

## **Mayor Fred Haynes Inaugural Speech**

Thank you!

I'm honored to introduce your new Council of eight exceptional, independent members. I am privileged to work with them as your Mayor. Shortly you will hear directly from them in person. But, first some recognitions.

Let's start this four-year term by thanking residents for their trust in us. By our ranges in age, experience and varied view-points to resolving the issues of today and tomorrow, I believe this is the most remarkably diverse Council in the history of Saanich.

Thank you to all the candidates who stepped-up to offer their services. It was no easy task. You are each to be congratulated. Similarly, we thank the families and supporters who assisted you through the hurly burly of your election experiences.

On that note, a massive thank you to Cathy, my wonderful wife, and my three remarkable sons. I am also so grateful to the incredible, dedicated and talented members of my campaign team. You are each so amazing to me. My words of thanks can never do you justice.

We also appreciate the work of our staff who conducted the election. The higher voter turnout and success of mobile and advance polls are testimony to your work.

As we embark upon this new term, I would like to recognize the departing members. Past Mayor Richard Atwell, past Councillors Leif Wergerland, Dean Murdock and Vicki Sanders – whose contributions have been profound. Thank you for your service to community. Every success in your next endeavours.

In our inauguration we are grateful for several blessings. Our sincere thanks go to Christine Sam of the Songhees Nation, Reverend Shana Lynngood, and Pastor Gary Bennett. Their blessings connect us to the history of First Nations on this land and the spiritual diversity of our people. Thank you.

As we witness the recent horror in Pittsburgh, the importance of standing together in mutual regard for our diversity, and the role of elected officials cannot be underestimated.

Today floral pieces were presented to Council by Jefferson and Victoria, aged 8 and 5. Their hope and vulnerability emphasizes our joint responsibility to ensure Saanich continues to provide a safe welcoming place to live, work, play and prosper together. In short, a bright future for all generations.

Flowers and greenery symbolize the unique rural urban mix of Saanich. They underline the key importance of nature for our physical, spiritual and mental wellness. They link us to the key issues of retaining green space while providing more housing. These were

two top concerns heard in the campaign.

Others included transport, economic development, protecting the urban containment boundary, respecting the agricultural land reserve, revitalizing agriculture, support for young families, improving recreational amenities, cost effective services and the citizens assembly to examine amalgamating Saanich with Victoria.

The inauguration procession was accompanied by military bag pipes, with honour guards from the Saanich Police and Fire Departments, the 11th Field Ambulance Reserve Unit and the Canadian Armed Forces. This pageantry was not to celebrate the individuals you elected. It was done because democracy is a big deal. Lest we forget, democracy came at great costs to men and women world-wide. It should be celebrated and never taken for granted.

Post-election, many congratulations for council have been received. Let me tell you some. Communications arrived from the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of British Columbia; local MPs Elizabeth May, Randall Garrison, Murray Rankin; and local MLAs Andrew Weaver, Lana Popham and Rob Fleming. Congratulations also arrived from many of the newly elected Mayors and Councillors of the Capital Region.

Most importantly, each was interested in how we can work collaboratively together as governments for the best interests of Saanich and beyond. These messages are encouraging. Saanich has national attention. No pressure team!

As Mayor, I look forward to working with this inspiring group of Councillors. We have much work cut out to do on the big issues of the today and tomorrow. I now invite each councillor to introduce themselves and share a few ideas.

Council, over to you.

Mayor Haynes