

Connect North Saanich: Summer 2025

Municipal Hall: 1620 Mills Road, North Saanich, BC V8L 5S9 | admin@northsaanich.ca | northsaanich.ca

250-656-0781 | [f @northsaanichdistrict](https://www.facebook.com/northsaanichdistrict) | [@districtofnorthsaanich](https://www.instagram.com/districtofnorthsaanich) - #NorthSaanichBingo2025 Summer Photo Contest!



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 BOĆÉĆEN (Pauquachin) First Nation and WSÍKEM (Tseycum) First Nation for years to come.

Message from Mayor & Council



North Saanich Council has had a productive start to 2025, with several key decisions shaping a more sustainable, connected, and engaged community.

A major milestone was the adoption of the Parks Master Plan, which will guide how the District enhances trails, open spaces, and recreational opportunities in the years ahead. This long-term plan reflects extensive public input and a shared commitment to preserving natural beauty while supporting active living.

In another step toward deeper

community engagement, North Saanich held its first of four Town Halls on March 9. Dozens of residents turned out to share feedback directly with Council in an open, informal format. Future events will be communicated on our District website.

Council also directed staff to initiate a formal engagement framework between the District and registered residents associations, with a goal of strengthening community relationships and collaborative problem-solving. Staff will report back by the end of September 2025 with a proposed structure,

schedule, and any resources needed to support the initiative.

Work on the official Community Plan (OCP) continues to move forward. Council received the first draft in March and heard directly from residents during three well-attended engagement events in April. A second draft of the plan was presented to Council on May 12, and first reading of the bylaw was adopted on May 26. A public hearing will be held on June 23. Third reading and adoption of the bylaw will be considered at the same meeting.

In support of local agriculture, Council received a generous \$750,000 gift proposal from a local resident for the construction of a farm hub food processing facility. Over the summer, staff will be engaging directly with farmers to better understand whether a food hub would be valuable to them, and what features or services it should include.

Investments in infrastructure included the purchase of a new dump truck to support operations and a computer hardware replacement project.

On June 9, Council approved

amendments to the North Saanich Fireworks Regulation Bylaw, including the creation of buffer zones around sensitive environmental and flight path areas. These changes aim to better protect local wildlife and ecological features. Details about the new regulations will be communicated to residents shortly.

In the area of health and well-being, the District closed its community-wide loneliness and isolation survey in February. The results were presented to the Healthy Community Living Advisory Committee on May 8, and the feedback was incorporated into a staff report presented to Council on May 26.

With momentum behind everything from infrastructure and parks to housing, public health, and long-term planning, the first five months of 2025 have laid a strong foundation for a year of meaningful progress.

Council remains committed to collaborative decision-making and thanks residents for their continued participation and input.

- Your North Saanich Council

Building Jumps & Community

Tucked into the heart of North Saanich, the Freeride Park is more than just a place to ride—it's a hub of community, mentorship, and hands-on learning, thanks in large part to the dedication of *The Friends of North Saanich Mountain Bike Park Society*.

Led by President Kyle White, the volunteer-run group has just reopened the park for the season and is celebrating another year of growth and grassroots energy.

For over a month, volunteers—

especially youth—have been out weekly, shovels in hand, reshaping the park for the busy season ahead. "We put these kids to work," says White.

From clearing vegetation to installing new wooden ramps that reduce ongoing maintenance, it's a full team effort. The park has seen continuous evolution since its 2009 beginnings, and now features terrain for all skill levels—from toddlers on strider bikes to seasoned riders landing flips

over massive 18-by-15-foot jumps.

But it's more than just a place to ride—it's become a true community hub where families, friends, and cycling enthusiasts come together to enjoy the outdoors, share skills, and cheer each other on.

The society is proud of its full progression model, offering a space where riders can grow their skills over time.

The season runs from May to October, dawn to dusk, and the society continues to welcome

new supporters.

They're particularly looking for more adults to help with park upkeep and organization. Anyone interested can follow their social media for updates on work parties or visit northsaanichfreeride.com for more info.

It's clear: the future of the park is being built, one jump—and one volunteer—at a time.



Project Updates

Official Community Plan (OCP)

Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their input this spring on the future of North Saanich. Following several months of engagement, Draft 1 of the OCP was released for public review in early April.

We hosted three additional engagement events to gather community feedback—two in-person presentations and one online webinar. That input helped shape Draft 2, which was presented to Council at the Committee of the Whole meeting on May 12.

An additional public presentation highlighting the key differences between Draft 1 and Draft 2 was held at Municipal Hall on May 14. First reading of the OCP bylaw was formally presented and adopted by Council at its May 26 Regular Meeting. A Public Hearing, Third, and Final reading of the OCP Bylaw is scheduled for the June 23 Regular Meeting.

For the most up-to-date information, please visit the OCP project page at connectnorthsaanich.ca/2024ocp

Parks Master Plan

Thank you to everyone who shared their ideas and feedback over the past year to help shape the future of parks and outdoor spaces in North Saanich. After several rounds of public engagement—including surveys, open houses, and pop-up events—the Parks Master Plan was finalized and presented to Council at the February 24, 2025 Regular Meeting, where it was unanimously adopted.

This long-term plan will help guide how we invest in and care for our parks, trails, and recreation amenities for years to come.

To read the full plan, visit northsaanich.ca/parks-recreation

Tatlow / Deep Cove Traffic Calming

Thank you to everyone who provided input on traffic safety concerns in the Tatlow, Birch, Wain, and Downey Road areas. Following extensive consultation and technical review, the final Traffic Safety Improvement Reports were published on Connect North Saanich in late April, outlining specific recommendations for each roadway.

Planned improvements include:

- Gateway signage to signal entry into a traffic-calmed neighbourhood
- Digital speed reader boards
- Raised crosswalks with pedestrian-activated flashers
- Widened gravel shoulders and narrowed driving lanes
- Speed limit reductions from 50 km/h to 40 km/h in select areas

These upgrades will improve safety for all road users. We will review feedback, revise the plan, and present to Council this summer.

To view the full list of planned changes, visit

connectnorthsaanich.ca/tatlow-deep-cove-traffic-calming

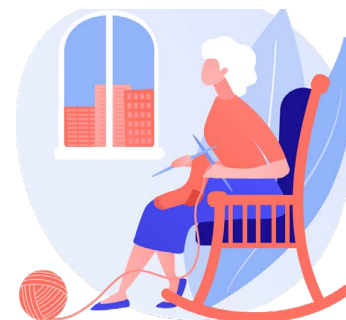


Loneliness and Isolation Survey

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Loneliness and Isolation Survey earlier this year. We received 108 responses, primarily from residents aged 55 and older.

While most respondents indicated they rarely feel isolated, many shared that they experience loneliness at least some of the time. The results also revealed strong community interest in exploring a future gathering space that could support social connection.

The survey findings were presented to the Healthy Community Living Advisory Committee on May 8 and to Council at the May 26 Regular Meeting.



Briarwood Beach Access - Road Improvements Coming Summer 2025

Thank you to everyone who has shared their concerns and feedback regarding access to Briarwood Beach. To address long-standing parking and safety issues, the widening of Glynnwood Park Road is scheduled for Summer 2025.

This upgrade will:

- Resolve parking conflicts along the road and near the beach access
- Ensure safe roadside parking during busy seasonal periods
- Improve emergency vehicle access, as endorsed by the Fire Department
- Enhance pedestrian and cyclist safety

The project was approved by Council on September 11, 2023, and is part of ongoing efforts to improve public access to key outdoor spaces.

For more details, visit connectnorthsaanich.ca/briarwood-beach

Wolf Orchard - Share Your Thoughts

In 2024, District staff worked closely with family members of the Wolf estate, the estate's executors, and representatives from Deep Cove Elementary to create a proposed concept for a new community park at the Wolf Orchard site. The concept was shared with the public in April 2025.



We're now seeking community feedback on the proposed plan. Input collected will help inform a 'What We Heard' report and a follow-up report for Council's consideration and final direction.

To learn more, visit connectnorthsaanich.ca/wolf-orchard-park

Thank you to Ellen Burris for this photo of Gerry Furstenau, taken in 2021.



What's Happening

Tech Workshop for Seniors June 21

Do you have a friend or relative who struggles with technology?

CARP is hosting a Beginners Technology Workshop for Seniors on June 21, 2025, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Doors open at 9 a.m. Technology tutor Gavin Koh is leading the workshop and speaking about computers and personal devices. Bring your questions and your own hand-held device (Apple or Android)!

This event is in-person at the SHOAL Centre. Tickets are \$10, purchased at the SHOAL Centre, 10030 Resthaven Crescent, Sidney, or call **250-656-5537**.



SHOAL Centre Activities

10030 Resthaven Dr | **250-656-5537** | shoalreception@beaconcs.ca

- July 8, **Birding on Vancouver Island**, 1:30 - 2:30pm (Free)
- July & August, **Burger Wednesdays**, \$14

Panorama Rec Activities

1885 Forest Park Dr. | **250-656-7271** | info@panoramarec.bc.ca

- June 21, **National Indigenous Peoples Day**, 12:30 - 4pm
- June 25, **Pride Night Roller Skate**, 7 - 8:30pm

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 at northsaanich.ca/employment to learn more about current vacancies, benefits, and how you can apply. Join us in shaping the future of our community!

CRD Updates

Invasive Species to Watch for in North Saanich

Harmful invasive plant species may be lurking in your yard. In the capital region, many invasive species grow and spread, causing harm to ecosystems, infrastructure and even human and animal health. In North Saanich, two species of high concern are Shiny Geranium and Poison Hemlock. It's important to check your yard for these plants and consider ways to manage them to reduce their impacts.

Poison Hemlock is fatal if ingested and can cause severe burns and blisters when touched. This is an important plant to ensure young children are aware of. Learn how to identify and manage this plant at crd.ca/media/file/poisonhemlockfactsheetv5

Shiny Geranium spreads extremely rapidly, strongly out competing other plants and forming monocultures. Learn how to identify and manage this plant at crd.ca/media/file/shinygeraniumweedalertmar2020

Visit crd.bc.ca/invasive for more information on invasive species in the capital region and for help with identifying and managing invasives.

North Saanich Farm Market is back!

The North Saanich Farm Market started up again on June 7, and runs every Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to noon, until October 11.

Enjoy seasonal produce, quality crafts, seafood, plants and flowers, baked goods, honey & preserves, local wine, and live entertainment!

You can find the market at St. John's United Church Gardens - 10990 West Saanich Road.



North Saanich Flavour Trails

This event is an annual favourite!

In partnership with Destination Greater Victoria, the North Saanich Flavour Trails Festival celebrates our local food and agriculture.

Follow the trail to take part in farm tours, tastings, workshops, and feature products available August 23 & 24.

Dominion Brook Park, North Saanich Farm Market, and YYJ Pollinator Garden are just a few of the Trail Partners featured this year!

Read about all of the North Saanich Trail Partners and explore the festival map at the link below:



flavourtrails.com/northsaanichflavourtrails



Reducing the Harms of Invasive Plants is Easy:

1. Learn to **Identify** invasive species in our region. You can learn more at: crd.bc.ca/invasive
2. **Report** invasives using the BC Government's Report Invasives app, or by contacting the CRD's Regional Invasive Species Program for help with identifying and managing invasives.
3. **Remove** invasive species from your yard using best practices to ensure your work is successful and doesn't cause further spread.
4. Ensure that you properly **Dispose** of any invasive species you remove. Invasives should never be composted, but should be taken to the Hartland landfill in bags, or a covered load.



Invasive Poison Hemlock

Reminders

Property Taxes due July 2, 2025

Notices have been mailed! If you have not received it, please email admin@northsaanich.ca or call **250-656-0781**.

Claiming your Homeowner Grant? Residents must apply every year directly with the Province. Call **1-888-355-2700** or go online at gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant. Avoid late fees and submit your application by July 2, 2025.

Deferring your taxes? Do so directly with the Province. Call **1-888-355-2700** or go online to gov.bc.ca/propertytaxdeferral by July 2, 2025. 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 deferral.

New! Starting Aug 1, 2025, all taxpayers signed up for the Property Tax Pre-Authorized Installment program will now have their payments withdrawn on the **1st of the month** instead of the 15th. This process change will allow the District of North Saanich to send out tax notices earlier each year which allows homeowners more time to pay for their property taxes.

Learn about all payment options and online banking on our website at northsaanich.ca/property-tax-payment-options

Sidney/North Saanich RCMP

BITCOIN SCAMS ALERT

Fraudsters are increasingly using Bitcoin ATMs to scam victims. Scammers impersonate government officials, banks, or police and pressure people to withdraw cash and deposit into a Bitcoin ATM.

How the Scam Works:

- Spoofed Call: You receive a call pretending to be CRA, ICBC, police, or a bank
- Urgent Threats: They claim you owe money or face arrest
- Cash Withdrawal: They instruct you to withdraw cash
- Bitcoin ATM Deposit: They send a QR code and coach you to deposit money into their Bitcoin wallet - stealing your funds!

Watch Out For these Red Flags:

- ▶ Pressure to act immediately
- ▶ Requests for payment through Bitcoin ATMs, e-transfers, or gift-cards
- ▶ Complex jargon or technical language

How to Stay Safe:

- Never share personal information
- Never make payments via Bitcoin ATMs
- Do your research and only use reputable cryptocurrency

If you are a victim of this scam, contact North Saanich RCMP at 250-656-3931. Report it to your bank/credit card company and call the Canadian Anti-Fraud centre (1-888-495-8501) to report it. And monitor your credit score through Equifax CA or Transunion CA.

RCMP Scam Alert Videos

In episode 5, released in May, the Crime Analyst for Sidney/North Saanich RCMP discusses the Grandparent Scam - a scheme where someone poses as a grandchild or other family member in distress, urgently requesting money for bail or other emergency expenses.

youtube.com/@SidneyNorthSaanichScamAlert

CRD Septic Bylaw Adoption

The District voted in favour of joining the CRD's onsite septic service in September, 2023 - for North Saanich residents, the bylaw took effect in 2025. If you own a septic system, you will notice a new line on your tax notice for \$18.05.

Upcoming Council Meetings

Regular Meeting of Council: June 23, July 14, Aug 18

Committee of the Whole (CoW) meetings: July 14, Aug 18

Council Recess: July 21 to Aug 15

Regular Council and CoW meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Hall, 1620 Mills Road, unless posted otherwise. Advanced registration to attend a meeting via Zoom is required. Please contact Corporate Services via email at corporateservices@northsaanich.ca or by phone at **250-656-0781** prior to noon on the day of the meeting. Subscribe to receive meeting notice updates at northsaanich.ca/council-meetings

Fire Department Updates

FireSmart: Protecting Communities

Wildfire risk is increasing on Vancouver Island, and the Greater Victoria Community FireSmart & Resiliency Collaborative has shared a video about **The Importance of FireSmart**. Watch the video online at youtube.com/@firesmartbc8241

Emergency Preparedness for Seniors

In April, the Fire Department collaborated with Beacon Community Services to bring a special presentation on Emergency Preparedness for Seniors. Turnout was great, with almost 40 registered attendees!



FireSmart BBQ at Canadian Tire

A community BBQ was held at Canadian Tire on May 10 to share information about FireSmart programs and assessments, and to look for volunteers for Emergency Support Services (ESS).

The event also raised \$600 for Canadian Tire's Jumpstart program, with Canadian Tire matching the contribution, for a total of \$1200!

Burning Season is Over

Burning season ended in early May, and will remain closed until November. In addition, Stage 1 Water Restrictions are now in effect from May 1 to September 30! Go to crd.ca/water to find your neighbourhood's watering schedule.



We Want to Hear From You!

We're looking for feedback on our quarterly Newsletters. Let us know what works, what doesn't, and if you have any comments or suggestions!

