

Dear Neighbours,

I know I left them around here somewhere. Honestly, they were just here a minute ago! How could six months disappear, just like that?!

Whether time has a habit of getting away from you or not, why not bookmark [our website](#) for easy access to news and basic information? And while we're on the subject - if you're enjoying this newsletter, please pass it along to anyone you think could benefit, as well!

Around the Neighbourhood

Speeders:

- You may have noticed the new speed-reading board, which has been installed on the downward slope of Rockland, just before the Moss Street intersection. There are still a lot of speed-fiends on the road, threatening the life and limb of animals, walkers, runners and cyclists alike, so the Board is investigating further deterrents, including (but not limited to) raised sidewalks and pedestrian peninsulas. Please contact the RNA (through this address) with suggestions, or contact the city's Transportation Coordinator, Fred Billingham: fbillingham@victoria.ca.

Newcomers to your gardens

- I was surprised by a very large and noisy newcomer to my garden this spring. Having determined that it was neither a) a tiny B52 bomber; nor b) an under-developed hummingbird, I contacted our local environmental expert, Dave Clark, for some information and advice. The big new buzz in town comes from the [Yellow-faced bumble bee](#). It's native to western North America, and is the major pollinator of greenhouse tomatoes. Because it emerges so early in the spring, it seems to be out-competing its cousins, including the western bumble bee. These are ground-nesters who enjoy a wide diversity of nectar-producing plants and have adapted well to life in the urban garden. If you find a nest (they tend to be in the ground), please just give it a wide berth, if possible. These bees aren't aggressive, so they should be left to get on with their critically-important job - sustaining vibrant gardens for locals and visitors, alike.

The Rockland-Wide Yard Sales Event

- It's time to start culling your bookshelves and reorganizing those kitchen cabinets! On Saturday, August 21st, the RNA is holding the 9th annual neighbourhood yard sales event. For information, or to register, send an email to

environment@rockland.bc.ca If you have never held a sale before, think about teaming up with a neighbour or two who can help you set prices and organize your treasures. If you have only a few items, you can reserve a table on the lawn of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, on Moss Street - there's no charge.

Fighting Graffiti

- Check the RNA website for news of a new initiative to fight graffiti in Rockland. If you need any information, please contact William Birney at wlbirney@gmail.com. Thanks for taking the lead on this, William!

Little Free Libraries:

- The RNA will be applying to the city for matching funds to establish a few of these around the neighbourhood. Now is your chance to get to know the other bookworms in your vicinity! Please contact Chantal - meagher.chantal@gmail.com - if you'd like to participate. Thanks Chantal!

Government House:

- The Muse Market offers perennials (10-2 Tues. Wed. Thur.) and hand-tied floral arrangements for purchase – garden-grown - for only \$10.00 (Tues. and Thurs.—10 – 11:30) Debit and credit card purchases only, please.
- The positioning of large storage containers at the front of Government House will limit access from time to time up to August 17th (anticipated). Signs will be posted for the re-routing of traffic. The fire road will be closed to traffic for testing of the newly installed fire suppression system.

Craigdarroch Castle:

- The Castle's hours are still limited to Friday through Sunday, 10:30 to 4. Note that there's a lunch time closure from 12:30 – 1:30. The Castle has seen an increased number of visitors over the last few weeks, and they continue to control the number of people who can enter. Entrance is guaranteed only to those who have made a prior booking. Walk-ins will be welcomed in the next free time slot that is available.

The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria

- [The Summer Small Works Show and Sale](#) continues until August 27, and features the works of more than 90 established and emerging artists.
- The Indigenous Intergenerational Exchange exhibition "[Holding Ground](#)" continues to October 17.
- "[Emily Carr: Seeing + Being Seen](#)" opened on July 17, and runs for the next year.

- The Gallery presents '[Invitation to Create](#)' through the AGGV Studio. New activities are released virtually every week, and invitations are free.

Langham Court Theatre

- For the latest news on the Theatre's emergence from covid restrictions, please check [their newsletter](#).

News From the Broader Community:

City of Victoria initiatives

- News about [free community programs at Royal Athletic Park](#), [Accessible Parking permits](#), participatory budgeting, placemaking toolkits, and the growing urban forest will be posted on the RNA website shortly.
- Stadacona Park Playground Renewal. The Parks and Recreation and Facilities Department of the City of Victoria recently completed a thorough inventory of its park playgrounds, and identified 9 priorities for renewal. At the top of the list is the playground at Stadacona Park, and in-house staff have put forward a design for consideration and comment. The design considers sensitive ecosystems within the park, and focusses on inclusivity and accessibility. The proposal seeks to relocate the playground from its current location in the northeast corner of the park to the lawn area west of the tennis courts, close to Pandora Avenue.



The Rockland-Wide Yard Sale of 2019 – tables at the AGGV. Photo courtesy of Dave Clark
