On August 2, 1862 the townsite of Fort Victoria was incorporated as the City of Victoria. The work and effort of Victoria’s forefathers and officials laid a clear path for the City of Victoria to thrive, emerging as the Capital City of British Columbia and retaining its prominence as one of the top places to live, work and play in Canada and the world.

In 2012, we celebrate our rich history and create a window to our equally promising future. It is an opportunity for our community to reflect on 150 years of civic pride and renew our shared commitment to another 150 years as a world-class Capital City.

Join us for Anniversary Celebrations!

On Thursday, August 2, 2012, the anniversary date of incorporation, we invite you to celebrate Victoria’s 150th.

Public 150th Anniversary Ceremony
Thursday, August 2, 11 a.m. – Noon
Join the Mayor, City Council and special guests for the official 150th anniversary ceremony on Spirit Stage in Centennial Square. The ceremony will include the unveiling of Canada Post’s Victoria 150 commemorative envelope and stamp.

150Forward Community Celebration
Thursday, August 2, Noon – 6 p.m.
Enjoy a free, family-friendly afternoon celebration in Centennial Square immediately following the public ceremony. Experience a journey through time, interact with creatively costumed performers, and enjoy refreshments and cake as you settle in for the afternoon festivities. The main stage show will entertain you with performances that chronicle our history, showcase diverse cultures, and highlight our current day and beyond. Contribute to the Victoria 150 time capsule and anniversary greetings, take part in interactive fun, and enjoy local cuisine and much more.

City United! Anniversary Celebration and Concert
Monday, August 6, Noon – 9 p.m.
The City of Victoria and the United Way of Greater Victoria invite you to celebrate their 150th and 75th anniversaries at this celebratory event presented in association by the Provincial Capital Commission. Spend the afternoon on the grounds of historical St. Ann’s Academy and enjoy interactive, creative excitement for the entire family, including a wide range of live music and entertainment, crafts, cooking and gardening demonstrations, and physical fun that celebrates the culture and values of our community. Juno award winners “Digging Roots” will headline a free concert at the Cameron Bandshell at 7 p.m. featuring their unique blend of blues, roots rock and hip hop.

In addition to our 150th anniversary celebrations, the community has come together to offer a spectacular line-up of events that commemorate Victoria’s history. Combined with the many City-supported summer outdoor festivals and concerts downtown, 2012 will be a banner year for celebrations in the Capital City. Find out more at www.victoria.ca

We hope you can join us in celebrating 150 proud years – and a bright future.
Happy 150th Anniversary Victoria!
For more information and to register, visit: www.victoria.ca/city-hall-project

When Was the Last Time You Built a Fort?

Fort Victoria Family Festival
Sunday, July 29 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Pick up your copy of the Victoria 150 CityVibe guide at your local library, recreation, community or seniors centre and at Victoria City Hall. You can also download the New Flip page app at the iTunes store. Under “Search” type in “cityvibe” or visit: www.victoria.ca/cityvibe

Making Changes at City Hall in Order to Serve You Better

Victoria’s historic City Hall, built in 1876, is under renovation as we systematically upgrade, install a new elevator to make it more accessible, and improve our customer service areas to better serve you. This work is expected to be completed by the summer of 2013. During construction, access to City Hall is restricted to the Panorama Avenue and Centennial Square entrances only. There is no access off of Douglas Street, except for contractors and other workers who require special access. All public access will be via temporary counter locations, online at www.victoria.ca/city-hall-project

While work is ongoing, save yourself a trip to City Hall by accessing services online at the City’s new and improved website, www.victoria.ca, including paying or disputing parking tickets, paying utility bills, and accessing lender documents.
City Kicks off Cut the Carbon Program

The City of Victoria has launched the Cut the Carbon program to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, moving towards the goal of carbon neutral municipal operations. Carbon neutral means that our municipal operations won’t increase the amount of greenhouse gas emissions going into the earth’s atmosphere.

Heating and operating municipal buildings, such as City Hall and the Crystal Pool, and fuelling our fleet and equipment, including garbage trucks and lawn mowers, makes up approximately 90% of our carbon footprint. Powering our street and traffic lights and sending waste to the landfill also contributes greenhouse gas emissions.

Watch for the Cut the Carbon logo identifying these positive steps on bumper stickers on City vehicles, on some traffic lights and on light switches in City buildings:

- Making buildings smarter: Use of motion sensors, timers and energy monitors.
- Greening the fleet: Reducing the City fleet, right-sizing vehicles, replacing older vehicles with electric or hybrid cars and fuel switching to bio-diesel and natural gas.
- Energy-wise street and traffic lights: All traffic lights are LEDS (reducing energy use by 90%), and we also have some trial LED street lights.
- Reducing waste: Organics collection has been added to recycling programs in City buildings, double-sided printing, asphalt recycling.

Staff are now identifying areas to further reduce energy use and emissions. These strategies will be included in the City of Victoria’s Carbon Neutral Plan that will also identify local carbon reduction or offset projects, such as the new residential Kitchen Scraps and Garbage Program that will reduce community-wide emissions.

In 2007, the City of Victoria joined other municipalities across the province in signing the British-Columbia Climate Action Charter thereby voluntarily committing to a goal of being carbon neutral in municipal operations by 2012. Measuring our energy use and carbon footprint, creating a reduction plan, investing in local offset projects and reporting on progress are the four steps to becoming carbon neutral.

For more information visit: www.victoria.ca/climateaction or email: cutthecarbon@victoria.ca

Households to Receive New Bins for Garbage and Kitchen Scraps

At the City we’re busy gearing up for the changes to residential garbage collection and the addition of kitchen scrap collection in January 2013. By separating kitchen scraps from the garbage, 1/3 of what was “garbage” will soon be diverted from the landfill each year and will be composted instead.

These changes will mean garbage and kitchen scraps will be collected from your backyard every two weeks and the empty bins will be left at the front of your property. New trucks are now being ordered to replace our older trucks and to allow for the pick-up of both kitchen scraps and garbage. With the new trucks comes the need for standardized bins to collect garbage and kitchen scraps. As a result, every household will receive a new green bin for kitchen scraps and a grey bin for garbage.

So, what do I need to do? Well, it depends...

- All households will receive an 80 litre green bin for their kitchen scraps and a 120 litre grey garbage bin.
- If you feel you need a garbage bin that is smaller or larger than the standard issue 120 litre bin, you will need to let us know this summer. There is a higher annual cost for households that opt for a larger grey bin and there are annual savings for those who opt for a smaller grey bin.
- This summer, watch your mail for more information and a form to return if you require a smaller or larger bin.
- We will also be asking you to indicate whether you will require a helping hand due to a mobility challenge, so we can plan for garbage collectors to return your bins to their original location.

To view a short video about this program and to read frequently asked questions please visit www.victoria.ca/grebin or email grebin@victoria.ca.

Shape Your Future Victoria

A public hearing scheduled for Wednesday, June 27 at 7:30 p.m. will be the final opportunity for citizens to provide feedback on the new Official Community Plan before Council considers it for adoption as a bylaw. Join us for an upcoming information session to learn more about the plan. Registration is not required.

Thursday, June 7
6:30 – 9 p.m.
Oaklands Community Centre, 1-2672 Belmont Avenue
Presentations at 7 and 9 p.m.
For more information, visit www.ShapeYourFutureVictoria.ca

Our Commitment to the Environment

Using 1.46 tonnes of Enviro Graphic 100% PCW paper instead of virgin fibres paper reduced our ecological footprint of:

- Trees(s): 20
- Solid waste: 1,180 Kg
- Air emissions: 3,595 Kg

City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
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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

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