Victoria Votes 2011

From the provision of clean water, maintenance of roads, garbage pick-up, land use decisions and management of recreation programs for your family, no other level of government is closer to your everyday life than municipal government. You have the opportunity to impact these everyday issues when you vote in the 2011 Civic Election.

The City of Victoria along with all other BC municipalities will hold a civic election on Saturday, November 19, 2011. City of Victoria electors will vote to fill the offices of the Mayor, eight Councillors and nine School District 61 Board Trustees. Electors will also have the opportunity to nominate three City of Victoria Council members to serve as Directors for the Capital Regional District.

If you are a Canadian citizen aged 18 or older on November 19, 2011, have resided in BC for at least six months prior and resided in the City of Victoria for at least 30 days prior to November 19, 2011, you may be eligible to vote. For a full list of elector eligibility and ID requirements, visit www.victoria.ca/election.

Eligible electors who are unable to vote on General Voting Day may vote in one of two advance polls, to be held on November 9 and 14, 2011 at Victoria City Hall. If you are unable to attend in person to vote at any voting opportunity, you may obtain a mail-in ballot by contacting 250.361.0751.

For important on-the-go information about the election make sure to download the free Victoria Votes app for iPhone, Blackberry and Android, available in the iTunes store after November 1.

Your vote is your voice. On November 19, speak up! www.victoria.ca/election
‘Leaf’ it at the Curb

Residential Leaf Pick-up Program

City of Victoria Parks crews will soon be collecting residential leaves along your street. You can place your leaves in loose piles or in tied, clear, 100% biodegradable bags at the curb.

Victoria residents have two options for leaf collection:

Neighbourhood Leaf Collection

Monday, November 14, 2011 is the deadline for Victoria residents to have their bagged leaves or leaf piles at the curb for pick-up. City trucks make one pass down each street. Collection ends in early January 2012.

Call for Pick-up Service

From Monday, October 17 to Friday, December 16, 2011, Victoria residents can contact the City’s Parks office at 250.361.0600 to arrange for their bagged leaves to be picked up at the curb for free within three to five working days. Callers are asked to provide their name, address and phone number. There is no limit to the number of calls for pick-up.

Tips to Placing Leaves at the Curb

• Ensure leaf piles and bagged leaves are placed close to the curb, and are visible and accessible from the street.
• Bags must be tied, clear and 100% biodegradable.
• Keep gutters, streets, sidewalks, and storm drains clear of leaves to prevent clogging or flooding.
• There is no limit to the number of bags or leaf piles that can be set out at the curb.
• Call only please.

You also have the option of dropping off residential leaf and garden waste for free, year-round at the City of Victoria Public Works Yard, 417 Garbally Road, on Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 250.361.0400.

The City of Victoria encourages the backyard composting of leaves wherever possible. To learn how to get started, contact the Greater Victoria Compost Education Centre 250.386.9676 or visit: www.compost.bc.ca

For more information on the City of Victoria’s Residential Leaf Pick-up program, call 250.361.0000, email parks@victoria.ca or visit: www.victoria.ca/leafpickup

Get Active This Fall!

Get active this fall with a variety of recreation programs for the entire family at the Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre. Call 250.361.0732 for more information or to register.

Street Wise – Shrink Your Carbon Footprint and Expand Your Wallet

How Do You Compare as a Commuter?

Did you know driving our cars is the second largest contributor of greenhouse gases (43%) in Victoria? 78 percent of Victoria residents live within 5 km of their work and 80% within 10 km. Think about this…while we do have the highest rate of cyclist commuters in Canada at 10%, and 23% of us walk to work, almost half of us report commuting to work alone, by car.

What can you do to make your commute more enjoyable, healthy and affordable, while also doing your part to help move our city towards the goal of reducing Victoria’s greenhouse gas emissions by 33% by 2008?

The City of Victoria has been working on convenient, cost-saving alternatives to driving your car around town:

• Since 2009, bike parking spaces in downtown Victoria have doubled, with 1,000 spots for bikes available now - free parking at its best.
• Did you know there are also over 100 bike parking spaces in City of Victoria parkades? These covered spaces include 24-hour security and are free of charge. Check out the Johnson Street Parkade’s dedicated bike entrance and exit. Four City of Victoria parkades also have electric bike plug-ins.
• The Johnson Street Parkade is also home to one of the 18 Victoria Car Share Co-op vehicles in our city. Car sharing is great to combine with biking, busing and walking, and can help you save thousands of dollars each year on car ownership, insurance and maintenance costs. Studies show that one car share vehicle can help take up to 20 other vehicles off the road. (www.victoriacarshare.ca)
• Did you know that there are 25 km of bike lanes and 2.6 km of trails in Victoria? No new roads have been built since 1991, but roads have been redesigned to make way for bike lanes and sidewalks.
• Ever wondered how much you could save if you left your car at home and hopped on the bus? bctransit.com/regions/vic/transitplus/calculator.cfm

Your Mayor and City Councillors

Dean Fortin
Mayor
Dean Fortin is serving his first 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
Counsellor
Marianne is the Councillor liaison to the Oaklands/Vic West neighbourhood.
City Hall 250.361.0216
Email malto@victoria.ca

Chris Coleman
Councillor
Chris has served Council since 1999 and is Councillor liaison to the neighbourhood of Fernwood.
City Hall 250.361.0233
Email ccoleman@victoria.ca

Lynn Hunter
Councillor
Lynn is the Councillor liaison to the neighbourhood of James Bay.
City Hall 250.361.0218
Email lhunter@victoria.ca

Philippe Lucas
Councillor
Philippe is the Councillor liaison to the neighbourhoods of North Park and Hillside.
City Hall 250.361.021
Email plucas@victoria.ca
Get Ready to ShakeOut.
October 20, 2011 Register Now at www.shakeoutbc.ca

At 10:20 a.m. on October 20, 2011, British Columbians will Drop, Cover and Hold On in The Great British Columbia ShakeOut, the largest earthquake drill in Canadian history.

The City of Victoria is proud to be participating in the drill and invites Victoria citizens to sign up online to participate at: www.shakeoutbc.ca

Victoria has a 32% probability of a damaging earthquake in the next 50 years. It’s not a matter of “if” an earthquake will happen, but “when”. The Great British Columbia ShakeOut drill is an opportunity to get better prepared before the next big earthquake and practise how to protect ourselves when it happens. The annual ShakeOut drill helps people and organizations do both.

Drop, Cover and Hold On is the most appropriate action to reduce injury and death during an earthquake.

Drop, Cover and Hold On means:
• DROP to the floor (before the earthquake drops you)
• Take COVER under a desk or sturdy piece of furniture and protect your head, and
• HOLD ON to the piece of furniture (until the shaking stops).

At www.shakeoutbc.ca you’ll find frequently asked questions and a series of helpful fact sheets on how you, your family, work colleagues and community can participate in the earthquake drill.

The date of ShakeOut BC is now aligned with California’s annual ShakeOut drill, which takes place the third Thursday of October. More than 470,000 people participated in the first BC ShakeOut earlier this year.

Personal Preparedness - For information on the supplies you and your family, pets, business or organization need to have on hand to be able to cope for a minimum of three days in the event of an earthquake, check out the Victoria Emergency Management Agency's award-winning Recipe for Disaster series at: www.preparevictoria.ca

A Royal Welcome

On September 24, the City of Victoria proudly welcomed our newest major junior hockey team, the Victoria Royals, to the Capital City. The return of the Western Hockey League (WHL) to Victoria is a testament to our proud sports tradition.

Our Save-on-Foods Memorial Centre is the perfect venue for the WHL - an intimate arena with new facilities, and all in a central location. We are excited to host the hockey stars of the future, and confident that the community will enjoy watching and cheering them on.

The addition of the Victoria Royals adds to the list of fun, family entertainment in our city, and is a wonderful tenant for our community arena. And with any luck, we can add a Memorial Cup to our 1925 Stanley Cup for the city!

For more information, schedules or to purchase tickets, visit www.vicwhl.com

City of Victoria Connect FALL 2011 3

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Mark Your Calendar

Neighbourhood Leaf Collection
Monday, November 14, 2011
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www.victoria.ca/leafpickup

Banding for Winter Moth Workshop
Wednesday, November 2 or Saturday, November 5
10 a.m. – noon
Learn how banding your Garry oak, fruit and ornamental trees now will help prevent Winter moth damage in the spring at this free workshop in Beacon Hill Park. Rain or shine. Registration is not required.
www.victoria.ca and click on What’s New?

Annual Tree Appreciation Day
Sunday, November 6
10 a.m. – noon
Celebrate the 6th Annual Tree Appreciation Day by planting native trees and shrubs at Arbutus Park, 2825 Washington Avenue. Rain or shine. Free. Registration is not required.
www.victoria.ca and click on What’s New?

Christmas Tree Light-Up
Saturday, November 26
4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Centennial Square
Join us for the annual light-up of the Giant sequoia tree, including music performances, roving entertainment, ices sculptures and free treats before the Island Farms Santa Claus Parade. Sponsored by the Downtown Victoria Business Association and the City of Victoria.

Figgy Pudding Caroling Competition
Registration Deadline: Friday, November 25
Register your group to participate in the 2nd Annual Figgy Pudding Caroling Competition downtown on Saturday, December 17 from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. www.victoria.ca/figgypudding

Extreme Gingerbread House Workshop
Saturday, December 3
1 p.m. – 3 p.m. or 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Create your very own gingerbread house and decorate it any way you want. All of the building materials and goodies will be provided. To register call 250.361.0732

Public Works Food Drive
December 5 - 9
Public Works crews collect food items to support the Mustang Seed Food Bank. Place non-perishable food 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: www.victoria.ca/garbagecollection

46th Annual Caroling Week
December 5 – 9 (except December 8)
The public is invited to enjoy choirs from Victoria area schools which perform carols at Antechamber.

Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre Annual Closure
Monday, December 5, 2011 to Sunday, January 15, 2012
The facility will close for annual repairs and maintenance, re-opening on Monday, January 16. Passes will be honoured by other regional municipal facilities. www.victoria.ca/recservices

New Year’s Day Levee
Sunday, January 1, 2012
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 City Council.

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
- Air emissions: 1,305 Kg
- Solid waste: 748 Kg
- Energy: 4.3 MWh

Victoria to Collect Kitchen Scraps from Households in Just Over a Year

A new program to remove organics from the garbage headed to Hartland Landfill will be introduced to all single family dwellings in the Capital City in January 2013.

The City will soon be consulting the community on three options for the future of garbage collection in Victoria, all of which include the collection of kitchen scraps. This includes fruit and vegetable scraps, meat, fish, and soiled paper products and makes up approximately 30% of the waste currently going into household garbage.

This fall, households will be consulted on three garbage and organics collection options that vary by frequency of collection (alternating weeks or every two weeks), location of totes (backyard or curbside) and the subsequent costs.

The program will remain a user-pay system and the model to be implemented will be determined by user preference.

Some of the initial work this fall includes the deconstruction of two buildings on the west side of the bridge, removal of the rail bridge and relocation of Telus communication lines at the bottom of the harbour, all of which are currently in the path of where the new bridge will be built.

Some lane closures may be required for short durations to accommodate the need to move materials or equipment.

The new bridge will include 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, 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. It will create an estimated 900 jobs over the next four years.

Visit JohnsonStreetBridge.com in October to sign up to receive the project newsletter and check out the project webcam.

If you have any questions about the project, please email: JohnsonStreetBridge@victoria.ca

Join us on Facebook. Follow us on Twitter.

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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Changes to the garbage collection system are being considered in conjunction with the need to replace aging garbage trucks, and will also help reduce the risk of worker injury, reduce carbon emissions and advance waste diversion.

All households will receive standardized totes and will have the option to reduce the standard tote size for further costs savings.

Public consultation, including a household survey and open houses, will occur this fall and the final model will be determined in February, allowing trucks and totes to be ordered and the change in service to occur in January 2013.

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