

Fairfield-Gonzales CA Board Meeting: March 6th , 2017

PART A - In Your Neighbourhood (Staff Report from Kimberley Stratford)

Hollywood Park Improvements

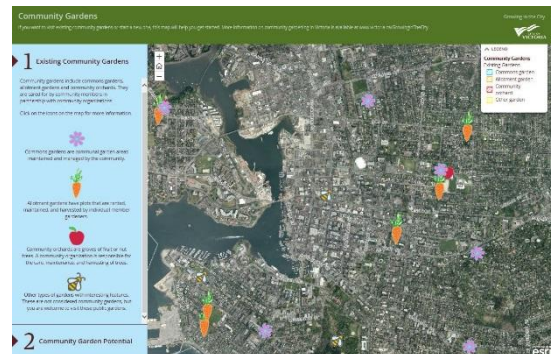
Construction at Hollywood Park is currently underway. The baseball field is getting safety and accessibility upgrades to the hardscape surrounding the diamond. Drainage and minor field improvements are also underway and new bleachers are being installed. To accommodate the changes, the sports field and clubhouse are closed until April. The sports field will be available for regular activities until August, at which time it will close for the fall/winter to improve field drainage and re-turfing. The sports field is scheduled to reopen in April, 2018.

Clover Point Pump Station Rezoning Application

The CRD's rezoning application for 1303 Dallas Road was approved to permit the expansion of a portion of the public right-of-way and structural alteration of the existing Clover Point Pump Station as part of the Core Area Wastewater Treatment Project. The City of Victoria will receive an amenity contribution of a one-time payment of \$100,000 to cover public realm improvements. Specific improvements will be determined based on the City consulting with the community and presenting a report to the CRD and City Council for consideration. [Learn more about the rezoning application.](#)

Community Gardens Map

The City recently launched a new Community Gardens feature map for [VicMap](#). It includes information on existing community gardens and the revised 2017 land inventory for community gardening. A downloadable version of the 2017 land inventory for community gardening, including site data and the methodology overview, is also available [here](#), under "Start a Garden!"



Create Victoria

The City is developing a Cultural Policy and an Arts and Culture Master Plan branded *Create Victoria* to guide the City's investment in arts and culture over the next five years.

The public is invited to drop by the *Create Victoria Cultural Café* at City Hall on Saturday, March 4, 2017 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. to share their ideas on how they currently participate in arts and culture, their vision for a vibrant arts and culture scene and the role the City can play in providing support. The drop-in event will include live music, treats and arts activities for all ages.

To help measure the impact of arts and culture in Victoria, the community is also invited to participate in an online survey at www.victoria.ca/create until March 31, 2017. Pop up kiosks and a series of cultural cafés with sectors of the arts and culture industry will be coming up in March.

The City will come back to the community in mid-June for feedback on the draft Arts and Culture Master Plan.

Neighbourhood Communications

Standardized email addresses will ensure consistent communication from the City to neighbourhood associations. If neighbourhood associations adopt, for example, *Board@(neighbourhood association).ca* and *CALUC@(neighbourhood association).ca* as their designated email addresses for City communication, this would allow neighbourhoods to determine who they would like to receive communication and update the contacts as necessary without having to notify the City. Some neighbourhood associations have this in place. For those that don't, it may be something that you want to consider.

City Projects for 2017

A number of projects are planned for Fairfield Gonzales this year. Here is the list of work to be done in your neighbourhood. Notifications will be sent out close to the time when the work is scheduled.

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Capital Works | Crosswalk upgrades on Fairfield at Linden |
| Capital Works | New crosswalk 800 Block Fort. Proposed work includes wheelchair ramps, overhead signs and lighting. Medium priority location |
| Capital Works | 185 m new paving on Meares, from Cook to east end |
| Capital Works | 250 m of paving on Vancouver, from Southgate to Fairfield |
| Capital Works | Intersection paving on Cook at Fairfield |
| Capital Works | Major Street Rehabilitation on Southgate from Quadra to Vancouver |
| Capital Works | Storm Drain Mains Replacement on Linden from McKenzie to Oxford |
| Capital Works | Storm Drain Mains Replacement on Richardson from Kipling to Arnold |
| Capital Works | Brick Main Rehabilitation on Linden from Oxford to Chapman |
| Capital Works | Brick Main Rehabilitation on May from Linden to Wellington |
| Capital Works | Brick Main Rehabilitation on Chandler mid-block to St. Charles |
| Capital Works | Brick Main Rehabilitation on St. Charles from Chandler to Erie |
| Capital Works | Water Main Replacement on Vancouver from Southgate to Fairfield |
| Capital Works | Clover Point Shoreline Remediation |
| Capital Works | Ross Bay Seawall Replacement |
| Capital Works | Repair path in NE corner of Ross Bay Cemetery |
| Capital Works | Address safety concerns Cook St playground pathway in bad weather |
| Capital Works | Address safety concerns due to erosion of substrate at Dallas Cliffs beach pathway |
| Capital Works | Renewal of Hollywood Park sports field and infrastructure |
| Capital Works | 75m new sidewalk connecting to existing sidewalk; 75 m asphalt overlay on Brighton St from Davie to Chamberlain |
| Capital Works | 75m new sidewalk connecting to existing sidewalk; 75 m asphalt overlay on Brighton from Chamberlain to Clare |
| Capital Works | 130 m asphalt overlay on Somenos from Quamichan to the south end |
| Capital Works | Sewer Mains Replacement on Fairfield from St. Charles to Wildwood |
| Facility improvements | Cook Street Village Activity Centre accessible door retrofit |
| Design | Bicycle Network Design Cook St from Pandora to Pakington |
| Design | Bicycle Network Design Cook St to Government |

| | |
|-------|---|
| Study | Dallas Rd Bluff Study from Ross Bay to Holland Point |
| Plan | Complete Local Area Neighbourhood Plan for Fairfield and Gonzales |

Home Renovation Rebates and Heating Oil Tank Incentives

The City of Victoria is partnering with BC Hydro, FortisBC, the Province and CRD to enhance the Home Renovation Rebate and Oil to Heat Pump Programs, which can have multiple benefits, such as lowering bills, enhancing home values, increasing comfort and making a healthier home. Programs like these, which help lower associated greenhouse gases, also help reduce the impacts from a changing climate.

Thousands of dollars in home renovation rebates are available. The offer include upgrades to hot water and space heating systems, insulation, air sealing, windows and more. Multiple upgrades can be bundled together to increase savings. Those with home heating oil can also consider the B.C. Government's Oil to Heat Pump Incentive Program. Now is a great time to consider making the switch to an efficient air source heat pump with a combined incentive of \$2,000 from the Province of BC (\$1,700), the City of Victoria (\$150) and the Capital Regional District (\$150). The offer is only available to City of Victoria residents until July 31, or until funds are exhausted. Making this switch can dramatically lower heating bills and reduce the risk of costly and environmentally damaging spills.

As a City of Victoria resident, homeowners who have an Energy Evaluation may also be eligible to receive free Home Energy Coaching through the Municipal Partner Offer. The coaching will assist you with prioritizing and selecting home energy improvements and choosing the right products and contractors for your needs.

For more information on the Home Renovation Rebate (HRR) Program or the Municipal Partner Offer, visit www.victoria.ca/sustainability or call 1.844.881.9790.

For more information on the Oil to Heat Pump Incentive Program visit www.oiltoheatpump.ca or call 1.877.545.6247.

Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole meets March 9, 16 and 23 at 9 a.m. Council meetings are March 9 and 23, beginning at 6:30 p.m. You can attend in person or watch it [online](#). Agendas and minutes can be read [here](#).

Current Initiatives

Keep current with a variety of City-initiated projects underway this year. Find the summary [here](#) and follow the links for more details.

Part B – Council Meeting’s Perspective

City of Victoria Council Highlights –

Council Highlights provide a snapshot of the progress made on City programs, initiatives and on Council decision-making. For more information on each initiative, please visit the accompanying link where noted. We welcome anyone who would like to receive Council Highlights to email us at engage@victoria.ca.

February 9, 2017:

Update on Cycling Network Implementation

Staff provided Council a workshop on the implementation of Phase 1 of the City’s AAA cycling priority network and future work moving forward. The workshop included a review of AAA design guidelines, an update on the current program status, and an update on the development of the overall program implementation plan which remains subject to further analysis and planning, while providing Council an opportunity to provide feedback. Council directed staff to report back in June 2017 with further cycling network updates and recommendations regarding sequencing, scheduling, resourcing and costs for completion of the network by 2022. [View the report.](#)

Crystal Pool Change Room Renovation

Staff will proceed with the Crystal Pool universal change room renovation project. Construction of the new space is expected to take 4-6 weeks and will be scheduled during the facility’s annual maintenance closure in September to minimize disruption to patrons. [View the report.](#)

David Foster Harbour Pathway Update

Council has directed staff to complete the two pedestrian bridges and the Heron Cove Special Place at Fisherman’s Wharf and report back with recommendations for implementation on the design of the Johnson Street Bridge Underpass and Reeson Park Pathway. The Johnson Street Bridge Underpass design will be included in the 2017 Financial Plan. [Learn more.](#)

Clover Point Pump Station Rezoning Application

A rezoning application to permit a new addition to an existing public facility, the Clover Point Pump Station at 1303 Dallas Road, has been moved forward to Public Hearing. The hearing will be held on February 23. [More details.](#)

Extension of Vacancy Taxation Authority to Local Governments

Council will be asking the Province of British Columbia to extend the authority to introduce a surtax on vacant and derelict residential properties to local

governments across British Columbia, and encourage the occupancy, maintenance, and improvement of buildings to address housing affordability and public safety.

Restoration of Land Value Tax

Council endorsed a resolution to write a letter asking the Government of British Columbia restore the authority of local governments to introduce a Land Value Tax, to incentivize improvements to property for housing and other purposes, and create a disincentive to holding vacant property for speculative purposes.

Victoria Housing Strategy Implementation – Removing Minimum Unit Sizes

The City considered a proposal from the Victoria Housing Strategy to remove minimum unit sizes in all multi-unit residential zones outside of downtown (which currently has no minimum unit sizes) in an effort to enable a diversity of housing options in Victoria. After consideration of this change, Council moved instead to reduce any minimum unit size larger than the standard 33m² down to that size for consistency, and to tie future requests for micro units to housing affordability. A new public hearing date will be scheduled in the coming months.

Youth Strategy

A new Youth Strategy was adopted to get more youth involved in local government, and its corresponding implementation plan has been approved. Staff will bring forward funding options for the second and third years of the implementation strategy as part of the 2018 financial planning process.

City Wide Seismic Vulnerabilities Assessment Study Council has asked staff to expand the scope of the City's Tax Incentive Program (TIP) beyond downtown to include eligible heritage buildings city-wide. Staff will also examine the City's authority to expand incentives beyond heritage buildings and assess opportunities to include seismic considerations as part of the City's Rental Retention and Revitalization study. TIP has already successfully incentivized the upgrading of 43 buildings. Currently it is limited to granting tax exemptions exclusively to heritage-designated properties located downtown. [View the report.](#)

Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) Motion Social / Community Benefit Procurement Council endorsed a motion that the AVICC Executive appoint a liaison to the Working Group and that the Working Group undertake a feasibility assessment of a "Community Benefit Procurement Hub" as per the information circulated at the AVICC 2017 Convention for the AVICC membership and report back to the AVICC at the 2018 AGM.

90 & 92 Dallas Road

Council approved a rezoning application for 90 and 92 Dallas Road. This application will allow for the construction of a new duplex on the site. [More details.](#)

School District 61 Presentation

Based on a presentation by School District #61, the Mayor will write to the Ministry of Education supporting funding for the needed upgrades of Vic High School.

February 23, 2017:

City of Victoria and VicPD Fourth Quarter 2016 Reports

Council was presented the City of Victoria's and VicPD's fourth quarter reports, which measure progress towards achieving the organizations' strategic objectives. [View the reports here.](#)

2017 Key Initiatives

The City's 2017 Operational Plan Key Initiatives were presented, which will inform the basis for quarterly reporting to Council moving forward. An improved project status reporting process will be phased in during the second quarter of 2017 through the introduction of a new interactive reporting platform for better accountability, transparency and efficiency. View the report and the 2017 Key Initiatives [here.](#)

1303 Dallas Road Rezoning Application

The CRD's rezoning application for 1303 Dallas Road was approved to permit the expansion of a portion of the public right-of-way and structural alteration of the existing Clover Point Pump Station as part of the Core Area Wastewater Treatment Project. The City of Victoria will receive an amenity contribution of a one-time payment of \$100,000 to cover public realm improvements. Specific improvements will be determined based on the City consulting with the community and presenting a report to the CRD and City Council for consideration. [Learn more about the rezoning application.](#)

Annual Parking Services Update and Sustainable Transportation Strategy

Council approved the revised Parking Rates Policy that outlines ranges of rates for the City's on-street, in-parkades and surface parking lots to reduce this long-term use, freeing up space in City parkades for more short-term parking downtown. Rate changes will take effect on May 1, 2017 and can be found [here.](#) A communications plan will be developed to share information about the revised rates, collaborative initiatives with the Downtown Victoria Business Association to make parking easier, and upcoming service improvements at City parkades. Staff will develop a long-term Sustainable Transportation Strategy which will be presented to Council in August 2017. In addition, Council requested that the Mayor write to the Premier and the Minister responsible for Transit to support the request from the Transit Commission for an increase in the gas tax to pay for BC Transit service expansion. [View the report.](#)

Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre

Council directed staff to develop an implementation plan for a new facility to cost no more than \$69.4 million. The funding will consist of \$10 million from a combination of the Buildings and Infrastructure Reserve Fund and the remainder

through a combination of external borrowing and other funding opportunities. The 2017-2021 Financial Plan will be amended to include \$10 million towards the funding of the project. Staff are to explore additional funding opportunities and report back with a plan to use the referendum process as the method for placing the borrowing question before the electors. Citizens and stakeholder groups will be consulted on the design elements of the future facility (in alignment with Council's decision on a facility option). Staff will provide Council with an interim, public version of lessons learned of the Johnson Street Bridge project, and a communications plan will be developed to accompany the referendum. [View the report.](#)

Short-Term Vacation Rentals

Council will reconsider the issue of short-term vacation rentals at the next Committee of the Whole meeting on Thursday, March 2, 2017. The City will also write to the province asking there be a repeal of Section 78(1)(b) of the Provincial Sales Tax exemption and refund regulation.

Amendment to Storefront Cannabis Retailer Rezoning Policy

The Cannabis Storefront Retailer Rezoning Policy that was adopted by Council on September 22, 2016 was amended by adding Section 8: All applications for rezoning under this Policy shall be forwarded to the Neighbourhood Association in which the subject property is located, for information and comments they may wish to provide. [Learn more](#) about the City's regulations for cannabis businesses.

546 Yates Street Rezoning Application

Staff will prepare the necessary Zoning Regulation Bylaw Amendment that would permit the proposed development of a storefront cannabis retailer at 546 Yates Street. The first and second reading of the Zoning Regulation Bylaw Amendment will be considered by Council and a Public Hearing date will be set. [Learn more.](#)

510-512 Yates Street Rezoning Application

The storefront cannabis retailer rezoning application for 510-512 Yates Street was received by the City after the 546 Yates Street rezoning application. For this reason it will be deferred until after the public hearing has been held for the 546 Yates Street rezoning. The City's Storefront Cannabis Retailer Rezoning Policy reads "A storefront cannabis retailer should be at least 200m (in a straight line from closest lot line) from another lot where a storefront cannabis retailer is permitted whether or not a storefront cannabis retailer is active or not." [Learn more.](#)

Development Cost Charges Review – Consultation Results

Staff reported on the results of the consultation that took place with the development community during the Development Cost Charges review. The Development Cost Charge Bylaw was brought forward for consideration of first, second, and third reading and the Development Cost Charges Policy was approved which will establish the frequency of review for the City's Development

Cost Charges. As Victoria grows and evolves, new infrastructure and parks are needed to support people and businesses moving into neighbourhoods. Development Cost Charges are charges levied on development to help pay for growth-related infrastructure and parks. [View the report.](#)

Draft Zoning Bylaw Public Consultation Staff will undertake focused public consultation on the draft Zoning Bylaw 2017 and related zoning maps for the Central Business District and Historic Commercial District. The results of this engagement and the proposed Zoning Bylaw will be presented to Council by May 2017 prior to holding a public hearing. [View the report.](#)

Infrastructure Planning Grant for Bowker Creek Daylighting Feasibility Study Council endorsed a resolution supporting the City of Victoria make an application for \$10,000 in grant funds through the Infrastructure Planning Grant Program to fund a daylighting feasibility study of Bowker Creek in partnership with the CRD, Saanich and Oak Bay. [View the report.](#)

Capital City Station Bus Depot and BC Transit Downtown Terminal Pilot Projects – Six Month Interim Report Council extended the Capital City Station bus depot pilot to September 30, 2018 and directed staff to continue to monitor and assess operations and gather additional stakeholder feedback to make necessary minor modifications to improve operations. A report with a longer-term lease agreement and extension recommendations will be presented to Council in October 2017. The BC Transit turnaround/layover pilot on Government Street at Superior will continue and staff will monitor and assess the current operations and gather stakeholder feedback, presenting a long-term recommendation to Council also in October 2017. [View the report.](#)

Request to Begin Early Termination of Land Use Contracts Staff will begin the early termination process for all 42 of the Land Use Contracts (LUCs) in Victoria. Provincial legislation mandates that LUCs will be terminated on June 30, 2024. As part of this legislation, municipalities have been given the ability to terminate LUCs at an earlier date. Removing Land Use Contracts will ensure uniformity with current City processes on any future applications. A Land Use Contract (LUC) is a contract that was entered into between the original developer of land and a local government addressing the use and development rights of a property. LUCs, which are similar to zoning regulations, are registered on the title of a property. [View the report.](#)

727-729 Johnson Street Rezoning Application

Council approved first readings of bylaws for the rezoning application at 727 – 729 Johnson Street, which moves it forward to a public hearing at the March 9, 2017 Council meeting.

Letter from the Minister for Agriculture, Responsible for Francophone Affairs Program Council received a letter dated January 30, 2017, encouraging

Victoria to access financial assistance from the B.C. Government Francophone Affairs Program to support the delivery of French programs and services. Council will refer to staff if there is a project that could benefit from this program. [View the letter.](#)

Letter from the Victoria Real Estate Board

Council received a letter dated January 24, 2017 advising why a Foreign Buyer Property Transfer Tax should not be levied. [View the letter.](#)

Part C – Specific Areas of Interest

Victoria Fire Department Tackles Mental Health

Due to increased exposure to distressing situations and repetitive traumatic events, more and more first responders are experiencing symptoms of mental health conditions, including anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. In an effort to address this worrisome trend, the Victoria Fire Department is partnering with the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) to provide resiliency training and support for first responders. 13 Victoria Fire Department members have become certified as instructors through CMHA and can deliver programs to firefighters throughout the Capital Region.

Since 2014, 183 first responders and military personnel have committed suicide in Canada, including 48 first responders in 2016. The Victoria Fire Department has seen an enormous surge in exposure to traumatic calls as the province-wide overdose crisis continues to be an issue. In 2015, the Victoria Fire Department was responding to an average of 6-7 overdoses per month. That number has since increased tenfold to 60-70 calls per month, taking a severe toll on first responders.

The trained instructors work with a local mental health professional to lead first responders through skill building workshops, which provide comprehensive information on trauma, mental health problems, and resiliency. The goal is to give first responders a personal toolkit to increase mental health literacy, encourage early access to care, and strengthen the psychological health of first responders. The training benefits both personal and workplace relationships and encourages discussion on mental and physical wellbeing.

“By providing this training early and prior to the possible development of a mental injury, first responders are better prepared to face traumatic events, better serve the public, and recover more quickly if faced with a mental injury,” said Daniel Atkinson, Deputy Fire Chief.

All members of the Victoria Fire department will receive the first round of training by the end of 2017. The training will take place every year to build and maintain mental health resiliency.

Water Main Upgrades on Belleville Street Start

Work will begin to replace and upgrade a water main along Belleville Street, from Menzies Street to Oswego Street, in order to upgrade the cast iron water supply mains that was constructed over 60 years ago. The water main replacement is the first step in the “complete streets” improvements planned for this portion of Belleville Street in 2017.

This year, the City of Victoria is completing a number of water service upgrade projects designed to deliver high quality water to residents and make upgrades to improve fire suppression capacity and seismic capability. The existing cast iron water main is undersized for the James Bay area, so a larger diameter pipe is being installed and bolted together to help withstand possible earthquakes.

Construction is scheduled to begin the week of February 27, 2017 and will last approximately 12 weeks. The City will work to minimize inconvenience during the 7:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. construction hours and local access will be maintained. Some parking restrictions and temporary road closures will be required at times and some delays to traffic are expected.

The public is encouraged to use alternate routes if possible.

Make Your Mark! Help Shape the Create Victoria Arts and Culture Master Plan

What does a creative city look like? What do art and culture organizations, artists and creative entrepreneurs need to be successful? And how can the City support this vision and needs? Take the opportunity to “make your mark” to create conditions for creativity to flourish in Victoria. A range of activities are planned to inform the development of *Create Victoria*, a five-year Arts and Culture Master Plan that will align ideas, people, and resources around a shared vision and a set of goals, strategies and tactics to realize Victoria’s potential and guide investment.

The public is invited to drop by the *Create Victoria Cultural Café* on Saturday, March 4, 2017 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Victoria City Hall to share their ideas on how they currently participate in arts and culture, their vision for a vibrant arts and culture scene, and how the City could support this. The drop-in event will

include live music, arts activities for all ages and complimentary treats. A series of cultural cafés will be held with sectors of the arts and culture industry in March.

To help measure the impact of arts and culture in Victoria, the community is invited to participate in an online survey at www.victoria.ca/create until March 31, 2017. The first section of the survey is open to the general public, while the second section is aimed at arts and culture practitioners to inform the City's economic impact assessment study.

In addition, the community will have opportunities to share their ideas at a range of pop-up kiosks at local venues and on social media at #CreateVictoria.

To ensure Victoria's arts and culture industry is accurately represented in the Master Plan, and to help the City identify opportunities and gaps, industry members are invited to add or update their organizations, businesses and public art on the *Arts Victoria* cultural map at www.ArtsVictoria.ca/create. Since 2010, more than 250 City-owned and community-run arts and culture resources have been mapped.

Public input combined with recent data collected during the CRD Art Strategy engagement will inform the City's cultural planning. "Nurture Our Arts, Culture and Learning Capital" is a strategic objective in the *City of Victoria 2015 – 2018 Strategic Plan*, in which developing an Arts and Culture Master Plan is an action and an outcome.

The City will come back to the community in mid-June for feedback on the draft Arts and Culture Master Plan. For more information and to take the survey, visit: www.victoria.ca/create

Home Renovation Rebates and Heating Oil Tank Incentives Now Available

City of Victoria residents are now eligible for extra savings when retrofitting their homes. The City of Victoria is partnering with BC Hydro, FortisBC, the Province and CRD to enhance the Home Renovation Rebate and Oil to Heat Pump Programs, which can have multiple benefits, such as lowering bills, enhancing home values, increasing comfort and making a healthier home.

Programs like these, which help lower associated greenhouse gases, also help reduce the impacts from a changing climate. Thousands of dollars in home renovation rebates are available. The offer include upgrades to hot water and

space heating systems, insulation, air sealing, windows and more. Multiple upgrades can be bundled together to increase savings.

Those with home heating oil can also consider the B.C. Government's Oil to Heat Pump Incentive Program. Now is a great time to consider making the switch to an efficient air source heat pump with a combined incentive of \$2,000 from the Province of BC (\$1,700), the City of Victoria (\$150) and the Capital Regional District (\$150). The offer is only available to City of Victoria residents until July 31, or until funds are exhausted. Making this switch can dramatically lower heating bills and reduce the risk of costly and environmentally damaging spills.

As a City of Victoria resident, homeowners who have an Energy Evaluation may also be eligible to receive free Home Energy Coaching through the Municipal Partner Offer. The coaching will assist you with prioritizing and selecting home energy improvements and choosing the right products and contractors for your needs.

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For more information on the Oil to Heat Pump Incentive Program visit www.oiltoheatpump.ca or call 1.877.545.6247.

City Aims to Get More Youth Involved in Decision-Making

City Council unanimously adopted a strategy designed to get more youth involved in local government. The three-year Youth Strategy, written by a team of 10 youth between the ages of 12 and 25, includes practical and creative initiatives that will help the City strengthen its relationship with youth and involve them in City activities.

Youth aged 12 – 24 make up over 15 percent of Victoria's population yet are underrepresented in the City's planning processes. This strategy is intended to give young people a voice in local government and be part of planning the future of their community.

"A lot can be gained by having youth involved in the City," said Sol Lindsay, youth team member (aged 18). "Not only can youth provide a unique perspective on city issues, but involvement in the city can build a relationship with government that is fundamental for the future. This strategy will help the City

design programs and processes to get young people involved, and it will connect the city with the generations of the future.”

The strategy includes more than a dozen ways for the City to involve youth in their municipal government such as:

- developing a learning tool in partnership with the school district so children and youth are learning about the City in classrooms
- opening a youth hub as a safe space for youth to hang out and find out about programs and services
- creating a channel for direct two-way dialogue between City Council and youth
- getting more youth working at the City through mentorship and co-op programs

“It’s really important to get youth involved in planning the future of the city,” said Councillor Jeremy Loveday. “We are making decisions today that will shape the community for a long time to come. Youth deserve to have a say in what their city will look like. I’m pleased we have a roadmap that will help us to support youth to get more involved.”

The City will begin implementing the strategy immediately.

Read the full youth strategy [here](#).

Youth Strategy excerpt: “The Youth Strategy is a painting made with the brushstrokes from local youth from all walks of life, adults who work closely with youth, City staff, Council and us. It is the result of our best efforts to build a better city for all youth in Victoria.”

New 2017 Transportation Mode-shift EcoStar Award

The Downtown Victoria Business Association and the City of Victoria have co-created the Transportation Mode-Shift EcoStar Award with the Synergy Sustainability Institute (SSI). This new award category will recognize businesses and other organizations that are incentivizing or encouraging staff and/or customers to shift modes and arrive at their location by sustainable transportation.

“We are so excited to be part of this initiative as transportation is constantly changing and evolving and this award is a great way to recognize the multi-modal shift in a fun and creative way,” says Kerri Milton, Executive Director of the DVBA. “We are very happy to work with such great partners to bring this kind of

positivity forward to the public and to our members in order to share other great ideas and initiatives through the application process.”

The EcoStar Awards planning committee expects to see applications for initiatives such as subsidized bus passes for staff, encouraging staff to cycle to work, incentive programs for active commuting, discounts for customers who arrive by bicycle, and other programs. The DVBA, the City and the EcoStar Awards Committee hopes to pull stories out of the community and share them widely to inspire other businesses and organizations.

“We’re working hard with the Downtown Victoria Business Association to address transportation challenges and opportunities,” said Mayor Lisa Helps. “The Transportation Mode-Shift EcoStar Award is a fun and easy way to recognize and celebrate success and inspire others to act.”

The EcoStar Awards will take place in November 2017. This is SSI’s third year hosting the awards. A total of 18 awards will be given to organizations leading in sustainability and innovation. Applications for the awards will open in summer 2017.

Council Meets with Songhees’ Band Council

Another step in support of the City of Victoria's pledge to make 2017 a meaningful "Year of Reconciliation".

Tonight, all members of Victoria Council had a formal dinner meeting with the Band Council for the Songhees Nation. The very fact that this was the first ever such occasion for both Council's to "break bread together" made it a milestone.

The hospitality offered in the Songhees Wellness Centre was warm, sincere and thoughtful...the food was fabulous...the fact that there was not a formal "agenda" to follow, allowed folks at each table to find their own points of shared focus. We watched as the seeds of friendship were sown in many personal discussions.

The journey is long.....and it is a path we must follow.





You are cordially invited to join candidates running in Greater Victoria in the May 9, 2017 Provincial Election for a discussion about important priorities for our region.

All-Candidates Listening Session

March 2, 2017 | 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Carson Hall in the Victoria Conference Centre

Moderated by Gregor Craigie

Background:

In a strong demonstration of collaboration, the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce, City of Victoria, Downtown Victoria Business Association, Tourism Victoria and Greater Victoria Harbour Authority have created key priorities for the next provincial government. These have been shared with the parties in advance.

- Increase Affordable Housing
- Improve Mental Health and Addictions Services
- Complete Sewage Treatment
- Create a Regional Transportation Commission
- Complete Belleville Terminal Improvements
- Develop Ogden Point and Establish Home Port Victoria

An invitation has been extended to all candidates running in Greater Victoria ridings:

- Victoria-Beacon Hill
- Victoria-Swan Lake
- Oak Bay-Gordon Head
- Saanich South
- Saanich North and the Islands
- Esquimalt-Metchosin
- Langford-Juan de Fuca

Presented by:

- Paul Nursey, President and CEO of Tourism Victoria
- Lisa Helps, Mayor of City of Victoria
- Ian Robertson, CEO of Greater Victoria Harbour Authority
- Catherine Holt, CEO of Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce
- Kerri Milton, Executive Director of Downtown Victoria Business Association

