

# **Fairfield-Gonzales CA Board Meeting:** **Nov 6<sup>th</sup> , 2017**

The days of summer seem long-gone & we are now decked out with coats, gloves & even toques! .....and it means Council is getting into it's annual & 5 Year Budget discussions.

Last Monday, Kimberley Stratford sent out her part of the monthly update; I'm now following up with my section. I have split this report into 3 distinct sections:

- a) Highlights from the Council meetings that occurred in October;
- b) News Round-up from City initiatives (often not publically noted);
- c) Upcoming Regional Sports Activities

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

### **October 12, 2017**

#### **Public Hearing: Mount Edwards Rezoning Application**

After a public hearing, Council approved the application to rezone Mount Edwards Court at 1002 Vancouver Street to permit 78 supportive housing units and 15 affordable rental housing units.

#### **3020 Douglas Street and 540 Burnside Road East Temporary Use Permit Application**

Council approved the motion for a Community Association Land Use Committee meeting be held on the proposal to create 52 transitional housing units at the former Tally Ho motel, prior to holding a public hearing.

### **Public Hearing: Temporary Use Permit for 732 Tyee Road**

The application for a temporary use permit to allow the retail sale of cannabis at 732 Tyee Road was approved.

### **Noise Exposure Forecast for Port of Victoria Harbour Airport**

The Mayor on behalf of Council will write to Transport Canada to ask within 30 days for the current Noise Exposure Forecast. This information will be shared with the community surrounding Victoria's Inner Harbour to provide accurate information on the airport's operational noise impacts. [View the report.](#)

### **Maintaining and Improving Inter-City Bus Service**

Council adopted a resolution for the City to call on the BC Passenger Transportation Board to decline Greyhound Canada's application to eliminate the inter-city bus routes, which include Victoria-Nanaimo, Victoria-Vancouver, and the route along the "Highway of Tears".

### **Review of Off-Street Parking Regulations**

Staff has been directed to undertake focused public consultation on the draft Off-Street Parking Regulations and to report back to Council with public feedback before advancing the bylaw to a Public Hearing. The current regulations have been in place since 1981 and the review considers current trends and best practices to achieve many objectives, including the preparation of design guidelines on charging and parking electric vehicles, and bicycle parking. [View the report.](#)

### **Liquor Licensing Updates**

Council approved the draft Liquor Licence Policy and directed staff to develop a new education program for existing and new businesses to learn about City bylaws and policies on the business licence application and renewal process. Staff will work with VicPD and the Provincial government to develop business-specific Good Neighbour Agreements for businesses that require them, and bring forward a related Bylaw to remove conditions to enter into Good Neighbour Agreements.

### **Artist in Residence Program**

Council approved the one-year extension of Artist in Residence Luke Ramsey's term to end on December 31, 2018.

## **Holding Fossil Fuel Companies Responsible for Climate Change**

The Mayor on behalf of Council will send a Climate Accountability Letter to major fossil fuel companies.

## **New Year's Day Levee and Free Swim**

The annual New Year's Day Levee will be hosted by City Council at City Hall and will include a free swim at the Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre. Details will be available soon.

## **October 26, 2017**

### **Public Hearing: 2639-2641 Quadra Street**

Following a public hearing, Council approved an application to rezone 2639-2641 Quadra Street to permit the sale of cannabis, conditional on registration of a Statutory Right-of-Way.

### **1625 Quadra Street**

Council declined the rezoning application to permit the sale of cannabis at 1625 Quadra Street.

### **Single Use Check Out Bag Regulations**

The City is considering a bylaw that would prohibit businesses from selling and distributing single-use plastic bags to customers. The City is inviting review and comment on the draft Checkout Bag Regulation Bylaw from retail businesses and other stakeholders, including the Accessibility Working Group. Staff will report back to Council in December 2017 regarding the feedback received and any recommended changes to the bylaw, as well as plans for education, awareness and enforcement. Council also requested the Mayor to write letters to the CRD, neighbouring municipalities, the Provincial government and major food producers to support regional consistency and a wise, renewed focus on waste avoidance programs

[Learn more](#)

### **Victoria Housing Reserve Fund Application – Fairfield Hotel**

Council has agreed to award a grant from the Victoria Housing Reserve Fund to Pacific Housing Advisory Association in the amount of \$500,000 to assist in the retention of 62 units of no/low income housing at the Fairfield Hotel at 1601-1609 Douglas Street.

## **Johnson Street Bridge Project Quarterly Update**

In a quarterly update presented at the October 19 Committee of the Whole, the project director for the Johnson Street Bridge replacement project shared the progress being made now that the steel components for the bridge are all here in Victoria. The steel rings are being painted and mechanical gears added to them that will help lift and lower the new bridge. Other work includes the bridge deck span having the new walkways attached, and the steel rings being lifted into the bascule pier in late November.

[Learn more](#)

## **Strategic Plan Grant Program Review**

Strategic Plan Grants are for eligible organizations working on a project or program that supports the actions and outcomes of the City of Victoria's 2015-2018 Strategic Plan Objectives. The grant program recently underwent a review process, with several changes to be implemented, including but not limited to deeming capital requests ineligible, limiting applications to initiatives that are based in the City of Victoria, and additional assessment criteria including the capacity of an organization to deliver the project, evidence of need, community impact and feasibility.

## **2019 International Ice Hockey Federation World Junior Hockey Championship Sponsorship**

The City will provide up to \$70,000 to support co-hosting the 2019 International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) World Junior Hockey Championships.

## **Downtown Public Realm Plan Adoption**

Council has approved the Downtown Public Realm Plan, replacing the City's Downtown Beautification Strategy developed in 1995. The plan establishes a design framework and set of principles, strategies and standards for ensuring a unique, walkable, timeless and high quality downtown environment befitting of its role as the Provincial Capital. In addition to approving the plan, Council asked staff to maintain and restore all existing ceramic tile names through downtown to the greatest extent possible, and undertake future planning and design work in the comprehensive redevelopment of Douglas Street to include consideration of retaining the iconic cluster lamps.

[Read the Plan.](#)

## **b) City News Round-up**

### **Walk-along in Cook Street Village** **with Police Officer Keith Lindner**

On October 16<sup>th</sup>, I spent a good morning with 31 year Police veteran, Keith Lindner. We dropped into two “Shelter Housing” facilities in the City & then spent two hours walking in the Cook Street Village. VicPD community surveys suggest that most citizens want a higher profile of Police services in our neighbourhoods.....Keith used the opportunity to drop into the Cook Street Activity Centre & connect with staff. Similar visits with a number of Cook Street businesses lead to an offer to have a VicPD member drop into a future Cook Street Business Association meeting.

It was fascinating to watch citizens who just wanted to “interact with the members of VicPD”. Keith was gracious & funny yet, with a “non nonsense air” when it comes enforcement.....we will be doing more walk-alongs in the future



## **Place Leaves on the Boulevard for Pick-Up**

Fall is in the air, which means City crews will begin the annual leaf collection today.

Victoria residents are asked to have their leaves on the boulevard in loose piles, wire mesh rings, or in tied, clear, 100% compostable bags by the following dates:

### **Victoria Neighbourhood Leaf Pick-up Dates**

- James Bay, **Fairfield**, Rockland, **Gonzales** – October 29 and December 12
- Oaklands, Fernwood, North Jubilee, South Jubilee – November 21 and December 20
- Victoria West, Burnside Gorge, Hillside Quadra, North Park, Harris Green, Downtown – December 3 and January 3

From October 16 to December 15, 2017 Victoria residents can also arrange for their bagged leaves to be picked up from the boulevard by contacting the City Parks office at 250.361.0600. Residents are asked to provide their name, address, phone number and the number of bags they have and the bags will be picked up within five working days.

Help prevent flooding keeping streets and storm drains clear of leaves. Blocked storm drain grates should be reported to the City's 24-hour line at 250.361.0400.

Clear compostable bags can be purchased at the Public Service Centre at Victoria City Hall and at the Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre. A package of 10 bags is available for \$12.50, plus tax.

Victoria residents can also drop off their leaf and garden waste for free, year-round at the City of Victoria Public Works Yards at 417 Garbally Road on Saturdays from 7 a.m. – 2 p.m. Proof of residency is required, in the form of a valid BC driver's licence or a City of Victoria utility bill.

For the Leaf Pick-up Schedule visit: [victoria.ca/leafpickup](http://victoria.ca/leafpickup)

## **Change Home Smoke Alarm Batteries When You Change Your Clocks This Weekend**

A reminder to change household smoke alarm batteries this weekend when you change your clocks. Daylight Saving Time ends and clocks “fall back” one hour at 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 5.

Consider your home smoke alarms the most important clocks that need to be changed. Residents should test smoke alarms once a month and change smoke alarm batteries routinely in the spring and fall when clocks are changed. Replacing a smoke alarm that is more than 10 years old is recommended.

Victoria residents can arrange for a free home smoke alarm home visit by a Fire Prevention Officer, who will determine the best locations for a smoke alarm, install new alarms, or test existing ones. If you reside in a single family home, duplex or townhouse and require a new smoke alarm, you may be eligible to receive one free of charge. The service is available to anyone who resides in the City of Victoria.

For more information, visit: [victoria.ca/smokealarms](http://victoria.ca/smokealarms).

## **Learn More About New Library to Open in James Bay at November 4 Open House**

Want to know more about the new library that’s set to open in James Bay early next year? The public is invited to drop by an Open House on Saturday, November 4 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Central Library’s Community Room at 735 Broughton Street to learn more, view displays, and speak with Library and City staff. Refreshments will be provided.

WHAT: Open House: New Library to Open in James Bay  
WHEN: Saturday, November 4 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
WHERE: Greater Victoria Public Library, Central Branch, Community Room, 735 Broughton Street

Located on the corner of Menzies and Superior Streets, the new neighbourhood branch is a partnership of the City of Victoria and the Greater Victoria Public Library system. The City is providing \$1.5 million in capital funding for the new branch, which is situated in the first phase of the new Capital Park residential and commercial development.

In late 2015, the Greater Victoria Public Library surveyed the public about the features and location of a library in James Bay. The Open House will be an opportunity to thank the community for their input and showcase what's in store for the new neighbourhood branch.

Modern in design with abundant natural light and views of the iconic Legislature building, the 7,150 square-foot branch will feature:

- Wi-Fi enabled outdoor reading space within the Capital Park courtyard and greenspace
- Community living room space and public computers
- Family-friendly children's area
- Teen area and two bookable study rooms
- Separate, bookable community meeting room with seating for up to 60 people, available after hours
- Laptop bar and mobile charging station
- Varied seating options including lounge reading chairs, bistro seating, high tables and chairs
- Flexible mobile shelving to adapt to community needs
- Automated Materials Handling (AMH) technology for immediate check-in of library returns 24/7

The new branch fulfills the Library Board's mission to build community and support lifelong learning by providing free access to information, space, tools and expertise. The new facility will provide the public access to all resources in the Greater Victoria Public Library system, including Lynda.com video tutorials and Hoopla digital movies, music, audiobooks and TV shows.

The new branch in James Bay will be the second in Victoria and the 12th in the Greater Victoria Public Library system. Learn more at [gvpl.ca](http://gvpl.ca).

## **Help *Name That Library!* Campaign**

The City of Victoria invites Greater Victoria citizens of all ages to help name the new library. By way of an online survey or email, the public can support the geographical name “James Bay Branch” or submit their own suggestion for a suitable name along with a short rationale. Names could be based on a local person or historical figure, a landmark, or an idea inspired by the James Bay neighbourhood or Victoria. The deadline to participate is **midnight on Sunday, November 19, 2017**. This is **not a vote or contest**. Suggested names and rationales will be submitted to City Council for consideration. The name of the new library will be announced in December. For more information visit: [victoria.ca/NameThatLibrary](http://victoria.ca/NameThatLibrary).

## ***Performance as Medicine: Indigenous Performance Art Symposium is November 25***

The community is invited to attend the *Performance as Medicine: Indigenous Performance Art Symposium* on Saturday, November 25 hosted at the Royal BC Museum. Developed by City of Victoria Indigenous Artist in Residence Lindsay Delaronde, the one-day, interdisciplinary and inter-generational event will present and explore Indigenous philosophies and contemporary expressive art forms.

The Symposium will include workshops from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., followed by a free public performance and panel discussion from 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Registration is required for the workshops. Tickets are \$15 and are available for purchase through the Royal BC Museum.

Facilitators will include:

- Jessica Sault of the Tseshaht First Nation, Nuuchahnulth, who works in her community to develop and teach Indigenous culture through workshops, literacy programs and school curriculum
- Sarah Pocklington, a Cree Metis singer/songwriter/composer and a member of the award-winning Indigenous trio Asani
- Bradley Dick, a traditional and contemporary artist of Lekwungen, Mamalilikulla, Ditidaht ancestry

- Krystal Cook, a Kwakwaka'wakw woman from the 'Namgis First Nation of Alert Bay, BC. Krystal is a mother, theatrical performer, poet, and facilitator at Healing through the Arts.

After the workshops, Lindsay Delaronde and Erynne Gilpin will perform *Rage Flowers*, a free, co-created performance in the Royal BC Museum at 3:30 p.m. The creative fusion of movement, sound vibrations, and sacred ceremony will convey the complex and interconnected relationship between First Nations, people, and government.

The Symposium will include a free panel discussion from 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. at the Museum. Moderated by Lucy Bell, head of the Royal BC Museum's First Nations Department and Repatriation Program, the panel will feature Erynne Gilpin, a performance artist with a PhD in women's leadership in land-based governance and Indigenous healing methodologies, France Trépanier, a visual artist, curator and researcher, and Lindsay Delaronde, a professional multi-disciplinary visual artist.

To register and for more information, visit: [victoria.ca](http://victoria.ca)

## **BC Supreme Court Hearing for Gorge Waterway Rescheduled to November 1**

The 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 take place tomorrow, Wednesday, November 1 at 10 a.m.

On September 11, 2017 the presiding judge granted an adjournment to allow respondents more time to respond.

Currently there are 17 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.



## **Joint Saanich & Victoria Fire Dispatch Centre**

The City of Victoria and the District of Saanich have agreed in principle to establish a new jointly-owned regional fire dispatch corporation. The Vancouver Island Emergency Dispatch Corporation will provide fire dispatch to the two municipalities.

Saanich currently provides fire dispatch to seven other municipalities within the Capital Region -- Saanich, Oak Bay, Esquimalt, View Royal, Colwood, Central Saanich, North Saanich, and Sidney. The Saanich dispatch centre is the only fire dispatch centre on the Island to use E-Comm computer-aided dispatch.

This initiative is the result of direction provided by the four Councils in the core area in 2015 to discuss closer collaboration among respective fire departments. Working towards a start date of January 2019, the new integrated service is a cost-effective and efficient way to ensure seamless service to the community. This provides an opportunity for the

municipalities to strengthen their working relationship, while providing state-of-the-art fire dispatch and communications technology.

The dispatch technology will be provided by E-Comm, the largest emergency communications centre in British Columbia. E-Comm utilizes a computer-aided dispatch system that allows for swift and easy access to a wide range of information critical to emergency response.

While the Dispatch Centre will be located in Saanich, firefighters from each municipality will continue to respond to calls located in their respective jurisdictions.

- **Chief Paul Bruce, Victoria Fire Department,** “With the need for a new fire station and investments required to upgrade the present dispatch operations, this partnership with Saanich is a practical long-term solution to address improved technologies and service efficiencies.”
- **Chief Mike Burgess, Saanich Fire Department,** “This dispatch centre will use state-of-the-art dispatch and communication technology that complies with National Fire Protection Association standards - a first for the Region. Moving to one integrated dispatch centre means that callers will receive a higher level of service, which is something the Saanich Fire Department is very proud to support.”

**For More Information:**

Rebecca Penz, Engagement Advisor  
City of Victoria  
250.661.0085

Kelsie McLeod, Communications Manager  
District of Saanich  
250.475.5474 x3444



## **Yasuko Thanh and Margriet Ruurs Win Victoria Book Prizes**

Two Victoria authors were recognized for their literary talent at tonight's 2017 Victoria Book Prize Society Awards Gala. Yasuko Thanh was named the winner of the 14<sup>th</sup> annual City of Victoria Butler Prize for *Mysterious Fragrance of the Yellow Mountains*, published by Hamish Hamilton.

Margriet Ruurs was named the winner of the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Bolen Books Children's Book Prize for *Stepping Stones: A Refugee Family's Journey*, published by Orca Book Publishers.

Mayor Lisa Helps and event sponsor Brian Butler presented Thanh with the \$5,000 City of Victoria Butler Book Prize and Samantha Holmes from Bolen Books presented Ruurs with the \$5,000 Bolen Books Children's Book Prize.

In *Mysterious Fragrance of the Yellow Mountains*, Thanh transports readers into a vivid, historical Vietnam, one that is filled with chaotic streets, teeming marketplaces, squalid opium dens, and angry ghosts that exist side by side with the living. *Mysterious Fragrance of the Yellow Mountains* won the Rogers Writers Trust for Fiction Prize and was nominated for the Amazon.ca First Novel Award.

Previous to winning the Journey Prize for her short story *Floating Like the Dead* in 2009, Thanh earned her living as a busker, an opium dealer, a cleaner of goat pens, a bed and breakfast operator, a housekeeper, and a panhandler. In 2013, she was named one of 10 writers to watch by CBC Books. Thanh completed her Bachelor of Arts as well as a Master's of Fine Arts at the University of Victoria. She also screams in the punk band *12 Gauge Facial*.

*Stepping Stones; A Refugee Family's Story* is a unique picture book that was inspired by the stone artwork of Syrian artist Nizar Ali Badr, discovered by chance by Ruurs. The author was immediately impressed by the strong

narrative quality of Mr. Badr's art and contacted him to see if he would agree to work with her. Including many of Mr. Ali Badr's already-created pieces, Ruurs created a story about the Syrian refugee crisis. *Stepping Stones* tells the story of Rama and her family, who are forced to flee their once-peaceful village to escape the ravages of the civil war raging ever closer to their home. With only what they can carry on their backs, Rama and her mother, father, grandfather and brother Sami, set out to walk to freedom in Europe.

Ruurs is the author of many award-winning books for children. She enjoys speaking about reading and writing to students at schools around the world. Her adventures have taken her to such countries as Myanmar, Pakistan, Laos, Tanzania and many other countries. Ruurs was born in the Netherlands but has been a Canadian for most of her life.

The awards gala was held at the Union Club of British Columbia and was emceed by journalist and community builder, Jo-Ann Roberts. Victoria's Poet Laureate Yvonne Blomer and Youth Poet Laureate Maita Cienska opened the evening with a two-voice poem.

The City of Victoria Butler Book Prize celebrates its 14th year in 2017 and is a partnership between the City of Victoria and Brian Butler of Butler Brothers Supplies. Ten years ago, Mel Bolen founded the Bolen Books Children's Book Prize to provide authors and illustrators of books for children and youth an increased opportunity for recognition. Additional sponsors include the Union Club of British Columbia, Greater Victoria Public Library, Island Blue Print, Chateau Victoria, Magnolia Hotel and Spa, Friesens Corporation and CBC Radio.

The Victoria Book Prize Society establishes the policy and criteria for the prizes, appoints the juries, and administers the competitions. For more information, visit [www.victoriabookprizes.ca](http://www.victoriabookprizes.ca) or [www.victoria.ca](http://www.victoria.ca)

## **c) Regional Sports Activities**

Ours is a region that plays, & hosts, an amazing number of activities. All too often, we find out about these activities through the media.....after the fact. Following, is a partial list of events through to the end of 2017

### **November**

- \* Nov 3/4/10/14/21/24/25 – **Victoria Royals Home Games - SOFMC**
- \* Nov 10-12 – **Victoria Midget Hockey Tournament – Ian Stewart Centre**
- \* Nov 10-12– **Victoria Bantam A Hockey Tournament – Ian Stewart Centre**
- \* Nov 10-12 – **SMHA Atom Hockey Tournament – Pearkes Arena**
- \* Nov 10-12– **Bennett Cup Swimming Championships – Saanich Pool**
- \* Nov 17-19 – **Claremont Spartans Field Lacrosse Tournament – Topaz Park**
- \* Nov 24-26 – **Canada West University Swimming Championships – Saanich Pool**

### **December**

- \* Dec 8/16/27/28 – **Victoria Royals Home Games - SOFMC**
- \* Dec 2 – **Para Sport One Ability Open House - PISE**
- \* Dec 8-10 – **Christmas Cracker Swim Meet – Saanich Pool**
- \* Dec 9-10 - **Rick Lapointe Memorial Bantam AAA Tournament – Ian Stewart Centre**

\* Dec 14-16– **Gary Taylor Oak Bay High school Invitational Basketball Tournament**

\* Dec 23-24 – **Camosun Chargers Women’s Basketball Tournament - PISE**

\* Dec 29-31 – **St. Michael’s University School’s Invitational Basketball Tournament - SMU**