

Councillor's Neighborhood Report:
March 26th, 2014 - Volume #57

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:

Palm Sunday..... Apr 13th
Passover..... Apr 15th
Good FridayApr 18th
Easter Sunday..... Apr 20th
Earth DayApr 22nd
Holocaust Remembrance Day.....Apr 27th

Please celebrate with one & all.

Items include:

- Basic First Aid for Biking & Boarding Teens
- Click, Like, Follow.....the City of Victoria
- **LitARTcity** celebrates Poetry Month in April
- Spring Issue of **CONNECT**
- Unplug the Electronics & Join us Outside
- Fairfield Gonzales Gala Fundraiser...April 5th
- City Web & Social Media Stats for January 2014
- Recent Activity at Your Victoria Conference Centre
- Nature News....from the Victoria Parks Division
- Unusual Household Hints (you may not know about)!

Basic First Aid for Biking and Boarding Teens

Is there a teen in your life that could benefit from first aid training? This interactive course trains teens how to react and improvise when dealing with time priority, life threatening emergencies. It includes initial assessment of an accident, disease prevention, airway obstruction, adult and child hands only CPR. Teens will also learn recognition and first aid treatment for head and spine injuries, shock, bleeding and broken bones. Participants spend the majority of the course doing hands on first aid, and participating in first aid scenarios. By practicing with scenarios, students gain confidence, learn to improvise, and react in emergency situations. There are no written exams or homework or assignments. Cost for this course is \$50/person and includes an Alert First Aid manual and certificate valid for three years. To register please call the Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre at 250.361.0732.

What: Basic First Aid for Biking and Boarding Teens

When: May 3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Where: Alert First Aid, 130 Jutland Road

Click, Like, Follow.....The City of Victoria

Join a growing community and follow the City online.

- Our [City Facebook page](#) provides information about programs and initiatives of the City, photos of our community and items of interest from around the Region.
- Be a fan of the [Victoria Emergency Management Agency on Facebook](#). This page provides one more tool to assist in communicating before and during an emergency.
- The [City's Twitter feed](#) is updated regularly with information about programs and events, job postings, and other noteworthy news.
- The City's [Linked In page](#) is a great way to connect with the City of Victoria, share ideas and discover opportunities.
- The [City of Victoria's YouTube Channel](#) is a great place to view tutorials for VicMap, watch stormwater educational videos, learn more about Council webcasting and more.
- Subscribe to any of the City's RSS feeds (Events, Media Releases and Latest News) to receive updates as they happen.

The City's social media channels are also helpful resources to offer customers looking for additional information about City programs, services and events.

LitARTcity Celebrates Poetry Month in April

LitARTcity, a collaborative poetry and performing arts event to celebrate National Poetry Month, is presented by the City of Victoria Poet Laureate Janet Rogers and the Victoria READ Society. Enjoy an evening of poetry, dance and multicultural music Fri, Apr 11: 8 p.m. – 10 p.m. at Open Space, 510 Fort Street, 2nd Floor. Doors at 7:30 p.m.

Featured poets include Poet Laureate Janet Rogers, City of Victoria Youth Poet Laureate Morgan Purvis, and Nis'ka poet Jordan Abel, whose book *The Place of Scraps* was recently shortlisted for the BC Book Prize. Enjoy dynamic, contemporary dance by Jung-Ah Chung, Lori Hamar and David Ferguson courtesy of Constance Cooke Dance. Music performances will include traditional pow wow drum songs by Standing Nation Drum, Japanese drumming by Uminari Taiko, and contemporary folk by First Nations guitarist Karen Lee White.

The event includes a silent auction and cash bar. Tickets are available for \$22.50 at www.ticketrocket.org and at the door. **All proceeds support the Victoria READ Society**, a community-based organization that helps children, youth and adults gain literacy and essential skills, including reading, writing and mathematics. Established in Canada in April 1999 by the League of Canadian Poets, National Poetry Month celebrates poetry and its vital place in Canada's culture. For more information, visit: www.victoria.ca



Spring Issue of Connect

This spring issue of the *Connect* newsletter is available to view online at

www.victoria.ca/connect. *Connect* is the official City of Victoria newsletter, delivered to 30,000 households in the City, three times a year. This edition includes an infographic demonstrating the broad range of services the City provides, information about priority transit and cycling lanes, a new greenway for pedestrians and cyclists, and an update on the Johnson Street Bridge project, among other items.

If you have a suggestion for a future *Connect* article, please email communications@victoria.ca.

Unplug the Electronics and Join us Outside

Join us at Central Park (adjacent to Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre) on Thursday, March 27, 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. to celebrate “Unplug and Play Week”.

The average Canadian child spends up to eight hours in front of a screen each day. “Unplug and Play Week”, an initiative of ParticipACTION, seeks to reverse this trend by encouraging families to power down electronic devices and power up for active physical playtime.

There will be plenty of free and fun activities at Central Park with playground equipment and giant versions of popular board games like Checkers and Connect 4. Camp staff will lead games and activities for the kids while a qualified trainer will show parents how to use the outdoor fitness equipment.

Please consider walking or cycling. Bike racks are available in front of the facility. Limited parking is available at Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre and on adjacent streets.

For more information, call 250.361.0732

Fairfield Gonzales Gala

Supporting youth and families in your neighbourhood!

April 5th, 2014 7:00-11:00pm

At the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria

Tickets \$60 each. Buy 5 get the 6th free.

- Live Jazz
- Wine Tasting
- Guest Speaker Bob McDonald
- Awesome silent auction

Silent Auction Update

Up for bid at the Gala.....

- 4 Firestone FR710 tires: retail value of \$1,000 and will include free mounting and balancing!
Donated by [OK Tire](#) Saanichton.
- Saanich wine, distillery, and cider tour for 4. Includes a picnic lunch or dining at a local bistro. Valued at \$600. Donated by [LA Limo](#).
- Two super passes to [Rifflandia](#) - valued at \$165 each - donated by Rifflandia.

And MUCH more!!!! Check our [website](#) and [Facebook](#) for more!!!

Get Your Tickets

- By phone at 250-382-4604 (Mon-Sat 10-4)
- In person at 1330 Fairfield Rd.
- Online [here](#) via Paypal

Each ticket sold receives a \$30 charitable donation receipt

Thank you to our venue sponsors:



City web and social media statistics for January 2014.

Visitation to victoria.ca

- Unique Visitors: 75,938
- Total Visitation: 102,526
- Mobile visitation (tablets, ipads, smartphones): 24%

Top Pages/Sections visited this month (in order):

- Human Resources
- Garbage Collection
- Crystal Pool
- VicMap landing page
- Parking
- Online payments

Social Media Statistics:

- Twitter: 12,400 followers (increases by about 600 followers per month)
- Facebook: 8,400 fans
- YouTube channel 2,900 views to date of all videos (launched channel in September 2013)
- Recently launched a LinkedIn profile for “City of Victoria BC” and have begun promoting job postings through social media.

VicMap:

- Desktop - 3,584 total visits/ 2,775 unique visitors
- Mobile - 715 total visits/ 577 unique visitors

Council Webcasting:

- 586 total visits and 498 unique visitors
- 60% external, 40% internal visitation (includes site admin)
- 98% desktop usage
- Since webcasting launched in October, 2,770 unique visitors have accessed the service for either live or archived broadcasts.

Online Transactions:

- Total number of transactions in January through www.victoria.ca: 6,797
- Total dollar amount through www.victoria.ca: \$1,007,997 (utility billing and parking tickets payments)

Garbage Collection Widget Statistics:

- 4,853 households signed up for active reminders (email, text, phone, Twitter,

iCalendar)

- 5,942 personal garbage calendars downloaded to date
- Mobile app has been downloaded 1,440 times

This means 12,235 active interactions and 10,322 City of Victoria addresses searched since the service launched in February 2013, out of a total of 14,000 garbage collection account holders. At the recent Open Data Summit in Vancouver, several attendees commented on the City's success with the online garbage notification system.

Observations:

- VicMap numbers for January are significantly higher than in the previous months. Business licence data and searches were added and announced in January, with a noticeable spike in usage immediately following the launch of this new data to the map.
- A "Map a Month" feature was introduced in January, providing a feature map for each month of the year. January feature map was historical map layers from the 1800's.

Upcoming

- The new City blog and online consultation portal will launch in March.
- Currently in the first phase of the intranet redevelopment project, which will allow for improved staff engagement and information sharing across the organization.

Recent Activity at Your Victoria Conference Centre

Chemistry Consulting Group Inc	160 delegates
Ministry of Attorney General	220 delegates
Nova Clinical Services Inc	250 delegates
Fine Vintage Ltd	25 delegates
Culinaire 2014	1,600 delegates



Spring 2014

This Issue

Courses & Tours

School Initiatives

Etc.

Community Events

Victoria Native Plant – Garden Tour

Sunday, May 4
Free native plant garden tour featuring 8 public and private gardens. Get the self-directed tour guide by emailing hatmail@hat.bc.ca or calling 250 995 2428.

Native Plant Sale

Saturday and Sunday,
May 17 & 18, 2014
9:00 am to 3:00 pm
For more information:
www.swanlake.bc.ca/plant-sale.php

Camas Day

Saturday, Apr. 26
7:00 am – 3:00 pm
Please check the website for more up to date information.
www.friendsofbeaconhillpark.ca

Courses & Tours

Home Grown

British Columbia is rich with native plants that are exceptional for use in the urban landscape. Native trees, shrubs and perennials are adapted to the unique and challenging weather on the West Coast. Fragrant flowers, striking foliage, food for wildlife and people are only a few reasons for choosing gardening with native plants. Jeff de Jong will discuss how you can transform your garden into an oasis that is beautiful and better suited for our environment.

Saturday Apr 5
\$25

An Edible Landscape that Works

The edible landscape is a concept that certainly is in the forefront of what we want to acquire from our garden space. The benefits of growing your own food are limitless. An edible landscape need not have the visual appearance of a rural vegetable garden. Jeff de Jong shows how the garden can be both functional and fabulous. He will share design techniques, plant selection and garden layout styles. This workshop will change your attitude about what an edible landscape should be.

Saturday May 3
\$25

Learn to Make a Victoria Hanging Basket

First introduced to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Victoria's incorporation in 1937, the placement of flower baskets on lampposts every June has signaled the start of summer in Victoria for over 70 years. Using a commercial grade hanging basket this course will provide the opportunity to learn to plant your own 'sun' basket with all the same materials as the baskets downtown. All materials provided, including expert instruction by City of Victoria greenhouse staff. Please note that the weight of the reusable container is approx. 60 lbs planted. Hardware can be returned after the summer season for a credit towards the following year's basket course.

Saturday May 10
\$90

I SPY with my Gardening Eye Tour

Join Jeff de Jong for a tour around Playfair Park and neighbouring gardens highlighting garden design, plants and what you can be doing for your green thumb addiction. Meet in the parking lot of Playfair Park (off Rock Street).

Saturday May 24
\$15

Unusual Household Hints you may not know about?

(With thanks to many contributors.....
it seems I get lots of these hints each Spring!))

A sealed envelope - Put in the freezer for a few hours, then slide a knife under the flap. The envelope can then be resealed.....hmmmmmm!

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Use Empty toilet paper roll to store appliance cords. It keeps them neat and you can write on the roll what appliance it belongs to.

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For icy door steps in freezing temperatures: get warm water and put Dawn dish washing liquid in it. Pour it all over the steps. They won't refreeze. (wish I had known this for the last 40 years!)

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To remove old wax from a glass candle holder, put it in the freezer for a few hours. Then take the candle holder out and turn it upside down. The wax will fall out.

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Crayon marks on walls? This worked wonderfully! A damp rag, dipped in baking soda. Comes off with little effort (elbow grease that is!).

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Permanent marker on appliances/counter tops (like store receipt BLUE!) rubbing alcohol on paper towel.

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Whenever you purchase a box of S.O.S Pads, immediately take a pair of scissors and cut each pad into halves. This does away with having to throw away rusted and unused and smelly pads. It's more economic as the SOS pads last

longer & the scissors get 'sharpened" this way!

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Blood stains on clothes? Not to worry! Just pour a little hydrogen peroxide on a cloth and proceed to wipe off every drop of blood. Works every time!

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Use vertical strokes when washing windows outside and horizontal for inside windows. This way you can tell which side has the streaks. Straight vinegar will get outside windows really clean. Don't wash windows on a sunny day. They will dry too quickly and will probably streak.

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Spray a bit of perfume on the light bulb in any room to create a lovely light scent in each room when the light is turned on.

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Place fabric softener sheets in dresser drawers and your clothes will smell freshly washed for weeks to come. You can also do this with towels and linen.

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Candles will last a lot longer if placed in the freezer for at least 3 hours prior to burning.

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To clean artificial flowers, pour some salt into a paper bag and add the flowers. Shake vigorously as the salt will absorb all the dust and dirt and leave your artificial flowers looking like new! Works like a charm!

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To easily remove burnt on food from your skillet, simply add a drop or two of dish soap and enough water to cover bottom of pan, and **bring to a boil** on stove top.

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Spray your TUPPERWARE with nonstick cooking spray before pouring in tomato based sauces and there won't be any stains.

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Wrap celery in aluminum foil when putting in the refrigerator and it will keep for weeks.

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When boiling corn on the cob, add a pinch of sugar to help bring out the corn's natural sweetness

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Cure for headaches: Take a lime, cut it in half, and rub it on your forehead. The throbbing will go away.

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Don't throw out all that leftover wine: Freeze into ice cubes for future use in casseroles and sauces Left over wine? What's that? :)

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To get rid of itch from mosquito bites, try applying soap on the area and you will experience instant relief.

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Ants, ants, ants everywhere ... Well, they are said to never cross a chalk line. So, get your chalk out and draw a line on the floor or wherever ants tend to march. See for yourself.

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Use air-freshener to clean mirrors. It does a good job and better still, leaves a lovely smell to the shine.

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When you get a splinter, reach for the scotch tape before resorting to tweezers or a needle. Simply put the scotch tape over the splinter, and then pull it off. Scotch tape removes most splinters painlessly and easily.

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Now look what you can do with Alka Seltzer.....

Clean a toilet.

Drop in two Alka Seltzer tablets, wait twenty minutes, brush and flush.

The citric acid and effervescent action clean vitreous China ..

Clean a vase.

To remove a stain from the bottom of a glass vase or cruet, fill with water and drop in two Alka Seltzer tablets.

Polish jewelry.

Drop two Alka Seltzer tablets into a glass of water and immerse the jewelry for two minutes.

Clean a thermos bottle.

Fill the bottle with water, drop in four Alka Seltzer tablets, and let soak for an hour (or longer, if necessary).

Unclog a drain.

Clear the sink drain by dropping three Alka Seltzer tablets down the drain followed by a cup of Heinz White Vinegar. Wait a few minutes, and then run the hot water.

(Makes you wonder about ingesting Alka Seltzer, doesn't it?)