

Dear Neighbours,

November is actually a shade of grey, to say nothing of a state of mind, at least in my personal dictionary. At least hopes for the upcoming holiday season shine through the gloom far brighter this year than last! And on that subject, you'll note that this particular newsletter has a three month span. I do Christmas in a BIG way – baking, decorating, carolling etc. etc. etc. Any crucial pieces of news will be sent out via the Short Notice Board.

November RNA Board Meeting – Synopsis

- Councillor's report: Council is investigating the Old Cemeteries Society request to install a heritage gate at Ross Bay cemetery in order to mark their 150th anniversary, and lighting at the Vic West skateboard park. They are in receipt of emails on the subject of policing, climate change, bike lanes, and gardens. They are also aware of a strong increase in cyber crime. The city is also looking at a model whereby people can call another service rather than 911 for incidents involving mental health issues.
- Land Use Committee: the City's Committee of the Whole voted to send the proposal for 1737 Rockland Avenue back to the developers to work on issues including height, setbacks and tree retention.

My Great Neighbourhood Update

- Gary Pemberton's latest report (November) is now online.

Around the 'hood

[Craigdarroch Castle:](#)

- The recent movie filmed at the Castle was "The Bones of Crows". Not, as far as I know, a sequel to Moira's "The Crows Have Eyes" (for my fellow Schitt's Creek lovers!)
- By the time you receive this email, the Castle's shop will have laid out a luscious selection of Christmas gifts and goodies. Many of these are unique, so shop early for the best selection.
- Tickets for December tours and Christmas events are now on sale. The decorations should be complete by the first week of the month. Contact the Castle directly for details and tickets.

[The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria:](#)

We are excited to announce several new and upcoming exhibitions including:

- **The Places We Live** October 31, 2021 - June 5, 2022
Featuring a diverse selection from the AGGV collection this show considers the many ways that artists relay their interpretations of the natural world, our place in it, and its place in us.
<https://aggv.ca/exhibits/current/the-places-we-live/>
- **Denyse Thomasos: Odyssey** November 27, 2021 – February 20, 2022

Denyse Thomasos (1964–2012) was a Trinidadian-Canadian artist whose epic paintings incorporate imagery from a range of sources, including Caribbean textiles, historic slave ships, industrial shipyards, graveyards, villages and maximum security prisons. <https://aggv.ca/exhibits/upcoming/denyse-thomasos/>

- We also have exciting things happening this month in the Gallery Shop and the Art Rental and Sales Department!
 - o **Winter Small Works Show & Sale** November 19, 2021 – January 29, 2022
Our annual Winter Small Works Show & Sale is back! Featuring the works from over 70 local artists, this year's Winter Small Works range in style, medium, and price -- there's something for everyone! The show will be in person this year, displayed in the Gallery's Massey Sales Gallery.

Government House:

- The sewer project is ongoing, but nearing a close. Keep an eye on the website for any additions to the December schedule.

Langham Court Theatre

- You'll find their latest newsletter here.

From Dave Clark, our director in charge of Environment and the Woodland Garden

You have noticed this year's huge crop of plump acorns, and so have the jays! The Stellar's Jay is BC's Provincial Bird.

I have noticed 3 jays around the yard over the past few weeks, and with the colder weather approaching, we may see a lot more.

Stellar's Jays are widely distributed throughout the conifer forests of Vancouver Island, but normally rare in urban Victoria. Once or twice a decade there is an invasion, and in those years the jays fly into town and set up for the winter. In addition to the native acorns, sunflower seeds and peanuts in the shell are preferred foods.

Dave Clark

And finally.....

On behalf of the Board of the Rockland Neighbourhood Association, I wish you joy in this season of light! However and whatever you celebrate, may you be surrounded by the love of friends and family, laughter, and delight. May the wind be at your back, and your burdens light in 2022.

Patricia