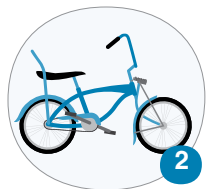


Connect



Time to Ride
Where do you want to see a new bike lane?



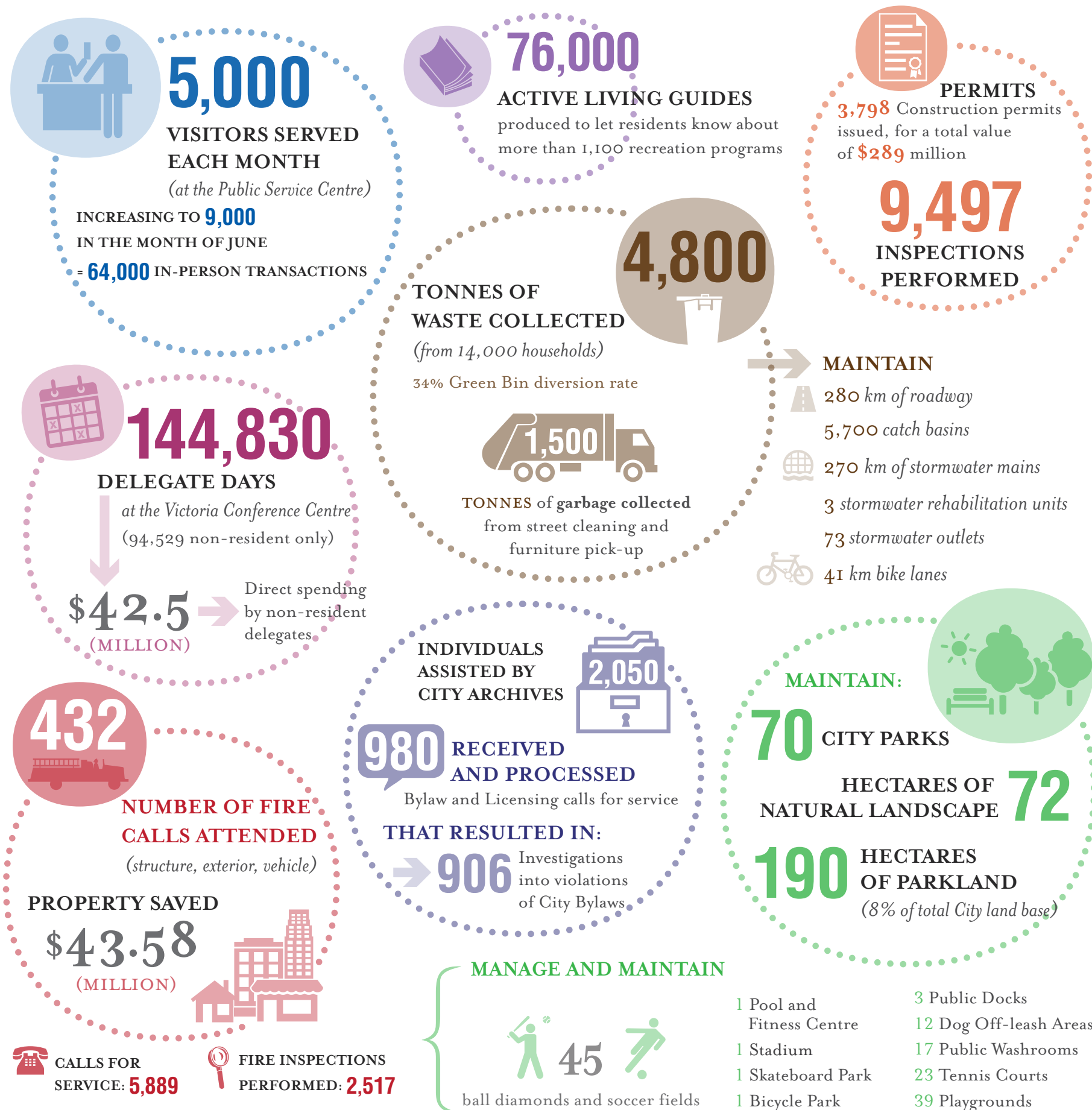
Priority Bike and Transit Lanes on Douglas Street



New Stormwater Utility in 2015

Did you know?

The City provides many of the essential services you use on a regular basis, from clean water, garbage collection and safe, well-maintained roads to emergency services, local parks, recreation classes and development decisions. First-rate city services are the foundation for building a healthy, safe and sustainable community. Below is a small example of how the City works to make our community better in a typical year.



FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY. APPROXIMATIONS BASED ON 2012 AND/OR 2013 DATA.

What's Inside

More Bike Lanes.....2	Rockland Greenway3	Mark Your Calender4
Emergency Preparedness Workshops.....2	Downtown Zoning Bylaw3	New Stormwater Utility4
Priority Transit and Cycling Lanes.....2	Johnson Street Bridge – 90 years4	Graffiti Hotline.....4

Welcome to our new City Manager and Police Chief

A warm Victoria welcome to new members of our community!



City Manager **Jason Johnson** joined the City in February. For the past six years Johnson has served as the Chief Administrative Officer for the District of West Kelowna, that prior to incorporation was the largest unincorporated area in BC. Johnson was hired as the first CAO and was responsible for establishing the local government from the ground up. Johnson spent his high school years in Victoria and has family on Vancouver Island.



VicPD welcomed a new Police Chief in January. Chief **Frank Elsner** comes to Victoria after holding the post of Chief of Police for the Greater Sudbury Police Service since 2009. With over 30 years of policing experience, Chief Elsner has worked in police services across the country including the RCMP, Ontario Provincial Police, Thunder Bay Police Service and the Owen Sound Police Service. He has had a strong and varied career, having worked in uniform patrol, criminal investigations, intelligence, training and emergency operations divisions as well as various administrative areas.

Are You Prepared for an Earthquake?

Does your family have an earthquake kit with all of the necessary supplies to cope up to seven days without outside assistance? Learn what you need to protect your family. For more information: www.PrepareVictoria.ca

Tuesday, April 15, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Victoria West Community Centre
521 Craigflower Road

Thursday, April 17, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Victoria City Hall, Antechamber
Douglas Street and Pandora Avenue

Thursday, May 1, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Victoria City Hall, Antechamber
Douglas Street and Pandora Avenue

Wednesday, May 14, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Oaklands Community Centre
2827 Belmont Avenue

Monday, May 26, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Victoria City Hall, Antechamber
Douglas Street and Pandora Avenue

Wednesday, May 28, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Burnside Gorge Community Centre
471 Cecelia Road

Your Mayor and City Councillors

Dean Fortin Mayor



Dean Fortin is serving his second term as Mayor of Victoria, and served two terms as Councillor from 2002 to 2008.

City Hall 250.361.0200
Email mayor@victoria.ca

Marianne Alto



Serving in her second term as a City Councillor, Marianne is the Councillor liaison to the neighbourhood of Oaklands.

City Hall 250.361.0216
Email malto@victoria.ca

Chris Coleman



Chris has served on Council since 1999 and is the Councillor liaison to the neighbourhood of James Bay.

City Hall 250.361.0223
Email ccoleman@victoria.ca

Shellie Gudgeon



Serving in her first term as a City Councillor, Shellie is the Councillor liaison to the neighbourhoods of North Park and North/South Jubilee.

City Hall 250.361.0218
Email sgudgeon@victoria.ca

Lisa Helps



Serving in her first term as a City Councillor, Lisa is the Councillor liaison to the neighbourhoods of Downtown and Victoria West.

City Hall 250.361.0217
Email lhelps@victoria.ca

Ben Isitt



Serving in his first term as a City Councillor, Ben is the Councillor liaison to the neighbourhoods of Hillside/Quadra and Rocklands.

City Hall 250.361.0222
Email bisitt@victoria.ca

Pamela Madoff



Pamela has served on City Council since 1993 and is the Councillor liaison to the neighbourhoods of Fairfield/Gonzales.

City Hall 250.361.0221
Email pmadoff@victoria.ca

Charlayne Thornton-Joe



A City Councillor since 2002, Charlayne is the Councillor liaison to the neighbourhood of Burnside Gorge.

City Hall 250.361.0219
Email cthorton-joe@victoria.ca

Geoff Young



Served as a City Councillor from 1983 to 1999, and then returned in 2005, Geoff is the Councillor liaison to the Fernwood neighbourhood.

City Hall 250.361.0220
Email gyoung@victoria.ca

Time to ride



More Bike Lanes Coming Your Way! You Tell Us Where

To help further enhance cycling in Victoria, the City is updating its Bicycle Master Plan. The current plan has guided cycling improvements since 1995 including the addition of 41 km of bike lanes and over 1,000 bike parking spots in downtown, as well as requiring bike parking in all new developments.

The updated plan will create a recommended bicycle network for Victoria and will provide a list of priorities for the next five to 10 years. Feedback on desired cycling corridors and improvements is being collected through online surveys, workshops and interactive information kiosks at malls and other public areas. For more information on where you can find us and how to provide your feedback please visit www.victoria.ca/cycling



Work begins for new transit lanes

Priority Transit and Cycling Lanes Coming to Douglas Street

New priority lanes for transit buses and cyclists will soon be running along Douglas Street. Construction is now underway for the first phase on Douglas Street between Figard Street and Hillside Avenue. The new lanes will open by the end of May.

Priority lanes will operate Monday through Friday during peak travel times from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. (southbound lane) and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. (northbound lane).

Priority lanes will be added by converting street parking into a shared transit and bike lane during peak hours. Parking will be permitted during off-peak hours. From Pembroke Street to Hillside Avenue, the existing northbound curb lane will be converted into a peak-hour priority transit and cycling lane.

During construction, drivers may experience temporary lane closures in areas adjacent to construction work.

Some bus stops will be relocated to accommodate construction.

A second phase of priority lanes from Hillside Avenue to Tolmie Avenue is expected to begin later this year.

The new lanes are seen as the first step to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of public transit in the region and into the downtown core. The Douglas Street corridor currently supports as many as 1,700 vehicles per hour during peak travel times.

For more information, visit www.bctransit.com/transitfuture



Enhancing a Victoria Greenway for Pedestrians and Cyclists

Victoria strives to be a walkable city and is known as the "Cycling Capital of Canada." One way to encourage people to walk and cycle is to create greenways – transportation corridors that link special destinations such as schools, parks, commercial and recreation centres. Victoria has a 95-kilometre greenway network.

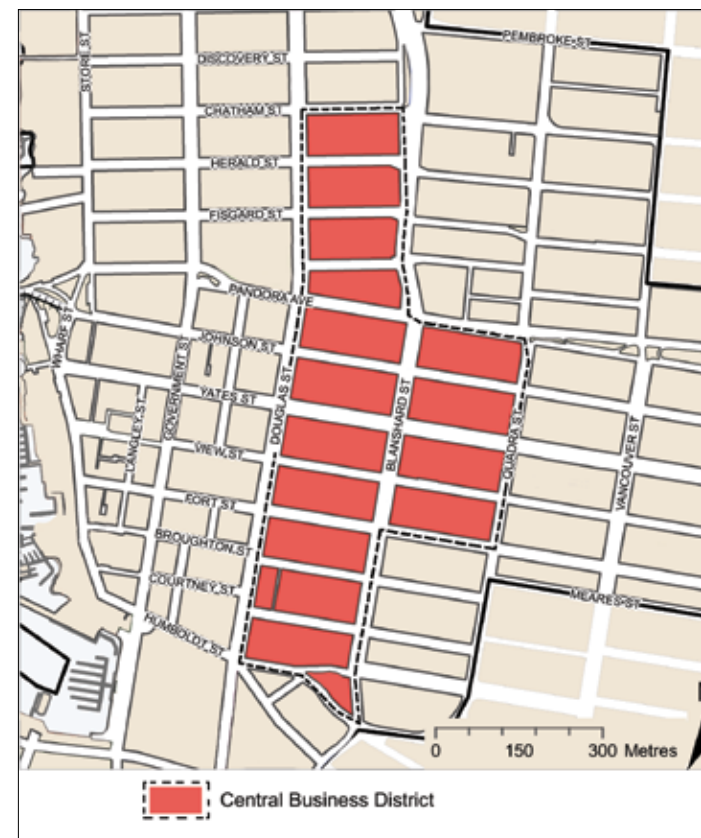
Rockland Avenue is a greenway that links Oak Bay Avenue to Quadra Street. In January, a section of Rockland Avenue was closed to motorists between Quadra and Vancouver Streets to make the greenway safer and more enjoyable for pedestrians and cyclists.

The closure creates a new green space downtown by connecting Christ Church Cathedral to Pioneer Square. It guides vehicle traffic away from this residential street and onto main roads such as Fort Street and Fairfield Road.

This section of Rockland Avenue will be closed for one year to provide the community the opportunity to experience the enhanced greenway, and for the City to assess any changes in traffic volumes on nearby streets and intersections. Local vehicle traffic can still access Rockland Avenue from Vancouver Street, but there is no exit to Quadra Street. Bollards and signage have been installed to help direct local traffic.

Experience the enhanced greenway and let us know what you think.

For more information: www.victoria.ca/rocklandgreenway



Downtown Zoning Bylaw Open House Attracts Wide Audience

An open house was held in mid-January to solicit public feedback on a new zoning bylaw proposed for downtown's Central Business District. The City would like to thank the more than 240 people who came out and provided valuable input on the proposed regulations.

The zoning changes are proposed to accommodate the estimated 10,000 new residents living in downtown over the next 30 years. This increase in population will create a significant demand for employment, housing and retail space. The first phase of the zoning update is focused in the Central Business District, which is the main employment centre not just for Victoria, but for the region as a whole.

Proposed changes include new regulations for density and building height allowances, permitting more uses to accommodate a range of commercial, institutional, and residential space, and introducing building form regulations that will encourage pedestrian activity and create special places.

The feedback collected from the open house and surveys will be provided to Council for their consideration and will be considered through a public hearing later this year.

For more information please visit www.victoria.ca/zoning

Mark your calendar

Use Your Own Power for Earth Hour

Saturday, March 29, 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Join cities around the world and turn off your lights for one hour to demonstrate what is possible when individuals take action on global warming. www.earthhour.org

Home Grown

Saturday, April 5, 9 a.m. – noon

Learn how to garden with native plants and transform your garden into an oasis that is beautiful and better suited for our environment. Workshop led by Master Gardener Jeff de Jong. \$25. To register: 250.361.0732.

LitARTcity

Friday, April 11, 8 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Celebrate National Poetry Month downtown at this collaborative extravaganza of poetry and performing arts. Tickets are \$20 and all proceeds support the Victoria READ Society's tutorial program for families. The event includes a cash bar. A partnership between the City of Victoria and the Victoria READ Society. www.victoria.ca

Free Tree Tours

April 26, 10 a.m. – noon, Fairfield Tour

June 14, 10 a.m. – noon, James Bay Tour

Learn about the various species of trees in Victoria during free walking tours led by UVic natural areas specialist Dr. Val Schaefer. Registration is not required. In Fairfield, meet at Chapman Park at the corner of Chapman and Linden Streets. In James Bay, meet at the Watering Can in Beacon Hill Park.

Basic First Aid for Biking and Boarding Teens

Saturday, May 3, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

This scenario-based, hands-on course teaches teens how to respond to life-threatening emergencies. Includes training on how to assess an accident, CPR, and treatment of head and spine injuries, shock, bleeding and broken bones. Registrants receive an Alert First Aid manual and can earn their Basic First Aid certificate. \$50. To register: 250.361.0732.

An Edible Landscape that Works

Saturday, May 3, 9 a.m. – noon

An edible landscape need not have the visual appearance of a rural vegetable garden. Master Gardener Jeff de Jong shows how an edible garden can be both functional and fabulous at this workshop held at the Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre. \$25. To register: 250.361.0732.

Make Your Own Victoria Hanging Basket

Saturday, May 10, 10 a.m. – noon

Create your own Victoria trademark hanging "sun basket" with expert greenhouse staff. A popular hands-on, two-hour workshop at Beacon Hill Park. \$90 fee includes workshop and all planting materials. To register: 250.361.0732.

I SPY With My Gardening Eye

Saturday, May 24, 10 a.m. – noon

Spend time enjoying the peace and tranquility of forests and natural spaces around Victoria. Walks will be guided at a casual pace. Includes transportation from Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre. \$15. To register: 250.361.0732.



1921–1923 City of Victoria Archives M00314



Johnson Street Bridge under construction

Johnson Street Bridge Celebrates 90 Years

January marked the 90th birthday of the Johnson Street Bridge, which opened to the public on January 11, 1924. Did you know that the Johnson Street Bridge is the third bridge built at its location? We are currently building the fourth.

Construction News

Work to replace 100-year-old water, sewer, and stormwater mains in the areas of Wharf and Store Streets, and along Esquimalt Road between Harbour and Tyee Roads is nearing completion. Thank you for your patience as crews completed this important work.

Improvements to the area include a seismically upgraded fire service water main to provide better protection and safety in the event of a fire or earthquake, and a new water main that will improve service to residents and businesses in the area. A new sewer main will provide increased capacity for a growing downtown population and an upgraded stormwater main will help prevent flooding in times of heavy rain.

Construction of the foundation of the new bridge will continue in the harbour through the spring and summer. Once the foundation work is complete, new road approaches will be built and the new bridge span will be assembled at the site later this year.

The existing bridge will remain open to traffic throughout construction. Crews are building the new bridge slightly to the north, allowing the existing bridge to **remain open** until the new bridge is complete in late 2015.

Check out the project webcam and sign up to receive updates by email at www.JohnsonStreetBridge.com

A New Stormwater Utility in 2015

Thank you to everyone who recently offered feedback regarding the change to a stormwater utility model and a new rainwater credit program. This change will introduce a user-pay system for stormwater charges and incentives for properties that manage rainwater sustainably.

Instead of paying for stormwater based upon property value and having this included in property taxes, utility fees will be based upon property characteristics that relate to how much water is flowing into the stormwater system and the quality of it. Properties that actively manage rainwater through rain gardens, cisterns, and other approved methods can apply for a reduction off their stormwater utility bill.

In January, responsive to community input, the implementation of the stormwater utility was shifted by one year, from 2014 to 2015. This will allow property owners more time to plan for the change in how stormwater services are billed and to learn more about rainwater management methods that could be appropriate for their property. All feedback will help guide the stormwater utility and the rainwater credit program as it is finalized. To read the full summary visit www.victoria.ca/stormwater.

This fall, property owners can expect further details and in early 2015, applications will be accepted for the credit program that will reduce property owners' stormwater utility costs.



City of Victoria Graffiti Hotline

If you see graffiti on City of Victoria property such as light poles, benches, garbage cans or in parks, please report it to the City of Victoria Graffiti Hotline at 250.361.0466. If your property has been vandalized by graffiti, please report it to the VicPD non-emergency line at 250.995.7654.

For more information, visit www.victoria.ca

Connect

The City of Victoria *Connect* newsletter is produced and delivered to Victoria households three times a year to inform you of the many programs and services provided by the City.

For more information or to provide feedback, please email connect@victoria.ca

City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

www.victoria.ca

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Our Commitment to the Environment

Using 1.34 tonnes of Harbour 100% PCW paper instead of virgin fibres paper reduced our ecological footprint of:

- Tree(s): 15.6
- Solid waste: 687 Kg
- Water: 6,052 L
- Air emissions: 1,198 Kg

