

Connect North Saanich: Spring 2024

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North Saanich exists on the traditional territories of the **WSÁNEĆ** peoples. We thank them for caring for this land and look forward to working with the **BOKEĆEN** (Pauquachin) First Nation and **WSÍKEM** (Tseycum) First Nation for years to come.

Meet Our New Staff



A Q&A with Our New Manager of Financial Services

Walter's first day at the District of North Saanich was April 8. Here's a little bit more about the husband and father of two.

1. Can you tell us a little about yourself and what led you to work in municipal government?

I have worked in Local government for 29 years and just completed working for the District of North Cowichan for the last 19 years. I currently live in Ladysmith with my wife Marija and we have two children, Isabella and Gabriel and two cocker spaniels. Isabella graduated last year and Gabriel is graduating this year. I started in working for the District of Chetwynd in 1995 because it offered a variety of work in accounting and there was opportunity for advancement.

2. What role will you be taking on here at the municipality, and what are you most excited about in your new position?

I am working as the Manager of Financial Services.



Photo credit - John's Photography, Sooke

I am excited to learn about the District of North Saanich and what it has to offer to the people that live here. I hope to share my experience and knowledge of local government with the people I work with.

3. What do you think are the biggest challenges our municipality faces, and how do you plan to address them in your role?

The biggest challenge our municipality faces is that only the local residents and businesses know what a great place it is to live and where it is. In my role I can participate in any committees that administer branding exercises for the District. I can also promote the municipality to people I socialize with.

4. Looking ahead, what is one goal you hope to achieve in your first year with us?

Get familiar with all the services that the District of North Saanich offers its residents and get to know the area better.

5. What are some of your hobbies or interests outside of work?

I like to play golf, walk my dogs and watch my kids play softball and baseball.

Wounded Warrior Kicks Off

Mayor Peter Jones and Councillors Kristine Marshall, Celia Stock, Irene McConkey and Sanjiv Shrivastava were on hand to cheer on the Wounded Warrior Run BC team members who ran from Sooke to Sidney on February 6. The team started at the Royal Canadian Legion in Sooke and made stops in Langford and Saanich before arriving at Sidney's Community Safety Building.

The warm-up event was to prepare the team for the main fundraiser (running from Port Hardy to Victoria) where money is raised for ill and injured Canadian Armed Forces members, veterans, first responders, and their families.

Turf Field Opening

On Saturday, March 9, Councillors Jack McClintock and Celia Stock joined the Peninsula Soccer Association in celebrating the grand opening of the new artificial turf fields at Blue Heron Park. The new turf fields support soccer players of all ages across the Peninsula and will enable players to practice and play on the field throughout the year! The collaboration of neighbouring municipalities has made this ambitious project possible. We are proud to have contributed \$647,000 to this project alongside the additional \$250,000 that both the Town of Sidney and District of Central Saanich have generously contributed. We also raise our hands to the Peninsula Soccer Association for fundraising \$600,000 towards this project! The new turf fields are available to rent and can be booked at no cost for **WSÁNEĆ** groups.



Photo Credit - Nadine Dillabaugh

Project Updates

Parks Master Plan

The Draft Parks Master Plan, as well as a follow-up survey and the Engagement Summary for Phase 1, is now available for the public on the Connect North Saanich (connectnorthsaanich.ca) project site. More public engagement opportunities, such as an open house scheduled for June 26, will be taking place this summer! Final plan review and revisions are expected to take place later this summer, with Council adoption scheduled for the fall.

Official Community Plan

Public engagement for the Official Community Plan is in full swing, with two events taking place in April and three in May. Thank you to those who have taken the time to attend these public meetings, and share your feedback, ideas and concerns with the North Saanich planning team. More engagement activities such as open houses and pop-ups are scheduled for June and July, so keep an eye on the OCP project page on Connect North Saanich for the latest information.

Tatlow and Deep Cove Neighborhood Traffic Calming

The District of North Saanich is undertaking a project to improve community safety and comfort along Tatlow, Birch, Wain and Downey Roads along with key intersections at these roadways within Deep Cove, through the introduction of traffic calming and gateway treatments. These improvements to the roadway will have the effect of reducing traffic

speeds and encouraging increased attention and care when travelling, thereby making the community safer for all users, whether walking, cycling, on horseback or driving. An open house is scheduled for July 10 from 6-8 p.m. at the Wain Road Fire Hall, where preliminary recommendations and treatment options will be presented, so keep an eye on the Connect North Saanich project page for updates.

Growing Communities Fund

Thank you to the residents who attended our open house on February 27 from 3-6 p.m.! We were able to gather important feedback on the Growing Communities Fund (GCF) for Mayor and Council. Stay tuned to find out how 10% of the GCF will be allocated to enhance the livability, sustainability and resiliency of the District.



CRD - Reducing Morning Water Demand



In recent summers the CRD's Regional Water Supply water distribution system has experienced challenges due to high, sudden demands because of region-wide irrigation system programs that all start at the same time. On residential lawn watering days, water demand can double with immediate increases that fall on the hour. In the summer when indoor and outdoor morning water demands overlap considerable pressure is put on the water supply infrastructure. High and sudden

demands for water impact the system's ability to maintain adequate flow, pressure, and high-water quality standards. To help alleviate this issue, CRD added a **new lawn watering time (12:01-10 am on established watering days)** to the Water Conservation Bylaw No. 4099 for timed irrigation systems **only**. Find out more at:



crd.bc.ca/education/water-conservation/at-home

Property Taxes

2024 Property tax due date is July 2, 2024 – property tax notices will be mailed to residents at the end of May.

Please email admin@northsaanich.ca if you have not received your tax notice by May 31, 2024. Don't forget to apply for your 2024 Home Owner Grant - Residents who are eligible must apply every year directly with the province at gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant or **1-888-355-2700**. To avoid penalty, eligible home owners must submit their application by the July 2, 2024 property tax due date.

Deferring your taxes? Applications must be submitted to the Province at gov.bc.ca/propertytaxdeferral by end of day July 2, 2024 to avoid penalty. Please remember to claim your homeowner grant and pay any overdue amounts prior to deferring. You still need to claim your homeowner grant every year, even if you auto renew your deferment.



What's Happening

Update on Roundabout Construction

Construction of the Beacon Avenue West roundabout is nearly complete! Pavement markings, hydroseeding and tree planting were all taking place in mid May. The Flight Path is scheduled to re-open when stamped asphalt has been completed.



2023 Annual Report Available

We're pleased to announce that the 2023 Annual Report has been completed and will be available to residents in early June, both at the Municipal Hall and online. This report highlights our achievements and ongoing commitments to the community.

Low Level Flying for Gas Line Inspections

Talon Helicopters with LaSen Inc. is planning to perform low-level flyovers for FortisBC between April 26 and June 15, 2024, during daylight hours, as authorized by Transport Canada. This work is part of FortisBC's annual inspection of its high-pressure transmission natural gas lines and is an important part of FortisBC's integrity management program. For more information on this inspection work, call **1-888-224-2710** or visit fortisbc.com/communityupgrades or Talon Helicopters at **604-214-3585**

Did You Know?

We recently finished a new historical display in Council Chambers! The back section of the chambers has been dedicated to showcasing the District's archival material. On display is the District's 50th Jubilee Time Capsule (to be opened at the District's Centennial in 2065), heritage chairs used by our first elected Council, a gallery of artwork and archival photographs, and a rotating

display on various subjects. In April, the District celebrated our wonderful volunteers, and staff created a display to honour their contributions.

RCMP Update

Fraudsters and Scammers continue to victimize citizens of Sidney and North Saanich. Unfortunately in 2023 there was a shocking amount of dollars lost by victims of online frauds and scams. For more information on frauds and scams circulating now please visit the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre website at antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca

Upcoming Council Meetings

Regular Meeting of Council: June 3, June 17, July 8, August 12

Committee of the Whole (CoW) meetings: July 8, August 12

Council recess: July 15 to August 9

Regular Council & COW Meetings are held at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Hall, 1620 Mills Road, North Saanich, BC unless posted otherwise. Advanced registration to attend a meeting via Zoom is required. Please contact Corporate Services by email at corporate@northsaanich.ca or by phone at **250-656-0781** prior to noon on the day of the meeting.



Fire Department Updates



On May 5 the North Saanich Fire Department participated in the regional emergency preparedness expo, held at Heritage Acres. The event, organized by the Central Saanich Emergency Program, Saanich Peninsula fire departments, and the Peninsula Emergency Measures Organization (PEMO), kicked off Emergency Preparedness Week (May 5-11).

Outdoor Burning

Outdoor Burning season is now closed and will re-open in November. This includes the burning of yard waste. During this time, we encourage you to access our Green Waste Facility for disposal of your yard waste. Small fires for cooking or quiet enjoyment are still allowed throughout the summer (with a permit), as long as no provincial fire ban is in effect. Learn more at:



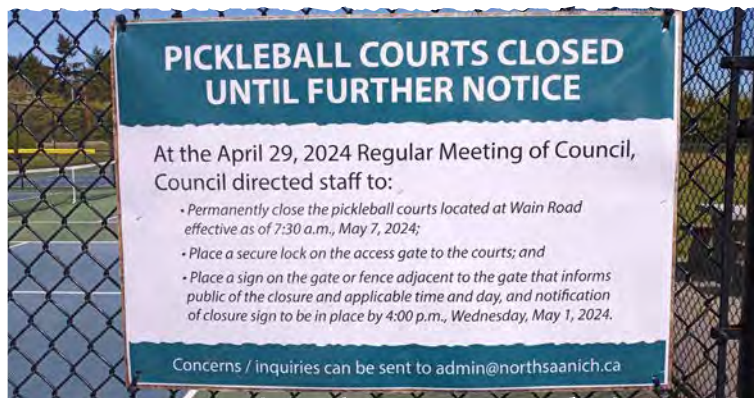
northsaanich.ca/services/fire/outdoor-burning/

WASP Gutter Mount Sprinkler System Sets

The WASP Gutter Mount Sprinkler System sets water to your home's roof and adjacent areas. They offer protection from embers cast by wildfires, and studies show they effectively raise the humidity around your home, reducing the risk of structure involvement. North Saanich residents can purchase the WASP kit for \$150 from the Wain Rd Firehall.

Reminders

Pickleball Courts Closed



The pickleball courts at Wain Road are closed as of May 7, 2024, following a motion from Council at a meeting on April 29. Panorama Recreation offers reservable and registered pickleball play for adults of all and intermediate+ skill levels, along with recurring group court bookings. Offerings vary by month. For more information, visit panoramarecreation.ca or call 250-656-7271. To read more about Council's decision, please visit northsaanich.ca/pickleball

Saanich Peninsula Alert

North Saanich, Sidney, and Central Saanich municipalities have joined together to provide public safety alerts to the residents and visitors of the Saanich Peninsula. The system is called Saanich Peninsula Alert and is designed to deliver critical and potentially life-saving alerts to anyone who has registered. Alerts are sent for events such as earthquakes, tsunami alerts, evacuation notices, or other safety threats. There is no sign-up fee for Saanich Peninsula Alert. Find out more at: northsaanich.ca/spa

North Saanich Farm Market

Saturday mornings with the Peninsula's finest! The North Saanich Farm Market is back on June 1. The market runs weekly on Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. until Thanksgiving. Go support your local grower, crafter, baker, brewer and vintner! Find out more at: northsaanichfarmmarket.ca/

Please, No Yard Waste in the Ocean!

Flotsam and jetsam are a natural part of waterfront living but in the last few years, members of PROW (Property Responsibility On the Waterfront) have been faced with a man-made mess littering the pristine beaches of North Saanich. People are dumping yard waste in the ocean! Imagine waking up one morning to find the roadway in front of your house completely blocked — covered with an immense mound of tree trunks, branches and grass clippings as if someone had dumped a couple of truckloads of garbage then driven away. It would be hard enough to cope with this mountain of mess on dry land, but if you live on the waterfront this mountain of garbage is impossible to clean up. This is precisely the challenge waterfront residents



have been faced with in recent years. Living on the waterfront in North Saanich is a privilege that those of us lucky enough to enjoy do not take for granted and we take our responsibility as beachfront caretakers seriously and are asking others to do the same. With spring cleanup around the corner, residents are reminded that yard waste should be taken to the Green Waste Facility, not dumped into the ocean. Yard waste doesn't get carried out to sea by tidal action but is carried along the waterfront then washes up on the foreshore. If you see someone dumping yard waste into the ocean, please note the license plate of the vehicle and notify the District of North Saanich Bylaw Services. (Submitted by PROW)

Green Waste Facility

We encourage residents to be proactive about removing yard waste from their properties during the summer. What is green and lush now can easily become dangerously dry in the summer and fuel for wildfires. Consider safely disposing of your waste now. The District's Green Waste Facility, at 10180 Littlewood Road, is open from 8:00 am to noon every Saturday, as well as the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. More details on fees and what is accepted at: northsaanich.ca/green-waste

Strategic Plan Update

The 2023-2026 Strategic Plan was updated earlier this spring following a productive workshop held between Mayor and Council and staff on February 26. Read the updated plan at: northsaanich.ca/strategic-plan



Budget Adopted in May

On May 13 Council adopted the 2024-2028 Financial Plan Bylaw, the 2024 Tax Rate Bylaw, Water Rates 2024 Bylaw, and the Sanitary Sewer System 2024 Bylaw. To learn more visit: northsaanich.ca/property-taxes/

Explore Career Opportunities With Us!

Are you or someone you know looking for a rewarding career right here in our community? Our municipality is growing, and we need passionate individuals to join our dedicated team. From public works to administrative roles, we offer a variety of exciting opportunities for you to make a real difference. Visit our careers page today (northsaanich.ca/employment/) to learn more about current vacancies, benefits, and how you can apply. Join us in shaping the future of our community!

Stay Connected

Stay in the loop with what's happening at the District by signing up for news and public notices: northsaanich.ca/notifications