



Mayor's Message ~ A Look Back at 2009

Council has reached the end of its first year in office. While this is the Mayor's report, I want to make it clear from the outset that what has been achieved this year is the result of the hard work of Council. I wish to take this opportunity of thanking Council members for their support, talents and contributions during our first year.

In reflecting, I believe it is important to review the basis upon which I sought election and similarly, the election foundation for the majority of Council. Many residents will be aware of the lengthy Official Community Plan (OCP) review which finished in May 2007 with adoption of our present OCP. Many will also be aware of the efforts made to pursue a philosophical shift in the future of our municipality by some members of previous councils during that review. The strength of the visions in our present OCP is directly attributable to the concerted efforts of our residents and the majority of our present Council.



Mayor Alice Finall

I believe that the basis for my strong showing in the last election is my dedication to the philosophy of our OCP and the continued desire of the majority of our Council and our residents to embrace that philosophy. The leadership I have brought to Council has been proactive, sensibly grounded in forward looking policies and continuously working toward collaborative resolution to divisions of opinion.

Much of the work done by Council over the past year has focused on internal governance of the municipality. With that focus I have:

- a. directed a complete review and update of all municipal policies and procedures, to ensure fairness, consistency and relevance;
- b. completed changes to Council meeting procedures to simplify and improve opportunities for public participation, and restore the working role of Committee of the Whole;
- c. with Council and staff inspiration and assistance, revamped the District Newsletter, making it available to every household by mail;
- d. with Council support, continued to explore new options for enhanced communication with the public; for example, utilizing internet technology through the District website and email;
- e. restored quarterly neighbourhood meetings for informal communication with municipal residents;
- f. hosted, with Council, a volunteer recognition event at Municipal Hall.

In spite of the time spent on these initiatives, Council has not become immersed in minutiae. We have spent considerable time addressing initiatives begun by the previous Council, and those required by legislation, concentrating efforts on ensuring adherence to the OCP and our role in the Regional Growth Strategy while doing so. These include:

- a. review and update of the Council Strategic Plan, with new priorities reflecting Mayor and Council's community vision;
- b. approving a pilot plan for secondary suites;
- c. beginning meetings to consider the implementation of the Marine Task Force recommendations, to be completed in the early new year;
- d. launched the North Saanich Agricultural Area Plan public consultation process with the report to Council expected in early 2010;
- e. completed a contract with BC Ferries for sewer connection.

(continued on next page)

Mayor's Message ~ A Look Back at 2009 (continued)

I have been responsive to events over which Council had no direct control, making continued efforts to keep our community needs in the forefront and communicating with all involved parties in a proactive way. These events will continue to have a large impact on our local community. I have:

- a. called meetings with Victoria Airport Authority, provincial representatives and Sidney Council to address design and community issues for the proposed McTavish Interchange as soon as Council became aware of the application by the Victoria Airport Authority;
- b. at Council's initiative implemented a resolution to create a McTavish Road Interchange Committee to deal with community needs and concerns related to the project;
- c. addressed closure of Dunsmuir Lodge by calling for a public meeting with the University of Victoria and for public disclosure on future plans for the property. A report on this matter will come to Council within the next few weeks.

I have worked cooperatively with neighbouring communities:

- a. taking an active role in tri-municipal initiatives, establishing new working relationships with Mayors of Sidney and Central Saanich;
- b. proactively pursuing a new Relationship Agreement with Pauquachin First Nation, with full Council support;
- c. continuing the Tseycum Relationship Agreement begun by the last Council.

We are moving forward with concerns of the present Council:

- a. to improve the prospects of local farming, recognizing its importance to the community economically and socially, and completing implementation of the Agricultural Area Plan;
- b. working with staff in budget deliberations toward increased efficiencies;
- c. a thorough review and update of the municipal bylaws to ensure the effectiveness and relevance of District legislation.

In addition to the interests of our immediate community, I recognize the need for North Saanich to take a strong role in regional matters. The Capital Regional District exercises significant and wide ranging regional responsibilities on behalf of all the region's municipalities. To that end, I have taken the CRD Director's role for North Saanich. I have served as Chair of CRD Environment Committee, am a member of the Mayors' Coalition on Homelessness, a member of CRD Service Delivery Review committee, a member of CRD Millstream Remediation Cost Apportionment Sub-Committee, a member of CRD Planning and Transportation Committee, a member of CRD Finance and Protective Services Committee and am working to establish a CRD septic bylaw sub-committee. The CRD is in the midst of a review of the Regional Growth Strategy, affecting every municipality in the region.

After this initial year, I remain convinced that strong leadership and forward planning, both for land use and fiscal stability, are essential to the health and balance of this community. I am grateful to my Council colleagues and our excellent municipal staff who have worked so hard this past year to support me. With this level of support, I am able as Mayor to continue my efforts, on behalf of this Council and my community, to achieve our goals.

Christmas Tree Chipping and Open House

The North Saanich Fire Department will be tree chipping from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 3rd at the Wain Road Fire Hall. Cost is by donation in support of Muscular Dystrophy and the Sorensen quadruplets in Brentwood Bay. Phone in, pick up requests will require a minimum \$10 donation. Call 250-656-1931. Please join us for hot dogs, drinks, the fire safety house and fire truck rides.



2010 Council Meeting Schedule

Council has now approved the schedule of Council meetings for 2010. In addition to these dates, please note that Committee of the Whole meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month (except for July and August). A detailed weekly meeting schedule can be found on our website at www.northsaanich.ca.

January 18 th	May 17 th	October 18 th
February 1 st	June 7 th	November 1 st
February 15 th	June 21 st	November 15 th
March 1 st	July 19 th	December 6 th
March 15 th	August 23 rd	December 20 th
April 19 th	September 20 th	
May 3 rd	October 4 th	

2010 Neighbourhood Meeting Schedule

The schedule of neighbourhood meetings for 2010 has now been finalized. These meetings provide an open forum for the residents of the area to meet their Mayor and Councillors to discuss any municipal matter of their choosing.

Date	Neighbourhood	Location of meeting
Monday, March 29 th	Dean Park / Southeast Quadrant	Saanich Peninsula Presbyterian Church, 9296 East Saanich Road
Monday, May 31 st	Ardmore / Pauquachin First Nation	Ardmore Golf Club, 930 Ardmore Drive
Wednesday, October 13 th	Deep Cove / Pat Bay / Tseycum First Nation	Deep Cove School Gymnasium, 10975 West Saanich Road
Monday, November 29 th	Curteis Point / Lands End	Council Chambers, 1620 Mills Road

Marine Task Force Recommendations

Please note that two more Special Committee of the Whole meetings have been scheduled for Council to consider the recommendations of the Marine Task Force. These meetings will be held Monday, January 25th, 2010 and Wednesday, February 3rd, 2010. Both meetings will start at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers. Watch our website for details of the agendas.

North Saanich Photos from our Readers

Thank you to everyone who submitted pictures after the last newsletter. We encourage all residents to continue to share their special North Saanich photos with us. Your pictures will be used in future newsletters and you will receive photo credit. Please submit photos (in digital form) to Charlene at cnash@northsaanich.ca.



*Coal Point and beyond
Photo by Mrs. Dale Thomson*

Farewell to Ralph Gillis, Director of Financial Services, and Tracy Olsen, Director of Development and Community Services

In December the District said a fond farewell to Ralph Gillis, Director of Financial Services, and Tracy Olsen, Director of Development and Community Services. Ralph retired after 24 years of service with the District and Tracy, the District's first planner, left for family reasons. Ralph and Tracy have been very important members of the team at North Saanich. They will be missed and we wish them well.

McTavish Interchange Project

Construction of the McTavish interchange began November 30, 2009, with site preparation and the placement of “preload” material to compress soft soils. Work is being carried out by local equipment operators using the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure’s hired equipment lists, and through major works contracts tendered on BC Bid. The project is expected to generate 150 directly and indirectly related jobs.

Motorists are reminded of traffic adjustments during construction, including the closure of McTavish Road between Highway 17 and Lochside Drive that is expected to be in effect until Spring 2011. Access to the Pat Bay Highway is maintained via Amity Drive (right turns to/from northbound Highway 17 only), Mt. Newton Cross Road (all movements), and Beacon Avenue in Sidney (all movements).

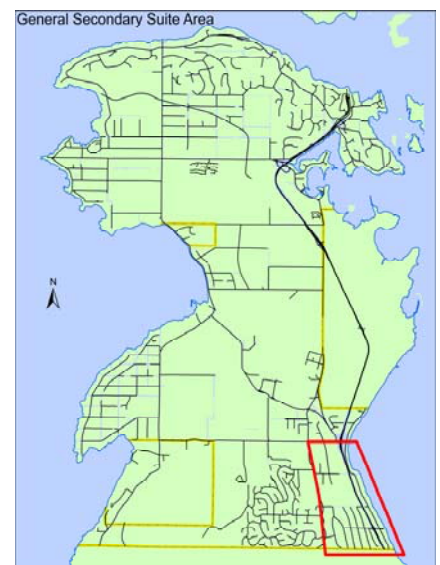
In addition, an extended closure of Canora Road between McTavish Road and Rideau Avenue will begin on approximately January 26, 2010. Motorists travelling to the airport will follow McTavish to East Saanich Road, turn north, and take the airport exit from the roundabout.

For construction details and additional information, please visit the project web site at www.th.gov.bc.ca/highwayprojects/Hwy_17_McTavish_Interchange. For the latest traffic conditions, visit www.DriveBC.ca.

This \$24-million project to improve safety and access and enhance transit is a partnership between the Government of Canada, Province of British Columbia, and the Victoria Airport Authority.

Update on Secondary Suites

The secondary suite pilot project is almost ready to be rolled out! The project will allow for secondary suites in the South East area of North Saanich, excluding Dean Park (see red box in the diagram to the right). In order to be eligible, your property needs to be zoned R1 or R2 and connected to the sewer. A bylaw is expected to go to Committee of the Whole in January, and the project should have final approval in February. Please contact the Development and Community Services Department for more information at 250-655-5470.



New Heritage Brochure!

The District of North Saanich’s Heritage Advisory Commission has compiled a new informative brochure. The brochure is filled with interesting photographic elements. Among other things, the brochure includes all of the North Saanich heritage sites and a detailed description of each site. Look for the brochure at the Municipal Hall early 2010!

Hedgerows

The District would like to remind residents to please use caution when embarking on your spring hedgerow pruning. This is a crucial time for bird and wildlife nesting and careful hand pruning is suggested to help maintain our natural and rural environment. Hedgerows, whether natural or man-made, also serve as wind and sound buffers, wildlife corridors, food sources, erosion controls and pollution filters. Hedgerows can be enhanced by invasive weed control and the planting of native shrubbery such as the wild red currant, the Nootka Rose, Indian Plum and the trumpet honeysuckle. Council passed a Hedgerow Policy in 2009 which acknowledges the usefulness and care of these important features on public lands.

Wain Road Fire Hall Expansion

Council has decided to hold a referendum in order to seek the assent of the electors to borrow money to renovate the existing Wain Road Fire Hall and to construct a new three bay fire truck facility, including a fire training tower. The exact date has not yet been determined but it will likely be in March.

The Fire Department has been working on this project with various Councils over the past 5 years. During that time a number of studies and reports have been prepared that identify the problems and provide solutions to the issues facing your Fire Department. Copies of the following studies and reports are available on the fire department website at www.northsaanichfire.ca:

- *Fire Underwriters Survey, Space Needs Analysis, Chronology of Wain Road Fire Hall Expansion, and Training Requirements*

Fire Chief Gary Wilton would be pleased to speak with your group or give you a tour of the present facilities. In addition, the Fire Department will be holding an open house in the New Year to which you are cordially invited.

Responsible Dog Ownership

North Saanich is a wonderful place to enjoy the benefits of owning a dog. While the Animal Enforcement staff would like to encourage residents to enjoy our many trails and beaches, we would also like to reinforce some of the responsibilities of dog owners. The Animal Bylaw requires that owners must ensure that their dogs do not run at large. This means in all circumstances the dog must be under the direct and continuous control of a person who is competent to control it while on a walk or at home. If not under continuous and direct control, the dog should be secured within an enclosure or securely fastened so that it is unable to roam. In Dominion Brook Park or the eastern portion of Cy Hampson Park dogs must be on a leash. Dog owners are also reminded that the Animal Bylaw requires that you pick up after your pet. Finally, dog owners are advised that Section 17.4 of the Animal Bylaw requires that no owner of a dog shall permit or cause the dog to cry or bark in a manner which disturbs the quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort or convenience of the neighbourhood or of persons in the vicinity of the place where the dog is kept.

If you have any questions regarding the Animal Bylaw, please contact Bob Jones at 250-655-5476 or CRD Animal Control at 250-478-0624.

Public Art in North Saanich

Did you know that North Saanich has over 25 pieces of public art? Public art, both indoor and outdoor, promotes community spirit and provides cultural identity. Public art can be useful or decorative, and it can be spontaneous or planned. It can be created from existing material or presented to the community in celebration, recognition or for simple amusement.



Can you name the location of the public art in this photo? E-mail your guess to Charlene at cnash@northsaanich.ca. The first 25 people to submit correct answers will receive either a North Saanich mug or a new Parks and Trails Guide.

New Automated Telephone System

In order to provide better service to residents, the District of North Saanich is implementing an automated phone system for a six month trial period effective December 14th, 2009. The system will enable callers to select the department they wish to reach directly, instead of first speaking to the Receptionist. Comments about this new system can be forwarded to Charlene at cnash@northsaanich.ca.

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

Reception: 250-655-5450

Finance: 250-655-5495

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

Non-emergency RCMP (i.e. traffic issues): 250-656-3931

E-mail: admin@northsaanich.ca

Website: www.northsaanich.ca



*Pat Bay in the fog
Photo by Baohua Duan*

Your Mayor & Council

Mayor Alice Finall

250-656-6668

Councillor Peter Chandler

250-656-7226

Councillor Ruby Commandeur

250-655-3368

Councillor Sheilah Fea

250-656-2719

Councillor Cairine Green

250-656-3205

Councillor Anny Scoones

250-656-9740

Councillor Bob Shaw

250-655-9610



New Year's Day Levee

*Please join Mayor and Council from 11:00 a.m. to
12:30 p.m. in Council Chambers on Friday, January 1st
to ring in the new year!*

Who to contact at Municipal Hall

Bruce Williams—Chief Administrative Officer

E-mail: bwilliams@northsaanich.ca Phone: (250) 655-5452

Curt Kingsley—Manager of Corporate Services

E-mail: ckingsley@northsaanich.ca Phone: (250) 655-5453

Patricia Roberts—Manager of Financial Services

E-mail: proberts@northsaanich.ca Phone: (250) 655-5495

Patrick O'Reilly—Director of Infrastructure Services

E-mail: poreilly@northsaanich.ca Phone: (250) 655-5461

Gary Wilton—Director of Emergency Services

E-mail: gwilton@northsaanich.ca Phone: (250) 656-1931

Brian Robinson—Works Superintendent

E-mail: brobinson@northsaanich.ca Phone: (250) 655-5481

John Carnell—IT/GIS Manager

E-mail: jcarnell@northsaanich.ca Phone: (250) 655-5499

Charlene Nash—Executive Secretary / HR Assistant

E-mail: cnash@northsaanich.ca Phone: (250) 655-5458

Christmas Closure

Municipal Hall will close for the holiday season at 12:00 noon on Thursday, December 24th and re-open at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, January 4th, 2010.

Council and Staff would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

*All the best
in 2010!*

