

## Webcasts of Council Meetings

The District has now completed the implementation of hardware, software and new processes that allow residents to view webcasts of Council Meetings. Video and audio will be captured from Council and Committee of the Whole meetings (typically on Monday nights) and made available by noon the following day. As well as allowing residents to view and hear Council meetings, all reports and presentations will be available for viewing and the webcasting file will be indexed to allow viewers to jump to the agenda item of their choice. This new webcasting capability, along with the recent upgrades to the audio system within Council Chambers, are part of an ongoing effort to improve the District's communication with the public. Webcasts are available on the municipal website at [www.northsaanich.ca](http://www.northsaanich.ca) - *Municipal Hall Meetings* link - from the main page.

## Managing the Future of Our Infrastructure

The effective management of financial and infrastructure assets (e.g. public water and sewer systems, roads etc.) is key towards meeting our citizens' need for sustainable and affordable infrastructure. This is a goal that the Council of the District of North Saanich recognizes as a priority. To date, the District has met the requirements set for all Canadian municipalities to identify and cost all municipal capital assets by the end of 2009. The availability of updated and reliable capital asset information out of this initiative has resulted in improved financial reporting for long term planning purposes and enhanced overall asset management for the District. With a view to achieving effective long term capital planning, Council considered several options to fund Water Infrastructure renewal. As a result, a new Water Infrastructure Replacement Parcel Tax was approved. As is the case with the existing Water Parcel Tax, the new parcel tax will be charged to those property owners that have the opportunity to hook up to the District's water system.

Consideration has also been given to the funding of Sewer Infrastructure renewal. An annual amount of \$100,000 for sewer infrastructure replacement has been budgeted in the current 5 year Financial Plan to be funded from the sewer user rate.

For the funding of general infrastructure renewal such as roads, drainage and buildings, commencing in 2011 Council has budgeted an amount of \$100,000 to be set aside annually for this purpose while keeping the average household tax increase to within 5% over that in 2010.

## Outdoor Burning

Effective May 7, 2011, all outdoor burning is banned until November 2011. This includes burning in incinerators, fire pits and open piles until further notice. The only exceptions are chimineas and approved manufactured 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. The municipal pit off Littlewood Road will be open the first and third Saturday of each month from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. and the second and fourth Thursday from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. to drop off burnable and compost materials. A schedule is available on the municipal website at [www.northsaanich.ca](http://www.northsaanich.ca) - *Burning and Alternatives* - link from the main page.



## WATCH FOR THESE DATES

### North Saanich Farm Market

June 4 Regular Saturday Market begin  
All markets run 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

### 2011 North Saanich Flavour Trail

August 20-21

### Neighbourhood Meeting

Curteis Point / Lands End

**Tuesday, September 6, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.**

Municipal Hall

### Council and Committee of the Whole Meetings

June 6 - Council

June 13 - COW

June 27 - COW

July 18 - COW

July 18 - Council

## Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Since the horrendous 2003 Kelowna firestorms, the province has increased funding to local governments to review and update their wildfire hazard planning. The Local Government Act requires a municipality to include in its Official Community Plan (OCP) restrictions on land subject to hazardous conditions and provides that regulations respecting wildfire hazard may be dealt with by way of a development permit. North Saanich has a number of wildfire hazard areas. Regulations were included in our 2007 OCP with Wildfire Hazard Development Permit Area 3 (DPA 3). Council began a review in mid-2010 with the assistance of a provincial grant to obtain expert planning advice from a forestry consultant. The objective was to update our wildfire plan and designated wildfire areas, as well as reduce cost and red tape.

We held public information meetings in November 2010 and on May 4 this year with excellent public input and participation. During both meetings presentations were made covering an overview of the provincial and regional perspectives, an explanation of the content and methodology of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and the draft revised map which identifies the two wildfire classes: "Extreme" and "High". Staff spoke about local wildfire safety concerns and the draft revised development permit guidelines which are designed to help protect people and property from wildfires. These revised development permit guidelines will streamline the current process, provide some exemptions from permit processes, improve the guideline language, and reduce costs to residents. The CWPP will help the municipality to identify and mitigate wildfire risk, provide residents and the Fire Chief with necessary relevant information, provide guidance to planning staff, and most importantly, improve community safety and reduce the risk of property damage from wildfires.

After a review by staff, a report will be presented to Council outlining the draft revised guidelines for Council's consideration and the CWPP will be considered as a policy document by Council. To change the current development permit guidelines in the OCP will require a formal public hearing before Council. Implementation of a CWPP will qualify the District for further provincial funding to assist with fire-reduction clearing along public trails.

Copies of the CWPP and the draft revised development permit guidelines were provided to the public at the meetings and both of the documents are available on the municipal website at [www.northsaanich.ca](http://www.northsaanich.ca) - *Whole Community Agricultural Plan* - link from the main page. Alternatively, you can contact Mark Brodrick, Director of Planning & Community Services, at 250-655-5470.

## Secondary Suite Pilot Project

Residents of the Southeast Quadrant living in the area of the Secondary Suites pilot project need to be aware that the pilot project is due to expire October 2011. At that time the pilot project will be reviewed by Council to determine whether it should continue.

For further information please contact Mark Brodrick, Director of Planning and Community Services at 250-655-5470.



## North Saanich Businesses shine at Chamber Awards

Congratulations to the following North Saanich businesses and organizations who were winners of the coveted Crystal Award for Business Excellence. The Fifth Annual Crystal Award ceremony, sponsored by the Saanich Peninsula Chamber of Commerce and Island Savings Credit Union, was held April 13, 2011 at Butchart Gardens.

### Employer of the Year

Deep Cove Market: Rosemary Scott  
Sponsor: Peninsula Co-op

### Land-based Business of the Year (no photo)

Smyth Market Gardens  
Sponsor: Green Party of Canada

### High Tech or Scientific Innovation

Applied Bio-nomics Limited  
Sponsor: Victoria Airport Authority

### Contribution to the Community

Panorama Recreation  
Sponsor: Thrifty Foods

### Newsmaker of the Year (for 2010)

Pronautic Custom Interiors  
Sponsor: Horizon Power