



## JUBILEE

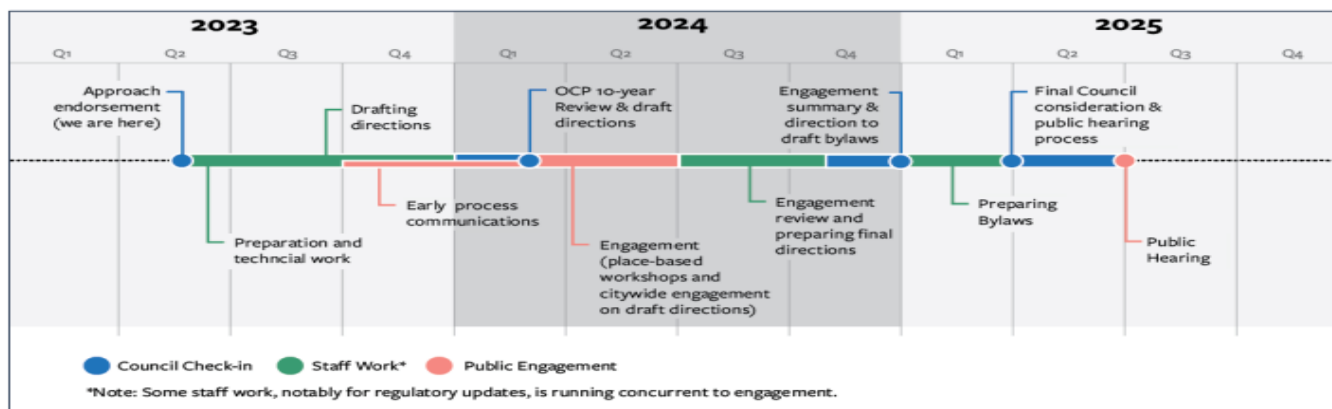
### Redfern Park Grant Approved

A \$7,500 My Great Neighbourhood grant for the purchase of seating in a new pergola in Redfern Park was approved in May. The project is a distinct part of a larger project to establish the community garden in the park.

### New Direction for Official Community Plan (OCP)

On April 13, Council approved recommendations in a [staff report](#) to adopt a new approach to updating and implementing 10-year OCP Update. The approach shifts from local area planning to integrated citywide planning with an emphasis on implementation. On May 11, Council (COTW) approved [staff recommendations](#) for further options for the new approach, including elimination of a final phase of public engagement and updating the zoning through a process which "...would forgo the complicated task of seeking to preserve site-specific regulations for the hundreds of zones in the City's dated Zoning Regulation Bylaw. Instead, the general approach would be to add entitlements and de-regulate, only retaining site-specific parameters where they are crucial to City objectives."

All bylaws enacted and works undertaken by the City must be consistent with the OCP pursuant to the Local Government Act. While the vision of the OCP was always intended to be actioned through zoning updates, staff noted that this has occurred. The Zoning Regulation Bylaw, originally adopted in 1981, also remains largely unaligned with the OCP. Staff noted that, to date, local area planning has been the primary mechanism for keeping the OCP up to date. This approach has taken more time than anticipated, despite progressive improvements along the way. As proposed, the revised approach is estimated to reduce the overall process by six months.



### Governance Review

On [May 11](#), Council resolved to direct staff to present the Governance Review Report to Council by July 26, 2023. The report's 29 recommendations had been presented to the last Council on July 21, 2023 and work is currently underway to implement some of the recommendations.



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## Community Safety Plan

On June 1, Council will consider a [resolution](#) proposing endorsement of "...the creation of a Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan to identify achievable ways in which the City of Victoria can take a leadership role in making our community safer and realizing community wellbeing". The proposed initiative is part of Council's recently adopted 2023-[2026 Strategic Plan](#) for their four-year mandate.



## Parks Sequencing Plan

On April 6, Council initiated a Parks Sequencing Plan. The Councillors introducing the [resolution](#) suggested that while the plan should be flexible "...City staff and the city as a whole would benefit from access to a clear and publicly accessible parks sequencing plan". The intention would be to outline priorities based on a need for parks downtown and in underserved and marginalized areas, as well as the role that parks play in serving various demographics in changing climatic conditions.

## IDEAS FROM AROUND THE CITY

### Neighbourhood Placemaking

Placemaking—personalizing public and semi-private spaces like front yards—is a growing trend in cities and suburbs around the world. Its drawing people out of their homes and into conversation with one another. Kids are natural placemakers - building tree forts, drawing on sidewalks and setting up lemonade stands - but people of all ages can enjoy creative placemaking activities. From Dutch families who drag couches and tables onto sidewalks for outdoor suppers to Canadians who build little lending libraries to share books with neighbors, people can do things that make life more fun and strengthen neighbourhood quality of life.

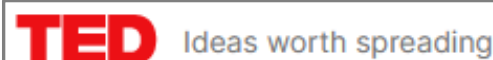
In *Home Sweet Neighbourhood*, local author Michelle Mulder combines upbeat text, fun facts and colorful photos to intrigue and inspire readers. Michelle was the lead for her neighbourhood street mural on Collinson Rd at Cook Street a few years ago. That project was funded through a *My Great Neighbourhood* grant. You can meet Michelle at her latest book launch for the youth-oriented story *Up for Grabs*. The launch is being held at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria (1040 Moss Street) on Saturday, May 20, 3-5pm.



## IDEAS FROM FURTHER ABROAD

### Sharing More

There's something simple we can all do to help the planet -- and it's probably not what you think. Given that one-third of all the food we produce globally each year being thrown away, entrepreneur Tessa Clarke believes that sharing more and wasting less is an underrated solution to the climate crisis. Learn more through her short [TED Talk](#) about how you can join the growing movement reducing waste and building community worldwide.



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## Pop-Up Dance Mat

In response to New Zealand's massive earthquake in September 2010, an organization called [Gap Filler](#), implemented an impressive and inexpensive animation project. Since the earthquake left Christchurch with an absence of venues, this local group organized a DIY dance party in one of the city's vacant lots.



By fashioning a "jukebox" out of an old washing machine and an MP3 player, and then setting up speakers around a makeshift stage, they created "Dance-o-Mat"—a public venue for spontaneous dance parties. The site quickly became a popular destination for city residents, and soon local salsa troupes and dance instructors began gathering there to practice and hold classes. Based on fees \$2 collected for each tune played, Gap Filler estimates that Dance-o-Mat supplied over 600 hours of entertainment in its first three months of operation (that's almost seven hours of activity per day!).

## MAKING IT HAPPEN

### NeighbourSpace Lending Library

In addition to the little free library outside of our NeighbourSpace at 711 Douglas Street, the Neighbourhood Team is developing a community development reference lending library inside the Space. Community members are welcome to borrow these books for up to a month at a time. New books are being added regularly and we would happily take recommendations for additions. Please contact your neighbourhood liaison to see if we have the book you are looking for, and to arrange for pick up.



### Social Isolation Documentary Available Now

We are living in a time that has been described as the age of loneliness. Despite Western advances in technology, living conditions, education and healthcare, as a society, we are isolating ourselves from one another.

How have we become so disconnected? And what can we do to change the status quo and fulfill our potential for health and well-being? Wellness expert Tamer Soliman journeyed through North American cities to meet with local citizens, community activists and leading authorities on social, economic, and urban planning to discover the true factors that have profound and lasting impacts.

The [Great Disconnect](#) is now available for streaming through Films For Action! You can rent it for \$5 or buy the film for \$10. What a great opportunity to host a community gathering to watch the film and discuss ideas on how you can combat social isolation and loneliness in your community.

Looking for ways to stay in touch? Sign up for our [City e-newsletter](#) for monthly updates on City programs and initiatives. Find the latest issue of [Connect](#) here or check out recent new items [here](#).

Looking to stay engaged? Register with our [Have Your Say Engagement Portal](#). You'll get a monthly update about current engagement opportunities to participate in surveys and other online engagement opportunities.



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