
July Update from Teale!

1 message

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July Update from Teale

Friends!

I hope everyone has been keeping cool as the summer heats up. If you are looking for ways to keep cool, the District recently put out [this helpful guide](#).

I've been recovering from a knee injury picked up in the last game of the spring hockey season, so I've had a limited range and unfortunately missed the big Canada Picnic in the Gorge, along with a couple of

recent [Music in the Parks](#).

I am hoping to get out to a couple of upcoming [Music in the Parks](#), as they are some of my favourite Saanich summer gatherings. I hope to see you out!



Last weekend, I joined Council colleagues to march in the Victoria Pride Parade. The parade and festival were a fantastic event, and it seemed like half the region was there. It was great to march along with a Saanich Fire truck.



Speaking of fire trucks, I was very pleased to attend a recent showcase by Saanich Fire, which displayed some of the sustainability initiatives the FD has been implementing, including new apparatus, Ladder 1, Engine 1, Medic 1 & 3 (with very efficient anti-idle technology), new electric fire tools, 4 EVs, and the renovated Emergency Operations Centre.

Highlights for me included checking out the very effective electric gear and extraction fan, and getting the chance to [go up 100 feet in the ladder truck](#)! Also, a big thank you to the Saanich and Central Saanich Fire Departments for extinguishing the [recent fire on Bear Hill](#) so quickly. Please pay special attention to [provincial fire bans](#) this summer.



As always, a lot has been happening, so here's a quick rundown:

- We [successfully District updated zoning and policy](#) to align with the Province's Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing (SSMUH) legislation, successfully meeting the Province's June 30, 2024 deadline. Apart from my previously articulated concerns about density outside the Urban Containment Boundary, I am pleased with these efforts and hope they will help increase housing supply in Saanich.
- Council [amended bylaws](#) that allow mobile food vendors to operate in designated Saanich parks.
- I recently represented the District at the opening of the [new pickle ball courts at Uptown](#).



Two important reports were received by Council at our July 8th meeting:

- The [Natural Asset Inventory](#) report, which provided an update on progress on natural asset identification and management in the District. Essentially, understanding which natural assets, like forests, streams, and wetlands, that we have in the District, so we can effectively protect and manage them.
 - The [Permit and Application Modernization Program](#), which are ongoing efforts to improve and streamline the development process in Saanich. This will hopefully help get new housing built quicker.
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MVA Updates!



I am very pleased that the province has updated the Motor Vehicle Act (MVA) to help protect vulnerable road users, specifically updating safe passing distances. The changes establish a minimum distance of 1m that drivers must maintain when passing people cycling and other vulnerable road users. This distance increases to at least 1.5m on highways with a posted speed limit above 50km/h. You can learn more from this helpful [Hub Cycling post](#), and please always be respectful when passing other road users, especially vulnerable road users like pedestrians, cyclists, wheelchair users, and equestrians.

And speaking of road safety, here I am celebrating the new speed bumps that went up around Rutledge Park. I can't wait to see more of these across the District!



This coming Monday, we have full Council agenda, which includes the [Rapid Deployment of Non-Market Housing Program](#), a number of new development applications, an exploration of policy surrounding the [Saanich Affordable Housing Reserve Fund Bylaw](#), and an update to the [Council Code of Conduct](#).

Also on the agenda is a [draft UBCM resolution](#) I authored requesting the province implement a noise camera pilot project. This item was originally on the agenda for our June 10th meeting, but the meeting was ended before it could be debated. While this unfortunately means that we have missed the deadline to submit this resolution for the 2024 UBCM conference, I hope that it will be adopted and on the agenda for UBCM 2025.

Little Free Libraries 

GVPN & Pocket Places

CELEBRATION PICNIC

Join us on:

Saturday July 20th

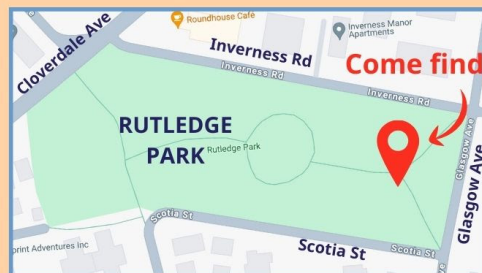
from 12-2pm at Rutledge Park to celebrate...

100,000th
book
distributed
to Little Free
Library

**GVPN
TURNS 10!**

**Placemaking
Day**

- **DIY Placemaking:** Kid-friendly activities
- **Blind Date with a Book:** Bring a wrapped book to exchange with others!
- **Drinks and snacks** provided!



**GREATER VICTORIA
PLACEMAKING
NETWORK**

info@victoriaplacemaking.ca

On Saturday, July 20th, I am pleased to invite you to join placemakers from across the CRD in Rutledge Park to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the [Greater Victoria Placemaking Network](#)!

This family all-ages gathering is open to all, with DIY placemaking activities, cool drinks and snacks provided. If you'd like to participate in the Blind Date With A Book swap, please bring a pre-wrapped book to exchange.

And to top it all off, we will be delivering the [100,000th book of the Pocket Places Project](#)! I am very excited to have reached this massive milestone for the project. A big thank you to everyone who submitted book suggestions. Our competition was recently covered in the [Victoria Buzz](#) and the [Victoria News](#).

You will have to attend the event to find out which book will be the 100,000th book delivered to a LFL by the Pocket Places Project.



Reproductive Justice



The AccessBC Campaign is working hard to mobilize people to support our current [letter writing campaign](#) urging the Senate to adopt Bill C-64 swiftly and without amendments. This is the national Pharmacare Bill, which is going to make prescription contraception and diabetes medication free across the country.

A big thank you to everyone who has already send in letters. Given that the AccessBC Campaign is based in BC, a significant number of letters have gone to BC Senators. I wanted to ask folks to please share our [action page](#) with five friends from outside of BC! This will help us mobilize people across the country.

Write Senators

If you are in a taking action kind of mood, there are a couple of others things you can do to help support reproductive justice in Canada. My friends at the Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada (ARCC), are currently running [an e-petition](#) asking the federal government to pass a motion condemning the misinformation and deception practiced by anti-choice “crisis pregnancy centres” (CPCs).

If you are interested in learning more about CPCs and their deceptive and manipulative practices, check out [this report](#) I helped write exploring

the subject. The ARCC recently revealed in a [press release](#) that a number of CPCs across Canada have received financial support from the United Way.

There are a number of other ways you can [take action](#) and support abortion access in Canada, including signing [an e-petition](#) demanding a web portal on abortion at the Health Canada website, and you can [let ARCC know](#) if you've received a graphic anti-abortion leaflet in your mailbox.

BC Humanist Research Team



The BC Humanist Association (BCHA) Saguenay Project has been driving progress supporting the separation of religion and government in BC and across Canada. This project investigates unconstitutional prayers in municipal council meetings across Canada, and a couple of weeks ago, our lawyers received correspondence from the last two BC municipalities that had previously included prayer in their 2022 inaugural council meetings: Parksville and Vancouver.

As a result, we were proud to announce that thanks to the hard work and advocacy of the BCHA, BC municipal council meetings are [free of unconstitutional prayer](#). Learn more from [CTV News](#), [Victoria News](#), and [CHEK News](#). This project has been working hard to support the separation of religion and government for the past four years and we are not done yet. The team is currently working on reports on Saskatchewan, Ontario, and the Maritimes, so stay tuned for more.

If you have some spare time this summer and are interested in helping out, I have set up a drop-in summer research program as part of the BCHA Research Team. This allows people to help us with data gathering, transcription, and analysis in their spare time. If you are interested, please [get in touch](#)!

Marine Conservation

Sent via [ActionNetwork.org](#). To update your email address, change your name or address, or to stop receiving emails from Teale Main Email List, please [click here](#).

