd Mailhot
	Janet Silman
Council Liaison	Councillor Anny Scoones

Heritage Advisory Commission

...meets at 10:00 a.m. every 1st Tuesday of the month at the Municipal Hall

Chair	Susan Ross
Vice Chair	Diana Chown
Members	Peter Arends (Tech. Advisor)
	Helene Malvet
	Patricia McAavity
	Ann Saddlemyer
Council Liaison	Councillor Anny Scoones

