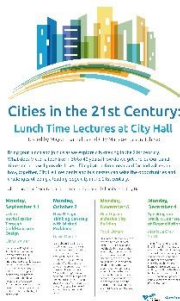


In Your Neighbourhood

How the City spends your Tax Dollars

At the request of Council, the Neighbourhood Team is currently producing a presentation on the City Budget to be presented to Neighbourhood Associations this fall. Details on when and where this will take place will be sent out in September. All residents are welcome to come learn about the city budget as well as discuss the draft Capital Works plan for your neighbourhood for 2018.



City Hall Lunch Time Lectures

Join us this fall for a series of lunchtime lectures at City Hall. Each month between September and December, the Lunchtime Lecture Series, hosted by Mayor Lisa Helps and City Manager Jason Johnson, explores city-making in the 21st century. What will Victoria look like in 30 to 40 years? How will we get there? These lectures provide a dose of inspiration and will examine how, together, City Hall, residents and businesses can seize the opportunity and challenges of being a leading-edge city in the 21st century. A full size poster is included at the end of this newsletter.

What is the City doing with the lights in my neighbourhood?

The City of Victoria is replacing the current high-pressure sodium (HPS) lights with new energy efficient LED lights. In Victoria, streetlights are a major user of electricity, and in order to reduce costs and improve sustainability, the City is replacing the legacy HPS streetlights with LED units, which provide a number of benefits which include:

- The conversion from HPS to LED streetlights will reduce streetlight energy use by 45 to 55%. City of Victoria streetlights currently consume 30% of our municipal electricity use so LEDs will save the taxpayers money
- LED lights are longer lasting, outliving the older HPS lights by as much as four times. The LEDs can last 15 – 20 years without needing to be replaced
- LED light prices have dropped significantly in recent years and are now cost-competitive with the current HPS lights
- LED lights provide a high quality, clear light, which can help improve visibility, safety and security

For more information check out our [website](#)

My Great Neighbourhood Grants – Fall Intake

The next intake of applications for My Great Neighbourhood Grants opens September 11, for 5 weeks. The City has approximately \$51,000 left in the 2017 grant program that is open to residents and non-profit organizations to create projects and activities that will improve areas in your neighbourhood and create community. Think about something you might like to do and then contact the Neighbourhood Team to explore your idea. Deadline for this application period is Sunday, **October 15**. Pre-application meetings must be completed no later than **Friday, October 6**. More information can be found on the City's [website](#).



Got an idea for how to invest up to \$50,000 to make life in Victoria better?

This is the first year the City of Victoria has empowered the community to decide what to do with a portion of the City budget. How would you or your organization invest up to \$50,000 to improve life in Victoria?! If you have an idea for a project, initiative or event, now is the time to submit it to the Participatory Budgeting Steering Committee. Proposals are due by September 28, 2017.

Later this year, Victoria residents will be invited to vote on which ideas they like the most. Proposals can be for some, or all, of the \$50,000. The winning project or projects will be funded in 2018. Learn more and download an application form on the City's [website](#).

Block by Block – Do you know your neighbours?

Strengthening social connections is a huge part of creating resiliency in your neighbourhood. In today's busy society, knowing your neighbours might seem more of a luxury than a necessity. Research has shown however, that when we do know our neighbours, it not only improves the quality of our individual lives but also improves the quality of life on the block. "Block Connection" projects have been successful in helping neighbours get to know each other. How does it work? Quite simply, one or two neighbours knock on doors around the block asking residents if they are interested in getting to know a bit about others in their neighbourhood. If so, a few questions are asked, such as "what are you passionate about?" and "what skills do you have? What could you teach people?" Once the neighbourhood is surveyed, you could throw a party and share the results.

If you are interested in participating in something like this, or know someone who might like to champion this idea, we can support you through one of our Great Neighbourhood activity grants. As well we can provide guidelines and support to get the project up and running, and give you ideas on how to sustain your great work.

Help Calm Traffic on your Streets

Kids are back in school, the streets are a little busier and it's getting darker earlier. Please slow down when driving through residential areas and school zones. The posted speed limit in school zones is **30 km/h** and it is applicable on school days between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. The posted speed limit in playground zones is **30 km/h** from dawn to dusk, every day of the year. If you are concerned about traffic speeding through your neighbourhood, please report it [online here](#) and an officer will be assigned to investigate your complaint. And slow down a little; it could be your neighbours' kids out there.

Neighbourhood Walkshops

The Neighbourhood Team is now offering walkshops throughout your neighbourhood. Walkshops are an opportunity to bring City staff and residents together in an effort to share information regarding City processes and functions and to discuss neighbourhood issues from the residents' perspective. In the spirit of Jane's Walks, discussion is meant to be positive and constructive, and create opportunities for both the City and the community to work together to resolve concerns. Walkshops typically happen in the early evening or on a weekend.

The route for the Walkshop is determined by the community members, allowing for open dialogue regarding City functions along the way with staff representing various departments. City staff will have the opportunity to field queries from residents and respond based on their technical expertise on a particular topic.

If your neighbourhood is interested in hosting a walkshop, please let your Neighbourhood Advisor know and we will schedule a date that works for everyone. Staff availability is limited to one walkshop every two months so some flexibility in scheduling is appreciated.

Johnson Street Bridge Steel Arrives

The first shipment of steel for the new Johnson Street Bridge arrived in Victoria on August 22. The second and final shipment, which included the bridge deck structure left Shanghai in late August and is expected to arrive in late September. When the bridge deck structure arrives in Victoria, work will be done in the upper harbour to attach the pedestrian walkway and the multi-use pathway to the deck structure, as well as install the bridge architectural and traffic lighting and the new deck surface. The new bridge is expected to open to traffic in March, 2018.



Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole (COTW) meets September 7, 14 and 21 at 9 a.m. Council will meet September 7 and 21 at 6:30 p.m. You can watch the live broadcast and find agendas [here](#).

Comments on Neighbourhood Updates?

Is there something you would like to see in the neighbourhood updates that is currently missing? Do you have any comments on presentation or content? Please let me know at kstratford@victoria.ca. Thanks!



Cities in the 21st Century: Lunch Time Lectures at City Hall

Hosted by Mayor Lisa Helps and City Manager Jason Johnson

Bring your lunch and join us as we explore city-making in the 21st century. What does Victoria look like in 30 to 40 years? How do we get there? Our Lunch Time Lectures will provide doses of inspiration from near and far and will examine how, together, City Hall, residents and businesses can seize the opportunities and challenges of being a leading-edge city in the 21st century.

All lectures run from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Monday, September 11

Urban Revitalization Through Child-Centered Design

Diana Studer

Diana is a RAIC Syllabus Architecture Student and Technologist at HDR/CEI Architecture in Victoria. Her final diploma project is focused on how we can better our communities by engaging children in the design and decision making process. Traveling to Copenhagen, Portland and Vancouver, Diana's project is rooted in her research in pedagogy and the UN Convention on the Right of the Child.

Monday, October 2

How Design Thinking Can Help with Wicked Problems

David Dunne

Is a problem like crime the result of ineffective policing, poor education, immigration, broken windows, or a witch's brew of all these? Such problems are called "wicked problems" and traditional approaches are ineffective with them. A different approach, "Design Thinking", is being adopted in the public, private and nonprofit sectors. Using vivid examples from around the world, Professor Dunne will explain the approach and its value.

Monday, November 6

Healthy and Inclusive City Building

Todd Litman

This presentation will explore why and how Victoria can become a more inclusive and healthy city by ensuring that everybody, including people with low incomes and disabilities, can find suitable housing in a walkable urban neighborhood. Todd will examine demographic and economic trends that are changing housing and travel demands, myths and barriers to affordable housing and transportation development, and ways to overcome those barriers.

Monday, December 4

Speaking our Truth: A Journey of Reconciliation

Monique Gray
Smith

Join us for an engaging and inspiring talk in which award winning author Monique Gray Smith will share her own journey and her families continued journey of reconciliation. She will share how these journeys have influenced her writing, specifically the three books that come out in Fall 2017. Monique will provide a couple short readings from one of the new books.