

Connect



Leading VFD

A local chief with a broad view of fire service.

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From Hotels to Housing

City buys two Traveller's Inn properties for affordable, supported housing.

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Welcome Students

A new city, a new place to call home.

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A New Bridge for the Future

After hearing from thousands of Victoria residents through mail-in surveys, open houses, bridge tours, and information stands at public markets, City Council received great and thoughtful insight into how the community feels about the future of the Johnson Street Bridge. Replacing the aging bridge with a new bridge was the option overwhelmingly supported by the community.

A clear preference for replacement was indicated. 64% of Victoria residents preferred replacement compared to 29% for rehabilitation. A survey of business returned a preference of over 3:1 for replacement over rehabilitation.

Stemming from this overwhelming public input, City Council voted to proceed with the replacement of the Johnson Street Bridge.

The new bridge includes some exciting amenities that will ensure this transportation link meets the needs of our community for the next 100 years. It will include on-road bicycle lanes, a multi-use path for bikes, strollers, and scooters, a dedicated pedestrian walkway, improved and safer road approaches, a connection to a future harbour pathway, a widened marine channel for larger boats, and improved connections to the Galloping Goose and E & N trails. The new bridge will also be built to the highest seismic standard, ensuring the safety of the travelling public and the protection of this asset in an emergency.

The public conversation on this project is far from over.

This November, Victoria residents will go to the polls in a referendum to approve the necessary borrowing for the replacement of the Johnson Street Bridge. The City of Victoria is asking for the permission of voters to borrow up to \$49.2 million. Borrowing funds is the most responsible way to pay for this project, rather than raising taxes or depleting reserve funds. By borrowing the money required, the City can continue to offer and improve other services also needed in the community.

The total cost of replacing the 86-year old bridge is \$77 million. With the federal government contribution of \$21 million and adjustment to other City projects we have been able to lower the borrowing amount required to \$49.2 million. The City is actively pursuing other funding opportunities to reduce the amount of borrowing even further.

[This is an extremely important project. Learn more at www.JohnsonStreetBridge.com and make sure you are ready to cast your vote on November 20, 2010.](#)

Victoria Votes in By-Election and Referendum November 20

A City of Victoria by-election will take place on Saturday, November 20, 2010. Victoria residents will be asked to choose a new member of Council to fill the vacancy left by former Council member Sonya Chandler, who resigned earlier this year. At the same time, voters will also be asked to vote on borrowing for the Johnson Street Bridge.

What you need to know to vote

Voting places will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, November 20. All electors must bring two documents that provide evidence of identity and place of residence. At least one of the documents must contain your signature. A list of voting locations and acceptable identification is available on the City of Victoria website at [www.victoria.ca](#) or by calling Legislative Services at 250.361.0571.

For those unable to vote on November 20, advanced voting will be held at City Hall on Wednesday, November 10 and Monday, November 15 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on both days.

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Leading VFD



DOUG ANGROVE
VICTORIA FIRE CHIEF

The Victoria Fire Department has a proud and dignified history, and the current Chief of the VFD is honoured to be part of it. Doug Angrove has spent 31 years in fire service. Chief Angrove's first 24 years of service were with Nanaimo Fire Rescue and the past four have been as Fire Chief in BC's Capital City. Having been born and raised in Victoria, the opportunity to come home and serve in the top ranks of the fire department was an easy decision.

"Victoria has a great fire department, with a great tradition," says Chief Angrove. "I'm proud of the service delivered by our members to the citizens of Victoria and I am delighted and honoured to serve as Chief."

Chief Angrove is also taking a broader view of fire service around the province. This June, he began a one-year term as First Vice President of the Fire Chiefs' Association of BC. The association of chiefs represents fire departments throughout the province, ranging from village volunteers to major city departments.

Victoria Fire Department has 127 employees who work in fire suppression, fire prevention, dispatch, mechanical, training and administration. The VFD is also responsible for the Victoria Emergency Management Agency, which is the City of Victoria's resource for helping our community prepare for an emergency. VEMA provides training to the organization, coordinates the response to emergencies, and also educates Victoria citizens on how to be "emergency prepared".

The burning issue surrounding fire fighting these days is the level of service expected from a municipal force. The association has commissioned a study called, *Transforming the Fire Rescue Service*, to take a close look at what is being delivered, if there are any major gaps and what recommendations can be made to improve service. Chief Angrove is looking forward to the study's findings and to being involved in implementing any suggested improvements.

When it comes to Victoria's service, Chief Angrove says the Department's goals are: to be on-scene for any emergency within six minutes for 90% of all emergency calls; to confine all structure fires to the room of origin; and to provide quality fire inspections to prevent fires.

The Chief also wants to be sure that the younger generation is aware of fire safety, through school tours at the fire station. Chief Angrove hopes these tours might light a spark in the minds and hearts of young Victorians who may want to follow in his footsteps to protect the City of Victoria.

Each edition of Connect includes a profile on a City department or employee.



From Hotels to Housing

Housing and homelessness remain a top priority for the City of Victoria. We know that safe and affordable housing is vital in our effort to maintain healthy communities that sustain and support all residents.

In the past 18 months, the City of Victoria has made unprecedented investment in this area. Since the beginning of 2009, we have committed nearly \$9 million to a variety of housing projects adding approximately 540 units of housing into the City's social housing and rental inventory, targeting homeless and under-housed residents.

Some of these projects have already opened their doors, like the "Wing" Building that offers below-market rental homes for families. Many more are set to open this fall, including the new purpose built shelter on Ellice Street that will offer 23 units of transitional housing, and the 44 units of supportive housing on Humboldt Street. These projects are important as they focus on providing a higher level of support services for people facing multiple challenges.

Victoria Votes, CONTINUED

Do I qualify to vote?

You may vote in Victoria's by-election and referendum as a resident elector if you meet all of the following requirements on the day of registration:

- 18 years of age or older on general voting day
- Canadian citizen
- Lived in B.C. for at least six months before you register to vote
- Lived in Victoria for over 30 days before you register to vote
- Not disqualified from voting in an election, or otherwise disqualified by law
- If you live outside of Victoria but own property within the city, you may be eligible to vote. Contact the Legislative Services office for more information.

By-election candidates

Candidates wishing to run in the by-election can fill out nomination papers weekdays at City Hall beginning Tuesday, October 5 at 9 a.m. Nomination papers must be received no later than Friday, October 15 at 4 p.m. Only those candidates whose nomination papers are received at the Office of Legislative Services at City Hall before the deadline will appear on the ballot.

For more information, contact the City of Victoria's Legislative Services at 250.361.0571 or visit www.victoria.ca

Do Your Share for Clean Air

With cooler days ahead and the kids back at school, it's an important time to remember how we can all do our share for clean air. Turning your vehicle engine off, rather than letting it idle, helps reduce emissions and can also save you money.

Idling for more than 10 seconds uses more fuel and produces more carbon dioxide (CO₂) than restarting the engine. For the average vehicle with a three-litre engine, every 10 minutes of idling costs about a third of a litre (300 millilitres) in wasted fuel.

Vehicle exhaust emissions are a major contributor of green house gases and can affect the air we breathe. Some of the harmful chemicals found in vehicle exhaust include carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, suspended particles and volatile organic compounds.

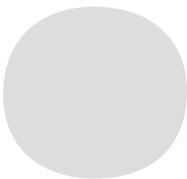
The City of Victoria has anti-idling regulation in place to encourage drivers to turn their engines off. Allowing a vehicle's engine to idle for more than three minutes within a 60-minute period is considered excessive idling. Fines range from \$50 for cars to \$200 for commercial trucks and buses.

The City of Victoria is committed to maintaining air quality for everyone. Please remember – turn your key and be idle free.

Your City Councillors

Vacant

Councillor Sonya Chandler recently vacated this position. A by-election will be held November 20, 2010.



Chris Coleman

Chris has served Council since 1999 and is Councillor liaison to the neighbourhoods of Rockland, North and South Jubilee.



City Hall 250.361.0223
Email ccoleman@victoria.ca

Lynn Hunter

Serving in her first term as a City Councillor, Lynn is the Councillor liaison to the Fairfield Gonzales neighbourhood.



City Hall 250.361.0218
Email lhunter@victoria.ca

Philippe Lucas

In his first term of Council, Philippe is the Councillor liaison to the neighbourhood of Fernwood.



City Hall 250.361.0217
Email plucas@victoria.ca



The City is also very excited about the recent purchase of two of the former Traveller's Inn properties. One property is located at 710 Queens Avenue, and will likely serve as supportive housing for singles. The second is at 120 Gorge Road East and will focus on serving the Aboriginal community with a mix of units for small families, seniors, youth and singles. Many dedicated partners are working on this project, and working through the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness, we are moving forward to ensure this project is a success.

Homelessness and a lack of adequate housing affect everyone in our community – it makes fiscal and social sense to end homelessness. Ending homelessness is a top of mind priority for residents and it is top of mind for

Victoria City Council as well. There are many initiatives under way to help improve the lives of everyone who calls Victoria home. However, our work is far from done – and housing is just one piece of the puzzle to the complex challenges that face our homeless population. The City will continue to work with the many dedicated agencies and service providers in its goal of ending homelessness and supporting our community.

For more information on the housing commitments by the City of Victoria, visit our website at www.victoria.ca

Welcome Students A new city, a new place to call home

With a new school year under way, the City of Victoria welcomes all university and college students arriving from out of town. Whether you're coming from eastern Canada, up Island or from overseas, know that for the next few years, Victoria is your home.

As many of you will have already discovered, this city is a great place to live. Downtown Victoria boasts a buzzing arts and music scene and has a notable reputation for fantastic restaurants and pubs serving locally sourced fare. Throughout the year, people from all over the region come downtown to enjoy the markets, festivals, music, theatres and exciting nightlife. It's a great place to gather and celebrate with friends.

Welcome to Victoria. We hope that many of you will decide to stay once you've finished school and continue to enjoy all our great city has to offer.



Get a Safe Ride Home Late Night Fridays and Saturdays

For people coming downtown to enjoy the weekend nightlife, it is now easier than ever to find a safe ride home at the end of the night. Three late night bus routes now run until 1:30 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. In addition to the late night buses, downtown taxi stands run from 2 a.m. to 4 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

Downtown Late Night Buses until 1:30 a.m.

- 4 Downtown/UVic
- 6 Esquimalt/Royal Oak
- 14 UVic/Vic General

Downtown Late Night Taxi Stands – 2 a.m. – 4 a.m.

- Douglas Street between Fort and Broughton (near the Strathcona)
- Douglas Street between Yates and Johnson (near the 7-11)
- Yates Street at Douglas Street (near the Mac's)

For more information, visit www.transitbc.com and www.LateNightGreatNightVictoria.ca

John Luton

In his first term as City Councillor, John is Councillor liaison to Victoria West.

City Hall 250.361.0222
Email jluton@victoria.ca



Pamela Madoff

Pam has served on City Council since 1993 and is the liaison to the neighbourhood of James Bay.

City Hall 250.361.0221
Email pmadoff@victoria.ca



Charlayne Thornton-Joe

A City Councillor since 2002, Charlayne is City Council's liaison to the neighbourhoods of Burnside Gorge and Downtown-Harris Green.

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 Oaklands neighbourhood. Geoff is also the Chair of the Capital Regional District.

City Hall 250.361.0220
Email gyoung@victoria.ca



What's your role when it snows?

Victoria may be a "City of Gardens", but we can still get our share of snow. Snow and ice clearing is a big job. City trucks, equipment, and crews can't make it everywhere at once, and it is too costly for the City to remove ice and snow from Victoria's 450 kilometres of sidewalks.

We need to work together to keep streets and sidewalks clear and safe, and keep people, goods, and services moving.

City's Role

To ensure emergency services and main arteries are maintained, we prioritize our snow clearing efforts as follows:

First Priority:

- **roadways:** emergency routes, major arterial streets, hills, bridge decks, and access routes to hospitals, fire stations and police headquarters
- **sidewalks/frontages:** downtown transit stops and wheelchair ramps, and sidewalks fronting City properties downtown

Second Priority:

- **roadways:** senior care and homeless shelter facility streets; secondary and collector roads, left turn lanes with traffic loop detectors
- **sidewalks/frontages:** transit stops and sidewalks fronting City properties outside of downtown; and community centre frontages

Third Priority:

- **roadways:** residential roads, City-owned surface parking lots, downtown parking spaces; bicycle lanes on Yates and Fort Streets
- **sidewalks/frontages:** Galloping Goose Trail and Westsong Walkway

Priority roadways and sidewalks may be completed up to 72 hours after a snowfall, provided that the snow stops falling.

Community's Role

Under the Streets and Traffic Bylaw, property owners and tenants are responsible for clearing snow and ice from sidewalks fronting their homes and businesses by 10 a.m. each day. Those who don't, may face a fine of \$150 per ticketed offence (per day) or fines can be levied up to six months later.

If you live in a single family home or duplex, you are responsible for removing ice and snow from a sidewalk fronting your home.

If you live in an apartment building, condo or townhouse, the property owner/manager is responsible for the removal of snow and ice from sidewalks fronting the property.

Business owners are encouraged to make arrangements in advance with neighbours to clear each other's frontages in the event they can't make it into work.

When it snows, be a good neighbour. Offer assistance with snow removal to those who may need a helping hand, and check on them in the event of a severe snow storm.

Everyone has a role to play when it snows. For more information, visit: www.victoria.ca/snowclearing

Mark your calendar

Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre Customer Appreciation Week

September 27 – October 1

Welcome back to wellness! The Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre is celebrating its reopening after its annual maintenance closure. For a schedule of events, call 250.361.0704 or visit www.victoria.ca and click on *What's New?*

Residential Leaf Collection

November through January

Residents should place leaves in loose piles or in tied, clear, 100% biodegradable bags at the curb for pick-up by City Parks crews. A Leaf Pick-up Schedule will be mailed in October highlighting when crews will be in each neighbourhood. For more information: www.victoria.ca/leafpick

NEW Bagged Leaves Call for Pick-up Service

From October 18 to November 26, 2010, you can call Parks at 250.361.0600 to have your residential leaves in clear, biodegradable bags picked up within three to five working days at no additional charge.

Annual Tree Appreciation Day

Sunday, November 7, 10 a.m. – noon

Celebrate the 5th Annual Tree Appreciation Day by planting native trees and shrubs at Banfield Park, 521 Craigflower Road. Participants meet at the playground. Rain or shine.

By-Election and Borrowing Referendum

Saturday, November 20

A City of Victoria by-election will take place on Saturday, November 20, 2010, to fill the vacant seat on Council left by former Councillor Sonya Chandler. At the same time, citizens will vote on borrowing to replace the Johnson Street Bridge.

Public Works Food Drive

December 6 – 10

Public Works crews will collect food items to support the Mustard Seed Food Bank. Place non-perishable food items in 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: www.victoria.ca/garbagecollection

45th Annual Carolling Week at City Hall

December 6 – 10 (except December 9)

The public is invited to enjoy choirs from Victoria area schools which perform carols on weekdays at noon at the City Hall Ante Chamber.

Spirit of the Season in the Square

Christmas Tree Light-up:

November 26, 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Island Farms Santa Light Parade Warm-up:

November 27, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Truck Light Parade Warm-up:

December 4, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Join us for free, family fun this Christmas in Centennial Square. Enjoy the annual light-up of the giant sequoia tree. Warm up before two festive parades with free hot chocolate, carollers, musical performances and children's activities.

New Year's Day Levee

Saturday, January 1, 2011, 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

The public is invited to attend the City of Victoria's annual New Year's Day Levee at City Hall, hosted by Victoria City Council.

Moving forward with Victoria's Official Community Plan

From February through to June of this year, many of you took time out of your day to share feedback and help shape the future direction of Victoria's updated Official Community Plan. Thank you to those who completed surveys, attended community forums, met with staff, and participated in Community Circle discussions. You have contributed to an important plan that will guide Victoria's future over the next 30 years.

The feedback received from more than 4,600 people has helped to identify common community values and ideas for future directions in areas such as housing, transportation, land use planning and the economy. At the most recent community forum, held at the Victoria Conference Centre in June, members of the public provided thoughtful feedback through intensive workshops, reflecting on future growth scenarios for the city, and sharing input on a 30-year vision for downtown.

All of the input received over the last five months helped inform a report presented to Victoria City Council in late August. Following Council consideration and direction, a draft plan will be prepared this fall and submitted to Council in January 2011.

An Official Community Plan sets out a vision, goals and overarching policies that guide a municipality over the long-term. Victoria's current plan was last updated in 1995.

For more information about Victoria's Official Community Plan, including the latest on direction received from Council in August, visit www.ShapeYourFutureVictoria.ca



Connecting With You

The City of Victoria has a new foundation for improving the way it engages citizens in civic matters. *Foundations for Success: A Strategy to Improve Civic Engagement at the City of Victoria* was recently endorsed by Victoria City Council, making Victoria one of few municipalities in the Province of British Columbia to review historical practice and develop a policy to guide the municipality's engagement with the community.

During the past year, the City asked for input into how it can best engage the community in civic matters. The feedback received from the community highlighted six challenges for engagement in the City of Victoria and over 60 supporting recommendations to assist the organization in improving customer service and engagement practice. Staff are now outlining how these challenges will be addressed through the thoughtful consideration of over 60 new policies and tools.

One of the most important jobs a municipality has is to ensure its citizens know how their tax dollars are spent and how to access the many services available to them. We live in one of the best communities in the world and we are extremely fortunate to receive some of the highest quality municipal services in Canada. Yet we often hear that our citizens aren't aware of what the municipality offers or don't understand how they can get involved in issues that concern them.

The City of Victoria developed a Civic Engagement Strategy to identify how we can better communicate and connect with our citizens. We asked the community things like: When was the last time you attended a meeting at City Hall? What motivated you to do so? What would encourage you to be more involved in your community and City decision-making? And are there ways you would like to hear from us that the City hasn't yet explored?

Staff and Council are continuing to learn what works best when consulting the community, and what the best techniques are for different situations. The next step is determining how these recommendations will be implemented. Stay tuned!

To learn more, visit www.victoria.ca and click on *Engaging Victoria*



One Loonie a Week Can End Homelessness!



greater victoria coalition to end homelessness
hope has found a home

If each person in Greater Victoria contributed a loonie a week for a year, we could end homelessness in eight years. Incredibly, that equals \$18,000,000 per year, and \$143,500,000 by 2018.

Organized by the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness, the Loonie-a-Week campaign is geared to support the Coalition's vision to end homelessness by 2018.

Donation boxes are located at City Hall, St. John the Divine Anglican Church, and supporting businesses in the Capital Region. For more info: www.solvehomelessness.ca or 250.370.1512.

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

Join us on facebook.

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
- Solid waste: 748 Kg
- Water: 6,593 L
- Air emissions: 1,305 Kg

