



New Plaza Complete in Triangle Green

If you haven't had a chance to see this yet, make your way downtown on a sunny day to view the new gateway feature on the east side of the Johnson Street bridge. Anchored by Illarion Gallant's iconic public art piece, *Commerce Canoe*, the new Triangle Green is now open for public use and features new trees, seating, lighting, landscaping and improved pedestrian and multi-use access. The new black tupelo trees planted in the plaza were donated by the Royal Commonwealth Society Vancouver Island Branch to mark the Common Centennial Celebration. The City is committed to preserving natural areas and ensuring quality green space for residents throughout the municipality. The completion of the plaza supports the City's Parks and Open Spaces Master plan that lays out a roadmap for planning, management and investment over the next 25 years.



My Great Neighbourhood Grants Open April 1

Beginning April 1 residents can apply for some of the \$127,500 of grant funding available in 2021. My Great Neighbourhood Grants are available to residents and community groups in the City of Victoria. The City provides up to \$5,000 for placemaking and community

recovery projects and up to \$1,000 for activities, matching equivalent contributions (including volunteer time and in-kind donations) from applicants. Any not-for-profit organization, school or ad hoc groups of residents can apply, although a sponsor must be found for those without not-for-profit status. City staff are available to help residents through this process. For more information check out our [webpage](#)

Daytime Sheltering Ending in City Parks as of May 1

Daytime sheltering in parks will end on May 1, 2021 as a result of bylaw changes adopted March 18, 2021 by Victoria City Council. The decision comes amid an unprecedented effort to move people inside through an ongoing partnership between the Province, BC Housing, the City and service providers. Council has amended the Parks Regulation Bylaw to remove a provision that allowed daytime sheltering since last year in response to a humanitarian crisis brought on by the

pandemic and public health advice that encouraged municipal governments to allow people who are unhoused to shelter in place. The change means the previous bylaw requirement will come back into effect and shelters will not be allowed in parks between 7am - 7 pm effective May 1. For more information about temporary sheltering in parks, visit victoria.ca/sheltering.



Proposed Accessible Parking Requirements and Design Criteria
Council has endorsed new design criteria for public on-street and City operated parkade accessible parking stalls and a budget of up to \$350,000 for accessible parking retrofits and expansion efforts with funding from the Accessibility Reserve Fund. Staff will proceed with amendments to the Zoning Bylaw, the Subdivision and Development

Services Bylaw, and the Streets and Traffic Bylaw to establish new supply rates and specifications for off-street accessible parking. Read more [here](#)

Plumbing Permit Applications Now Available Online

Applying for a plumbing permit just got easier in the Capital City. Victoria homeowners and contractors can now apply for a plumbing permit online. The City of Victoria's new plumbing permit application system is the first of its kind in the Capital Region and follows the success of the City's online electric permit application launched in 2018. To apply for a plumbing permit, applicants need to first register for a personal MyCity account. The account tracks permits in the system and enables homeowners and contractors to view the permit history for specific properties. Individuals who want to apply for a plumbing permit by phone or email can still do so by appointment. A plumbing permit is required for any construction, extension or repair of any plumbing system and is also needed to make a connection to sewer or water services. Only registered plumbing contractors and homeowners who meet the requirements of the current BC Plumbing Code can apply for a plumbing permit online. Since the City first launched its online electric permit application three years ago, nearly all permits are issued without the need to visit City Hall. To apply for a plumbing permit online, visit victoria.ca/mycity.

Canada Community Building Fund Being Doubled for 2021

Victoria will be receiving a federal contribution from the Community Building Fund of \$7,667,506 in 2021, doubled from \$3,833,753 received in 2020. The funds can be used by local governments to fund a wide range of projects that increase sustainability and resilience and improve quality of life for residents. From 2016 to 2020, Victoria invested over \$18 million from this fund in energy saving projects like LED streetlights, in resilience infrastructure like storm drain rehabilitation and storm water quality improvements and in active transportation projects like new crosswalks and bike network implementation. In the 2021 budget an additional investment of \$4.1 million will be directed to storm drain rehabilitation and \$2.5 million in bike network implementation. The doubling of this fund for 2021 will allow Council to do more now and to plan for even larger investments in quality of life and sustainability infrastructure as they begin the 2022 budgeting process soon.



Staff Report April 2021



Bring Your Own Bag is Back!

The City of Victoria's revised **Checkout Bag Bylaw** is scheduled to come back into effect April 15th, 2021. This means businesses in Victoria will no longer be providing single-use plastic checkout bags and paper bags will have a minimum fee of 25 cents.

You can help our local businesses by remembering to bring your clean reusable bags when going shopping! Toolkits for businesses containing printed resources are available at City Hall. These resources can also be accessed online at Victoria.ca/reusablebags

Community Virtuals – April Lunch & Learn



Did you know your neighbours are often your first responders in an emergency? Preparing with your neighbours will help you respond and recover from emergencies. Join us for a session where we'll talk about why connecting with neighbours is important, learn about

some great projects already happening in the City, and provide some resources to get started. Events are recorded so if you can't attend, register for the event and you will get an email afterwards with the link to watch the recording. Register for your **free** ticket and learn more about grants: victoria.ca/neighbourhoods Info: neighbourhoods@victoria.ca

More Supportive Housing Units for Victoria Residents



The Province, in partnership with the City, is moving forward with four permanent supportive housing projects that will deliver homes with 24/7 support for people experiencing homelessness. The projects will be built at the following properties, which have been bought by the Province through BC Housing (number of homes are approximate):

- 865 Catherine St., 45 homes: construction is expected to start in summer 2021
- 959 and 953 Balmoral Rd., 60 homes: construction is expected to start in winter 2021
- 1053 and 1075 Meares St., 50 homes: construction is expected to start in summer 2021
- 1176 Yates St., 37 homes: construction is expected to start in summer 2021

These projects are in addition to two supportive housing projects announced in Central Saanich and Saanich. These six projects will deliver more than 280 permanent supportive homes for people experiencing homelessness in the capital region. For more information visit <https://letstalkhousingbc.ca/capital-region>

What's Up at Council?

	Committee of the Whole (COTW) 9:00 a.m.	(Closed) Council Meeting After COTW meetings as required	Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.
April	1 st , 8 th , 15 th , & 22 nd	1 st , 8 th , 15 th , & 22 nd	8 th & 22 nd

Neighbourhood Staff Contact: Kimberley Stratford kstratford@victoria.ca





Staff Report April 2021

Decisions made at Council can be found on our [Council Highlights](#) page. If you are interested in knowing how the councillors voted on anything, you can now see and track Council voting records with the City [Council Meeting Dashboard](#).

Temporary Relocation of Council Meetings

Council and Committee of the Whole meetings will be held at the Capital Regional District Board room between March 11 and June 15, 2021 to allow for HVAC work to occur at City Hall to improve air quality.

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