

Connect North Saanich: Fall 2026

Municipal Hall: 1620 Mills Road, North Saanich, BC V8L 5S9 | northsaanich.ca | 250-656-0781

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

Message from Mayor & Council



Back: Jack McClintock, Celia Stock, Kristine Marshall, Phil DiBattista
Front: Sanjiv Shrivastava, Mayor Peter Jones, Irene McConkey

As this Council term draws to a close, we want to take this opportunity to say something very simple: thank you.

Over the past four years, North Saanich residents have shown again and again how deeply they care about this community. You attended Council meetings and town halls, came to open houses, completed surveys, wrote letters and emails, joined

committees and working groups, and shared your ideas with us.

Sometimes you agreed with the direction being taken, and sometimes you challenged us to look at things differently. That engagement matters. Local government works best when residents are informed, involved and willing to participate, and we are grateful for the

passion and dedication you have brought to North Saanich throughout this term.

Together, our community reached several important milestones. One of the most significant was the adoption of a new Official Community Plan in July 2025, establishing a long-term vision for housing, land use, transportation, parks, the environment and municipal services.

Council also adopted a new Parks Master Plan, advanced work on traffic safety, active transportation and infrastructure, supported the redesign of our municipal website, and continued investing in fire and emergency services. Projects such as improvements at Jubilee Park and ongoing work on roads, drainage and community facilities are helping shape North Saanich for the years ahead.

Work also continued to support agriculture and food security, including the development

of the Harvest Hub, while the District's Citizen Engagement Strategy created a stronger framework for how residents can participate in decisions that affect their community.

Not every issue was simple, and not every resident - or every member of Council - agreed on every decision. What has consistently stood out, however, is how much people care about North Saanich and about protecting and improving the quality of life we enjoy here.

As one Council term ends and another begins, we encourage residents to remain involved and to participate in the upcoming General Local Election. Advance voting takes place October 7 and 14, with General Voting Day on Saturday, October 17.

It has been an honour to serve the residents of North Saanich. Thank you for your engagement, your ideas and your passion for this community.

- Mayor and Council

North Saanich Elections: Through the Years

On Saturday, October 17, North Saanich voters will elect one Mayor and six Councillors for the 2026-2030 term. Two School Trustees have been elected by acclamation.

The modern District of North Saanich was established in 1965 following a favorable public vote, with the first municipal election held December 11, 1965. James B. Cumming was elected Reeve, the title then used for Mayor, without opposition. Six Councillors were elected with staggered one- and two-year terms.

For many years, local elections were much more frequent.

Before B.C. moved to concurrent three-year terms beginning in 1990, councillors were generally elected annually and mayors every two years. The province moved to four-year local government terms beginning in 2014. Based on those election cycles, 2026 is North Saanich's 36th regular municipal election since 1965.

Did you know? At the first election, voters also considered three referendum questions. They approved library service and a levy for future park sites, while a proposal related to hospital financing was defeated. Explore more of this history

at Municipal Hall. Portraits of past Councils are displayed throughout the building, and our "North Saanich Elections: Through the Years" display in the foyer features historic election materials, including early voters' lists, Council records and photographs.

Eligible electors are encouraged to make a plan to vote. Advance voting takes place October 7 and 14, and General Voting Day is October 17. Voting is

open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Municipal Hall.

Learn more on the District's Election 2026 page:

northsaanich.ca/elections



Project Updates

Nymph Point Park Restoration Complete

Restoration work at Nymph Point Park is now complete. The collaborative project used nature-based solutions to address shoreline erosion, sediment loss and habitat degradation along Tsehum Harbour while recognizing the cultural sensitivity of the site.

Work included improving and formalizing pedestrian beach access, decommissioning informal trails, restoring native vegetation and installing natural erosion-control measures such as wattles, live staking, check logs and coir matting. The project was led by Peninsula Streams & Shorelines with support from Tseycum First Nation, the District of North Saanich, Project Watershed and other partners. The restored shoreline also provides important habitat for migratory birds and forage fish, including surf smelt.

View photos of the work completed:

peninsulastreams.ca/our-work/restoration-projects/nymph-point-park/



Dominion Brook Park Recognized for its Heritage

Dominion Brook Park has been added to BC Register of Historic Places, recognizing more than a century of horticultural, historic and community significance. Council directed staff to add the park to the register in February.

The park traces its roots to the Dominion Experimental Farm, established in 1912. A public demonstration arboretum and ornamental garden followed in 1913 and many of the original plantings remain today. Its rhododendron gardens, cobblestone paths and bridges, ponds and sunken garden have made the park a distinctive local landmark. Community stewardship has also played an important role, particularly through the Friends of Dominion Park Society, established in 2000.

Wain Park Update

Phase 1 improvements are taking shape in the northeast quadrant of Wain Park. Work this fall includes grading and levelling around the new picnic shelter, installing picnic tables, paving the parking lot, planting trees and installing irrigation, and constructing new park trails.



Work is expected to continue into October. During construction, the Birch Road parking lot remains partially closed, while the Wain Road parking lot continues to be available to park users. The improvements are part of the District's ongoing work to enhance the park's gathering spaces and amenities.

Keep an eye on the project page for event details and updates:

www.connectnorthsaanich.ca/wain-park

Harvest Hub

Construction of the Harvest Hub at Sandown continues to move ahead on schedule and within budget, with completion by year's end. Interior finishes are complete, exterior cladding and roofing are underway, and installation of the septic field recently completed. The facility will also include solar panels, funded through the Local Government Climate Action Grant, to help reduce ongoing electricity use.



Work is also progressing on plans for operating the new facility. Following a public Request for Proposals, the District received a submission from the Victoria Community Food Hub Society, a registered charity that operates the South Island Farm Hub and supports local food aggregation, processing and distribution. At the September 28 Regular Meeting, Council approved the proponent in principle and approved staff's recommendation to begin preparations for a public opening of the Harvest Hub.

Once operational, the 1,720-square-foot facility will provide a municipal farm hub service with priority access for North Saanich agricultural producers, helping strengthen local food production and connect farmers with shared infrastructure and new market opportunities.

Zoning Bylaw Update: Next Steps

At its September 28 Regular Meeting, Council received an updated draft of Zoning Bylaw No. 1606 (2026), including proposed changes and updated zoning maps.

Council also directed staff to develop a public engagement program to provide residents with further opportunities to review the proposed bylaw and share their feedback. This will include public open houses, updates through Connect North Saanich and additional communications to keep the community informed.

Learn more and follow the project:

www.connectnorthsaanich.ca/zoning-bylaw-update

Blaauw Pier Remediation

Maintenance and remediation work is completed on the historic Blaauw Pier in Deep Cove. A recent structural assessment identified repairs needed to help preserve the approximately 100-year-old pier and ensure it remains safe for public use.

The pier was temporarily closed during construction, with fencing and signage in place around the work area. The project addressed the identified structural concerns while helping protect this longstanding piece of North Saanich's waterfront history.

Welcome to our New Website

The District launched its new municipal website on September 3, marking the completion of a major overhaul designed to make municipal information easier to find and the site easier to navigate on phones, tablets and computers.

Accessibility was also built directly into the new site. It was designed to meet Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.2 Level AA, with features including appropriate colour contrast and text sizing, keyboard navigation, accessible images and links, clear heading structures and compatibility with assistive technologies. A built-in accessibility checker will also help staff maintain accessible content as pages are updated.

Residents are encouraged to explore the site and let us know if they have feedback or have difficulty finding information.

What's Happening

2026 Municipal Election - October 17

Make a plan to vote! Advance voting takes place Wednesday, October 7 and Wednesday, October 14, with General Voting Day on Saturday, October 17. Polls are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Municipal Hall, 1620 Mills Road on all three days. Visit the District's Election 2026 page for voter information.



northsaanich.ca/elections



October is Canadian Library Month

Celebrate Canadian Library Month this October! The 2026 theme is "Loud for Libraries." The Sidney/North Saanich Library has plenty happening throughout the month, including storytimes, family activities, book discussions, a fall scavenger hunt, a new Mending Circle, Scrabble and writers' groups.



virl.bc.ca/branches/sidney-north-saanich

98th British Columbia Youth Parliament

North Saanich youth ages 16 to 21 are invited to apply for the 98th BC Youth Parliament, taking place December 27 to 31, 2026, at the Legislative Chambers in Victoria. This non-partisan leadership program helps participants develop citizenship and leadership skills while learning about parliamentary processes.



Council will cover registration fees for up to two accepted North Saanich participants.

Applications close October 30. Apply at bcyp.org/applying

Noble Garden Workshops

Join the Noble Garden for two unique community events this season. On November 14, learn how to create traditional mullein candles and torches at a hands-on Mullein Torch Workshop. Then, on December 20, celebrate the Winter Solstice with a traditional Wassailing of the Orchard, featuring Morris Dancers, live music from the Island B'ys, orchard blessings, and Noble Orchard apple-pear juice.

Registration is required. Email: thenoblegarden1@gmail.com

CRD Updates

Avoid the "Septic Scaries": Give Your Septic System Some Attention

Septic systems are easy to overlook. They're underground, out of sight and, when working properly, quietly treating and disposing of household wastewater. But aging or poorly maintained systems can lead to backups, leaks, environmental contamination and potentially costly repairs.

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is reminding homeowners that regular care can go a long way toward keeping septic systems healthy. Common causes of septic problems include infrequent pumping and maintenance, excessive water use, flushing inappropriate materials such as wipes and grease, and aging tanks, pipes and drain fields.

Homeowners should also watch for warning signs, including slow drains, gurgling plumbing, sewage odours, standing water near the drain field or unusually bright green grass over septic components. Catching problems early can help prevent minor issues from

New Soil Removal and Deposit Bylaw

North Saanich has updated its Soil Removal and Fill Deposit Bylaw, with new exemptions, permit requirements, performance standards, fees and other requirements for soil removal and deposit activities.

Before starting your project, find out what applies to your property.

Learn more and find the new bylaw and accompanying schedules, FAQs, and permit application form:

www.northsaanich.ca/soil-removal-deposit

Green Shores Workshop



The Stewardship Centre for BC, in partnership with the District of North Saanich, is pleased to offer a free Green Shores Level 1 training workshop.

- Saturday, November 14, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Learn how nature-based solutions can improve shoreline stability, habitat and biodiversity while supporting climate resilience.

Free registration:

www.greenshores.ca/green-shores-training-northsaanich-nov14

CARP Vancouver Island, guest speaker: Dr. Sophia Johannessen, Research Scientist

CARP Vancouver Island invites residents to its next meeting on November 4, 2026. The guest speaker is Dr. Sophia Johannessen, Research Scientist for the Institute of Ocean Sciences and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. She will be speaking on the 2025 Canadian Antarctic Research Expedition. Admission is free.

Location: SHOAL Centre, 10030 Resthaven Drive, Sidney

Doors open: 1:30 p.m., **Program:** 2-3 p.m.

Zoom available at: carp_vi_november4.eventbrite.ca



becoming major repairs.

Routine inspections and pumping, conserving water, keeping vehicles off drain fields and maintaining good septic records can all help extend the life of a system and reduce the risk of costly surprises.

Want to become more septic savvy? Read the CRD's full article to learn more about caring for your septic system and avoiding the "Septic Scaries."

Read the full article: www.crd.ca/news/septic-scaries-why-aging-septic-systems-deserve-more-attention



Reminders

Respectful participation at Council Meetings

As a new Council term begins, the District is reminding residents that Council meetings are an important forum for community participation, debate and disagreement, but participation must allow municipal business to proceed in a respectful and orderly manner.

Residents are encouraged to attend meetings, ask questions, share their views and respectfully challenge Council decisions. However, intimidation, personal attacks, yelling, offensive gestures and other disruptive conduct are not acceptable.

The District's Council Procedure Bylaw sets expectations for respectful participation and provides tools for maintaining order during meetings. The vast majority of residents participate constructively, and the District appreciates that involvement. As the new term gets underway, we encourage everyone taking part in Council meetings to help support a respectful, inclusive and productive environment for Council, staff and the public.

Outstanding Utilities & Property Taxes

Do you still have a balance owing? Residents can check their property tax and utility account balances through the District's Online Services portal. If you are eligible for the Provincial Home Owner Grant, remember that it must be claimed each year. Any utility balance remaining unpaid after December 31 is transferred to the property's tax account and will begin accruing daily interest.



northsaanich.ca/property-tax-payment-options

Utility Payment Timeline Changes

The District has amended its water and sewer rate bylaws. Water and sewer bills are now due 45 days from the billing date, with a 10 per cent penalty added to balances not paid by the due date. Residents are encouraged to check the due date printed on each utility bill and allow sufficient processing time when making payments.

Sidney/North Saanich RCMP

Beware of Phone Delivery Scams

In recent weeks, several local residents have fallen victim to a new phone delivery scam, with total losses reported to police exceeding \$33,000.

The scam begins when a fraudster calls claiming to represent a telecommunications provider and offers a free upgrade or a great deal on a new phone. To receive the phone, the victim is asked to provide personal information, believing they are updating or setting up an account.

The device, or in some cases multiple devices, is then shipped to the victim's address. The fraudster contacts the victim again, claiming there has been a shipping error, and asks them to return the device using a prepaid shipping label or QR code provided by the fraudster.

However, the label redirects the device to the fraudster rather than the telecommunications provider. The victim is then left responsible for payments on a phone they no longer have.

Residents are encouraged to be cautious of unsolicited calls offering phone upgrades or deals and to contact their telecommunications provider directly using a verified phone number if they are unsure whether an offer is legitimate.

Upcoming Council Meeting Schedule

Inaugural Meeting: Nov. 2

Regular Meeting of Council: Nov. 16, Dec. 7, Dec. 14

Board of Variance: Nov. 19, Dec. 17

Regular Council and CoW meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at Municipal Hall (1620 Mills Road) unless posted otherwise.

To attend a meeting via Zoom, please register in advance by contacting Corporate Services via email at corporateservices@northsaanich.ca or by phone at **250-656-0781**, by 12:00 p.m. the day of the meeting.

Stay informed about upcoming meetings, agendas and notices by subscribing for updates at northsaanich.ca/council-meetings

Municipal Hall Holiday Closure

Municipal Hall and the Fire Department Admin Office will be closed for the holidays from 2 p.m. December 24, 2026, to 8:00 a.m. January 4, 2027.

The McTavish Firehall will be staffed to ensure quick responses to all emergency calls.

24-Hour Street Parking Limit

A reminder about parking on District roads: vehicles cannot be left parked on a road, or within the same block on either side of the road, for more than 24 continuous hours. If you need to leave a vehicle for a longer period, please make arrangements to park it on private property or another appropriate location.

2027 Grants in Aid

Does your organization provide a direct benefit to North Saanich residents? The District's Grants in Aid program provides annual funding support to eligible non-profit organizations and charities serving the community.

Applications for 2027 funding must be submitted no later than December 31, 2026. Organizations interested in applying can find the Grant in Aid Policy and application form on the District website:

www.northsaanich.ca/grants-in-aid

Fire Department Updates

Outdoor Burning Schedule

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 or email: firedept@northsaanich.ca

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

Upcoming Events

- Oct. 31, **Annual Halloween Bonfire & Fireworks** at the Wain Rd. Fire Hall
- Dec. 12, **Peninsula Firefighters Christmas Food Drive**

Share your
feedback

