



RNA July-August 2023 Newsletter

Dear Neighbours,

This feels like the last day of school before the summer holidays! Okay, there's always a bit of business to get through, but the promise of summer fun looms large on the horizon!

Synopsis of the June RNA Board Meeting:

Councillor's Report (Marg Gardiner)

- Council will soon be redoing the Official Community Plan (OCP). Consultation for past OCPs and in other jurisdictions usually takes 3 -4 years. Staff proposed doing this in 24 months over a 30 month period, and Council directed staff to shorten this timeframe. The new proposal shortens this time to 20 months and only one public engagement period and one public hearing are planned. While there will be several opportunities for people to attend engagement events during the engagement period, staff will not be consulting with neighbourhood associations or CALUC committees. Marg feels that much information may not get out to the public. Marg is going to write to us about Belton St (zero parking) and the OCP in the weeks ahead.
 - The city is exploring taking over waste collection from condos.
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Land Use

- 1737 Rockland re-zoning is not on the agenda yet. The LUC sent a letter to the city asking questions on issues such as road dedication and panhandle lot zoning bylaws. This proposal deviates on setbacks and height. (Note: on June 23, Marg Gardiner reported that 1737 Rockland is on the Committee of the Whole agenda for June 29th)

Despard Ave - The LUC would like their report to be referenced by staff in the report for council and public hearings.

- The Mayor directed staff to ask UDI (A developer lobbyist group) and CALUCs to comment on delegating minor variances. LUC Met with Robert Bateman - We asked for city staff to send us the report before it went to council. A discussion ensued on this and on housing historically versus now.

- Development permits - Minor variances are now delegated to staff.

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

Environment

Supporting Biodiversity in Local Communities (UBCM Resolution)

The RNA made a request to Rockland liaison Councillor Marg Gardiner to consider bringing a motion to council agenda *Supporting Biodiversity in Local Communities (UBCM Resolution)*. It was seconded by Councillor Chris Coleman. The resolutions were passed at June 22nd, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting. On Vancouver Island the following municipalities have passed unanimously—Saanich, Metchosin, Esquimalt, Qualicum Beach, and Victoria.

Background for UBCM Resolution, June 22 2023 - CITY OF VICTORIA

Protecting and restoring biological diversity is consistent with Canada's commitments under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and BC's commitments in the Together for Wildlife Strategy, as well as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and BC's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. Acting now to protect and restore biodiversity contributes

toward more resilient and healthy local communities – advancing community health and healthy waterways, watersheds, airsheds, and plant and animal species. These actions also make financial sense, containing emergency management and infrastructure costs in the context of climate change. Creating a Local Natural Areas Protection Fund provides a mechanism for the Province to partner with local governments, allocating funds to municipalities, regional districts and First Nations to support land acquisition for biodiversity and ecosystem health.

Traffic

- The OCP update changed Rockland Ave from a secondary collector to a collector road. Traffic counts are up, likely due to changes on Richardson St.
- Patricia would like to see a crosswalk at Royal Terrace.
- Warren Gardens received neighbourhood grant funds for street improvements.

Calendar Review

- TD Art Gallery Paint-In 2023. The RNA will have a booth situated in front of 1035 Moss Street, across from the Art Gallery's entrance. Drop by and meet some of your board!

Membership

- We're now up to 224 members, a number which exceeds our pre-pandemic high

Rockland-Wide Yard Sale Event!

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, August 19th!**

For more information, please contact

info@rockland.bc.ca

In the Neighbourhood

Langham Court Theatre

- Reconciliation Theatre and Langham Court Theatre are staging a co-production of a comedy called *The Berlin Blues*. The Reconciliation Theatre group is coming down from Nanaimo for the show and we would really like to support their efforts to build their theatre company. Below is a link to some info about the event on *Victoria Now*. Also, we have a special Pay-What-You-Wish (minimum \$5) performance on Saturday, July 1 (7:30 PM).

[https://www.victorianow.com/watercooler/news/news/Press_Release/Reconciliation Theatre and Langham Court Theatre Bring Indigenous Perspective to the Stage with Hilarious/](https://www.victorianow.com/watercooler/news/news/Press_Release/Reconciliation_Theatre_and_Langham_Court_Theatre_Bring_Indigenous_Perspective_to_the_Stage_with_Hilarious/)

- Langham's ***Giant Annual Costume Sale*** is happening on **Sunday July 16th**. Get an early start on your Halloween ideas or find some great deals.
- Langham is looking for a volunteer Bar Manager who will handle co-ordinating volunteer bartenders and maintaining/purchasing supplies. Please contact Jean Topham (jtopham@telus.net) if you're interested in helping out.

Craigdarroch Castle

- *Operating Hours* - The castle is on summer hours, and will operate Wednesday through Sunday, opening at 10am with last admission at 4pm. Please email coordinator@thecastle.ca to confirm admission days.

Stay tuned for next week's post on Facebook at Craigdarroch Castle.

Art Gallery of Greater Victoria

New exhibit: The Street - June 3 to Sept. 3. Comprising more than 50 works from the Vancouver Art Gallery's holdings, [*The Street*](#) includes painting, photography, sculpture and video ranging in date from the eighteenth century to the present. The exhibition will feature work by Canadian and international artists, including Roy Arden, Kati Campbell, Robert Capa, Allyson Clay, Robert Frank, Fred Herzog, and Ian Wallace.

- on-going: Symbiosis: Fascinations with the mushroom form and functions have shaped creative imaginations and scientific ideas for generations. *Symbiosis* gathers interdisciplinary contemporary artists located in British Columbia, across Canada and internationally who have produced work that explore forest ecologies and musings about mushrooms.
- Summer Small Works Show runs from June 8 - August 26. Browse a dynamic range of works at accessible price points – there's something for everyone.

TD Art Gallery Paint-In July 15th 11a.m. to 4 p.m.

Volunteers are needed! You can apply now through the Gallery's website.

Government House

- Music on the Lawn:

The outdoor concert series returns to Government House for three nights in July. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, a picnic dinner or grab a meal from the onsite food trucks— these events are free and open to the whole family. Join us at Government House on July 6th, 13th and 20th from 6pm – 8pm.

Performers to be announced here: <https://ltgov.bc.ca/government-house-public-events/>

- Government House Garden Festival:

This summer, bring the whole family for a free summertime garden party taking place on the grounds of Government House, celebrating the Coronation with a focus on the power of volunteerism. Date to be

announced: <https://ltgov.bc.ca/government-house-public-events/>

- Saturday Public Tours:

Free tours open to the public running twice a day every Saturday, with a special emphasis on the Coronation and His Majesty King Charles III. Time: 10:00 am / 11:30 am <https://ltgov.bc.ca/tours/>

- Cary Castle Mews:

Hours: Tuesday through Friday, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm Closed: Saturday, Sunday and Monday, and statutory holidays. Final Day: Friday, September 1, 2023

- Knife and tool sharpening:

Once more Vern Knutson will be attending the Gardens with his knife sharpening services. The proposed schedule is 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the following dates: July 4th and 6th; August 1st and 3rd; September 5th and 7th. For more information, please contact: Vern Knutson, Sharp and Sharper Sharpening Services
778-678-5904

Please visit the Lieutenant Governor's blog for information on her most recent events and endeavours hosted at Government House: <https://ltgov.bc.ca/blog/>

[The Woodland Garden](#) (from Janet Simpson, coordinator)

An exuberant group of French Immersion students from across the street at Central Middle School spent a couple of hours in the garden in late May, helping to pull some of the more invasive weeds. They then adorned the sidewalks with chalk art. Thank you to them and to their teacher, Jade Taylor!

Neighbour Sandy and I erected fencing around the 8 new Bald hip rose bushes, which were being seriously nibbled by the deer. They are looking much happier now!

[Glenlyon Norfolk](#) Engagement Sessions

- Since Rockland is bordered by Richmond Avenue, we feel the following warrants the attention of the membership: Glenlyon Norfolk School is embarking on a new chapter for its Pemberton Woods Campus, and recognizes the importance of engaging with its community every step of the way. Your input is invaluable as they plan long-awaited upgrades and improvements. They have prepared an extensive consultation plan and they encourage community members to come and find out what is being proposed.

The Gonzales Neighbourhood Association will be hosting their own session in the fall with Glenlyon and will invite you to attend at that time.

If you would like your name added/removed from this list please e-mail us at gonzalesneighbours@gmail.com and learn more on their website: www.gonzalesna.ca

Luminary Festival

The Gonzales Neighbourhood Association (GNA) is planning a luminary festival for **Sept 16, 2023** and they are looking for teachers and parents to help them make this a memorable family friendly event.

Where: Pemberton Park Time: 4-9pm. There will be music, food trucks and most importantly, materials to make your own lanterns. Please contact the organizers at gonzalesneighbours@gmail.com, or go to their website (linked in the headline above) and leave a message (www.gonzalesna.ca)

In the Broader Community -

From City Hall:

- Are you community minded? Do you have the time and passion to help shape your city? Then please consider joining one of the many committees and advisory boards run through the City of Victoria. Find the list and application process here: <https://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/city/boards-committees.html>

- The Cultural Infrastructure Grant program is distributing \$216,000 to support 7 not-for-profit arts and culture organizations in 2023. The CIG program is a direct-action item in the Create Victoria Arts and Culture Master Plan. This program provides funding to increase the accessibility, affordability and availability of cultural venues, which is a major goal of Create Victoria. The grant program helps leverage financial contributions from other levels of government and private contributions. The Belfry Theatre Society, Blue Bridge Theatre Society and Pacific Opera Victoria are receiving funding for specialized audio-visual and lighting equipment to support increased visual and auditory experiences for visitors and to enhance capabilities for artistic production. The Victoria Curling Club and the Intrepid Theatre Company Society are receiving funding for physical upgrades to increase the amount of usable space available for music and performing arts

events and the Victoria Conservatory of Music is receiving funding for a feasibility study to explore expanding its existing cultural facility. The Other Guise Theatre Company Society is receiving support for a new performing arts space in the downtown core.

My Great Neighbourhood Update

- Check [our website](#) for the latest news from Gary Pemberton and his team. In it you'll find news about a new boulevard garden, neighbours helping neighbours with condo care, neighbourhood branding, and much more.

The Capital Regional District Newsletter

No need to water your lawn this summer!

Submitted by CRD Environmental Services

July 2023

Did you know water use in the Capital Region almost doubles in the summertime? We are lucky to rely on the Sooke Lake Reservoir to supply us with safe, clean drinking water at the turn of a tap, however, on Southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands our summers are typically hot and dry which puts pressure on our drinking water supply.

Using water wisely we can conserve our drinking water and remain resilient against “heat domes”, wildfires and other climate events. Using less water does not only benefit the human residents of the Capital Region, but also plants, vital habitat, and endangered species.

Choosing to let our lawns go golden is the best way to conserve water. Lawns naturally go dormant during summer months and return to green with the fall rains. If you do choose to water your lawn, consider these water wise tips:

1. Adjust your watering schedule following the CRD's [Stage 1 Watering Schedule](#).
 2. Use micro/drip irrigation systems for watering trees, shrubs, flowers, and veggie beds.
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3. [Water your green lawns](#) a maximum of one inch (2.5 cm) of water per week in the driest conditions.
4. Practice the [cycle and soak method](#), watering in short cycles with time in-between to allow water to soak in and reduce water waste.
5. Weed often and add mulch around your plants to reduce evaporation, keep soil cool, reduce competition and add nutrients back into the soil. For lawns you can leave grass clippings to act as a mini mulch.

By conserving water during summer months, we can lower our water and energy bills, protect fish habitat in the Sooke, Charters and Goldstream Rivers, and support drinking water quality by maintaining higher water levels in our primary drinking water supply area.

We are privileged to enjoy some of the highest quality drinking water in the world - maintaining this critical resource requires each of us to make water wise choices each and every day!

Want to receive a FREE Watering Schedule magnet or window decal?
email waterwise@crd.bc.ca to request yours today.

* And finally...

This is the last newsletter before our usual summer break. Those two words still hold a frisson of the promise of peace and play left over from an idyllic childhood in the Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia. To this day, the smell of freshly cut grass or newly mown hay flash me back to those halcyon days. May you find both peace, plenty, and play in equal measure in these next few months! See you at the TD AGGV Paint-In on July 15th and at the Rockland-wide Yard Sale on August 19th!

Patricia



Photo: Glimpsing the Salish Sea, Government House.
Patricia Kidd

Rockland Neighbourhood Victoria BC on [Facebook](#)

Hello Rockland on [Instagram](#)
