



LATEST NEWS

Government Street Refresh



Government Street is one of Victoria's most iconic public spaces. At the same time, the streetscape hasn't changed in more than 50 years. Ageing street furniture, trees, traffic signals, sidewalk and road surfaces and a watermain will all require replacement over the coming years, providing an opportunity to refresh the streetscape. Informed by the community's ideas, there's a draft new plan to redesign Government Street from the bottom up and it's ready for public feedback. Along with other

aspects, the draft concept design proposes two new cultural plazas with landmarks to serve as gateways to the street – a Lekwungen plaza at Humboldt and a realignment of the Pandora intersection to create a new plaza for Chinatown, while improving circulation for all forms of travel. Following this next round of input, the project team will refine the draft concept design in collaboration with the stakeholder working group, First Nations, representatives of the Chinese community, local businesses and others, before it is presented to City Council in late spring.

The community is invited to help shape the Government Street Refresh draft concept design to ensure this street continues to be a vibrant, historic and welcoming public space for all, over the next 50 years. Local businesses will receive an invitation to register on Eventbrite to participate in one of two virtual focus group discussions on **Tuesday, March 8**. The community is invited to participate in an online Open House, complete with a video, display boards and virtual facilitated presentations to learn more and ask questions on **Wednesday, March 9 at noon and again at 6 p.m.** Registration is not required. As well, you can take part in an online survey or provide feedback in an email to engage@victoria.ca with "Government Street Refresh" in the subject line, until March 20. Learn more and have your say at engage.victoria.ca.

Year of the Garden

The City of Victoria has proclaimed 2022 as the Year of the Garden and June 18, 2022 as Garden Day, part of a national celebration of everything garden. The City will host a variety of gardening education events throughout 2022, starting in March with new *Growing in the City* workshops about growing your own food, starting seeds indoors, and fruit tree pruning. To learn more about the City's gardening programs and services, visit victoria.ca/growinginthecity.



Neighbourhood Staff Contact:

Kimberley Stratford kstratford@victoria.ca

The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt people



Chinese Canadian Museum Exhibition Space in Victoria



Home of the oldest Chinatown in Canada, Victoria has a strong and diverse Chinese community with a rich and deep history. Members of the Chinese community have been leaders in arts, culture, business and politics, sometimes needing to overcome discrimination and racism to do so. The establishment of a temporary exhibition space by the Chinese Canadian Museum in Fan Tan Alley in Chinatown will enable Victorians and visitors alike to learn about the

history and lived experiences of Victoria's Chinese community. [Book your tickets](#) to see exhibitions at 10 - 14 Fan Tan Alley, the narrowest street in Canada where Chinese pioneers once gathered. The exhibition opened February 18 and will run until the end of September.

Neighbourhood Led Action Plan Guide



We know you have lots of great ideas for improving your neighbourhood, but how do you get organized and work out your priorities? The City's Neighbourhood Team has designed a guidebook to help you create your own Neighbourhood Led Action Plan. The steps outlined in this guide bring residents, local business owners, schools, and community organizations together to share ideas and

collectively build neighbourhood capacity. Through community decision-making, a neighbourhood can find the broad range of resources it has to pursue its goals. Working on a plan together will strengthen social capital and increase neighbourhood resiliency, improving the quality of life for a community in the long-term. Check out the new guide [here](#).

My Great Neighbourhood Grants open April 1

The 2002 intake of the My Great Neighbourhood Grant program opens April 1. If you want to learn more about this program, or need a refresher, join us at our March Community Virtual Lunch & Learn on Wednesday, March 16, noon – 1:30pm

Register here [Community Virtuals | Victoria](#)





Heat Pump Rebates



To help us meet our climate targets, municipal rebates are available to help make the switch to an electric heat pump for home heating and cooling. If you plan on installing a heat pump in Victoria, the best time is NOW with up to \$14,000 available in rebates! For more information on rebates, free virtual home energy check-ups, and lots of other home energy resources, check out <https://bringithome4climate.ca>. Making the switch to a heat pump from oil or natural gas home heating is one of the best ways to make your home climate-friendly.

WHAT'S UP AT COUNCIL?

	Committee of the Whole (COTW) 9:00 a.m.	(Closed) Council Meeting After COTW meetings as required	Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.
March	3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th	3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th	10 th & 24th

Decisions made at Council can be found on our [Council Highlights](#) page. If you are interested in knowing how the councillors voted on anything, you can now see and track Council voting records with the [City Council Meeting Dashboard](#). At this time due to the COVID-19 pandemic, public access to City Hall is not permitted. Meetings may be view on the City's [live stream webcast page](#).



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