

RNA – October/November Newsletter

Dear Neighbours,

I have a suspicion that this newsletter will always be a work in progress. As with life, the only constant will be change! For the foreseeable future (said she, shaking her proverbially cloudy crystal ball) the newsletter will straddle the months. That way, the Board notes will be 'hot off the press', as will Gary Pemberton's Neighbourhood Update.

October RNA Board Meeting – Synopsis

- Charlayne Thornton Joe noted that Council has been busy with continued homeless problems, including caring for those effected by Covid; that the Victoria Foundation's Vital Signs report notes declines in several areas; that the Richardson bike lanes are drawing mixed reviews; that there's an uptick in the number of complaints over traffic moving to other areas; and that Victoria hopes to emulate Nanaimo's successful lawsuit against serial taggers (graffiti).
- The Land Use committee discussed the AGGV's proposed move to the Capital Iron area and what might happen to the existing property.
 - o (My personal idea? Keep the heritage house – Spencer Mansion - as a satellite gallery, bulldoze the problematic modern additions, and turn the place into Rockland's first official park!)
 - o New plans have been submitted for 1475 Fort Street with no significant changes
 - o 1737 Rockland Avenue, et al: it was noted that the penalty for the illegal removal of protected trees is insufficient to deter developers and others.
- Social Committee: Government House will not host any social events for the remainder of the year, so our 'regular' bi-annual reception will have to wait.
- Membership: The (2020-21) AGM will be held via Zoom this year. An invitation will go out to all members of the RNA on October 26th. Please note that the RNA maintains separate lists for its newsletter and for its membership. A notice (but not the Zoom invitation) was sent to RNA members two weeks ago. If you have not yet received an email notice of this meeting and you would like to attend please complete your membership application [here](#).
- Traffic: approximately 75% of drivers still exceed the speed limit on Rockland. The bollards at the bottom of Gonzales Road have raised some concern about access for emergency vehicles.

My Great Neighbourhood Update

Check out Gary Pemberton's report on our website. Amongst other subjects, this month's edition discusses:

- neighbourhood boundaries
- a community garden start-up grant
- accessible infrastructure along Dallas Road

- small grants for tree-planting on your property.

Around The 'Hood

Traffic:

This has been attracting serious attention for months now. The Board intends re-establish a traffic portfolio so that we can help the city solve the on-going problems, especially along the Rockland corridor. (I just call it the Race Track.) For a comment from the City's Transportation Coordinator, please read the letter from Fred Billingham, which you'll find on our website.

Crime:

Some members have asked us to alert the neighbourhood about recent break-ins. Please remember to lock all doors, windows, and garages before you leave home. General advice from the police includes: install security lights around your home; keep valuables out of sight; and ensure that your home looks and sounds lived-in, regardless of how short a period of time you will be away.

[Art Gallery of Greater Victoria](#)

- Please check the website for information.

[Craigdarroch Castle](#)

- Frankenstein shows continue every Saturday and all shows are sold out.
- Jason Stevens returns in December for his one-man rendition of 'A Christmas Carol'.
- The Castle will be fully decorated for Christmas and visitors will be able to enjoy the decor by the first week in December.
- For safety's sake, there will be no regular Christmas programming.

[Langham Court Theatre](#)

You'll find the Theatre's latest newsletter [here](#), but you might also take a moment to pick up the brochure for their 2021-22 season from the holder attached to their street sign on Rockland. What a joy to look forward to live theatre once more!

[Government House](#)

- They're home! The Lieutenant Governor and her family and staff are once again in residence (note their flag on the southwestern flagpole), now that the bulk of the renovations have been completed. Work continues on the sewer project, blocking access to the lower parking lot.
- If you're walking through on a Tuesday or Thursday morning, don't forget to thank the volunteer gardeners for their efforts this year!

In the Broader Neighbourhood

[Capital Regional District Environmental Services Bulletin](#)

You'll find a very useful and very thorough guide to sorting out your recyclables and garbage in this month's edition. Look for it on our [website](#)!

[City of Victoria](#) – Connect Newsletter

Did you know that the City of Victoria produces its own newsletter? You can get the Connect Victoria app, or you can just follow this [link to the current edition](#). You'll find a wonderfully diverse range of information on up-coming events, many of which are not listed elsewhere. Subscribe so you never miss a thing!

(Really) Random bits of useful-ish information:

October 25th is International Artists Day, World Opera Day, and – if that isn't enough excitement for one Day – World Pasta Day.

For those of you wondering whether we're changing the clocks this season– yes! My favourite night of the entire year is on November 7th.

Finally.....and this IS useful!

Remember the AGM on Wednesday October 27th at 7 p.m. via Zoom. *You must be a member to attend.*

All the best for a delight-filled autumn!

Patricia