



## In Your Neighbourhood

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### **BC Transit Douglas Street Bus Lanes**

Construction will begin later this month on the bus and bike priority lanes on Douglas Street southbound from Tolmie Avenue to Hillside Avenue. BC Transit has sent a letter to the Community Association outlining the project, including the removal and replacement of 26 boulevard trees that were previously discussed during the public consultation phase.

### **One City, Many Voices: Public Engagement Summit**

Join the City of Victoria and fellow residents at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria for an evening of community building. We believe cities are stronger, healthier and more vibrant when more citizens are involved in City decision making. Join us to explore new ways of engaging people from different experiences, backgrounds, neighbourhoods and age groups in City decision making.

Our panelists, Sharmarke Dubow, community organizer, Monique Gray Smith, award winning author and international speaker, Veronika Bylicki and Tesicca Truong, founders of [CityHive](#) will offer inspiration and insight, followed by a discussion. There will also be an opportunity to learn about City projects planned for 2018 and how you can be involved. We'll be looking for ideas on how to get even more voices heard as we improve our parks, expand our active transportation network, develop local area plans and much more.

Date: Monday, February 5, 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Location: The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, 1040 Moss Street

Details: A light dinner will be provided. Please let us know if you require childcare. If you have children age 4-12 you can register for an in-studio art class led by the Art Gallery.

RSVP: Space is limited. Please RSVP [here](#) or call 250.361.0288.

### **Home Retrofit**

Did you know that residential buildings account for 17% of Victoria's Greenhouse Gas Emissions? There are many energy upgrades that you can do which will not only make your home more energy efficient, but also save you money on your energy bills. Common retrofits include: draught proofing, heating system upgrades, insulation improvements and water heater upgrades. Take advantage of the many rebates and incentives, including free upgrades, to help you reduce your energy bill, limit your environmental impact and also make your home more comfortable. Not sure where to start? Visit [BC Home Energy Coach](#), a one-stop shop for home energy solutions.

As well, the City has just released its draft [Climate Leadership Plan](#). The plan includes a series of targets, goals, strategies and actions for each of us to help create a 100% renewable energy city. Please send any comments you have on the document to [engage@victoria.ca](mailto:engage@victoria.ca).



### **Emergency Shelter Program**

Many residents have heard about emergency shelters, but are not clear how it works. The shelter system began in response to a weather event in 2004. There are now a total of 435 beds, some of which are year-round (215), some available during winter months (110) with the remaining beds (110) activated when there is significant wind,

rain/snow and where temperatures drop below -1 degrees. You can find more information showing how this works on the Emergency Weather Protocol [website](#).

### Participatory Budgeting

It's your last chance to vote on which community projects you would like to be funded through Victoria's first ever Participatory Budgeting process! This is a community led process that will invest \$50,000 directly into local projects. Learn about the eight ideas and vote here before Saturday, January 20. [www.victoria.ca/pbvic](http://www.victoria.ca/pbvic)

### 2018 Budget

At their January 4 Committee of the Whole [meeting](#), Council received staff reports regarding community feedback on the 2018 Financial Plan, responses to Council motions for funding additional expenditures and recommendations for refinements to the budget that reflect public feedback.

### Great Neighbourhood Grants

Applications for Great Neighbourhoods grants were approved by Council at their December 7 meeting. This included \$1,000 Activity grant for the Treeline Estates Multicultural Festival. Council also approved allocation of balance of 2017 funding for grants not allocated be used for a neighbourhood grant "show and tell" event in the spring.

### Strategic Plan Grants

The [Strategic Plan Grant](#) program opened for applications on November 15, 2017. The program provides funding for projects that support the City's [Strategic Plan Objectives](#), which include "engaging and empowering the community" and "facilitating social inclusion and community wellness." The deadline for [applications](#) is January 31, 2018. In 2017, awards ranged from \$1,000 to \$50,000. \$540,000 is currently budgeted for the 2018 program.

### Strategic Plan Amendments

Council will consider proposed amendments to the actions and outcomes of the Strategic Plan. These include:

- Accessibility Framework implemented
- Citizen-led Heritage Conservation Areas introduced
- Housing Strategy amended
- Inclusionary policy developed
- Sustainable mobility strategy developed with BC Transit
- Local government procurement plan developed and hub established
- Climate Leadership Plan implemented
- Discussion of amalgamation advanced



### Bicycle Master Plan

On December 7, Council approved recommendations in a [staff report](#) that the draft 2018 financial plan include a \$3 million increase for the budget to complete the Wharf, Humboldt, and Cook Street Phase 1 corridors of the project. Work on the Fairfield section of Cook Street (Fort to Pakington) is anticipated to start in late summer.

### Display Cabinets available

The City has four display cabinets on the harbour front, which will be decommissioned in 2018 (see photo attached). There may be an opportunity to make these available to neighbourhood groups. They are in relatively good condition with two large opening windows on each side (~4'x5'). There are narrow panels on the sides which can also display information. They are currently illuminated, however, this would be optional in a new location. The concrete bases will be relocated if possible – the cabinets will otherwise require new pedestals.

Considerations for a new site include:

1. identify an organization interested in adopting a kiosk
2. selecting and vetting a prospective site
3. determining and assigning all reinstatement costs
4. confirming a plan for ongoing cleaning and maintenance

Costs for recommissioning the kiosks may be part of a Great Neighbourhood Grant application. The next intake for the grant program will commence on March 1, 2018.

At this point in time, we are determining which neighbourhood groups are interested in a kiosk.

### Training for Not-for-Profits

Volunteer Victoria is offering the following [courses](#) that may be of interest to neighbourhood organizations. Costs vary depending on whether you are a member of Volunteer Victoria.

- [Foundations of Financial Management](#)  
A five week course where you will cover budgets, risk management, tax responsibilities, payroll, board roles and creating a policy and procedures framework for your organization  
January 27, 9:30-12-30pm (\$119-139)
- [Developing Your Not-for-Profit Leadership](#)  
An intensive course to gain understanding and develop your leadership skills.  
February 5 to March 19 (\$299-399)
- [BC Societies Act Compliance](#)  
By November 28 2018, your organization must comply with new provincial regulations. Get an understanding of the requirements and consider your strategy for compliance.  
January 30, 1-4pm (\$69-89)



### Arts and Culture Master Plan

At their [December 14 meeting](#), Council approved the proposed Arts and Culture Master Plan, and Implementation Framework. The term for the Create Victoria Advisory Group was also extended from March 2018 to December 2018, in order to advise staff and Council on the first year of implementation.

### Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole meets January 25 at 9 a.m. Council meets January 25, beginning at 6:30. Residents can attend both meetings or watch them [here](#)