

Dear Neighbours,

Is it possible to have too much of a good thing? We'll soon find out! The newsletter has grown considerably in only a month, rather like the average 10 year-old. And in keeping with the simile, it is likewise brimming with energy and possibilities!

The newsletter is later than I would like it simply due to the necessary addition of late-breaking news on the traffic front. See below.

Minutes of the Board Meeting, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Councillor's Report (Charlayne Thornton Joe)

- Homelessness continues to occupy the majority of Council's focus, especially as downtown begins its re-opening and pandemic restrictions slowly relax
- Nominations for the Honourary Citizen of Victoria are underway.
- FYI: The RNA will nominate former Councillor, Pamela Madoff.
- The cleanup of 24/7 camping areas continues. The work is expected to be less onerous than at the site beside the Provincial Court House some years past. Provincial funding is expected to offset some of the costs involved.

Neighbourhood update (Gary Pemberton - Neighbourhood Advisor, City of Victoria)

- BC Hydro is once again funding kits for groups and individuals to deal with graffiti on hydro poles and boxes in their neighbourhoods. See below for more details.

Membership

- We currently have 120 members. Please take a moment to update your membership online, if you haven't already done so for 2021.

The Annual General Meeting

- Covid conditions permitting, we expect to hold our AGM this fall. The date and location will be sent out shortly..

Rockland Yard Sale

- August 21<sup>st</sup> is the date for this year's extravaganza, which we're assuming will go ahead as the pandemic restrictions relax. More information will be available in the coming weeks. Watch this space!

Summer recess

- The next RNA board meeting will take place on September 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

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Around the Neighbourhood

*Traffic Calming (from Gary Pemberton, Neighbourhood Advisor)*

We have some upcoming traffic calming installations planned for Summer/Fall 2021 on Rockland Avenue, in response to longstanding resident concerns along the corridor.

on past and current data collection, we know that 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds on Rockland are in the 40-45 km/hr range, despite the posted 30k speed limit. Our new traffic calming program, started in 2020, is seeking to uplift some trials and treatments along Rockland Avenue, particularly within the Moss to St Charles stretch.

This includes:

- Trialing new traffic calming "islands" at 2 locations: Rockland @ Pemberton and Rockland @ Royal Terrace. These are the same yellow curb islands installed last year at the Oak Bay Avenue and Rockland crosswalk. However, on Rockland we are looking to place these yellow curbs in a centre median configuration, creating pinch points and slowing traffic down. There will be minor parking impacts associated with their installation. Given our trials elsewhere, we know this design can effectively address speeds, however we will monitor the installations and if successful, can roll out to other parts of the Rockland corridor.
- The Speed Reader Board, deferred from our 2020 program (due to shifting City priorities in covid), is now in our plans for 2021. The Rockland NA was asked in 2019 for recommendations on location, with the first preference facing westbound traffic in the S-curve between Moss and Royal Terrace. Despite some challenges with location due to bedrock, we have been able to site a suitable location, and the concrete base install will be slightly east of Robleda (north side, facing westbound traffic). We hope to get poles and equipment activated by Fall. Please note this is a permanent pole and base installation, now becoming a standard city-wide. We will not have the flexibility to relocate it once installed. Movable speed reader boards rely on the presence of City streetlight poles to mount to, which are few and far between. There are many Hydro poles, but we are not permitted to mount to these.

These initiatives above are all subject to Public Works crew availability but we anticipate installation in Summer or Fall 2021.

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact Fred Billingham: [fbillingham@victoria.ca](mailto:fbillingham@victoria.ca),

### *Little Free Libraries*

- If there is enough interest in creating a Rockland network of Little Free Libraries, the RNA will apply for a placemaking grant from the City to cover 50% of the cost. The other 50% is the responsibility of the homeowner (or renter, with permission), and can be paid either in money or sweat equity. It is also permissible to place one on the boulevard. Let us know ([info@rockland.bc.ca](mailto:info@rockland.bc.ca)) if you'd like to participate.

### *The Woodland Garden*

- Twenty-four students from the Outdoor Program at Central School spent a Friday morning assisting the regular volunteers with weeding, cleaning the educational signs, repositioning the rock signs, and spreading soil. And they've already committed to the next school year!

- Janet Simpson and her team always welcome new volunteers to their bucolic corner at Craigdarroch Road and Joan Crescent!
- For more information contact [woodlandgarden@rockland.bc.ca](mailto:woodlandgarden@rockland.bc.ca)

#### *Government House:*

- The Muse Market offers perennials (10-2 Tues. Wed. Thur.) and floral arrangements for purchase (Tues. and Thurs.--same hours) Debit and credit card purchases only, please.
- Dull kitchen knives? Gardening blades that won't cut? Vern Knutson's mobile sharpening service will be on site on July 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, August 3<sup>rd</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, and September 2<sup>nd</sup>. For a list of prices and payment options, please contact him at [vern.k@gmail.com](mailto:vern.k@gmail.com).
- The repair of the GH sewer line will begin in mid-July. This will affect the area toward the lower parking lot.
- The Greek Food Truck will return! No dates yet, but watch your email box for the Short Notice Board.

#### *Craigdarroch Castle:*

- Now that filming is over, the Castle is looking forward to welcoming visitors once more. Their 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. And don't forget about the Gift Shop! Think **very** local shopping for hostess gifts, cards, and local crafts.

#### *The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria*

- Check the website for news of the Celebration of Art, a virtual replacement for the Moss Street Paint-in, running from July 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Entrance is free every Saturday in July for the Gallery's Public Open House.
- The Indigenous Intergenerational Exchange has produced a collaborative curtain as part of an exhibit entitled "Holding Ground" which gives witness to the "active interplay of creative sharing" amongst the artistic community.
- And for a special gift for any occasion, don't forget the Small Works show, on until August 27th.

#### *Langham Court Theatre*

- For the latest news on the Theatre's emergence from the Covid nightmare, please check their newsletter.

#### **News From the Broader Community:**

##### *City of Victoria initiatives*

- Did you know that you can sign up for on-going notices about City initiatives? Go to the City's engagement website for the opportunity to comment on a broad array of plans.

##### *Great Ideas for Great Neighbourhoods*

- The City of Victoria has the resources to support your ideas for neighbourhood improvement. Check out the [My Great Neighbourhood Grant](#) website for more information and the grant application form.

#### *Cleaning up Graffiti*

- VTAG (Victoria Together Against Graffiti) and BC Hydro are teaming up to make **FREE KITS** available to groups or to individuals who wish to deal with graffiti on BC Hydro poles or utility boxes. If you'd like to act as a local VTAG coordinator, or if you just want to clean up the poles in your own vicinity, please contact Gary Pemberton at [gpemberton@victoria.ca](mailto:gpemberton@victoria.ca).
- Participatory Budgeting- "Your dollars \* Your Decisions \* Your City." Check the [City's website](#) to find out about funding for neighbourhood art installations, movie screenings, gardens, or anything else that will make your neighbourhood a better place. Submissions must be in by July 25<sup>th</sup>, so hop to it! (And---yes---this is a different process from the My Great Neighbourhood Grant mentioned above.)

#### *The Capital Regional District*

- We're in a drought! Again! If you're wondering how best to use the precious water we're allotted, check [the CRD website](#) for invaluable tips on conservation!

And finally--- There are a host of vital RNA committees looking for help, e.g.traffic, gardening, social, welcoming. No formal applications necessary! To be involved, simply send an email to [communications@rockland.bc.ca](mailto:communications@rockland.bc.ca).

Now, if after all that, this newsletter is missing information you'd like to see, please contact me with your ideas. Expect the next newsletter to land in your inbox in early August. Until then, stay safe and chill!

Patricia



