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A Busy Year Ahead



2011 was an extremely busy year, and we accomplished a great deal down at City Hall as we closed out the 2009 – 2011 term. We begin 2012 with a new mandate and some new faces on Victoria City Council.

I encourage each of you to get to know all your local councillors. It is a great team of dedicated individuals with lots of ideas and energy, ready to work with the community, and we want to make sure that all voices are heard. It is a great privilege our residents have granted us – and we all take this responsibility very seriously. We have a lot of work ahead of us, but I am confident that together we can build on the momentum of the last three years.

We have a passionate and compassionate community, and as your elected representatives, we will continue to make progress on key areas and continue to foster an environmentally, socially, and financially sustainable community.

Over the last three years, we have made unprecedented investments in housing, increased the vitality of our downtown, enhanced our parks and public spaces, and created a made-in-Victoria Economic Development Strategy. Victoria is a safer, cleaner, more economically dynamic city as a result of that work.

But there is more to do. The world is not standing still, and neither can we.

We must recommit to the challenges and opportunities ahead, while ensuring we are being prudent in how we move forward. These are challenging times, especially financially, and we can't lose sight of the economic health and stability of our residents and the city as a whole.

We will advance our commitment to Open Government, starting with the new City website and live streaming of Council meetings. We will re-dedicate ourselves to ending street homelessness in Victoria and with our partners we will continue to create housing that supports the most vulnerable. We will continue to invest in our downtown – and our neighbourhood villages – so that every corner of our city is alive and thriving. And we will map out a long-term infrastructure plan that meets the needs of our community for generations to come.

Implementing our made-in-Victoria Economic Development Strategy will help us achieve these goals and keep our taxes affordable. This strategy was created with the input and expertise of local community leaders, and will help us continue to build a city we are all proud to call home.

We've got the right formula to attract new investment, new skills, new jobs and new ideas. No one can touch us when it comes to quality of life, world-class institutions of learning, international reputation and dynamic entrepreneurial business culture. By growing our tax base with new commercial and residential investment, we can continue to provide the high quality services and programs that make Victoria such a fantastic city to live and work.

I am excited about the year ahead. Together as a Council, and with the ongoing and meaningful engagement of our residents, I am confident we will continue to make significant gains that benefit everyone in our community.

Dean Fortin
Mayor

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Meet Victoria's New Poet Laureate



JANET MARIE ROGERS

The City welcomes Janet Marie Rogers as the Capital City's new Poet Laureate. Victoria's literary and cultural ambassador, the Poet Laureate plays an

important role in raising the profile of poetry and showcasing the talent of local poets in the community.

A Mohawk writer from the Six Nations band in southern Ontario, Rogers was born in Vancouver, British Columbia and has resided in Victoria since 1994. Rogers started her creative career as a visual artist, transitioning to writing in 1996. Since then, she has worked and studied in the genres of poetry, short fiction, spoken word performance poetry, video poetry and recorded poems with music and scriptwriting.

Victoria's Poet Laureate is required to produce a minimum of three new original works each year that reflect or represent ideas and issues of importance to the people of Victoria. The Poet Laureate also recites poems at City events, City Council meetings and official functions including the annual Victoria Book Prize Awards Gala. In addition, the Poet Laureate hosts a number of poetry events in the community each year.

"Over the next three years, I look forward to creating opportunities where the community can come together in celebration of our poetic voices on the traditional lands of the Coast Salish people," said Janet Rogers.

Janet Rogers hosts *Native Waves Radio* on CFUV 101.9fm and *Tribal Clefs* every Tuesday on CBC Radio One. Her video poem *What Did You Do Boy*, created in support of a spoken word track from her CD *Firewater*, earned nominations at the *Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards 2009* and the *Native American Music Awards 2010*. Rogers' radio documentary *Bring Your Drum* (50 Years of Indigenous Protest Music), aired last July on CBC's *Inside the Music* and won the *Best Radio award* at the *imagineNATIVE Film and Media Festival 2011*. Her newest poetry collection is titled *Unearthed*.

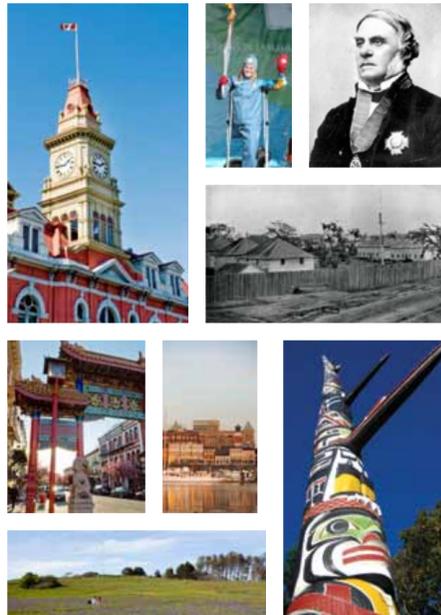
The Poet Laureate, also known as "the people's poet," is an honorary position that was established by Victoria City Council in June 2006 to honour and celebrate the contribution of literature and poetry in Victoria. For more information, visit: www.victoria.ca and click on *What's New?*



VICTORIA ONE~FIFTY

Proud History, Bright Future

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, the City of Victoria celebrates our rich history and creates 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.

On Thursday, August 2, 2012, the anniversary date of incorporation, the City of Victoria invites you to celebrate Victoria's 150th. Festivities in the community will continue through the August long weekend.

- **Ceremonial Meeting in Council Chambers** – a short, official ceremony in Council Chambers
- **Public 150th Anniversary Ceremony** – an official public ceremony in Centennial Square, including a First Nations welcome and speeches by dignitaries and special guests
- **150Forward Community Celebration** – a free, family-friendly afternoon event in Centennial Square, featuring a fun community party with food, music, clowns, performances, cake, children's activities and more

Join us in celebrating Victoria 150!
www.victoria.ca/Victoria150

Some Victoria 150 celebrations will include:

Victoria Day Parade 150 Anniversary Edition Monday, May 21

The annual parade will feature the theme of 150 years and include cirque-style street performers representing Victoria's historical characters.

Fort Victoria Late July 2012

Join us for this one-day "fort" building contest for all ages, to be held in or near Bastion Square (home of the original Fort Victoria), and close to the site of the original Hudson's Bay company garden, now the site of The Bay Centre.

Victoria Symphony Splash Sunday, August 5

This year's event will include a heritage-theme including music and instruments from Victoria's past, a collaborative children's art project capturing the City's history, and commissioned music.

Anniversary Party Monday, August 6

Join us for this family-friendly anniversary party and top level concert hosted by the City of Victoria and the United Way of Greater Victoria, which celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2012.

Cook Street Playground

With input from children and parents, the City will upgrade the play equipment at the Cook Street Playground in Beacon Hill Park.

Victoria 150 Public Art Project

Currently underway, this three-stage, national competition will create public artwork(s) that recognize and celebrate Victoria's 150th.

Canada Post Commemorative Envelope

Canada Post is including Victoria's 150th anniversary in its 2012 commemorative envelope program.

Community Celebrations

Two grant programs (now closed) made possible by Canadian Heritage and the Greater Victoria Spirit Committee are enabling local artists and neighbourhoods to create Victoria 150 projects and celebrations in 2012. Watch for what's planned at: www.victoria.ca/Victoria150

Sponsorship

The City of Victoria welcomes the business community to participate in and support the events and celebrations associated with the anniversary. For more information, contact Victoria 150 Coordinator Alice Bacon at 250.361.0358 or email abacon@victoria.ca

HISTORY SNAPSHOT

- Victoria is Western Canada's oldest city, founded on the lands of the Lekwungen People, known today as the Esquimalt and Songhees First Nations.
- In spring 1778, Captain James Cook becomes the first known European to set foot on what is now British Columbia.
- Fort Victoria, a fur trading post, is officially named by the Hudson's Bay Company in honour of Queen Victoria on June 10, 1843.
- In 1858, gold is discovered on the mainland of British Columbia; Californian and Australian miners and adventurers flock to Fort Victoria, transforming it from a sleepy village into a bustling multicultural, commercial centre.
- Victoria is incorporated as a city on August 2, 1862.
- Thomas Harris is elected (by acclamation) as Victoria's first mayor on August 16, 1862.
- British Columbia becomes the sixth province of the Dominion of Canada, and Victoria is proclaimed the Capital City on July 21, 1871.

Large Tree Branch Chipping – Curbside!

The City of Victoria's Residential Branch Chipping program provides residents with an opportunity to remove large tree branches from their yard.

Victoria residents were asked to have their large tree branches at the curb for chipping by February 13, 2012. Residential Branch Chipping will run until early March.

New this year – tree branches must be 5 centimetres (2 inches) or more in diameter and longer than 1.2 metres (4 feet) in length for chipping at the curb.

Small tree branches, shrubs, leaves and plants jam chipping machines and are a safety concern for crews. Material that cannot be chipped at the curb will be left behind for residents to remove.

Tips:

- Branches are to be loosely stacked into one pile with their cut ends together.
- Branches should **not** be placed in bags, boxes, or tied with string or wire.
- Only large tree branches, please.

The wood chips produced will be used on City park trails, and are mixed with leaf mulch at the Beacon Hill Park Maintenance Yard for use as a fertilizer and to suppress weeds in City garden beds.

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

For more information, visit: www.victoria.ca/branchchipping

Parks, Recreation and Culture Department Offices Have Moved...

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department offices have moved to a new space in Save-On-Foods Memorial Centre. Permits and all other existing services are available at this new location. Please access the new offices via the Caledonia Street entrance next to the Victoria Police Station. Parking is available on Pembroke Street.

For information, please call 250.361.0356 or visit www.victoria.ca/prc

Work Begins to Make Way for New Bridge

The new bridge is being built just to the north of the existing bridge, allowing the current bridge to remain open throughout construction.

In December, contractors began work to relocate communication lines that run across the bottom of the harbour to make room for the new bridge. Several excavators moved a large bundle of new pipes from the west side across the harbour towards the east side. Crews then worked to carefully submerge the new pipe lines down into the harbour bed. Over the next several months, crews will continue the extensive work involved with replacing the new communication lines which service Victoria West, Esquimalt and the Department of National Defence.

In February, the rail bridge and 500 tonne counterweight will be dismantled. The rail bridge will be separated from the counterweight and then carefully removed by a large crane and barge. The counterweight will be separated into smaller pieces prior to being transferred off site.

A new pedestrian and cyclist crossing signal is now in operation at the intersection of Esquimalt and Harbour Roads, replacing the detour over the rail overpass which is now a construction area. The detour will remain in place until the new Johnson Street Bridge is complete and open to traffic in 2016.

The s-curve that currently exists on Esquimalt Road leading up to the bridge will be eliminated with the alignment of the new bridge, opening up approximately one acre of City land. This past October, Council approved retaining this land as public space. Decisions regarding the look and use of the new public space will involve community consultation over the next few years.

For the latest news on the Johnson Street Bridge Replacement Project and to view the project web cam, visit www.JohnsonStreetBridge.com. To receive regular updates by email, contact JohnsonStreetBridge@victoria.ca.



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 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 pmatadoff@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 cthornejoe@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. Geoff is also the Chair of the Capital Regional District.

City Hall 250.361.0220
Email gyoung@victoria.ca

Mark your calendar

All Year Long

Join us in 2012 in celebrating 150 years of proud history and a very bright future. www.victoria.ca/victoria150

Residential Branch Chipping

February 13 – Early March

Residential branch chipping is now underway. www.victoria.ca/branchchipping

Fruit Production – Part 2

Saturday, March 10, 10 a.m. – noon

Don't miss part two of this popular course which will cover renovation pruning on older fruit trees and orchard management techniques. Other topics include growing grapes and raspberries, cultural practices and trouble shooting problems. \$25. To register, call 250.361.0732.

Wake Up Your Garden

Saturday, March 24, 10 a.m. – noon

Now is the time to prepare your garden. Learn about irrigation, how to deal with weeds, and tips on garden design at this free, two-hour workshop with Victoria's own Beacon Hill Park gardeners. To register, call 250.361.0732.

Turn Off Your Lights for Earth Hour

Saturday, March 31, 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. Sign up online at www.earthhour.org

Compost Open House for Earth Day

Wednesday, April 18, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Celebrate Earth Day at a free outdoor event at the Beacon Hill Park Maintenance Yard (at the end of Nursery Road) to learn about organic recycling at City Parks and the benefits of backyard composting. Bring a bag, bucket or wheelbarrow to take home some well-composted earth. Registration is not required.

Remarkable and Rare – Cultivated Trees of Beacon Hill Park – Part 4

Saturday, May 5, 10 a.m. – noon

Join us for part four of this free, two-hour tour of rare or exotic trees in Beacon Hill Park led by the City's Environmental Technician and the Supervisor of Arboriculture. Participants are to meet at the children's playground near the parking lot off Arbutus Way. Registration is not required.

Learn How to Make Your Own Victoria Hanging Basket

Saturday, May 12, 10 a.m. – noon

Create your own Victoria trademark hanging 'sun' basket with expert greenhouse staff at this hands-on, two-hour workshop in Beacon Hill Park. \$90 fee includes all planting materials. To register, call 250.361.0732.

Wildflower Walk – Summit Park

Saturday, May 26, 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Summit Park is primarily a 4.5 hectare natural area. It is home to over 90 plant species, 40 of which are native, and has one of the largest Garry oak meadows in Victoria. Join us for a two-hour tour led by the City's Environmental Technician. Free but registration is required at 250.361.0732.

Emergency Preparedness Workshops

Attend a free workshop in the community to learn what it will take for you and your family to be prepared for a power outage, winter storm, or a natural disaster such as an earthquake or tsunami. For the list of upcoming workshops, visit: www.PrepareVictoria.ca. To register, call 250.920.3373 or email vema@victoria.ca

Stormwater Utility and Rainwater Rebates Update

In 2013, the City of Victoria will be moving to a Stormwater Utility System. The City is also considering a rainwater rebate program, offering property owners the opportunity to reduce their annual costs by implementing sustainable solutions.

For property owners, this will mean that in 2013 stormwater costs will be taken off their property taxes and will appear on a new Stormwater Utility bill. For most properties, this will not be a new charge, but a change in how the costs are billed.

The Stormwater Utility will follow a user-pay model, so properties that send more water to the stormwater system will pay more and properties with more permeable areas, that send less water to the system, will pay less. Stormwater Utility charges will be calculated primarily based on the amount of hard or "non-permeable" surface areas, such as roofs, driveways, parking lots and other paved surfaces, that water can't flow through.

A rebate program is being considered that would allow property owners to apply for a rainwater management rebate, that would be applied to their annual Stormwater Utility bill. Best practices in rainwater management such as the use of bio-swales, rain gardens, permeable pavement, green or garden roofs, rain barrels and cisterns, could be encouraged through this program. These techniques bring rainwater back into the natural water cycle, resulting in the cleaning and slowing of rainwater. This could help reduce flows through the stormwater system and decrease the associated long-term costs for demand upgrades to the system.

The City of Victoria has one of the oldest stormwater systems in Canada. Much of the current system is over 100 years old, with 60% installed before 1920.

The City of Victoria will be hosting information sessions for property owners this spring. We will also be looking for input and suggestions about the rainwater management rebate program.

For more information: www.victoria.ca/stormwater



What is a Stormwater System?

There are three underground systems that the City of Victoria is responsible for: water, sanitary sewer and stormwater.

In urban settings, when rain falls on hard, non-permeable surfaces such as roofs, streets, sidewalks, parking lots and other paved surfaces it picks up pollutants. This contaminated "stormwater" then quickly flows into catch basins that filter the water and then into storm drains that carry the water to the nearest body of water – either a creek, or the ocean.

Our stormwater system is generally invisible to us at ground level, but it helps keep pollutants out of our sensitive waterways, while also preventing flooding and erosion. In Victoria, this system includes over 253 kilometres of storm drains and 73 stormwater outlets.

Downtown Gets a New Loo

In November, City crews installed a new public washroom on Langley Street near Bastion Square.

The new, permanent facility known as the "Langley Street Loo" will be open 24 hours a day and replaces the temporary urinal that previously existed on weekend nights at the same location. While portable urinals have been found effective in reducing the level of public urination downtown, the permanent facility is expected to be more cost effective over the long term and provide greater accessibility to all users at all times.

The ready-made stainless steel facility was purchased from the City of Portland and features solar powered lighting, an exterior hand washing station and graffiti proof coating. Portland has installed several of these washrooms in the city's downtown over the past two years. The success of the washrooms has been attributed to their unique and open design.

The Langley Street Loo is cleaned several times a day and as needed. If the new loo proves to be successful, more washrooms may be added downtown at different locations in the years ahead.

The City's permanent, freestanding urinal located at Government Street and Pandora Avenue has proven to be effective in terms of safety and cleanliness since it was installed in 2009. The City was recognized by the International Downtown Association in 2010 with a *Downtown Pinnacle Award* for its work in designing an innovative solution to a common urban issue.



Mayor's Open Door

Mayor's Open Door is held on the first and third Friday of every month from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Citizens have 10 minutes to discuss their issues privately with the Mayor. It is on a first come, first serve basis and no appointments are made in advance. Upcoming dates are:

- March 2, 16
- April 20
- May 4, 18
- June 1, 15
- July 6, 20
- August 3, 17
- September 7, 21
- October 5, 19
- November 2, 16
- December 7

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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www.victoria.ca

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Our Commitment to the Environment

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

- Tree(s): 17
- Water: 6,593 L
- Solid waste: 748 Kg
- Air emissions: 1,305 Kg

