

Councillor's Neighborhood Report:
May 25th, 2014 - Volume #60

Councillor Chris Coleman, Council Liaison to James Bay
(But, by request, also distributing to the folks in
all other neighborhoods in the City of Victoria...
.....and beyond!)

Upcoming days of celebration important to our multicultural country, include:

Swiftsure Races (Memorial Day Weekend in the USA).....	May 24, 25 & 26
Ascension Day.....	May 29 th
Shavuot.....	June 4 th
Father's Day.....	June 15 th
Summer officially begins	June 21 st
St Jean Baptiste (Quebec National Holiday).....	June 24 th
First of Ramadan.....	June 29 th
Canada Day (sing loud in English....et en francais aussi!)	July 1 st

Please celebrate with one & all.

Items include:

- Kudos to Staff:
 - Victoria Announces New Fire Chief
 - Victoria Day Parade
 - Public Works Day
- More Ways to Connect With Your City
 - New City Blog
 - Try out City's New Heritage Walking Tour Map App
- Bike to Work Week: May 26 – May 30
- Assembly Underway for Victoria's Trademark Hanging Baskets
- Victoria Celebrates CANADA DAY – a Family-Friendly, Multicultural Celebration
- Celebrate Summer Downtown with CITYVibe- The City's Annual Guide to Festivals & Outdoor Events
- Update on View Towers at 1147 Quadra
- Summer Sports in Our Region
- Victoria, BC's first annual Aboriginal Cultural Festival
- Help Keep Roadside Workers Safe in BC
- Recent Activity at Your Victoria Conference Centre

Kudos to Staff!

City of Victoria Announces New Fire Chief

The City of Victoria announced **Paul Bruce** as Victoria's new Fire Chief, the 33rd fire chief in the department's history. Bruce has led the department as Acting Chief since last summer and replaces Chief Jeff Lambert who recently retired after an extended medical leave.

Bruce has been one of two Deputy Fire Chiefs in the department since 2006 and has progressively advanced through the ranks since joining the Victoria Fire Department in 1993. Prior to entering the fire service in 1988, he served with the Canadian Navy as a marine engineer.

A resident of Victoria since 1978, Bruce has post-secondary training in labour relations through Queen's University and has achieved Chief Fire Officer designation from the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs.

Founded in 1858, the Victoria Fire Department is the oldest department west of Toronto and north of San Francisco, and is well-respected for its dedication to the protection of the lives and property for the citizens of Victoria. The recent survey of Victoria citizens resulted in a 98% satisfaction rating with Victoria Fire Department services.

Victoria Day Parade

Thank you for the hard work by the Public Works and Parks teams in preparation for the Victoria Day parade. The route was clean and tidy and made a great impression for all those visiting our city for the parade or watching it on TV! A special shout out to the street cleaning team and to all City staff that contributed to this excellent event.

Public Works Day



Another big shout out to all of the City of Victoria staff and retirees that contributed to the success of Public Works Day this week. Over 700 students from 28 schools enjoyed learning about the work that City staff do, often behind the scenes, to keep our streets clean and illuminated, to collect kitchen scraps and garbage, to supply clean water to our residents and businesses, and to keep our toilets flushing, among many other important services. Thank you!

More Ways to Connect With Your City:

New City Blog

We have just launched our new City Blog on the website at www.victoria.ca/blog, to share information that is interesting and value-added for citizens. This week's post is called "Pop up Open House. By Bike." and talks about how we took the question 'What would get you out of your car and onto your bike?' to heart with our Time to Ride open houses.

We'll be using *City Blog* to talk about some of the great stories and tips from the City that we don't always get a chance to share. If you have an idea for an engaging post, know a terrific customer service story, or want to share innovations happening in your area, please email communications@victoria.ca. We are aiming to post at least once a week to *City Blog*, and will need great content to keep it going. Thank you!

Try out the City's New Heritage Walking Tour Map App

Looking for fun, outdoor activities this summer? Check out the new Heritage Walking Tour “app” with four downtown tours to choose from:

Haunted Victoria,
Law and Order,
Mysterious Chinatown and
Rollicking Boomtown.

It's a new way to experience downtown, and learn about our unique heritage along the way. This mobile service was created by GIS staff as part of the VicMap “Map a Month” feature, and uses the content from the hugely popular map brochures created by the City with support from the DVBA. These brochures are also available in print at the Public Service Centre, and Tourism Victoria's Visitor Info Centre. [View the “app”](#) here.

Bike to Work Week: May 26 -May 30

Next week is Bike to Work Week! If you haven't already been biking to work in this beautiful weather, now is the time to dust off your bike and cruise to work.

If you're interested in learning more about biking routes in Victoria, want to learn about the biking infrastructure we already have in place and what's in the works for the next few years visit: www.victoria.ca/cycling. You can also complete the “Time to Ride” Bicycle Master Plan Update survey here until May 31.

Assembly Underway of Victoria's Trademark Hanging Baskets

City Parks staff are assembling 100 hanging baskets a day in preparation for hanging on downtown lampposts starting Monday, June 9. Approximately 1,350 hanging baskets will be made this year using a variety of flowering plants grown at the Beacon Hill Park Nursery.

Over the past four years, City Parks staff have piloted a number of sun basket plants to determine which can best withstand warmer temperatures and bloom into October. New plants that have been introduced include Gaura 'Ballerina Series', Geranium Calliope 'Scarlet Fire', Petunias 'White Carpet and Rose Carpet, Dichondra 'Silver Falls', Lobelia Fountain Blue and Sapphire, and Tagetes Orange and Lemon Gem.

Due to a fungal disease called Downy Mildew that struck Impatiens in the United Kingdom in 2003 and in North America more recently, this year's shade baskets will instead feature Firecracker Tuberous Begonias, with Rhodochiton or Lysimachia 'Goldii' as trailing plants.

Nine different varieties of plants are used in Victoria's sun baskets, with a total of 25 plants featured in each. Once the baskets are made, they remain in the greenhouses for one week before being moved outside. When fully grown, the baskets can weigh over 20 kilograms (approximately 45 pounds).

Victoria's hanging flower baskets are a trademark recognized around the world and were introduced in 1937 to celebrate the City of Victoria's 75th year of incorporation. To learn how to make your own Victoria hanging basket, visit www.victoria.ca/hangingbaskets

Victoria Celebrates CANADA DAY- a Family-Friendly, Multicultural Celebration

To celebrate Canada's 147th birthday, the City of Victoria is pleased to announce an impressive line-up of family-friendly events, multicultural programming, and spectacular fireworks on Tuesday, July 1, 2014 along Victoria's Inner Harbour.

The Canada Day Kid's Zone will return to Belleville Street with plenty of interactive activities for the whole family. JUNO Award winning children's entertainer Charlotte Diamond will take centre stage Tuesday afternoon,

promising a performance that will get kids dancing. The ever-popular Living Flag will return to the Legislature Lawns and 1,500 red and white T-shirts will be available to participants courtesy of Coast Capital Savings.

The City of Victoria is pleased to welcome back Coast Capital Savings as the Presenting Sponsor of *Victoria Celebrates Canada Day*. The celebration's ever-expanding youth programming has been made possible by the generous support of the credit union over the past six years.

"We have a commitment at Coast Capital Savings to help build a richer future for youth in our communities and we believe one of the most precious legacies we can pass on to young Canadians is an appreciation of our rich cultural diversity, our proud history and our heritage," said Maureen Young, Manager, Community Partnerships. "We see Canada Day as a perfect opportunity to show our Canadian colours and, through the fabulous family events and cultural festivities taking place, to engage our youth in celebrating all things Canadian."

Main Stage highlights on July 1 will transform the Legislature Lawns into a one-of-a-kind concert. Headlining this year will be Victoria-based, three-piece folk rock and reggae band, Jon and Roy, performing their highly anticipated new album, *By My Side*.

A strong mix of local and cultural acts will be showcased on the Main Stage, including Victoria's joyful indie newcomers, Towers and Trees, and Kikeyambay, a BC-based musical that combines musicians and dancers as a modern and dynamic Afro-fusion electric band.

Montreal-based Oothèque, the solo project of Malajube drummer, Francis Mineau, will take the stage to play from his highly anticipated first album. Oothèque was nominated for SiriusXM Emerging Artist of the Year (French) at the 2014 SiriusXM Indies. As part of an ongoing commitment by the City of Victoria to bring bilingual artists to the celebrations, the City acknowledges the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Canada-British Columbia Cooperation Agreement on Official Languages and Quebec-British Columbia Agreement for Cooperation and Exchange.

Throughout the day, the Main Stage will feature a variety of Victoria artists and multicultural performers, including Masala, Compaigni V'ni Dansi's 'Louis Riel Métis Dancers', Cookeilidh and the Sunshine Fitness Club.

A Flavour of Canada will return with an international food village and sponsor activity tents on Belleville Street, while Ship Point will play host to expanded family-oriented performances on the Ska Fest Stage. To celebrate Ska Fest's 15th anniversary, the City of Victoria and the Ska Society have partnered to develop a diverse program of reggae, ska and world beat music for the whole family to enjoy. *Victoria Celebrates Canada Day* entertainment at Ship Point will

feature Dope Soda as the headliner, with Brave New Waves, the New Groovement, Leg up Program and Whitey keeping the mood light throughout the day.

“We are excited to be offering an expanded range of family-friendly activities and multicultural performances this year,” said Charlayne Thornton-Joe, City of Victoria Councillor and Canada Day Organizer. “We invite the community to come downtown to join us in celebrating the multicultural diversity that makes up Canada.”

Victoria Celebrates Canada Day will continue its “green” initiatives, including biodegradable vendors’ food containers, increased recycling opportunities on site, and paper mâché fireworks. Also returning will be the bike valet service, offering a safe place to lock up bicycles for those who want to take sustainable transportation to the event.

Victoria Celebrates Canada Day would not be possible without the support from event sponsors and community partners, including Presenting Sponsor Coast Capital Savings. For information on how to support this event, visit: www.VictoriaCanadaDay.ca

Celebrate Summer Downtown with CITYVibe – The City’s Annual Guide to Festivals and Outdoor Events

Looking to celebrate summer downtown with friends and family? Available in hard copy, online, and iPhone app, CITYVibe is your free guide to City-sponsored festivals and outdoor events.

CITYVibe showcases the many spectacular summer festivals and outdoor events that receive the City's annual Festival Investment Grant. You'll also find listings for Victoria's public markets, free concerts and events at the Cameron Bandshell in Beacon Hill Park, summer programming in Centennial Square, and festivals and sports events at Victoria's Royal Athletic Park.

Watch for CITYVibe this week around town at your local library, recreation, community or seniors centre. You can also access the guide online at www.victoria.ca/cityvibe or download the free iPhone app at the iTunes store. Under "Search" type in "cityvibe".

Make CITYVibe your guide to summer fun downtown!

Update on View Towers at 1147 Quadra

Several local agencies are working together to assist those tenants displaced from their units as a result of the fire at 1147 Quadra last week. Up to 70 people are currently displaced and 31 people are currently staying at the University of Victoria and will again tonight.

The Canadian Red Cross established a resilience center in the lobby of View Towers to provide information and support to displaced tenants. Other agencies may also coordinate supports at the center. At that same time, the City's involvement providing emergency assistance will transition and recovery support will be led by the Canadian Red Cross. The City will continue to partner with Red Cross and assist in coordination with other agencies. Several social service agencies have been working together through the week to identify longer term accommodations for affected residents.

"The situation continues to be dynamic with many variables but I'm encouraged by the coordination occurring among local agencies to support those in need," noted Mayor Dean Fortin. "Although the City's formal role under Emergency Social Services will soon transition to Red Cross, we will continue to assist in the coordinated response and work as partners to assist those whose homes were destroyed by the fire."

The Victoria Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Social Service support is usually up to three days in duration but due to the challenges in coordinating services over the long weekend, funding was extended by Province's Emergency Management BC, enabling seven days of emergency social support.

When the owner of View Towers is prepared to proceed, the City will expedite facilitating building, electrical and plumbing permits for repairs to the building.

Summer Sports in Our Region

We live in an amazing region that supports an incredible opportunities to participate as an athlete or a spectator. While we line up the playing dates to watch the home games of the Highlanders (soccer), the Shamrocks (lacrosse) or the Harbourcats (baseball), we should also be aware of the one-off athletic events that are being hosted in this region this summer.....Go out & support the participants (they love the cheering!). Here is a short list of some of those events through the end of July.

May

May 24-26 – **Swiftsure International Yacht Race**

May 25 – **Subaru West Coast Triathlon & Cdn High School Chps – Shawnigan Lake**

May 31-Jun 1 – **National Schools T20 Cricket Tournament – St. Michaels University School**

May 31-Jun 1 – **BC Provincial Diving Championships – Saanich Commonwealth Place Pool**

June

June 1 – **Victoria Goddess Run (10K) – Langford’s City Centre Westhills Stadium**

June 1 – **Vancouver Island Table Tennis Championships – Cedar Hill Recreation Centre**

June 1 – **Bastion Square Grand Prix – BC Road Cycling Championships**

June 1-8 – **Bayview Place Island Savings Open Golf Tournament – Uplands Golf Club**

June 15 – **Subaru Victoria Half Ironman Triathlon – Elk Lake**

June 19-22 – **BC Ball Hockey Championships – Regional Arenas**

June 20-22 – **BC U12 C Girls Softball Championships**

June 22-23 – **BC AA Swimming Championships – Saanich Commonwealth Place Pool**

July

July 3-6 – **Victoria Open Tennis Championships – Cedar Hill Recreation Centre**

July 4 – **Victoria International Track Classic – Centennial Stadium**

July 5-6 – **Xterra Victoria – Durance Lake**

July 11-13 – **BC Junior Women’s Softball Championships, U14A – View Royal**

July 11-13 – **Victoria International Youth Sevens Rugby Tournament – Centennial Stadium**

July 25-27 – **BC Senior A Women’s Softball Championships**

Victoria, BC's first annual Aboriginal Cultural Festival: Inner Harbour, June 19 - 21, 2014

From June 19 to 21, Victoria, BC will host the 2014 Aboriginal Cultural Festival, highlighting and celebrating the region's rich indigenous culture through storytelling, artisans, dance, song and food.

Created in partnership with Aboriginal Tourism BC (AtBC), the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, Royal BC Museum, Tourism Victoria, Robert Bateman Centre, Greater Victoria Harbour Authority, and First Peoples Cultural Council, the three day festival will take place on both the outdoor grounds and the second floor mezzanine of the Royal BC Museum and around Victoria's Inner Harbour.

"We are so pleased to have received such outstanding support from our local partners from the moment we mentioned this idea," says Keith Henry, CEO of Aboriginal Tourism BC. "It means so much to us and also to the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, both nations that have incredibly rich and vibrant cultures to showcase."

The three-day festival will feature main stage performances including three-time world champion hoop dancer Alex Wells; an artisan area where people may watch demonstrations, meet the artists and also learn about the new Authentic Aboriginal program that helps consumers identify products designed, created and sold by local Aboriginal artists; a children's storytelling area; food vendors; and an Aboriginal Tourism BC information booth.

The festival is also an opportunity to celebrate, share and learn more about the history of the First Nations people of BC, and the capital of BC, before the city became Victoria. Esquimalt and Songhees Nations were one of the first nations to sign a treaty in BC – known as the Douglas Treaties, which were signed between 1850-1854. A special protocol ceremony will be held to acknowledge the history and treaties of Esquimalt and Songhees Nations on Wednesday, June 18, 2014.

"For thousands of years, Victoria's Inner Harbour has been the gathering place of our people and we invite the community to join us in celebrating our traditional and modern culture," says Chief Andy Thomas, Esquimalt Nation. "It is a proud moment for all of us as we come together to make this festival happen."

"While our nations are small in numbers, we are rich in song, language, stories, food and dance," says Chief Ron Sam, Songhees Nation. "This annual festival gives us the opportunity to continue to give life to traditions while showcasing our younger artists and cultural leaders."

This festival also coincides with National Aboriginal Day and the launch of the Royal BC Museum's new exhibit, Our Living Languages: First Peoples' Voices in BC, opening June 21, 2014. This innovative, interactive exhibition celebrates the resilience and diversity of First Nations languages in BC in the face of change. British Columbia is one of the planet's most linguistically diverse regions. From a global perspective, it's known as a linguistic "hotspot" because of the diversity and vitality of First Nations languages, of which 34 are spoken in the province. For more information on the exhibit, visit www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca.

For a complete list of events during Aboriginal Cultural Festival, visit <http://www.aboriginalbc.com/events/cultural-festival-2014>.

About Aboriginal Tourism BC

The Aboriginal Tourism Association of British Columbia (AtBC) is a non-profit, membership-based organization that is committed to growing and promoting a sustainable, culturally rich Aboriginal tourism industry. Through training, information resources, networking opportunities and co-operative marketing programs, AtBC is a one-stop resource for Aboriginal entrepreneurs and communities in British Columbia who are operating or looking to start a tourism business. AtBC works closely with tourism, business, education and government organizations to help B.C.'s Aboriginal tourism businesses offer quality experiences and actively promotes these experiences to visitors and local residents. www.aboriginalbc.com.

Help Keep Roadside Workers Safe in British Columbia

Did you know an average of 24 roadside workers are injured each year when struck by passing drivers and one is killed. Please slow down when approaching 'Cone Zones' and respect roadside workers.

Please:

1. Slow down and drive with extreme care near a Cone Zone.
2. Stay alert and minimize distractions. If you are using a hands-free device, end your call immediately.
3. Show respect for the person working at the side of the road. Make sure to give them space (move over to another lane, if it's safe to do so) and follow their signs and directions.

More information at: ConeZoneBC.com.

Recent Activity at Your Victoria Conference Centre

May 12	Time To Ride Update to the Bicycle Master Plan
May 14-17	Insurance Brokers Association of BC
May 14	Monk Expo 2014
May 16-18	Vic High 2014 Alumni Gala
May 20	Chrysler Canada
May 20-21	Early Learning Inc
May 21	BC Wine Institute
May 21	EO Vancouver Entrepreneurs' Organization
May 21-24	Reliable Controls
May 23	Victoria and District Dental Society