

## In Your Neighbourhood

---

### **Bus Shelters and Crosswalk Signals**

Countdown pedestrian signal heads and audible speakers have now been installed at:

- Bay and Fernwood
- Bay and Quadra

Bus shelters have also now been installed at:

- Bay at Roseberry (Fernwood)
- Bay at Cedar Hill

### **Improvements to Pembroke Street**

Sidewalk construction between Forbes and Belmont Streets is now 95% complete and final landscaping is now being finished. Other sidewalk improvements were made on the south side of the street between Stanley Street and Fernwood Road.

### **2035 Stanley**

After consideration of a [staff report](#) at the November 10 Committee of the Whole meeting at its December 8 [meeting](#), Council set out conditions for the Development Permit, should it be approved after a public hearing and public comments at an associated Council meeting.

### **2009 Fernwood Road**

At its December 8 [meeting](#), Council authorized the issuance of Development Permit with a Variance for 2009 Fernwood Road. The required number of parking spaces was reduced from eight to five. Conditions included a requirement for car share membership for each resident, four enclosed bike parking spaces and ten outside bike parking spaces and a bicycle change room facility.

### **1328 Vining Street**

At its December 8 [meeting](#), Council approved a Development Variance Permit for the proposed secondary suite at this property after considering a November 10, 2016 [staff report](#).

### **Council Neighbourhood Liaisons**

Council Neighbourhood Liaison roles are being reviewed by Council. The current assignment of neighbourhood liaisons has been extended until June 30, 2017, to allow for the review process.

### **Crystal Pool**

Three options for addressing the needs for replacement or renovation of Crystal Pool Options were outlined in a [staff report](#) to Council's Committee of the Whole. The options were to retrofit the existing facility (\$40M), renovate and expand the existing facility (\$56M) or construct an entirely new building. (\$68.4M). Based on its review of the report, approved the recommendations at its December 8 [Council meeting](#) that staff:

- Provide more detailed information to inform them in their decision making process (e.g. assessment of piping condition)
- Undertake value engineering to reduce costs and limit closure time
- Look for external funding sources to offset costs; and
- Explore options for leasing space and sharing services to reduce operational costs

### **ConnectVictoria App**

The City has launched a smartphone app to immediately connect residents with the City. Users can access the latest City news, media releases, events, contact information and submit a service request through their mobile device. The service request function will allow residents to report potholes, street

light outages and other issues from the app. Residents can take a photograph of the issue, pinpoint it on a map and submit directly to City staff. The app can be found in the iTunes or Google Play app stores under the name ConnectVictoria.

### **Create Victoria**

The City of Victoria is developing a five-year Arts and Culture Master Plan (“Create Victoria”) to ensure that the stage is set for creativity to flourish in our city. The plan will align ideas, people, and resources around a shared vision, set of goals and clear strategies for realizing our creative potential.

Victoria is home to an incredible mix of artists, designers, performers, entrepreneurs and innovators that contribute to a vibrant arts and culture scene. This will be an opportunity to build on our strengths and become a world-class hub for creativity, innovation and artistic excellence.

The City will be introducing a public engagement plan for this project in coming weeks. It is hoped residents will plan to participate! For more information and sign up for project updates and engagement events visit [www.artsvictoria.ca/create](http://www.artsvictoria.ca/create).

### **Visual Victoria**

Public engagement events were held on November 30 and December 1 to provide input into directions being developed for the Downtown Public Realm and Wayfinding Strategy. The NPNA and all other neighbourhood associations were invited to the meeting. Residents can learn more about the current stage of the process on the [City website](#) and provide their input through a new survey that closes December 21. The plans will then move toward final stage, which will be presented for public feedback in early 2017.

### **Supervised Consumption Sites**

In the City of Victoria Strategic Plan 2015-2018, Council included “work(ing) towards establishing supervised consumption services, in collaboration with Island Health, VicPD and YES2SCS.” The initiative is being led by [Island Health](#), which is in the process of preparing applications to Health Canada. The public consultation process concluded on December 2 and Island Health will be reporting out on the feedback in this month.

The proposed locations in Victoria are 941 Pandora Avenue (next door to Our Place), 842 Johnson Street (available to residents only) and 2920 Bridge Street near the Rock Bay Shelter.

### **Community Association Land Use Committee Review**

Following review of a [staff report](#), Council approved a resolution at its December 8 [Council meeting](#). The resolution directs staff to undertake changes necessary to implement a new CALUC committee model, including additional resources and membership improvements.

Provisions include:

- Additional staff time and a \$250 honorarium per hosted community meeting to cover expenses
- A report to Council with the 2017 Fall annual review on the impact of providing additional support to CALUCs
- An amendment to the CALUC Terms of Reference to include requirements for annual notification and advertisement of board elections and membership opportunities
- Approval of the Principles and Guidelines for involving CALUCs in broader project and policy initiatives
- Confirmation of the CALUC Terms of Reference, Procedures and Roles documents as defined by the 2016 CALUC review process

Council has advised that the following membership best practices for CALUCs be included:

- Anyone who is interested in their neighbourhood and who is looking beyond their own self-interest is encouraged to join the CALUC.

- Membership policies regarding how a person joins, length of term, maximum committee size, etcetera, are set by each CALUC.
- CALUC membership must be established through a fair, well-publicized and open process on at least an annual basis.
- The size of a CALUC must be three members or more.

Council also approved continuation of the current grant program for neighbourhood per capita funding, and the requirement that recipients of this funding to report annually on how the funding was spent in advance of the following year's allocation.

### **Community Centre Operating Agreements**

After reviewing a [Council motion](#) from at its December 1 meeting, Council approved a resolution at its December 8 Council meeting. The resolution directs staff to introduce amendments to operating agreements for community centres operating in City-owned facilities, mandating that any Society wishing to operate a community centre or seniors centre on behalf of the City in a City-owned facility will abide by good governance and open governance principles, including provisions any resident of the neighbourhood may join the Society and stand for election to the Board of Directors of the Society, in an open, fair and transparent process.

### **Artist in Residence – Luke Ramsey**

Victoria-based artist Luke Ramsey was recently announced as the City's Artist in Residence for 2017. The Artist in Residence program aims to 'keep art in mind', by providing the opportunity for a local artist to work collaboratively with City staff and the community to identify and develop a creative artwork for one or more capital projects over a one-year term.

Possible projects to enhance public spaces in Victoria neighbourhoods could include installations in a City park, playground, street or sidewalk upgrades or construction. For more information, visit: [www.victoria.ca/publicart](http://www.victoria.ca/publicart)

### **First Night Celebration**

Don't forget to join your fellow Victorians on New Year's Eve for *Spirit of 150 Victoria – First Night*, a kick-off event to launch Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. The family-friendly event will be held 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. and include a multicultural, stage show complete with food vendors and spectacular fireworks. The fireworks will be timed with those across the country, with large screens simulcasting Canada 150 First Night festivities, creating a coast-to-coast celebration.

### **Parks Master Plan**

This summer, the City asked residents what they love about parks and what they want to see more of in the future. Based on this input, staff have developed a [draft vision, series of goals and set of actions](#) to support a 25-year master plan for Victoria's parks. Feedback on the draft documents is now complete and plans will now be prepared.

The Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan is a high-level strategic plan that is intended to address City-wide opportunities, issues and trends. More detailed planning and design at the neighbourhood level will occur through Local Area Planning and at a park-by-park scale through park improvement plans.

### **Try it for Free**

The start of the New Year is the perfect time to make health and wellness a priority for you and your family. Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre has *Try it Free* sample classes for ages two and up from Monday, January 2 – Sunday, January 15, 2017. Take the opportunity to sample some popular recreation activities such as skating, yoga, swimming, sport ball and kids karate... for free. Participating community centres in North Park include the Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre and Memorial Centre.

**Secondary Suites**

The City will be removing a set of regulations governing the development of secondary suites from the *Zoning Regulation Bylaw* to make it easier for homeowners to construct legal secondary suites in single family dwellings. With these changes, homeowners will now be permitted to make exterior changes to their home, including lifting the building more than 0.6m if required, prior to building a suite. Smaller homes will also now be eligible for secondary suites. At this time, only one rental suite remains permitted in any single family development. Staff will also be creating programs and events to assist homeowners in developing legal suites or bringing existing suites into compliance. [Read the staff report.](#)

**Victoria Housing Reserve Fund Program**

Council asked staff to update the Victoria Housing Reserve Fund Guidelines in order to increase the amount of funding provided to developers who are creating affordable rental housing. [Read the staff report.](#)

**Council Meetings**

There are no further meetings of Council in December.