

Connect North Saanich: Fall 2025

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

Message from Mayor & Council



As the leaves turn and the Peninsula is painted in shades of orange and gold, we're reminded of the rhythm of the seasons, and the busy rhythm of work here at the Municipal Hall. Council has been hard at work this summer and fall, and we're pleased to share some of the updates and decisions that will shape our community in the months ahead.

The most significant milestone came this summer on July 14, when Council adopted the Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1587

(2025). This achievement represents years of work, conversations, and engagement with residents, businesses, and community partners. The OCP will guide how North Saanich grows and evolves over the next decade, balancing the need for housing with the preservation of farmland, green spaces, and the character of our neighbourhoods. We're deeply grateful to everyone who participated in shaping this important vision.

Since then, Council has moved

forward on several other priorities. In September, we released our Year 1 Housing Targets Report. While the numbers are modest, foundational work in zoning, policy, and infrastructure has positioned us well to meet provincial targets over the next five years.

On the environmental and safety front, Council adopted the Fireworks Regulation Bylaw Amendment No. 1571 (2025). The bylaw creates buffer zones around sensitive ecosystems like Chalet Creek, Tsehum (Shoal) Harbour, Roberts Bay, and others, as well as around the Victoria International Airport flight paths. This ensures better protection for wildlife, the environment, and residents alike.

Infrastructure projects, such as Tatlow & Deep Cove traffic calming, have also advanced. Work will soon be completed on road widening and drainage improvements on Glynnwood Park Road. On Haro Park Terrace, we approved new sidewalks, reduced the speed limit to 30km/h, directed staff to install speed humps, and

committed to revising our Traffic Calming Policy to include special consideration for school zones. Council also approved the purchase of a new John Deere tractor and boom mower to support Public Works.

Looking to the future, we advanced the concept of a Food Hub, directing staff to prepare site layout options for both a 1,000 and 5,000 square foot facility, with results expected later this fall. We're also excited to be connecting with residents in new ways, including through the District's official Instagram account launched in May. Follow along for updates and highlights, and join us in person at the Noble Garden & Wain Park open house on November 13 and at the fourth and final Town Hall meeting on November 28.

As we move deeper into fall, we wish all residents a safe, enjoyable season, whether you're raking leaves, visiting local farms, or simply enjoying a cozy evening at home.

- Mayor and Council

REACH! Association Brings Joy, Inclusion to the Stage

The West Coast Reach Association is bringing the power of music and the arts to communities across the Saanich Peninsula. Founded as a registered charity, the organization focuses on fostering inclusion, connection, and empowerment through the performing arts — often by working with marginalized groups and individuals of all ages and abilities. Whether it's through full-scale musical productions or interactive workshops, REACH uses creative expression to help people build confidence, overcome isolation, and find joy.

Anne-Marie and Peter Brimacombe, longtime North Saanich residents who recently moved to Sidney, are at the heart of this work. For Anne-

Marie, her roots in performance go back to her childhood in Trinidad and Tobago. "From a very young age I grew up on stage with carnivals and performing," she recalls. That passion later inspired her to start the Reach Association in 2010 in Trinidad, before she and Peter brought the concept to the Saanich Peninsula in 2017.

REACH typically produces two major shows per year, showcasing performers who range in age from just 7 years old to 80. One of their flagship performing groups is comprised largely of members with diverse abilities — roughly half of whom live with significant physical or developmental disabilities. Despite those challenges, many

are seasoned performers, and the calibre of their shows continues to inspire audiences across Greater Victoria.

Beyond the spotlight, the association also runs hands-on programs that bring the arts directly to community spaces. One of those, the "Joy of Music" program, is held monthly in North Saanich and serves adults with developmental disabilities. "It's not just about performance," says Peter. "It's about connection, expression, and being seen." He adds, "Reach is about winning hearts, not awards — and it certainly does that."

Through its ongoing performances and outreach, West Coast Reach

has touched the lives of thousands. It's not just the participants who benefit — audiences, caregivers, and community members alike walk away moved and inspired. At its core, REACH is about creating community through creativity and reminding us that everyone deserves a chance to shine.

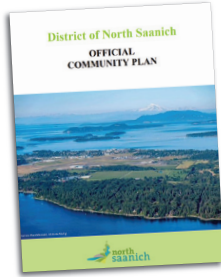
Residents can find out more about the organization at

www.westcoastreach.org



Project Updates

Official Community Plan (OCP)



The District is pleased to announce the adoption of its new OCP, which took place in July. We sincerely thank the community for its participation throughout the OCP review process - whether you were part of the first early conversations of 2021 or attended presentations earlier this year - your feedback helped shape this important document.

The OCP is a key policy document outlining the long-term vision of North Saanich. It sets objectives and policies that influence where homes are built, how neighbourhoods evolve, how natural areas are protected, how we get around, and how services are delivered in your community.

Read the Official Community Plan at northsaanich.ca/ocp

Zoning Bylaw

Following the adoption of the new OCP in July, the District is updating its Zoning Bylaw (regulates how land, buildings, and other structures may be used) to ensure it aligns with the new plan. The goal is to have the updated bylaw in place by the end of 2025.

Until then, the current Zoning Bylaw No. 1255 (2011) will remain in effect. More details will be shared as the review progresses - stay tuned.

connectnorthsaanich.ca/zoning-bylaw-update

Briarwood Beach Access - Road Improvements

As mentioned in our summer newsletter, the widening of Glynnwood Road, to address long-standing parking and safety issues, began in July. At this time, temporary parking is provided along Glenelg Avenue and Ardmore Drive. Paving was completed in September with final project touch-ups underway.

For more details, visit

connectnorthsaanich.ca/briarwood-beach



Tatlow / Deep Cove Traffic Calming

Council approved several traffic calming and safety measures earlier this year, based on consultant recommendations and resident feedback. Traffic safety equipment is currently being sourced, with installation and construction of the approved features scheduled to begin this fall and continue into next year.

Approved safety measures on Tatlow, Wain, Downy & Birch include:

- Reduce limit reductions
- Additional crosswalks
- Improved walking facilities
- Improved signage

For a complete list of approved improvements go to:

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

Wolf Orchard Park

Work on the Wolf Orchard site began earlier this summer with the removal of the old structure and preparation of the site for parking and better access.



Additional work to pave the parking area, as well as improve drainage and pedestrian safety on nearby Clayton Rd., will be completed this fall.

Stay up to date:

connectnorthsaanich.ca/wolf-orchard-park

Wain Park & Noble Garden

As part of the updated Parks Master Plan (adopted in February) the District has begun the process of developing park plans for both Wain Park and Noble Garden Park.

In addition to local resident engagement, the District will be hosting an open house on Nov. 13 to engage with North Saanich residents. Whether you use the parks on occasion, or you're a regular visitor, we'd like to hear from you!

More details to come:

connectnorthsaanich.ca/wainpark &
connectnorthsaanich.ca/noblegarden



In the Garden: Pheobe Noble and her daughter Sandra, 1998
(Photo from Penny Gibbs)

Haro Park Terrace Traffic Calming

The District engaged with residents of Haro Park Terrace earlier this year to discuss the installation of speed humps and an extended portion of sidewalk to increase safety along the road. The work was approved by Council at the June 23 Special Meeting of Council.

To be completed in early October:

- Sidewalk and yellow curb parking restricted area at the intersection of Haro Park Terrace and Forest Park Drive
- Speed humps on Haro Park Terrace
- Change the posted speed limit to 30 km/h.

Sunset Riding Club

The District of North Saanich has formally recognized the long history and contributions of the Sunset Riding Club in our community. In recognition of this legacy, a new sign has been installed at the Clayton trail head off of Tatlow Road.

Learn more about the club at

northsaanich.ca/sunset-riding-club



Resident Associations Engagement

The District of North Saanich is formalizing a process to collaborate more closely with resident associations and community groups. A staff report outlining this approach was presented to Council on September 29, and more information will be shared soon about how these partnerships will take shape.



What's Happening

Taking Action: Aging in Place

A four-part series for seniors, hosted by CARP Vancouver Island and Beacon Community Services.

Each workshop is in-person at the SHOAL Centre, Tuesdays in October, 9:30-11:30am:

- Oct 7 - Your Safety at Home
- Oct 14 - Your Personal Health
- Oct 21 - Your Financial Health
- Oct 28 - Accessing Healthcare

\$40 for all sessions. Pre-registration required - space is limited.

Purchase at the SHOAL Centre or call **250-656-5537**.



October is Canadian Library Month!

It's a great time to celebrate literacy and visit your local library to see how it's evolving to support your community today.

Borrow, download, or stream books, audiobooks, movies, music, newspapers, magazines and more from the Vancouver Island Regional Library.

North Saanich residents can scan this QR code (virl.bc.ca) to get a FREE library card online or simply drop by the Sidney / North Saanich Branch (10091 Resthaven Dr.).



If you haven't been to the library in awhile, check them out today!

CRD Updates



crd.ca/septic

What's Going Down Your Drain?

Your septic system is designed to handle human waste and toilet paper only. All other household products, detergents, chemicals and personal care products can negatively impact the system or pollute the environment.

Don't Flush These:

- × Feminine Hygiene Products
- × Cotton Swabs
- × Diapers
- × Wipes
- × Floss



- × Butter
- × Mayo
- × Salad Dressing
- × Bacon Grease
- × Cooking Oil



- × Paint
- × Solvents
- × Chemicals



Do Not Disturb the Drainfield - The drainfield is a sensitive part of the system that uses the soil to "treat" wastewater. Protect it by leaving it undisturbed and preventing compaction and saturation. Keep vehicles, heavy equipment, and tree and shrub roots away, and avoid over watering or saturation.

Practice Water Conservation - Septic systems work by allowing solids to settle in the tank so that a clarified wastewater is passed into the drainfield. Too much water use will impact this process. Older systems were designed for much less water use so this is especially important if your system is older, like many in the CRD.

If you own a septic system, you are a wastewater treatment system operator! All septic systems need ongoing care, proper operation and maintenance. By protecting your system you also protect the environment and water quality.

Learn more at: crd.ca/septic

Welcome to Dianna, our new Director of Corporate Services!

We want to extend a warm welcome to our new Director of Corporate Services, Dianna. She brings a wealth of experience in local government, having served as Chief Administrative Officer for the Town of Smithers and most recently as Director of Corporate Services for the District of Oak Bay.

Her strong leadership, in-depth knowledge of corporate services and municipal operations, and dedication to public service make her a tremendous addition to our team in Corporate Services.

ArtSea Fall Studio Tour in October

On October 4th and 5th, artists across the Peninsula will open their studio doors to the public!

The ArtSea Studio Tour is a long-standing local favourite (more than 30yrs!) making it one of Vancouver Island's longest-running self-guided studio tours.

Enjoy this fun opportunity to view recent works of art, watch artist demonstrations, and learn about what inspired these unique creations.

Pick up a Tour Brochure at Municipal Hall, or download and print it at home: artsea.ca/artsea-studio-tour

Town Hall Events

Members of Council held a third Town Hall meet-and-great with North Saanich residents on Sept. 18th. If you weren't able to make it this time, we will be hosting a fourth and final event on Nov. 28th at McTavish Academy of Art.

Keep Catch Basins Clear: Protect Your Property and Our Waterways



Catch basins play a critical role in storm water management, collecting and filtering out pollutants before they enter local waterways.

Residents and business owners on the Saanich Peninsula must follow the Saanich Peninsula Stormwater Bylaw No. 4168.

To find out more about your requirements under this bylaw go to crd.ca/bylaw4168

Biodiversity Celebration on Oct 18

Are you interested in biodiversity and learning more about what's going on in the capital region to protect it? Join us on Saturday, October 18th, from 1pm - 4pm, for a fun afternoon of walks, talks and a showcase of biodiversity projects from around greater Victoria.

For more information go to royalroads.ca/events



Woolly Sunflower

Reminders

Municipal Hall Closed for Thanksgiving

Municipal Hall and the Fire Department admin office will be closed on Oct. 13 for Thanksgiving.

Deadline: Grants in Aid 2026

Annually, the District of North Saanich provides grants in support of non-profit organizations and charities through the Grants in Aid Program.

New applications for 2026 must be submitted before the last business day in December, and current applicants must submit their Usage of Funds forms by Dec. 31 of the grant year.

Find the application on our website:
northsaanich.ca/services/grants-in-aid

Outstanding Utilities & Property Taxes

Any unpaid 2025 property taxes, including unclaimed Homeowner Grants as of October 1st, 2025, will have been subject to an additional penalty of 5%. As a reminder any outstanding utility bills as of December 31st, will be transferred to your property tax account on January 1, 2026 and will then be subject to arrears interest until paid.

northsaanich.ca/services/property-taxes

Sidney/North Saanich RCMP

ICBC TEXT SCAM ALERT

Earlier this month, the Sidney/North Saanich RCMP received multiple reports of a text message scam about unpaid traffic fines, where the sender appears to be from ICBC.

How the Scam Works:

- Spoofed Text: You receive a message pretending to be ICBC
- Urgent Threats: They claim you have unpaid traffic tickets that must be paid immediately
- Unverified links: They ask you to click on a suspicious URL

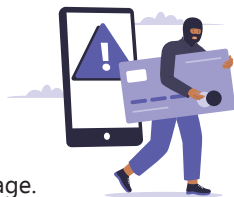
Watch Out For these Red Flags:

- ▶ Pressure to act immediately
- ▶ Suspicious URLs
- ▶ Complex jargon or technical language

How to Stay Safe:

- ICBC will never text you a payment link
- Don't click. Don't reply. Delete the message.

If in doubt, contact ICBC directly.



RCMP Scam Alert Videos

Informative videos detailing common scams and frauds:



youtube.com/@SidneyNorthSaanichScamAlert

Upcoming Council Meetings

Regular Meeting of Council: Oct. 6, Oct. 27, Nov. 3, Nov. 17

Committee of the Whole (CoW) meetings: Oct. 20

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 12p.m. on the day of the meeting.

Subscribe to receive agendas as soon as they're published!
northsaanich.ca/council-meetings

Fire Department Updates

Provincial Fire Ban Lifted Sept. 25

The Provincial campfire ban was lifted at noon on September 25. Campfires are now permitted again in North Saanich.

Please remember that backyard and agricultural burns are still not allowed.

While recent weather has reduced fire danger, caution is still urged.

Find further updates at northsaanich.ca/outdoor-burning



Fire Training at Denham Till Park

A special training day took place in June for North Saanich Firefighters to practice pumping water from the Tender (can carry 2,000 gallons of water!) to a remote location not easily accessible by vehicle.

In case of a wild land fire, our Firefighters will be equipped to respond quickly and accurately.

Burning Season Opens in November

Burning season is anticipated to open in November, with permits available from the North Saanich Fire Hall.

A burning permit is required - payable by cash, cheque, or debit:

- \$25 covers outdoor fire appliances and fires up to 3'x3'x3'
- \$35 covers fires up to 10'x10'x10'

Call to inquire: 250-656-1931 (during regular work hours), or email firedept@northsaanich.ca

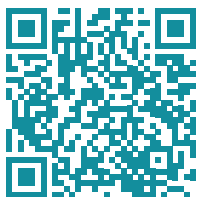
Updates will be posted to northsaanich.ca/outdoor-burning

Upcoming Events

- Oct 4, **Touch a Truck Event** at Firehouse Subs
- Oct 25, **Sponsored Green Waste Drop-off Event**
- Oct 31, **Annual Halloween Bonfire & Fireworks** at the Wain Road Fire Hall



250-656-1931 | [f @northsaanichfiredept](https://www.facebook.com/northsaanichfiredept) | [@northsaanichfire](https://www.instagram.com/northsaanichfire)



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!