

Councillor's Neighborhood Report:
April 22nd, 2014 - Volume #58

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:

Earth Day	Apr 22 nd
Holocaust Remembrance Day.....	Apr 27 th
Mother's Day.....	May 11 th
Victoria Day (& the Parade!).....	May 19 th
Swiftsure Races (Memorial Day Weekend in the USA).....	May 24, 25 & 26
Ascension Day.....	May 29 th

Please celebrate with one & all.

Items include:

- Cyclists & Future Cyclists Wanted to Help Update Victoria's Bicycle Master Plan
- Victoria Youth Group Wins Anti-Bullying Campaign Award
- What's New With VicMap?
- 13th Annual Fairfield Artist's Studio Tour (FAST)
- Call for Entries to Annual Victoria Book Prizes
- City Takes Additional Steps to Minimize Risk on Johnson Street Bridge Replacement Project
- UVic Partners with City Hall on Solar Energy Mapping
- Earth Day: The City & Energy Efficiency
- Expect Delays on Wharf & Store Streets This Week
- New Archive Photo Gallery Online
- Tell Us How to Improve Parking Downtown
- Kitchen Scraps to Create Renewable Energy & Compost
- New Seating Installed at Royal Athletic Park
- Feedback Invited on 2014-2018 Financial Plan
- Pilot Project Aims to Keep Cigarette Butts Off Victoria Streets & Beaches

- Recent Activity at Your Victoria Conference Centre

Cyclists (and Future Cyclists) Wanted to Help Update Victoria's Bicycle Master Plan

The City of Victoria is seeking public input to update its Bicycle Master Plan. Several information stations and workshops will be held in April and May, engaging cyclists and non-cyclists on what improvements they would like made to Victoria's cycling network. An online survey will also be available until the end of May.

"The feedback we receive will help create a cycling network that reflects the needs of both current and non-cyclists. I encourage everyone to let us know how we can make cycling a viable means of transportation for all Victoria residents," says Mayor Dean Fortin.

Victoria's first ever Bicycle Master Plan was created in 1995. Since then the City has introduced 41 km of bike lanes, 2.6 km of multi-use trails, 2 km of buffered bike lanes, 18 km of signed bike routes and over 1,000 bike parking spots in downtown. Developers are now also required to provide bike parking for new developments as part of the City's zoning bylaw.

The Capital Regional District's Origin and Destination Household Travel Survey shows that 4% of all trips in Victoria are made by bike and in some neighbourhoods up to 22% of Victoria residents commute to work by bike (National Household Survey, Statistics Canada 2011).

Victoria's Official Community Plan heard from many citizens about the importance for improved cycling in Victoria, and set a goal to have 60% of all trips made by transit, bike or walking by 2041. The Capital Regional District's Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan includes the goal of 25% of urban trips by bike, by 2038.

There are a number of initiatives already underway working towards these goals:

- Over 50% of deck space on the new Johnson Street Bridge will be dedicated to cyclists and pedestrians.
- Two cycle tracks are being planned: a 2.8 km route along Dallas Road and a 1.3 km route along Pandora Avenue. These cycle tracks are bike routes which are separated from moving vehicle traffic.
- This fall the last section of marked bike lane on Skinner Road will complete the corridor connecting Colwood, View Royal, Esquimalt and Victoria.
- Key intersections of the E&N Trail will also be completed in 2014 and 2015.

The updated Bicycle Master Plan will help guide the next phase of cycling infrastructure in Victoria. The public is invited to drop by the six information stations, sign up for one of three workshops or complete an online survey at www.victoria.ca/cycling. One workshop will focus specifically on engaging non-cyclists in identifying what could be done to make cycling more inviting to everyone. The other two workshops have been developed for residents that are already cycling in Victoria and will explore ways to improve the cycling network.

Victoria Youth Group Wins Anti-Bullying Campaign Award

The City of Victoria's "Step Up" youth leadership crew achieved first place in the 2014 Youth United Anti-Bullying Film Festival. "Step Up" is a youth leadership program delivered through the Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre for teens ages 14 to 18 interested in gaining skills in the fields of recreation and child and youth care.

In February of 2012, the City of Victoria, the Boys & Girls Club Services of Greater Victoria, and Victoria's Community Centre Network (CCN), launched a film festival contest, designed to engage local youth and teens in educating their peers and the wider community about the negative impact of bullying. Participants under the age of 19 were tasked with creating a 30-second public service announcement (PSA) that creatively conveyed their anti-bullying message. In February, a panel of judges selected the winners at a standing room only audience at the Victor Brodeur Theatre. This year, the City of Victoria's "Step Up" youth leadership crew was the overall winner! A big congratulations to all who participated.

The winning video was broadcast on CTV and is available on YouTube http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ye_pDf2eSs&feature=youtu.be

What's New With VicMap

Check out the April feature map on VicMap - aerial photos of Victoria from 1928 overlaid with current photos. Search any Victoria address to see what was there at that time; move the sliders and see how land development has changed the city over the last 85 years. Go to www.victoria.ca/map and click on one of the icons to launch the map. Once the map has opened, click on I Want to - View Map a Month Feature.

The 13th Annual Fairfield Artists Studio Tour (FAST)




Celebrating the Arts in Fairfield
Come Visit Us

This is your invitation to take a walk through Fairfield and discover its artists.

**Saturday April 26th & Sunday April 27th
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

You will find many talented painters, digital artists, potters, photographers, textile artists, jewellers and sculptors all over Fairfield.

Call for Entries to Annual Victoria Book Prizes

Now in its 11th year, the annual Victoria Book Prize Gala showcases the literary achievements of authors and illustrators who make Greater Victoria their home. Submissions are now being accepted by the Victoria Book Prize Society for the \$5,000 City of Victoria Butler Book Prize and the \$5,000 Bolen Books Children's Book Prize.

The City of Victoria Butler Book Prize is awarded to a local author for the best book published in the preceding year in the categories of fiction, literary non-fiction or poetry. Established in 2004, the prize is a partnership between the City of Victoria and Brian Butler of Butler Brothers Supplies.

"Victoria is home to many talented authors and artists, who enrich our lives in so many ways," said Mayor Dean Fortin. "The City of Victoria Butler Book Prize is a great way to recognize their accomplishments and the contributions that they make to our community."

The Bolen Books Children's Book Prize is awarded to an author or illustrator of children's or youth literature. Mel Bolen of Bolen Books created the prize in 2008 to increase recognition of this literary genre.

"It's so heartwarming to celebrate our local writers every year at the Gala," said Michelle Wong, President of the Victoria Book Prize Society. "We are grateful to our dedicated sponsors and avid readers for making each year better than the last."

The Victoria Book Prize Society establishes the policy and criteria for the prizes, appoints the juries and administers the competitions. Two independent juries comprised of representatives from the literary arts community review and assess the submissions.

Books must have been published between April 1, 2013 and March 31, 2014. The deadline for submissions is May 31, 2014. For applications and guidelines visit: www.victoriabookprizes.ca or www.victoria.ca.

Shortlisted nominees for both prizes will be announced in September and authors will be showcased at a gala held at the Union Club of British Columbia on Wednesday, October 15, 2014. This year's awards competition and gala are sponsored by the City of Victoria, Brian Butler of Butler Brothers Supplies, Bolen Books, the Union Club of British Columbia, the Magnolia Hotel and Spa, CBC Radio, Island Blue Print and the Greater Victoria Public Library.

City Takes Additional Steps to Minimize Risk on Johnson Street Bridge Replacement Project

The City of Victoria has hired a consultant with specialized experience in large scale transportation projects to assess current project risks and make recommendations on whether any additional strategies should be employed to ensure effective delivery of the project.

Jonathan Huggett, PEng, is a consultant with specialized experience in alternate delivery of public infrastructure projects, with a particular specialty in transportation and municipal projects. Mr. Huggett has clients at all levels of government and has worked on several bridge projects including the rehabilitation of the Lions Gate Bridge, Skybridge and the SkyTrain system, on the Lower Mainland. Mr. Huggett was also retained in 1999 by Victoria City Council to evaluate and advise on the delivery of the Save-On-Foods Memorial Centre.

In the course of his work, Mr. Huggett will review all contract documents, interview key staff and the engineering consultants, MMM, as well as PCL, the bridge contractor.

The value of the work is \$15,000. The professional services contract will be posted on the www.johnsonstreetbridge.com website when finalized next week.

UVic Partners with City Hall on Solar Energy Mapping

The City of Victoria and the University of Victoria are teaming up to develop a solar energy map, to help indicate how much solar energy could be captured from rooftops in Victoria. Part of this work involves installing a “pyranometer”, an instrument that measures solar energy, on the roof of City Hall.

Solar energy is a renewable resource that can displace fossil fuel use and reduce greenhouse gases. Greenhouse gases from buildings account for 50% of the total emissions generated in Victoria. The City of Victoria is working towards a community greenhouse gas reduction target of 33% from 2007 levels by 2020.

The information collected at City Hall, along with data from the University of Victoria’s School Based Weather Network, will help property owners better assess the solar potential of their properties. The data will be integrated into VicMap, the City of Victoria’s online map.

When complete, residents will be able to use the solar map to zoom in to a rooftop, view the solar energy potential and identify the specific area of the roof that might be best suited for solar equipment. Along with the solar data, Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data will be used to provide information about rooftop slope and aspect, as well as shading effects from nearby buildings and trees. When complete, the map layer will assist solar contractors and property owners to make informed solar investment decisions.

This research is being conducted through a partnership between the City of Victoria, the University of Victoria and a research grant from the Federal Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council. The City of Victoria is contributing \$9,000, which represents one third of the funding for this project.

In 2012, as the University of Victoria celebrated its 50th anniversary and the City of Victoria celebrated its 150th, the tradition of collaboration between the two organizations was formalized with a Protocol of Cooperation. Sustainability, stormwater management and climate action were three areas highlighted for collaboration. The City of Victoria and the University of Victoria are also currently collaborating on rain garden research.

Earth Day (April 22nd): The City & Energy Efficiency

The City of Victoria is working towards the goal of becoming carbon neutral in its municipal operations by reducing energy use and greenhouse gas emissions through: smarter buildings, greening the fleet, using less energy in street and traffic lights, and reducing waste sent to the landfill. Approximately 60% of energy use from City of Victoria municipal operations comes from heating and operating buildings and lighting the city.

Recent projects to increase energy efficiency at City operated buildings include:

- Heating the foyer of City Hall with excess heat captured from the server room, lighting upgrades, smarter programming of heating and cooling systems
- A new energy efficient natural gas furnace in the greenhouse at Beacon Hill Park– reducing natural gas use by 15%
- New more efficient natural gas boilers and control system for the change rooms at Royal Athletic Park and Topaz Park – reducing natural gas use by 14%
- Smarter programming of heating and cooling systems at the Victoria Conference Centre- reducing total energy use at this location by 7%
- New boiler and other energy efficiency work at the Fernwood Community Centre - reducing electricity use for heating and power by 16%.

The energy savings reported above compare energy use in the year before the energy efficiency work to the year after.

For more information visit www.victoria.ca/climateaction.

Expect Delays on Wharf and Store Streets This Week

Drivers are advised to expect delays in the areas of Wharf and Store Streets this week as crews complete projects in the area. All work related to the replacement of the century-old utilities is expected to be completed by the end of April.

On Tuesday, Wharf and Store Streets will be closed to traffic in both directions between Pandora Avenue and Fisgard Street and rerouted to Government Street from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The closure is for work related to the new Janion development.

Also this week, the City will be paving Wharf Street from Yates Street to Johnson Street between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Lane reductions will be in place and delays can be expected. Paving in the area is being done to restore Wharf Street from recent utility replacement work in advance of the Times Colonist 10K race on Sunday, April 27. To avoid delays, drivers are advised to take alternate routes.

Paving of Wharf Street is the last phase in the replacement of 100-year-old water, stormwater, and sewer mains in the area. Weather permitting, paving will continue along Wharf and Store Streets from Johnson Street to Fisgard Street the week of April 28.

Over the next two weeks crews will also complete final connections to the new water main for properties in the area. In an effort to minimize water service interruptions for residents and businesses, the work will be occurring during the night and early morning hours. Properties affected by service interruptions have been notified in advance.

Service improvements from the utility replacement work include a new water main that will offer improved service for businesses and residents, a seismically upgraded fire service water main, a new sewer main that will provide increased capacity for a growing downtown population and an upgraded stormwater main to improve drainage and help prevent flooding. These upgrades are being made in advance of new roads that will be built for the new Johnson Street Bridge.

New Archive Photo Gallery Online

Staff and visitors to City Hall have been enjoying the latest hallway photo display

produced by Archives, featuring the photography of William E. John. Family and friends who can't make it to City Hall can now [view the gallery online](#). Most of the photos displayed here were taken around Greater Victoria during Mr. John's time as a freelance photographer from 1965 to 1971.

Tell Us How to Improve Parking Downtown

The City of Victoria recently reviewed its parking services to identify ways to make it easier to park downtown and improve customer service. The community is invited to learn more and provide feedback on the recommended improvements to downtown parking by completing an online survey by May 2 at www.victoria.ca/parking.

An open house will be held on Friday, April 25 from 8 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. at the City Hall Antechamber to provide the public an opportunity to view displays and speak with staff about the proposed improvements. We hope you can join us.

All feedback will be compiled and summarized in a report to City Council for consideration in May.

Please join the conversation and tell us how we can improve your parking experience downtown.

Kitchen Scraps To Create Renewable Energy and Compost

As an interim solution for kitchen scraps processing, effective April 10, 2014, kitchen scraps collected within the City of Victoria will be hauled to the Hartland Landfill and then transported with other regional kitchen scraps to Richmond, British Columbia for processing.

City of Victoria residents should continue to separate kitchen scraps from their garbage. In 2013, Victoria residents kept over 1,800 tonnes of kitchen scraps out of the landfill. This represents a monthly average diversion rate of 36.5%, surpassing the goal of diverting 30 percent of the waste stream from the landfill. The City of Victoria would like to thank over 14,000 households for their high levels of participation in this program.

In Richmond, Harvest Power will use anaerobic digestion to create electricity from these kitchen scraps. The remaining material will be processed into

compost for use in farms and gardens. To learn more about how renewable energy and compost are created through the anaerobic process at Harvest Power click here: <http://www.harvestpower.com/bc/technology>.

This is a temporary solution to treat kitchen scraps as a resource and to keep them out of the landfill. The Capital Regional District manages the processing of kitchen scraps for the majority of municipalities within the region. They are continuing to work on a long term solution to process kitchen scraps within our region. At this point the CRD's Sustainability Fund is covering the costs involved with this interim arrangement for processing. Currently, there is no change in costs for Victoria homeowners.

For more information about the Kitchen Scraps and Garbage program, visit: www.victoria.ca/greenbin.

New Seating Installed at Royal Athletic Park

The City of Victoria has installed 1,574 new bucket seats to replace the grandstand bleacher seating at Royal Athletic Park. 50% of the cost for the new seating was covered through a \$94,000 Western Economic Diversification Canada grant.

The new seats are in addition to several other upgrades at Royal Athletic Park that improve energy efficiency, patron comfort, and public safety, including: new LED lighting under both covered grandstands, new windows on the west side of the baseball grandstand, a new electronic LED reader board at Caledonia and Vancouver, repairs to doors throughout the facility to reduce air/heat leaks, and additional storage for equipment.

The new seating is responsive to patron feedback regarding seat comfort, and is expected to result in higher ticket sales.

Feedback Invited on 2014-2018 Financial Plan

City Council has given preliminary approval to the 2014-2018 Financial Plan and is seeking feedback from the public. Information is available online and a presentation and open house is planned for April 23 at City Hall.

“We have worked hard to lower our operating costs and increase our tax base. That work has paid off with the lowest tax increase in over a decade,” said Mayor Dean Fortin. “The 2014 budget will continue to deliver high-quality services and invest in capital infrastructure, providing good value for taxpayers.”

For 2014, Council has given preliminary approval to an overall tax increase of 2.51%. This results in a proposed increase of 2.75% for residential properties (\$60 increase for an average residential property) and 2.3% increase for business (\$150 increase for a typical business property.)

Highlights of the 2014 budget include:

- \$61 million in emergency services: police, fire and emergency management
- \$14.8 million in parks and recreation, including two new playgrounds at Hollywood and Alexander Parks
- \$14.3 million to rehabilitate and replace underground systems
- \$47 million for new Johnson Street Bridge with additional cycling, pedestrian and accessibility amenities
- \$6.4 million for transportation infrastructure, including sidewalks, bike lanes, crosswalks and paving
- \$9.8 million in upgrades and maintenance of City facilities, lands and property acquisition
- \$7.5 million to replace vehicles and equipment
- \$948,000 in arts and cultural events
- \$500,000 for implementing the City’s new Official Community Plan and Downtown Core Area Plan
- \$300,000 for Downtown beautification
- Continued improvements to customer service including several improved online services

Background materials, the draft 2014-2018 Financial Plan and an online survey will be available at the public session, and can be found at www.victoria.ca/budget. Feedback will be collected until 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 30.

What: 2014-2018 Presentation of Financial Plan
and Open House

When: Wednesday, April 23 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Where: City Hall Antechamber, 1 Centennial Square

An overview of the Financial Plan will be presented at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Pilot Program Aims to Keep Cigarette Butts off Victoria Streets and Beaches

Surfrider Foundation, the Downtown Victoria Business Association and the City of Victoria are teaming up for a pilot program to keep cigarette butts off our streets, out of the stormwater system and off beaches. This spring 20 easily identifiable cigarette disposal canisters are being installed in downtown Victoria, offering the public a responsible cigarette disposal option.

Cigarette butts make up a large percentage of litter on city streets. Having cleaner streets is the most direct goal of this program, but the beaches will also benefit. The journey of cigarette butts from the streets, through the stormwater system and out to Victoria's beaches isn't top of mind for many people, but when the butts are blown or flushed into the over 5,700 catchbasins and storm drains throughout Victoria, the shoreline is where they end up. Beyond littering the beaches, the toxins in cigarettes leach out when wet and pose a threat to marine life.

The pilot project involves the purchase and installation of 20 cigarette butt canisters in targeted areas throughout downtown Victoria. Six businesses have already offered to host a canister at the front of their property. The goal is to have 20 canisters installed before World Oceans Day on June 8. Businesses that are interested in having a canister installed on their property can call Gillian Montgomery at 250.885.0464 or email chair@vancouverisland.surfrider.org

The Downtown Victoria Business Association (DVBA) and the City of Victoria are sponsoring the purchase of the canisters and the DVBA's Clean Team will empty the canisters as part of their daily rounds throughout the downtown. This pilot program has been led by members of the Vancouver Island chapter of the Surfrider Foundation. They saw the cigarette butt receptacles in use while attending a Surfrider conference in California and were inspired by how the simple program kept cigarette butts contained and off urban streets and beaches. For more information visit: <http://vancouverisland.surfrider.org>

Recent Activity at Your Victoria Conference Centre

- March 24 to 27 – Deloitte Team Meeting – 50 delegates
March 24 to 27 - NALCO Canada Sales Meeting – 250 delegates
March 24 - World Impact Ministries – 300 delegates
- April 1 – UVic Sports Hall of Fame and Athletics Banquet – 500 delegates
April 1 – Work Safe BC Education Session – 40 delegates
April 2 – Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious
Disease Annual Conference – 500 delegates
- April 3 – Association of Canadian Schools of Business – 30 delegates
- April 7 Esri Canada Conference
- April 7 Cutting Edge Advance in Dental Materials, Technology
- April 8 Healthy Hearing Fair
April 8 Deloitte All Hands Meeting
April 9 Bays United Football Club Awards Ceremonies