



February 2019

Burnside Gorge

In Your Neighbourhood

My Great Neighbourhood Grants



Twenty-two applications for My Great Neighbourhood Grants have been approved for the Fall 2018 intake. The program provides grants to help residents animate public space, develop and enhance a sense of community and leave a positive legacy in our neighbourhoods. For the Burnside Gorge neighbourhood, this includes a placemaking grant for \$1,800 for the replacement of garden beds in the Cecelia Ravine Community Allotment Garden,

as well as an Activity grant for \$1000 for Treelane Estates to host multiple communal gatherings. The next intake for this grant program opens March 1, 2019.

Victoria Housing Reserve Fund Guidelines Update

The City has updated the Victoria Housing Reserve Fund Guidelines, including prioritizing projects with low income housing units, having two application deadlines annually, and only funding projects within the City of Victoria proper. In addition, the guidelines were further expanded to require projects to adhere to the Tenant Assistance Policy, as well as to prioritize projects that provide housing for persons with disabilities, individuals and families who are either experiencing homelessness or are at risk, and projects that have affordability in perpetuity. [Learn more about the Victoria Housing Reserve Fund.](#)

Youth Participatory Budgeting Process Kicks Off

After a community-wide call for Steering Committee members, a diverse team has begun work on planning the City's second Participatory Budgeting process. This community-led, City supported initiative will result in over 50,000 in funding being allocated to initiatives or projects benefiting youth in Victoria. Stay tuned this spring for a call for proposals. Community voting on the short listed proposals will take place this summer.

Public Hearing Submissions and Public Comment Policy

The City's Correspondence Management Policy has been revised to include a closing time of 2 p.m. on the day of a public hearing for receiving submissions by Legislative Services to be published on an agenda, and standards for receiving those submissions. All submissions intended for input into a public hearing should only be sent to publichearings@victoria.ca.

Youth Film Festival

Victoria's Community Centre Network (CCN) and the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Victoria are once again partnering for "Spread the Love Film Fest" (formerly known as the "Anti-Bullying Film Festival"). The 8th annual film festival will be held Wednesday, February 27 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Ecole Victor-Brodeur. Submissions are due by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, February 19. It is open to any youth ages 19 and under. [Registration link](#) will be updated soon. For information please contact courom@bgcvc.org or 250-661-1704.

Council to Consider Feedback on Draft Financial Plan and Draft Strategic Plan

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback on the City's 2019 Draft Financial Plan and 2019 – 2022 Draft Strategic Plan. The community was invited to provide feedback in-person and online at the Budget Town Hall on January 16; to participate in the Strategic Plan Engagement Summit on January 19 and



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complete an online survey which closed on January 20. Victoria City Council will consider all feedback on the draft plans at a series of meetings in early February that will be webcast [here](#).

Citizen-Led Heritage Conservation Areas

The City has adopted a policy for identifying new Heritage Conservation Areas (“HCA’s”) wherein it will rely primarily on citizen nominations from potentially impacted residents, rather than identifying new HCA’s through neighbourhood planning or other initiatives. The policy also establishes standardized evaluation criteria. This policy will be reviewed for effectiveness after two years. In addition, City staff will be working members of Community Association Land Use Committees (CALUC), citizen representatives and heritage advocates to develop recommendations for improvements to the City’s heritage program and strategies for increasing awareness, comprehension and appreciation of heritage conservation in the City of Victoria.

Climate Action Program Update and Planning Considerations

Staff provided Council with an overview of the Climate Leadership Plan and Climate Action Program, responding to recent inquiries from Council on climate action progress, and presenting a recommended approach for the Climate Action Program in 2019. Council directed staff to proceed with prioritizing high GHG impact areas including: the Building Retrofit Program, oil heat elimination, Bike Master Plan, transit improvements/electrification, Climate Outreach Program and Policy Workshop in 2019.

[Learn more about the City’s Climate Action Program and Climate Leadership Plan.](#)

Traffic Calming in Neighbourhoods

As part of their budget and strategic plan discussions, Council resolved to approve \$250,000 in (one time) 2019 funding and two full time Transportation staff to consider traffic calming in neighbourhoods and support neighbourhood residents in providing input into neighbourhood transportation priorities.

Request for Transit Improvements

In the interests of expediting measures to combat climate change, on January 31 2019, Council directed staff to forward a request to the Province of British Columbia and BC Transit to take immediate actions to support and provide funding for transformational improvements to regional BC transit infrastructure to promote and enable rapid mode shift to transit, including transitioning the BC Transit fleet to zero emissions as early in the 2020s as possible. The resolution included several other measures for improving bus transit efficiency.

Residential Leaf Chipping

Due to the challenges brought on by the weather this past week, the first day of the residential branch pick-up program will be **Monday, February 25. Please have branches to the curb prior to 7 a.m.** This deadline is for all areas of the City of Victoria. Trucks will make one pass down each street. Only tree branches are accepted. If your pile includes garden waste, weeds, or contaminants, it will not be chipped. The City of Victoria provides a branch chipping service to help residents remove tree branches from their yard.

Victoria residents can drop off leaf and garden waste for free year-round at the City of Victoria Public Works Yard, 417 Garbally Road, Saturdays (excluding statutory holidays) from 7 a.m. – 2 p.m. Public Works only accepts up to 4" diameter branches. Proof of residency is required in the form of a valid driver’s licence. For tips and info: Victoria.ca/branchchipping or call 250.361.0400.



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2019 Call for Nominations for Order of British Columbia

Know someone whose extraordinary achievements have contributed to the quality of life in BC and beyond? Nominations are now being accepted for the Order of British Columbia. The deadline is March 1. [Learn more.](#)

Nominations for Medal of Good Citizenship

Did you know you can nominate individuals for the province's Medal of Good Citizenship. This medal recognizes citizens for their exceptional long-term service and contributions to their communities without expectation of remuneration or reward. The medal reflects their generosity, service, acts of selflessness and contributions to community life. Nominations are accepted year round. [Learn more.](#)

Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole meets February 28th at 9am. Council meets February 28th beginning at 6:30pm. Residents can attend the meetings or watch them [here](#)