

## In Your Neighbourhood

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### Strengthening Community Participation

Want some new tools to engage residents in your neighbourhood? On Saturday, October 13, the City, in partnership with Volunteer Victoria, will be hosting a workshop from 10am – 3pm at City Hall to explore some best practices for engaging community. These practices will be useful tools in supporting the goals and activities of your neighbourhood association, and help you build a stronger approach for connecting with residents. To facilitate discussion of specific ideas for your organization, each neighbourhood will be requested to provide 3 participants. Lunch will be provided. More information on the workshop will be provided in coming weeks.

### Victoria's New Tenant Assistance Policy Begins September 1

As part of the work the City of Victoria is undertaking to address housing affordability, beginning September 1, a new [Tenant Assistance Policy](#) provides guidelines for tenant assistance when renters are required to move because their building is being redeveloped. The focus of the Tenant Assistance Policy is on protecting vulnerable tenants such as seniors, young families, and people with accessibility needs, who may have additional challenges finding an appropriate place to live.

The Tenant Assistance Policy applies to rezoning applications where tenants will be required to find a new place to live as a result of the redevelopment. It also serves as a best-practice approach for any renovation or redevelopment situations where tenants are required to relocate.

The Tenant Assistance Policy is one of several initiatives the City of Victoria is undertaking as part of a [Housing Strategy](#) aimed at addressing housing affordability in Victoria and is intended to complement existing regulations under the [Provincial Residential Tenancy Act](#). For more information about the policy and the City's housing initiatives, visit the [City of Victoria website](#) or contact City of Victoria Community Planning at [housing@victoria.ca](mailto:housing@victoria.ca) or 250.361.0382.

### Johnson Street Bridge Pedestrian Walkway Now Open



On August 29<sup>th</sup>, the south side pedestrian-only walkway and bascule pier observation deck on the new Johnson Street Bridge opened for public use. In addition to the new walkway, the interim public plaza spaces and sidewalk connections on the east and west sides of the bridge also opened to the public.

This pathway is for pedestrians and those on wheelchairs or mobility devices. Cyclists wanting to access the bascule pier observation deck must dismount when on the pathway or park their bicycle on either end and walk in.

The plazas connecting the downtown and Victoria West to the JSB will continue to be enhanced in the coming months, and into 2020. The southeast plaza creates a new downtown space for people to enjoy views of the harbour. This plaza will be developed to connect Reeson Park to the JSB underpass, linking the David Foster Harbour Pathway north and south of the bridge. The new plaza on the southwest side of the bridge is another space for the public to enjoy views of downtown Victoria and connects the bridge to Victoria West, via the West Song Walkway and Harbour Road, and will form part of the future waterfront park.

For the latest information on the project or to view the webcam, visit [www.JohnsonStreetBridge.com](http://www.JohnsonStreetBridge.com)

### Centennial Square Action Plan

As part of the next phase of engagement on Centennial Square, the community is invited to an open house event Wednesday, September 12 from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at City Hall in the Antechamber. Draft concepts for improvements to the Square and programming ideas identified by the community through engagement events in July will be shared for further community input. Feedback from the community will help inform a draft action plan for improvements to Centennial Square. Visit [www.Victoria.ca/CentennialSquare](http://www.Victoria.ca/CentennialSquare) for more information.



### Crystal Pool Closed for Annual Maintenance

Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre will close for annual maintenance Saturday, September 1 - Sunday, September 23 inclusive, re-opening at 5:30 a.m. on Monday, September 24. During the pool closure, your Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre passes, and your Regional Recreation Pass are honoured at the following facilities. Please verify schedules at participating facilities:

- Oak Bay Recreation Centre
- Pearkes Recreation Centre
- Cedar Hill Recreation Centre
- Gordon Head Recreation Centre
- Westshore Parks and Recreation
- Esquimalt Recreation Centre
- Saanich Commonwealth Place (closed September 4-16 for pool; Sept 1-3 for weight room); entire facility closed Labour Day, Sept 3.
- Panorama Recreation Centre (closed August 20 – September 3)

The front desk will remain open during the maintenance closure Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 a.m. for registration, membership, garbage tickets.

### City Family Report



In 2017, the City of Victoria began a journey of Truth and Reconciliation with the Lekwungen peoples, the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, on whose homeland the city stands. City Council created the Witness Reconciliation Program and appointed a City Family made up of members of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, other urban Indigenous people, the Mayor and select City Council members. Following a year long process of deliberation, conversation and truth-sharing, the City Family determined that to show progress on the path of reconciliation the City should remove the statue of Sir John A. Macdonald from the front doors of City Hall. Council approved the City Family's request and the statue was removed on August 11 and stored safely in a city facility. The public will be kept informed as the Witness Reconciliation Program unfolds, and as we work together as a community to recontextualize Macdonald in an appropriate way. To learn more about the City Family and the efforts being made by the City of Victoria around reconciliation visit: [victoria.ca/reconciliation](http://victoria.ca/reconciliation). You can read the City Family report to Council [here](#).

### Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole meets September 6, 20 and 27th, at 9am. Council meets September 6 and 20<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:30pm. Residents can attend both meetings or watch them [here](#)