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**Your City.
Your Budget.**

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**Johnson Street
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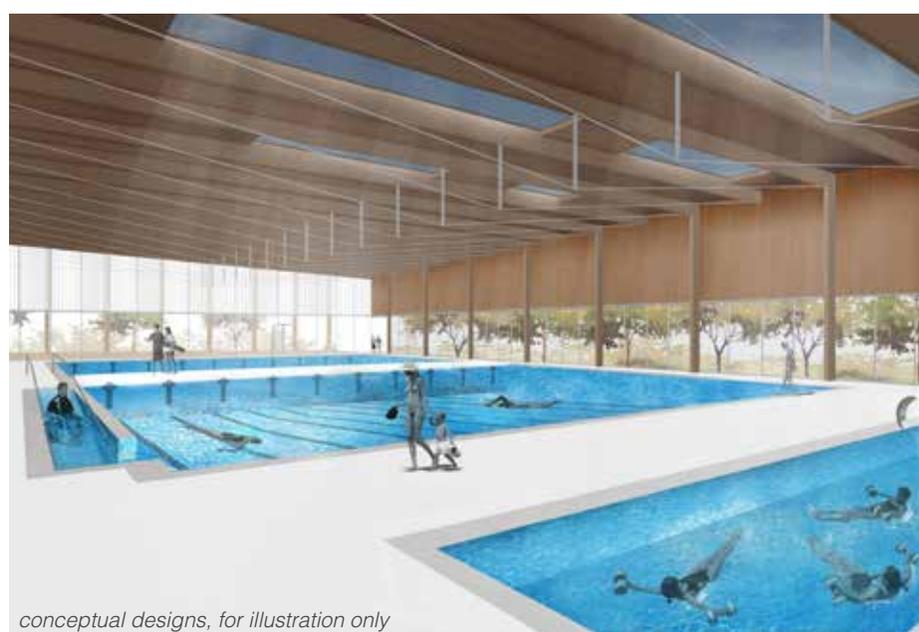


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New Crystal Pool A Place for Community

Building a Stronger, More Inclusive Community Through Recreation and Wellness



conceptual designs, for illustration only

Recreation fosters social opportunities, engages people and builds a sense of belonging to support healthy, inclusive communities. The Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre has been a community hub for almost 50 years. The facility is now nearing the end of its lifespan. Replacing the centre will ensure this community legacy continues for generations to come.

In 2016, the City commissioned an independent study to determine the service needs and potential options for the future of the Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre. In February of this year, City Council voted to replace the existing complex with a new, barrier-free centre, to meet growing demands and serve generations to come.

Community input has shaped the work to date. We are pleased to have received strong participation from residents and user groups to refine the required amenities and initial conceptual designs for the new facility. We will continue to seek community input to inform the design as it develops over the course of this year.

Barrier-free design

The new facility will be home to a 50 metre by 25 metre pool as well as a leisure/therapy pool, a large fitness area, multi-purpose rooms for a variety of health and wellness activities, and will include universally-accessible change areas and connections to the surrounding Central Park outdoor environment.

The new building will meet high standards for environmentally-conscious new construction and efficient facility operation through green infrastructure technologies. An estimated 275 tonnes of GHGs – or more than one-third of the City’s stationary energy emissions – will be eliminated.

The proposed site is next to the current building in Central Park, meaning the existing facility can stay open until the new centre is ready. A park improvement plan will review all elements of the park, including the tennis and basketball courts.

The investment required for the new facility is significant and the City has committed \$10 million from reserves, with the balance expected from external sources including other levels of government. As this project aligns well with the objectives of federal and provincial government funding programs, the City is actively engaging with these potential partners. The prospect for support by all levels of government toward this valued community facility is an exciting one, and may remove the requirement for the City to hold a referendum in order to borrow additional funds to complete the project.

Pending funding confirmation, the new facility is anticipated to open in 2021.

For more information and to find out how you can get involved in ongoing community engagement activities, visit: victoria.ca/poolfuture.

[SEE CONCEPTUAL DESIGNS ON PAGE 3](#)



Future Use

A universally-accessible pool and wellness centre that meets current and future community needs is anticipated to increase annual visits by 35%.

Everyone Welcome

Today, one-in-five people cannot access the Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre due to physical barriers. The new facility will be inclusive for everyone.



Place for Community

An expanded leisure pool will provide access, fun and an inclusive space for families and children!

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Your City. Your Budget. Your Input is Needed!

The City of Victoria is growing and changing. With these changes come added pressures on City services and infrastructure. The City's 2018 budget looks to adapt to change and balance competing priorities while continuing to provide the high-quality services our citizens have come to expect.

What is a city budget and how is it created?

Council's *2015 – 2018 Strategic Plan* guides City priorities and identifies the actions to achieve these over four years. The budget allocates funding for the priorities already set out by Council in the Strategic Plan.

Like your own personal budget, the City's budget is divided into two types of expenses – operating and capital.

The operating budget includes daily or regular expenses to keep things running smoothly. In your household, these would be things such as gas for your vehicle or groceries for your family. For the City, this includes garbage collection, clean water, and the maintenance of facilities like Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre and community centres, just to name a few.

Capital expenses are one-time purchases or upgrades as an investment for the future – things like renovations for your home or new appliances. For the City, capital expenses include things like road improvements, park upgrades or equipment needed to maintain roads or respond to emergencies.

Why should the City's budget matter to you?

How a city provides services for its citizens, spends money and sets priorities has a big impact on everyday life. For example, the amount spent on emergency services can determine the time it takes a fire truck to get to your home. And what your city spends on transportation determines how you get to work in the morning, or the way you get your kids to school. How your city invests your tax dollars is one of the most important decisions in your community each year.

How can you provide input?

Public consultation on the draft 2018 budget launches in November. We'll have an online survey and invite you to attend a Town Hall either in person or online. More details will be available in the coming weeks. Your input on the City's budget is important – plan to participate!

Visit victoria.ca/budget for more details.

2018 Budget Planning Cycle A Year at a Glance

March to May

Departments prepare their preliminary capital and operating budgets

Mid-April

Previous year surplus and new assessed revenue is allocated by Council

June to August

Departmental budget review (operating, capital and supplementary requests)

September

Draft budget finalized

October

Draft budget presented to Council

November

Community consultation

December

Council deliberates and approves budget for the upcoming year

Johnson Street Bridge Project Enters Home Stretch

Construction of the new Johnson Street Bridge has entered an important new phase with the arrival of all the steel pieces that will make up the new bridge structure.

The final shipment of steel for the new Johnson Street Bridge arrived in Victoria at the Ogden Point terminal in September. The major steel pieces include the two large rings that serve as the pivot points on which the new bridge will rotate and the counterweight that helps raise and lower the bridge.

PCL is completing work on these pieces at Point Hope Shipyard. The bridge deck span that vehicles and cyclists will travel across, as well as the two pathways, are being welded together on a barge anchored in the upper harbour. Architectural and traffic lighting are also being installed. Work will continue between now and the end of 2017 to install the steel rings and the bridge deck span into the bascule pier and across the marine channel. This will be followed by extensive testing of all systems. The new bridge is expected to open to traffic in March 2018.



Steel for the new bridge superstructure arrives.

Slow it Down, Soak it in, Keep it Clean



Rain Barrel



Cistern



Rain Garden



Bioswale



Permeable Paving

Devastating floods have been top of mind this year. With a changing climate, Victoria is projected to experience wetter, stormier winters.

Taking steps to sustainably manage the rainwater that falls on your property can help reduce your risk of water damage especially around hardscaped or paved surfaces.

The Rainwater Rewards Program offers property owners two types of incentives for installing rain gardens, permeable paving, cisterns and other methods to reintroduce the natural water cycle back into our urban setting.

Rebate Pilot Project

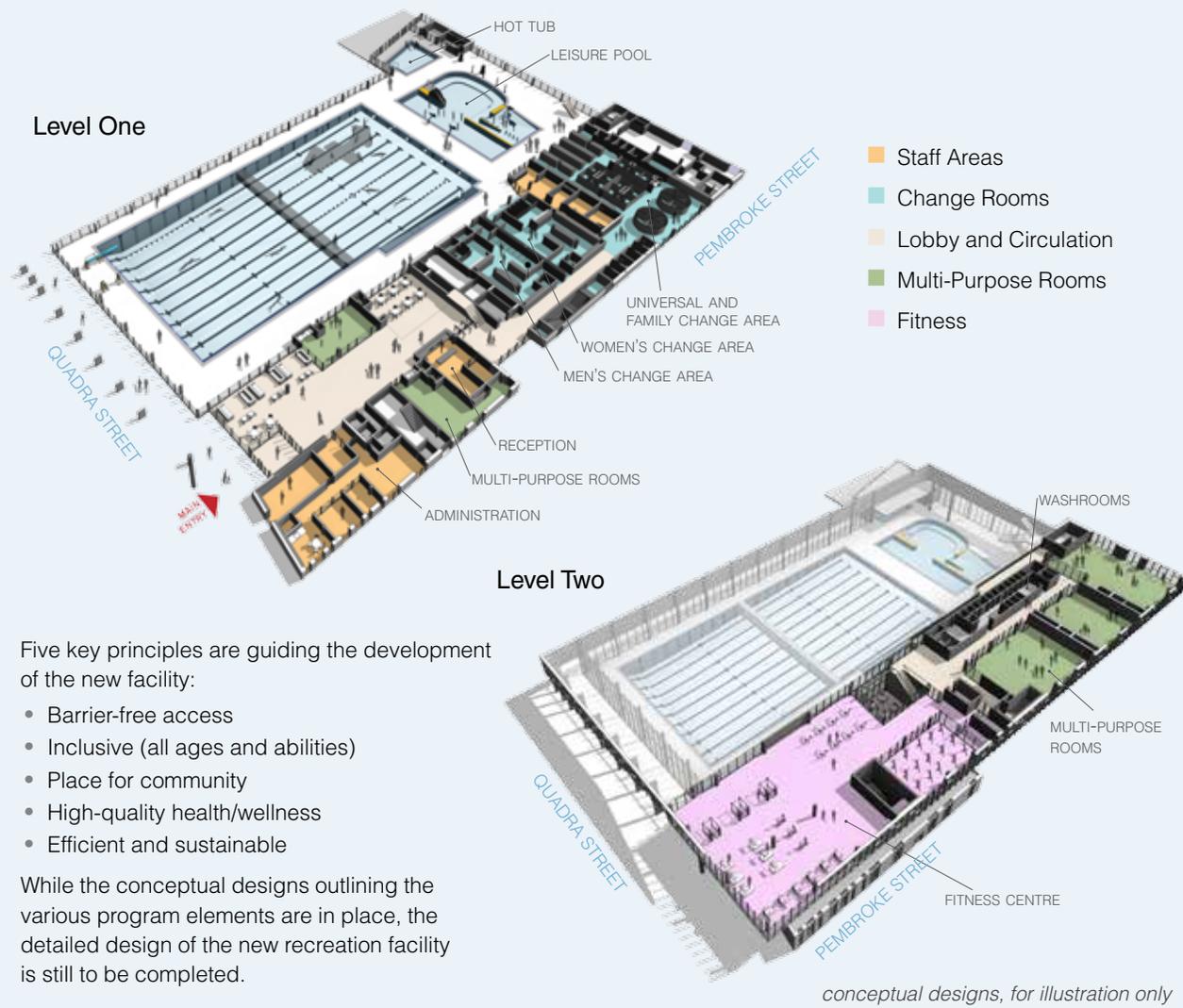
If you own a home with one – four units, you can apply for a rebate to help with upfront installation costs. The two-year pilot ends on December 15, 2017, so this fall is a great time to apply.

Earn Annual Credits on Your Stormwater Utility Bill

If you use an approved rainwater management method on your property, you can apply for 10 – 50% off your annual stormwater utility bill. This applies to all property types, including businesses, institutions, condominiums, apartments and single family homes, and is an ongoing program.

To learn more or to apply, visit victoria.ca/stormwater or call 250.361.0443.

Crystal Pool and Wellness Centre (continued from page 1)



Five key principles are guiding the development of the new facility:

- Barrier-free access
- Inclusive (all ages and abilities)
- Place for community
- High-quality health/wellness
- Efficient and sustainable

While the conceptual designs outlining the various program elements are in place, the detailed design of the new recreation facility is still to be completed.

100% Renewable Energy City by 2050

In 2016, the City of Victoria took a decisive step towards a healthy and prosperous future by adopting a 100% renewable energy target by 2050 for the community. Work is underway to move towards our goal and examples of City efforts can be found all around you.

The next time you are walking downtown, look up at the streetlights. The City is installing new energy efficient LED lights to replace current high-pressure sodium lights. This will save 45 – 55% in streetlight energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the reduced need for maintenance.

We're investing in a clean electric fleet, energy efficient buildings and new policies and programs that promote energy reduction and resilience. The City is also investing in an active transportation network to encourage people to make more trips by walking or cycling and leave their cars at home. Active transportation lowers greenhouse gas emissions and has the bonus effect of increasing health and wellness.

The City of Victoria has partnered with BC Hydro and Fortis BC to bring residents additional rebates on heating systems, insulation, water heaters and other home retrofits, along with help with all your questions related to your energy-efficiency upgrade project. Plus, if you live in an oil-heated home, you may be eligible for a \$2,000 rebate if you switch to a heat pump.

These are some of our first steps, and later this year a Climate Action Plan will be presented to Council detailing actions that will help us reach this goal. For more information: victoria.ca/ClimateAction.



An LED light can last 15–20 years without needing to be replaced.



A Plan for Your Neighbourhood

Great neighbourhoods are the result of committed citizens, careful planning, financial investment and thoughtful design. A neighbourhood plan is one part of creating sustainable, vibrant communities.

New neighbourhood plans are now under development for Fairfield, Gonzales and Victoria West. If you live in Burnside Gorge, thanks for participating to create your newly-approved plan.

If you live in Fernwood, North Park, North or South Jubilee, or Rockland, we'll be coming your way soon.

Neighbourhood plans provide guidance to the City, developers and the community on how the local area will grow and change. Neighbourhood plans are created in close collaboration with the community to ensure future growth is shaped by those who know the neighbourhood best. Find out more at victoria.ca/NeighbourhoodPlans



Growing in the City: Tips for Winter Veggie Gardening

In Victoria, we are blessed with a relatively mild year-round climate. Even in the middle of winter, you can still grow your own food, no matter if you have a large lot to garden, or a small apartment balcony.

Want to plant your winter garden before it's too late? Here are a few tips from the City of Victoria's Food Systems Coordinator, Virginie Lavallee-Picard.

What should I plant?

Plant garlic starting now until mid-November. Sow the garlic clove a few inches deep, with the pointy tip upwards, about 10 to 12 inches apart. Add a good layer of mulch. The garlic should emerge in March.

Beans aren't just for summer! Broad beans (a.k.a. fava beans) seeded in October will be ready in the spring.

Row covers, small hoop houses and cold frames or cloches can offer extra heat and protection for late seeding. For a winter harvest of fresh greens, try direct-seeding arugula and other mustard greens, lettuces, spinach, pea shoots and miner's lettuce under cover.

What can I harvest?

If your soil is well drained, root crops like carrots, parsnips, potatoes, turnips, celeriac, Jerusalem artichokes, as well as alliums like leeks and green onions, can be left in the ground and harvested throughout the fall and early winter.

Some hardy greens and herbs like parsley, chard, kale and collards will last through the winter and sweeten as the temperature drops.

How do I protect my crops and soil?

Mulch, mulch, mulch! Except for areas where crops are still germinating, leave as little bare areas as possible. Mulch exposed soil with straw, leaf mulch, seaweed or cardboard and newspaper.

Where can I learn more?

To learn about the Growing in the City program, including information about planting food trees in City greenspaces, boulevard gardening, starting new community gardens, or growing food to sell, visit: victoria.ca/GrowingInTheCity

The Compost Education Centre offers a number of resources and a teaching garden that can help you assess a site and plan for production. compost.bc.ca

Slugs thrive in our wet fall and winter. For information on natural gardening and pest control, visit: crd.bc.ca/gardening



Mark your calendar

Neighbourhood Leaf Pick-up

City of Victoria crews are collecting leaves on your street. Check the Residential Leaf Pick-up Schedule for when to have bagged leaves or leaf piles placed on the boulevard in your neighbourhood. victoria.ca/leafpick

OPEN HOUSE: Learn About a New Library Coming to James Bay

Saturday, November 4, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Central Library, Community Room
735 Broughton Street

Drop by an Open House to learn about the new library branch – the second in Victoria – that is set to open in James Bay in early 2018. View displays and speak with Library and City staff. Complimentary refreshments. gvpl.ca and victoria.ca

Emergency Preparedness Workshop

Thursday, November 9, 1–3 p.m.
Wednesday, November 22, 7–9 p.m.
Victoria City Hall, Antechamber

Make emergency preparedness a priority for you and your family! Attend this FREE workshop to learn about the hazards that can affect Victoria, what to include in your home and vehicle emergency kits, what you can do to protect your home from an earthquake, and how to reunite with your loved ones after a disaster. VictoriaReady.ca

Island Farms Santa's Light Parade and Christmas Tree Light-Up

Saturday, November 25
Parade begins at 5 p.m.
Christmas Square 4–8 p.m.
Christmas Tree Light Up at 7 p.m.
Government Street from Belleville to Fisgard/Centennial Square

Kick off the festive season with this magical parade featuring floats, bands and entertainment! Afterwards, join us for free milk and cookies with Santa in Centennial Square. Bring a donation for the Mustard Seed Food Bank. gvfs.ca or victoria.ca

18th Annual Public Works Food Drive

Wednesday, November 29 –
Tuesday, December 12
Public Works crews collect food items to support the Mustard Seed Food Bank. Place non-perishable food items in plastic bags labelled "Food Drive" and set them next to your garbage can on collection day for pick up. To look up your pick-up day, visit: victoria.ca/schedule

52nd Annual Carolling Week

December 4 – 8 (except December 7)
December 4, 2–3 p.m.
December 5, 6 and 8, noon – 1 p.m.
Victoria City Hall, Council Chambers
Enjoy this annual tradition of school choirs performing Christmas carols. victoria.ca

Holiday Skate

Sunday, December 17
2:30–4:15 p.m.
Save-On-Foods Memorial Centre

Winter Carnival Fun Swims

December 23, 2017 – January 7, 2018
Daily 1–3:30 p.m.
Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre
Warm up your winter break at Crystal Pool!

New Year's Day Levee + Free Swim

Monday, January 1, 2018
Victoria City Hall, 10 a.m. – noon
Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre, 1 – 4 p.m.
The community is invited to attend the City of Victoria's annual New Year's Day Levee at City Hall, hosted by City Council. Enjoy a free Everyone Welcome swim and workout at the Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre.

What's New in City Parks

Did you know, Victoria has over 100 parks and open spaces? We've been busy this year enhancing some of these beautiful green spaces.

Raynor Park Playground

We're excited to announce that the new playground in Raynor Park is ready for you to enjoy!

It includes a nature play area and a climbing structure designed for younger children. There is also a new disc swing that is great for the whole family. This park is in Vic West on Raynor Road just off Craigflower.



Raynor Park

Reeson Park Pathway

A new pathway is being built along the waterfront edge of Reeson Park. This is an exciting addition to the David Foster Harbour Pathway and Trans Canada Trail. This paved, wheelchair accessible path will include new guardrails and lighting. Sections of the pathway will include public access to the rocky shoreline. The pathway is scheduled to open in December. Reeson Park is located downtown, along Wharf Street, at the bottom of Yates.



Reeson Park pathway construction

Cecelia Ravine Park

The City of Victoria recently purchased land to expand Cecelia Ravine Park. We've been working with the Burnside Gorge neighbourhood this summer and fall to collect community feedback. These ideas will help create the concept plan for Council's decision in the coming months. Park improvements will begin in 2018.

Topaz Park

This summer the City asked Victoria residents for their ideas to improve Topaz Park. We'll be sharing some of those ideas with the community later this fall. This next round of feedback will help determine the elements to be included in the long-term improvement plan for Topaz Park.

For more information on these any other of our other parks and green spaces, visit victoria.ca/parks.

Residential Branch Chipping

Begins February 20, 2018

The Residential Branch Chipping program begins February 20, 2018. Please wait until early February to place your branches on the boulevard. Tree branches must be between 2.5 cm and 25 cm in diameter. All other yard waste must be taken to the Public Works Yard for disposal. victoria.ca/branchchipping

Connect With Us

Is there a topic or issue you really want to connect with the City on, but you don't know how? We would love to hear from you – just use one of the many ways below to get in touch.

Share your feedback on any topic with Mayor and Council at mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca.



Attend a Council meeting in person or watch the webcast online at victoria.ca/webcast.



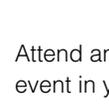
Download the **ConnectVictoria app** and search for latest news, media releases, jobs, and report an issue like a pothole or street light outage right from your phone. Available for both iOS and Android.



Attend a Mayor's Community Drop-In, a chance for members of the public to meet with Mayor Lisa Helps, meet others, engage in conversation, share thoughts, ideas and concerns. Check out the full schedule of upcoming Drop-In events at victoria.ca/dropin.



Sign up to receive bi-weekly Council Highlights, a summary of decisions made at Council meetings. Email engage@victoria.ca to be added to our distribution list.



Attend an open house, workshop or City event in your neighbourhood.



Connect with us on social media. You can find us on Facebook as **City of Victoria – Local Government**, Twitter as **@CityofVictoria** and Instagram as **City of Victoria**. Let's get social!



Keep your eyes on victoria.ca/haveyoursay for your opportunity to provide input on upcoming projects and initiatives.



Stay up-to-date on all the latest news at victoria.ca. Read through our latest Annual Report and Strategic Plan to find out what we're planning, and what we were up to in the last year.



Subscribe to our e-newsletter at victoria.ca/subscribe and stay up-to-date on all the latest news from the City including what's happening at City Hall, new programs, important dates and deadlines to remember, handy tips for your home or business, news about current projects and other useful information about what's happening in your community.

Connect

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

To reach us: engage@victoria.ca

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Connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram



Our Commitment to the Environment

By using paper made with 100% post-consumer recycled content, the following resources have been saved.

- Tree(s): 20
- Water: 34,777 L
- Energy: 9 million BTU
- Solid waste: 280 Kg
- Greenhouse gases: 770 Kg

