

## In Your Neighbourhood

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### Crystal Pool Funding

The City of Victoria has received conditional approval of \$6 million in Federal Gas Tax funding to support the [Crystal Pool and Wellness Centre Replacement Project](#). The approval will contribute towards the total project cost of \$69.4 million, should the balance of the remaining funding be acquired within one year. The City of Victoria has already committed \$10 million to the project and is actively seeking further funding through federal-provincial infrastructure programs and other prospective partners.



### Cherry Blossom Map

Anticipate spring and check out the City's "[blossom map](#)", where you can discover the type of tree and when it's likely to bloom. Each year will vary by a week or two.



### Neighbour Day

Sunday May 6th, 2018 has been proclaimed Neighbour Day in the city of Victoria. This is an opportunity to celebrate your neighbourhood and deepen your community connection with the people who live on your street. Consider what you might like to do to make a connection with folks nearby and strengthen your neighbourhood! Watch this space next month for some ideas on how to you might want to take part.



### Neighbourhoods Ideas Block Party

To help kick off the next round of the Great Neighbourhoods Grant program, the Neighbourhood Team is hosting a Great Neighbourhood Block Party at the Da Vinci Centre from 1-5pm on March 14. Please plan to attend and hear [Paul Born](#), published author and champion for community development, talk about how to deepen community. There will also be a showcase of past projects and some ideas for the future. Residents will participate in a short workshop to begin mapping your neighbourhood cultural assets. All of this will be accompanied by treats, live music and fun activities.



The next intake of the **Great Neighbourhood Grants program is open until April 15, 2018**. Please see our [website](#) for details.

### Archives Digitization Project

Council received a report on the new [Archives Online Search](#) database that launched this week which provides online, searchable access to the City's archival collections. More than 10,000 digitized archival photos and records are now accessible online.

### Short Term Vacation Rental Licensing

On February 22, Council approved a staff [report](#) regarding four motions on proposed short term rental business regulations (below). There will be a public hearing at the [Council meeting](#) on March 8.

1. Approve of the proposed short term rental annual business licence fee of \$150 for principal residence and \$1,500 for all other short-term rentals;
2. Direct staff to bring forward the Short Term Rental Regulation Bylaw at the February 22, 2018 Council meeting for introductory readings;
3. Approve holding an opportunity for receiving public comments on the proposed Bylaw in conjunction with the Public Hearing for Zoning Amendment Bylaw (Short Term Rental Home Occupations) Bylaw No. 18-035; and,
4. Direct staff to report back to Council in Quarter 4 of 2018 with an update on the short term rental program, including budget implications passed.

### Accessibility

Council endorsed the following commitment adopted by the Victoria Accessibility Working Group on March 6, 2017. The City of Victoria:

- Values the contributions made by all its citizens and believes that diversity strengthens the community.
- Recognizes the wealth of knowledge and lived experience of people with disabilities and their essential role in creating a barrier-free Victoria and thus, will include the viewpoint and needs of persons with disabilities in its decisions.
- Is committed to building an inclusive society and providing an accessible environment in which all individuals have access to the City's services and programs in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities.
- Policies, practices and procedures will ensure barrier free access for persons with disabilities to City facilities and participation in programs and processes including accessible customer service, information and communication, employment, the built environment and transportation.
- Will ensure that all city employees are aware of their role in facilitating accessibility for persons with disabilities.
- Will continue to prevent barriers by supporting positive attitudes that address "ableism" - attitudes which devalue and limit the potential of persons with disabilities.
- In working towards its goals under this Statement, is committed to creating a barrier-free city by meeting the requirements of existing and future legislation and by its own policies and goals related to the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to people with disabilities. To this end, all elected City officials and City employees have a role to play in meeting these goals.

### Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole meets March [1](#), [8](#), [15](#) and 22 at 9am. Council meets March [8](#) and 22, beginning at 6:30pm and has a [special meeting](#) following the March 1 and [15](#) COTW meetings. Residents can attend both meetings or watch them [here](#).