



April 2019 Update

Burnside Gorge

In Your Neighbourhood

Neighbour Day

Sunday, May 5 will be Neighbour Day in Victoria. It's a great opportunity for residents to get out and spend a little time with their neighbours. When neighbours know each other, people are more engaged in their neighbourhoods and have a shared sense of belonging.

Councillors are invited to join City staff this year as we visit several of our neighbourhoods to promote Neighbour Day on Friday, May 3rd. We will be setting up sidewalk stands in each neighbourhood, asking people on the street what they might do to connect with their neighbours on Neighbour Day. We will also answer questions people may have about the City and provide information on neighbourhood programs like Emergency Preparation and how to hold a Block Party. Satchels of tea will also be handed out for residents to share with their neighbours!

	10:00-11:30am	12:00-1:30pm	2:00-3:30pm
Team #1	Burnside Gorge (Selkirk Trestle)	Hillside Quadra (Haultain and Quadra)	James Bay (Five Corners)
Team #2	Vic West (By Spiral Café)	Harris Green (Market on Yates)	North Park (Cook at North Park)

Please let Mike or Gary know if you like to join us for one or more of our stops.

Gary: g_pemberton@victoria.ca

Mike: m_hill@victoria.ca

Cherry Blossoms Special

Council has formally recognized the historic importance and symbolic significance of [cherry blossom trees](#). Staff has been directed to include the historic importance and symbolic significance of cherry blossom trees when considering what trees to plant and to report back with options for maintaining an ongoing presence of cherry trees as part of a regular update on the implementation of the City's Urban Forest Master Plan.

Grants

The Spring 2019 intake period for [Great Neighbourhood grants](#) has now closed. The Fall intake will begin September 1. Start thinking now about what you or your organization would like to do towards improving your neighbourhood!

Help Invest in Youth

The [Participatory Budget](#) Steering Committee is inviting individuals or organizations to apply for up to \$50,000 for projects that will benefit youth in the City of Victoria. Anyone with an idea for a project or activity is encouraged to [apply online](#) by May 6, 2019. Join us for a workshop to build your proposal.

CITY OF VICTORIA | BURNSIDE GORGE

Neighbourhood Councillor: Sarah Potts spotts@victoria.ca

Neighbourhood Staff Contact: Gary Pemberton g_pemberton@victoria.ca



City Strategic Plan

On March 14, after a series of Council meetings, a community workshop and a public survey, Council approved their four year [Strategic Plan](#).

Neighbourhood Summit

Mayor Lisa Helps and City Manager Jocelyn Jenkyns attended a Victoria Community Association Network meeting on March 20, where ideas for a Neighbourhood Summit were discussed. To “*facilitate an annual Neighbourhoods Summit to consider emerging best practices in neighbourhood placemaking, planning and engagement*” is a 2019 action in the new [Strategic Plan](#). Mayor Helps indicated that her new Chief of Strategic Operations would be leading the initiative. VCAN attendees endorsed establishing a working group to continue to develop ideas for the Summit with the City.

Inclusionary Housing and Amenities

On April 4, Council received a [staff report](#) providing an update to Council on the Inclusionary Housing and Community Amenity Policy and to seek direction on implementation.

Parking

On April 4, Council received a [staff report](#) relating to parking services. Council resolved to:

- Direct staff to bring forward amendments to the Streets and Traffic Bylaw to authorize charging fees for metered on-street parking on Sundays,
- Direct staff to update the Parking Rates Policy to reflect monthly rate increases, and
- Direct staff to implement a four hour time limit on Sundays and rates in 90 minute zones to be at \$2 per hour and \$1 per hour in other areas.

Party on the Block this Summer!

Hosting a neighbourhood Block Party is a great way to spend a Saturday or Sunday afternoon having fun and getting to know your neighbours. It's easy. Just...

1. Reach out to the residents of your block a few months before to see if they are in. This is a great way to create a “Block Party Team” and make sure that everyone is okay with closing the block for a few hours.
2. Think about the types of things you would like to do and take a look at the permit form. Don't worry – the permit is free. And we can help you with any concerns you have about the paperwork! victoria.ca/eventpermits
3. But wait, it gets even better! If this is your first Block Party, you can apply for a My Great [Neighbourhood Grant](#) of up to \$1,000 to help out with the festivities.

Have questions or need ideas? Feel free to reach out to us at neighbourhoods@victoria.ca.

Community Centre Funding

In their February 28 amendments to the budget, Council directed staff to increase funding for the three seniors centres by allocating one-time expenditures of \$63,900 from surplus. Centres are to be asked for information regarding the additional services that are provided with the new funding, in time for the 2020 budget. Council also directed staff to include allocation of base funding to all seniors centres and community centres of \$75,000 funded from new assessed revenue in the 2020 draft financial plan, with indexation to inflation in future years.

Citizens Assembly

Council has approved the nomination of Councillor Isitt, Councillor Young and Councillor Loveday to form the [Citizen's Assembly Council Committee](#). The mandate of the Committee is to work with Victoria Council and with the joint (Saanich) council committee to develop terms of reference for a Citizens Assembly and related processes such as a technical assessment. The Committee is a recommending body to Council and has no decision-making authority. The Committee will meet with the Saanich Council Citizens Assembly Committee as needed and will report back to Council within two weeks of any meeting with Saanich's Committee.

Poetry Reading

April is National Poetry Month! Your City's Poet Laureate John Barton invites you to celebrate by attending [The Green Muse](#), an evening of poetry that focuses on society's complicated relationship with nature. Sonnet L'Abbé, Philip Kevin Paul and Yvonne Blomer will also be featured at this free event on Tuesday, April 30, from 7– 8:30pm at the Greater Victoria Public Library's Central Branch, 735 Broughton Street.

Hanging Basket Workshop

Saturday, May 11, 2019: 10 a.m.–12 p.m. Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre

Have you ever wanted to create a beautiful hanging basket like the ones in downtown Victoria? Using a commercial grade hanging basket this course you will learn to plant your own basket with all the same materials as the baskets downtown. All materials are provided, including expert instruction by City of Victoria greenhouse staff. Find more information and [register here](#), or call the Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre at 250.361.0732.

Victoria Foundation Small Grants

The Victoria Foundation Neighbourhood Small Grants program of up to \$500 are available for people to lead a project in their neighbourhood. [Examples of past projects](#) include multicultural events, block parties, community gardens, and skill-sharing workshops. Deadline for applications is April 30. Here is the [link](#).

How it works:

- Individuals complete and submit an online application
- Within three weeks of the application period closing, projects are reviewed and grant decisions are made by a committee of community members who live in the four participating neighbourhoods
- Successful applicants receive a cheque for up to \$500 and lead a project anytime between May and November of the current year
- Project leaders come together at the end of the cycle (November) to celebrate!



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Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole meets on April 25 at 9am. Council meets on April 25 beginning at 6:30pm. Residents can watch recordings of the meetings [here](#). Note that the Minutes of Council meetings (which include Council's resolutions) are now being posted to the City's website.

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