

# **City of Victoria Council Meeting Highlights – September 8, 2017**

*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](mailto:engage@victoria.ca).

## **VicPD and City of Victoria Second Quarter Reports**

VicPD's and the City's second quarter reports for 2017 which highlight progress and achievements made from April 1 to June 30, 2017, were shared with Council for information. [View the reports.](#) Frontline service staff will be offered We Speak Translate training during "Lunch and Learn" sessions at City Hall this fall.

## **Heritage Registered Property to Receive 60-Day Temporary Protection Order**

A 60-day temporary protection order will be issued without the consent of the owner for the heritage registered property located at 1525 Shasta Place. This will give Council time to consider long-term protection options for the property and for staff to negotiate possible resolutions with the owner. [Learn more.](#)

## **Transgender, Gender Non-Binary, and Two-Spirit Equity and Inclusion Policy**

Council approved a new policy that demonstrate the City's commitment to making civic facilities, operations and programs safe, inclusive and equitable for people of all genders, gender identities, and gender expressions, and their communities in Victoria. [Learn more.](#)

## **Short-Term Rentals**

Council approved the first reading of zoning bylaw amendments to remove short term rental use in residential units where 'transient accommodation' is listed as a permitted use in zoning (primarily in downtown Victoria). The public hearing is scheduled for September 21, 2017. [Learn more.](#)

## **Rezoning Application Approved for 853 Cormorant Street for Retail Sale of Cannabis**

At a public hearing on the rezoning application for 853 Cormorant Street, Council approved the retail sale of cannabis at this location. [View the report.](#)

## **Applications for Cannabis Retail Use**

At the Committee of the Whole meeting on September 7, 2017, four applications for cannabis retail locations were declined. During the September 7 Council meeting, Council ratified two of the motions to decline the rezoning applications for 543 Herald Street and 608 Johnson Street, however, Council approved the Temporary Use Application for 1601 Douglas Street to forward it for public comment at a meeting of Council. For the property at 2650-2654 Quadra Street, Council approved referring this application to the November 2, 2017 Committee of the Whole meeting. [Learn more.](#)

## **September 21, 2017**

### **Draft Ship Point Master Plan Design Concept**

Council has asked staff to proceed with the proposed Ship Point Design Concept with some refinements, including incorporating design elements to better use the southern portion of the site year-round, and consider the addition of a small urban dog park. Staff will report back to Council with the draft Ship Point master plan, the related implementation strategy and a summary of public and stakeholder input by January 2018.

### **Short-Term Rentals**

Following a Public Hearing, City Council approved a zoning bylaw change that removed entire unit short-term rentals as a permitted use where they were previously allowed.

Council approved a proposed regulatory framework for short-term rentals, which outlined how and where they will be permitted across the City as well as an enforcement strategy for how to enforce these changes. Council directed staff to consult stakeholders on the proposed regulations.

The City will also be requesting the Province to make changes to legislation and regulations to ensure that properties used substantially for short term vacation rentals are classified as commercial properties for the purposes of municipal property taxes, and reconsider legal non-conforming uses in strata properties.

More information will be available next week at [www.victoria.ca/shorttermrentals](http://www.victoria.ca/shorttermrentals).

### **Proposed Amendments to Parks Regulations Bylaw**

Council directed staff to prepare and bring forward for Council's consideration amendments to the Parks Regulations Bylaw intended to better manage parks. The amendments are:

- Ability to temporarily close a park or part of a park
- Prohibition on interference with City workers engaged in clean-up, maintenance or other work in a park
- Authority to impound property unlawfully left in a park and waive the fee to return impounded property
- Ability to apply for permits to carry out protests and other expressive activities in a park;

[Read the staff report](#)

### **Liquor Licensing Updates**

Council has responded to the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch to support applications to liquor licences by the Interactivity Board Game Café, and Philips Brewery, with certain conditions.

## **Fairfield Neighbourhood Plan**

Early plan directions for growth in Fairfield have been approved in principle for preparing the draft Fairfield Neighbourhood Plan. Proposed Heritage Conservation Areas will be explored in the future, but not through the Fairfield Neighbourhood Plan process.

### **Gonzales Neighbourhood Plan**

Council directed staff to consult with the neighbourhood on changes to the Official Community Plan to align with the proposed draft neighbourhood plan.

### **Lebanese Emigrant Statue**

A statue honouring Lebanese emigrants will be installed in Centennial Park. The statue is a gift from the World Lebanese Cultural Union.



## Sign Up to *ShakeOut* Victoria on October 19!

Get ready to *ShakeOut* Victoria! A month from now on October 19, thousands of British Columbians will *Drop, Cover, and Hold On!* at 10:19 a.m. for two minutes in the *Great British Columbia ShakeOut (ShakeOut BC)* province-wide earthquake drill.

The City of Victoria is proud to be participating in the drill and encourages Victoria households, schools, businesses, organizations, and media to sign up online to participate at: [ShakeOutBC.ca](http://ShakeOutBC.ca)

The ShakeZone magnitude 8.0 earthquake simulator that visited Centennial Square last week is a reminder that Victoria has a one-in-three probability of a damaging earthquake in the next 50 years – and we need to be prepared.

*Drop, Cover, and Hold On!* is the best thing you can do to reduce injury and death during an earthquake. The drill is an opportunity to practise how to protect yourself during an earthquake and to increase awareness on the need for an emergency kit and a plan to reconnect with loved ones after a major disaster.

*Drop, Cover and Hold On!* means:

- **DROP** to the floor (before the earthquake drops you)
- Take **COVER** under a desk or sturdy piece of furniture and protect your head and torso, and
- **HOLD ON** to the piece of furniture until the shaking stops (once the shaking stops count to 60 before you get up to allow things to settle)

Emergency Management Victoria is offering free emergency preparedness workshops this fall. Learn what families and businesses need to have on hand to cope up to seven days without outside assistance. Sign-up for *Vic-Alert*, the City of Victoria's emergency notification service to receive updates by text, phone or email on emergencies and major disasters that may impact you. For more information: [VictoriaReady.ca](http://VictoriaReady.ca).

**For More Information:**

Tanya Patterson  
Emergency Program Coordinator  
Emergency Management Victoria  
Office: 250.920.3355

## **Orange Shirt Day: Every Child Matters to be Recognized September 30 in Centennial Square**

A grassroots event that recognizes the survivors of residential schools – and acknowledges those who did not – is growing in support across Canada and will take place in Victoria on Saturday, September 30 from noon – 4 p.m. in Centennial Square.

*Orange Shirt Day: Every Child Matters* grew out of Phyllis Webstad's account of having her sparkly new orange shirt taken away on her first day of St. Joseph Mission residential school. She shared her story during a community commemoration in Williams Lake, BC in 2013. At the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada in Vancouver two weeks before, the Honourable Justice Murray Sinclair had encouraged Webstad to share her story with others. Since then, *Orange Shirt Day* has become an annual opportunity to keep the discussion happening on all aspects of residential schools.

Residential school survivor Eddy Charlie and friend Kristin Spray are organizing the *Orange Shirt Day: Every Child Matters* event in Victoria, which they developed in 2015 while attending the Indigenous Studies program at Camosun College. This year, they are partnering with the City of Victoria and Bridges for Women Society to mark the City's commitment to reconciliation.

The community and the media are invited to attend the free event, emceed by local artist Bear Horne who designed this year's *Orange Shirt Day* T-shirt. A First Nations blessing and welcome will begin at 1 p.m., followed by a flag raising in Centennial Square and speeches by Councillor Gary Sam of the Songhees Nation and Chief Andy Thomas of the Esquimalt Nation. Mayor Lisa Helps will be joined by Minister of Education the Honourable Rob Fleming, *Orange Shirt Day* founder Phyllis Webstad,

and Kwantlen Nation musician and public speaker Luke Dandurand, who will share their journeys through reconciliation.

Event organizers Eddy Charlie and Kristin Spray will speak to the importance of raising awareness about residential schools to honour the close to 4,000 children who died, and the sacrifices that were made by 150,000 residential school survivors and their families across Canada.

First Nations singer Hannah Gentes and the City of Victoria Indigenous Artist in Residence Lindsay Delaronde will perform at the event. The Greater Victoria Public Library will have a booth featuring educational materials on residential schools.

Starting Wednesday, *Orange Shirt Day* T-shirts will be available for \$20 at Big Wheel Burger's three locations: Westside Village at 172 Wilson Street, Cook Street Village at 341 Cook Street, and Gateway Village at 703-711 Vernon Avenue. Get your shirt early as they are in limited supply. All proceeds will go towards the production of more T-shirts to increase awareness of this important initiative.

As *Orange Shirt Day* falls on a Saturday this year, the City of Victoria will recognize it on Friday, September 29 by inviting City staff to wear orange to work that day.

*Orange Shirt Day* is an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come. September 30 was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes to residential schools.

#### **Quotes:**

#### **Eddy Charlie, Event Organizer, Orange Shirt Day: Every Child Matters**

"Reconciliation is a relationship formed that benefits the paths that everyone shares. We are all educators and learners. We should strive to help each other, and care for the idea that each word we utter creates one chapter of a book that defines our character."

#### **Learn More:**

- Phyllis Webstad and *Orange Shirt Day*: [www.orangeshirtday.org](http://www.orangeshirtday.org)
- *Orange Shirt Day* Facebook event: [www.facebook.com/events/172290286671889/](https://www.facebook.com/events/172290286671889/)
- For more information and speaker bios: [www.victoria.ca](http://www.victoria.ca)

## **Construction Starts On Next Protected Bike Lane**

The City of Victoria will break ground September 25 on Fort Street, the second of five all ages and abilities (AAA) bicycle lanes that will be installed before the end of 2018.

The City has awarded the construction contract to Brunnell Construction, a Vancouver Island-based company. The successful and accepted bid for the scope of their work is \$2,825,684. Brunnell is the same company that built the Pandora Avenue protected bike lane. Their familiarity with Victoria's urban environment, combined with their extensive experience with these types of projects, will be beneficial for the project.

The new two-way protected bike lane will be built on the north side of Fort Street from Wharf Street to Cook Street. As a part of the work, the City of Victoria will be enhancing crosswalks and sidewalks, adding new street trees and benches, introducing accessibility enhancements and undertaking important underground utility upgrades. The new bike network will increase safety for cyclists, pedestrians, motorists and transit riders and will connect the downtown core to neighbourhoods and regional trails.

This type of infrastructure provides a significant safety improvement from the more traditional, painted bike lanes. Victoria is one of many North American cities that is implementing AAA infrastructure to meet current and future demand for a safer, comfortable and connected cycling network. The design for Fort includes a physically-protected two-way bicycle lane with dedicated traffic signals. The design maintains standard right hand turns and typical left hand turn signals, along with 95 per cent of on-street parking.

The first phase of Fort Street construction will begin with City utility upgrades including water main upgrades, improvements to underground sanitary sewer and storm drains and manhole replacements. Construction of the new protected bike lanes is expected to be completed by May 2018 and there will be limited work in November and December to accommodate the holiday shopping season.

During construction, there will be temporary changes to bus stop locations and on-street parking, as well as reduced travel lanes at certain times. Pedestrians may also be temporarily re-routed during sidewalk replacement activities. The City and Brunnell Construction will be working hard with stakeholders to minimize any inconveniences during construction. Local access to homes and businesses will be maintained at all times.

For more information visit: [www.victoria.ca/cycling](http://www.victoria.ca/cycling)

## **Final Johnson Street Bridge Steel Shipment Arrives In Victoria**

The final shipment of steel for the new Johnson Street Bridge is expected to arrive in Victoria at the Ogden Point terminal late on Sunday evening.

The pieces included in that shipment are the bridge deck span that cars and bikes will travel across and the pedestrian and multi-use pathways. On Monday the bridge deck span will be offloaded onto a barge and lashed down in order to be transported under the current Johnson Street Bridge on Tuesday afternoon.

Once the steel arrives in the upper harbour it will be cleaned and then inspected for any possible damage during shipping. Work will then take place to attach the pedestrian walkway and the multi-use pathway to the deck span, as well as install the bridge architectural and traffic lighting and the new bridge deck surface.

For more information visit: [www.johnsonstreetbridge.com](http://www.johnsonstreetbridge.com)

## **City Takes Legal Action to Protect Gorge Waterway**

The BC Supreme Court set September 11 as the hearing date for the City of Victoria's injunction application to remove vessels that are illegally moored on the Gorge Waterway. Currently there are 16 boats and four docks moored in contravention of the City's Zoning Regulation Bylaw.

The City is seeking one injunction – one single court order – that will require owners to remove their boat or dock from the Gorge Waterway.

In May 2016 changes were made to the City's Zoning Regulation Bylaw to improve the management of the Gorge Waterway by limiting long-term mooring to a maximum of 48 hours and not more than 72 hours in a 30-day period.

These changes regulate the use of the waterway for recreation, prohibit live-aboard use and the storage of vessels, and also address the negative impacts that unregulated marine activities are having on the marine environment and Victoria residents, without restricting navigation.

The City has worked with Pacifica Housing to offer outreach services to those living aboard vessels that cannot be safely moved, to assist them in finding alternate housing.

**UPDATE: Gorge Waterway BC Supreme Court Hearing Rescheduled** Today's BC Supreme Court hearing on the City of Victoria's injunction application to remove vessels that are illegally moored on the Gorge Waterway, has been rescheduled to the week of October 30, 2017. This morning the presiding judge Madam Justice Shergill adjourned the hearing to allow more time for a respondent's lawyer to prepare.

# AFGHANISTAN MEMORIAL DEDICATION

September 30 at 2.00 p.m.

On the afternoon of Saturday, September 30, the Afghanistan Memorial will be placed in the Children’s Playground, opposite Christ Church Cathedral. This 10-ton granite piece has been developed as an homage to future generations of Afghani children in hopes that they may be able to live in a more peaceful homeland. The Christ Church Cathedral School Choir will be singing the national anthem at the ceremony. 1500 to 2000 people are expected to attend and Quadra Street will be closed off.

Memorials like this are always subject to the question, “Does this glorify war?”. The committee working on this installation was committed to the proposition that this memorial be dedicated to the Canadian families suffering the loss of a loved one and to the belief that the 12-year Canadian Mission in Afghanistan led to profoundly positive societal change. I offer the following as evidence that Canada did make a difference in the lives of Afghans:

METRIC	2001	2014
Students in school	1.2 M	> 8.2 M
Girls in school	100,000	3.2 M
Schools	3,500	> 13,000
Teachers	20,000	>160,000
Women in government	0	69 (28%)
Access to healthcare	8%	60%
Agricultural production	1.6 M tons	4.6 M tons
% getting to market	< 40%	> 90%



An interesting ancillary observation was made by the other forces on the 12 year mission (US, UK, Australia, Germany, Italy): all deferred the “community/civic engagement” process to the Canadians because we are recognized as a multicultural country that works at bringing diverse factions together.....-Chris Coleman

## **Victoria City Manager Gets the Job Done. Time to Move On.**

Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps shared with City staff today that Council for the City of Victoria has decided to make a change to the City Manager position. Current City Manager Jason Johnson will be leaving his position at the City this week to pursue other opportunities. Council brought Mr. Johnson on in February of 2014 to undertake important and necessary changes to the way the City was managed, structured and staffed.

“Upon the successful completion of his mandate, Council joins me in thanking Mr. Johnson for his leadership over the past 3.5 years. Mr. Johnson played a critical role in modernizing the City’s financial planning process, creating greater transparency and accountability, transforming the City’s senior leadership team, strengthening the City’s relationship with the development community and overseeing major capital projects like the Johnson Street Bridge Replacement. Deputy City Manager, Jocelyn Jenkyns, who has been with the City for 15 years, is Acting City Manager effective immediately. She will, among other things, be tasked with building on the successes of Mr. Johnson,” said Mayor Lisa Helps.

“It has been a pleasure and an honour to serve the City of Victoria during my time here. I am grateful to all the many talented and dedicated people I got to work with and very proud of the work that we accomplished under my leadership,” said Johnson. “The City remains in good hands with Jocelyn.”

Mr. Johnson joined the City of Victoria in February 2014. Mr. Johnson and the City have mutually agreed on a transition package of a maximum of 12 months’ salary and benefits.

### **For more information:**

Mayor Lisa Helps, 250-661-2708