



RNA March 2023 Newsletter

Dear Neighbours,

Rather like the snowdrops in the neighbourhood, this month's newsletter is resplendent with promise - everything from learning about Garry Oaks, and planning for a festival on Canada Day, to new trees in the neighbourhood, and an art heist (happily, fictional!) from Craigdarroch Castle. Some of the invitations contained herein are time sensitive, so "Read on, McDuff!" * (see below.....far below...)

The usual monthly **RNA Board meeting** was replaced on February 8th by the annual general meeting.

Land Use:

- You can easily access the City of Victoria's [development tracker](#) and even sign up to be notified of [updates to development applications](#).

Upcoming RNA Events - Please mark your calendars.....

<https://rockland.bc.ca/wp/garry-oak-trees-and-ecosystems/>

Garry Oak Trees and Ecosystems

with Ryan Senechal, President of the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society

The Rockland Neighbourhood Association invites you to join us for a presentation on the native Garry oak (*Quercus garryana*) woodlands and meadows and the preservation, protection and restoration of a key part of Victoria's natural ecosystem.

IMPORTANT: RSVP to attend this free event:

Tuesday, March 14th, 2023

6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Grace Lutheran Church

In the Neighbourhood

[Langham Court Theatre](#)

An Evening of Flamenco

Sat – Mar 25, 2023 – 7:00pm PST

A FUNDRAISER IN SUPPORT OF THE VICTORIA FLAMENCO FESTIVAL

Langham Court Theatre and the Flamenco de la Isla Society invite you to an evening of flamenco song, guitar, and dance!

Experience the bold and passionate art form of flamenco without having to travel to southern Spain! This intimate theatre experience will feature dancing with bata de cola (a long dress with a train), stunning guitar playing, and a great view of the fiery footwork that makes flamenco dancing unique! In addition to a lively and dramatic performance provided by the professional artists of Alma de España, mix and mingle with the flamenco community during intermission, connect over a beverage purchased in the Langham Court lounge, and help raise funds by bidding on a gift basket to keep the flamenco fun going and theatre thriving in our community!

This fundraiser will support the production of the Victoria Flamenco Festival, which brings the art of flamenco to Victoria July 22-29, 2023.

[Art Gallery of Greater Victoria](#)

Current Exhibits:

Governor General's Awards in Visual and Media Arts for 2021 - to March 5, 2023

6th Annual Tanabe Price for BC Painters - to April 9 2023

Start Here - Kiyooka, Nakamura, Takashima, Tanabe - to April 9, 2023

Woven In - Indigenous Women's Activism and Media - to May 7, 2023

Heart of the House - Art & the West Coast Modern Home - to May 14, 2023

- MARCH 19 DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: Are you an artist? The Art Gallery Paint-In is the largest summer arts festival on Vancouver Island, bringing over 160 Vancouver Island artists together in celebration of art. This beloved festival attracts almost 30,000 visitors annually to explore and experience art along Moss Street.

The festival would not be possible without the participation of the Artists! We invite all artists to apply for a booth space at the festival, bringing the art gallery to the streets of Victoria!

We encourage emerging artists, students, and/or artists from diverse perspectives and communities to apply.

[Craigdarroch Castle](#)

- Operating Hours

There will be no change to our operating days and times in 2023 so the castle will operate Thursday through Sunday, opening at 10am with last admission at 4pm in the shoulder seasons and we'll add Wednesdays as we move into high season. Please email coordinator@thecastle.ca to confirm admission days.

- Gift Shop

The busy festive season in the gift shop continued into January, with buoyant sales resulting in a significant increase on the same period last year. There

will be some new products appearing shortly - Emma Pyle has designed a tea towel for the Castle with the motif of a blue and white china teacup from the service in the Breakfast Room. This image will also be featured on tote bags, aprons and greeting cards and is sure to be popular. We will also be receiving copies of a new novel by James Peters: *Jac Be Nimble* centres on an art heist at the Castle. From there, it's a game of 'cat and mouse' between a magician, a billionaire, a pretty au pair, and Victoria police. It's an entertaining read and stock will be available in a few weeks. It promises to be a busy Spring!

- *#ArchitectureAlphabet*

2023 marks the beginning of a new social media segment: the *#ArchitectureAlphabet*. Every 2 weeks, a unique architectural feature will be discussed alphabetically. There have been 4 posts made so far in this segment.

This series was inspired by the Saanich Heritage Foundation, who created an Architecture Alphabet colouring book in 2021. Their architecture alphabet focused more on exterior features of heritage homes around the Greater Victoria and Saanich area. In contrast, the Castle's Architecture Alphabet will focus on both interior and exterior architectural features. Visitors are expressing an increasing interest in the castle's architectural history, and this segment aims to address, connect and encourage this.

Stay tuned for next week's post for the letter E!

Have you followed us on social media?

Like us on Facebook at Craigdarroch Castle

[Government House](#)

- Government House is still hosting events regularly. The annual Greater Victoria Sports Awards will be held on March 2nd to celebrate the achievements of Greater Victoria athletes, teams, coaches & volunteers. The Greater Victoria Sport Tourism Commission is pleased to be honouring excellence by helping to relaunch the awards, originally begun in 1968, and in hiatus from 2006 to the present.

We are busy planning for our Mews season. Please check the website for the opening date and hours of the Museum and Rudi's Tea Room, which will be posted in the next couple of weeks: <https://itgov.bc.ca/tea-room/>

We look forward to welcoming back The Friends of Government House Gardens Society officially in March on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

For anyone who has been curious about the white pyramid structures contained within the fence on the Estate, there is a segment called Ageless Gardens, scheduled for this Monday, Feb 27th on Vision TV.

Here is a preview clip showing the planters at Gov House.

<https://youtu.be/COrWPaCGUDs>

More information about the Harvest & Share Food Relief Society can be found here.

www.harvestandshare.ca

The Woodland Garden -

We are always thrilled to have new volunteers , and on February 20th, I was happy to take Ron Taylor on a tour of the garden. He and his wife, Janet, have joined our garden committee.

Earlier in the month, 6 volunteers met in the garden to make a list of the tasks for the spring, one of which was to plant Nootka rose bushes on the sunny berm beside the maple tree which fell down last May. In preparation, 8 bushes were ordered from the Swan Lake Native Plant Sale. Imagine our surprise when Ron and I arrived at the berm to discover that Parks had planted two trees on and beside it! Thanks to the City for our new Big Leaf Maple and our Black Hawthorn! With the sunny slope no longer available, Swan Lake was kind enough to change our order to Bald hip roses, which tolerate shade.

- Janet Simpson

In the Broader Community -

From City Hall:

Have Your Say: City of Victoria 2023 Draft Budget

Victoria City Council is considering a **6.96 per cent tax increase this year** to match inflation, down from an 8.99 per cent increase proposed in January.

Inflation has increased the costs of goods, services and labour, meaning the City of Victoria's budget must also increase to continue to deliver the same level of programs and services that Victoria residents expect, while considering the best value for tax dollars. As the City enters the fourth year of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is facing different pressures – some are economic, some are environmental – all are global.

On February 6, a Council motion directed staff to develop a new 2023 Draft Budget that caps the property tax increase at inflation – 6.96 per cent – and that the Police Board develop a new draft budget at the same rate.

On February 17, Council approved in principle a budget that includes mitigation strategies to achieve the lower tax rate, in addition to reprioritizing some operations. Information about these proposed adjustments is included in the [2023 Draft Budget Summary](#) and is not yet reflected in the [2023 Draft Budget](#). The Police Board will present its 2023 VicPD Provisional Budget to Council at a later date for consideration.

You're invited to learn more and **provide feedback** on the 2023 Draft Budget and the City core services and programs that matter most to you by:

- Completing a short online survey by **11:59 p.m. on Sunday, March 5.**
- Emailing engage@victoria.ca with "City Budget" in the subject line by **11:59 p.m. on Sunday, March 5.**

All feedback collected will be summarized and shared with Council to help inform final budget decisions, as well as made available on the City's website.

To learn more and complete the short online survey, visit: engage.victoria.ca.

Applications Open for Local Champions Leadership Training

Residents of Victoria who want to learn how to foster vibrant and engaged neighbourhoods are invited to apply to be part of the 2023 cohort of the Local Champions community-based leadership development program. For more information, please visit victoria.ca/neighbourhoods.

Festival Investment Grants to Support 46 Events, including a Canada Day Celebration

The City is supporting 46 festivals and celebrations with \$390,470 in Festival Investment Grant (FIG) funding to enhance Victoria's vibrancy, while celebrating our cultural diversity.

New in 2023, the City is supporting a Canada Day funding stream to support community-led programming on July 1. As part of this pilot project, Penmar Community Arts Society has been awarded funding to produce a large-scale Inner Harbour celebration including live entertainment and family-friendly activities.

Watch for the online City Vibe guide coming in May for a complete list of upcoming family-friendly events and festivals around the city. Learn more about Festival Investment Grants at victoria.ca/FIG.

My Great Neighbourhood Updates

Among other things you'll find in the update on our website:

Boulevards are everywhere in cities, and are typically patches of grass or plants lining roadways and sidewalks. Many boulevards and manicured lawns [are ecological dead zones](#), meaning they offer little in the way for wildlife like food and habitat. Transforming these undervalued patches of land into ecological havens filled with native plants, wildflowers, trees, and/or shrubs is low-hanging fruit when it comes to supporting biodiversity. If managed strategically, [nature-full](#) boulevards can increase biodiversity and support [ecosystem services](#), including pollination. Once plant biodiversity is

teeming along our boulevards, many other kinds of wildlife will be attracted to this new habitat including pollinators and birds. The City of Victoria has been a leader in developing [boulevard gardening guidelines](#) and has been held up across North America as an example of empowering residents to turn these strips of grass into a bio-diverse haven for pollinators. Now is the time to think about what you might want to do with the boulevard fronting your street. Planting a pollinator garden with your neighbours is a great project idea that could be supported through a [My Great Neighbourhood Grant](#). The bees and butterflies will thank you.

The Capital Regional District Newsletter

Living green indoors

Submitted by CRD Environmental Services

March 2023.

How can we live green indoors?

Our day-to-day actions directly impact the environment we live in. Our behaviours and routines at home have a direct effect on our water supply, wastewater quality and sanitary sewer system. With simple actions we can build a vibrant, functional, and sustainable region.

We can save water in the bathroom to protect our clean water supply source. Implementing high efficiency toilets, showerheads, and faucets we can reduce the amount of water we utilize while continuing to have the comforting experiences we are used to. Checking for leaks is also a great way to prevent clean water from being wasted. To ensure there are no leaks, we can test our toilet tank with food colouring or a dye tablet, keep track of our water bill, and fix intermittent drips in faucets right away.

Our regional wastewater treatment facilities provide effective secondary and tertiary treatment, which removes harmful bacteria and organic matter. If the wastewater treatment process is impacted by unflushable items or blockages, wastewater contaminants such as chemicals or insoluble materials may not be treated - making their way into the environment. Therefore, it is important to do

our part by returning unused or expired medication to the pharmacy or disposal location, preventing fat, oil, and grease from entering the sewer system, and knowing what products are considered unflushable.

Knowing what NOT to flush helps protect our local waterbodies and aquatic life. Unflushable materials can cause sanitary sewer blockages, as well as costly repairs to homeowners. Personal wipes, diapers, dental floss, and feminine hygiene products are common products wrongfully discarded. An easy way to decide what can go in the toilet is remembering the 3p's- Pee, Poo and (toilet) Paper. Everything else should be recycled or put in the garbage.

As residents of the capital region, we all have a role in protecting our water supply and wastewater system. By implementing small changes in our daily habits, we can make a big difference!

To learn more ways to protect our water supply, wastewater, and sewer system, visit www.crd.bc.ca/livegreen

* And finally... Yes, my play on words deserves a double apology. First apology: to the Lincolnshire politico who in 1855 first misquoted the Bard (as related in *Punch Magazine*), and cried "Lead on, Macduff!". It turns out it's *his* rallying cry I've altered for humorous effect. And the second apology to the Bard himself, for exacerbating the problem by playing with the misquote! In Act 5, Scene 8 of the eponymous play, Macbeth encourages his colleague to courage in the midst of battle with the words "Lay on, Macduff!" Is it still funny if you have to explain it?!

Regardless, enjoy the March!

Patricia

Rockland Neighbourhood Victoria BC on [Facebook](#)

Hello Rockland on [Instagram](#)
