

Housing targets highs and lows found in Greater Victoria

Evan Lindsay

The provincial quest to add more homes has made success stories out of several

Greater Victoria municipalities. Others, meanwhile, could find themselves in the cross hairs of the B.C. Housing

Ministry. The province implemented the Housing Supply Act in 2023, establishing housing targets for commu-

nities based on areas of greatest need and highest projected growth. So far, the province reports it has delivered 16,130 net new homes across the first 30 priority municipalities.

Some Greater Victoria municipalities are exceeding targets, while others feel sidelined by what they say are rigid targets and timelines that ignore their community's reality.

The first group of 10 communities, which included Victoria, Saanich and Oak Bay, has reported more than 8,300



Esquimalt has surpassed the province's one-year housing targets after just six months. (Evan Lindsay / Black Press Media)

2014 Economic Development Strategy, which engaged the real estate sector.

"The target was exceeded because developers were willing to invest in Esquimalt," said Desjardins. She also credited an efficient approval process and a council eager to build housing.

"We understand that housing is a priority in our region and have been putting processes in place for several years to arrive at the positive numbers you see today. Adding new homes bolsters our community's vitality and supports local businesses – we're thrilled to welcome new residents to the township."

While Esquimalt and Central Saanich are making significant contributions to the province's housing goals, other municipalities have seen different results.

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homes built in their first year of targets, while six-month reports from the second and third groups show more than 7,800 net new homes have been constructed.

Among the second and third groups are Central Saanich and Esquimalt, which have both demolished their first-year housing tar-

gets. Central Saanich contributed 304 units, surpassing its target of 77 by 395 per cent. Esquimalt followed suit, adding 224 units and exceeding its target of 81 by 277 per cent. These two municipalities lead all 20 communities included in the second and third priority groups.

Esquimalt Mayor Barbara Desjardins credited the success of development to the community's amenities, walkability and proximity to core municipalities, which make it an attractive place to live and build. Other contributing factors include proactive planning dating back to Esquimalt's

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Notice of Public Hearing

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

NOTICE of Public Hearing on Bylaw No. 2200, being a Bylaw to repeal existing Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1200 and replace it with a new Official Community Plan for the Municipality, is hereby given pursuant to Section 466 of the *Local Government Act*. All persons who believe that their interest in property is affected by the proposed Bylaw will be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard or to present written submissions respecting matters contained in the Bylaw at the **PUBLIC HEARING to be held in the CITY OF LANGFORD COUNCIL CHAMBERS, Third Floor, 877 Goldstream Avenue, Langford, BC, on June 25, 2025, at 7:00 pm.** Please note no further submissions will be accepted after the close of the public hearing.

The purpose of Bylaw No. 2200 is to adopt a new Official Community Plan for the City of Langford. This new plan provides a clear framework to guide future growth and land use changes as Langford grows to 100,000 residents.

Every parcel of land within the City of Langford is affected by Bylaw No. 2200.

Teleconference # 1-855-703-8985 (Canada Toll Free) OR

1-778-907-2071 (long distance charges may apply)

Meeting ID # 850 1163 1608 – Zoom.us or Zoom app on your mobile device

Please note this meeting will be held electronically and in person at the above address. Information about how to connect to this meeting is indicated in the table.

Council will not answer questions about the proposed bylaw except to provide clarification. Please have all your questions answered in advance of the Council Meeting by contacting the Community Planning and Climate Change Department as noted below.

COPIES of the complete proposed bylaw and other related material may be viewed in person during office hours 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday (holidays excluded), from June 11th to June 25th, 2025, inclusive, at the Langford City Hall, Planning Counter, Second Floor, 877 Goldstream Avenue, Langford, BC, V9B 2X8.

The Agenda, including material that Council may consider in relation to the bylaw, will be posted to the City's website: <https://www.langford.ca/city-hall/agendas-and-minutes/> no later than the Monday before the Council Meeting. Correspondence may be submitted by emailing planning@langford.ca or by writing to Langford City Hall, 2nd Floor, 877 Goldstream Avenue, Langford, BC, V9B 2X8.

Please contact the Community Planning and Climate Change Department at 250.478.7882 with any questions on this Bylaw.

Marie Watmough
Corporate Officer

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Longtime manager answers call to head Capital Region emergency communications

Capital Region Emergency Service Telecommunications Inc. is all set for when its longtime manager Gord Horth retires this fall.

The CREST board selected current operations manager Al Marston to step in Oct. 1.

CREST provides and maintains emergency communications equipment and infrastructure for more than 50 agencies across the south Island including municipal police departments, RCMP, fire departments, BC Ambulance, and BC Transit from the Gulf Islands to Port Renfrew.

“Gord has consistently built strong relationships anchored in trust, and early on, he committed the organization to consistently measuring performance results to maintain that trust. In doing so, Gord and his team ensure that CREST performs optimally for the multiple agencies who rely on the network to keep themselves and the public safe every day. We are grateful for Gord’s leader-



Gord Horth, left, retires as general manager this fall with Al Marston, right, stepping up as of Oct. 1. (crest.ca)

ship and guidance. He has built a strong foundation for the future of CREST,” board chair Tim Morrison said in a news release.

With the support of Horth, the board has been preparing for leadership succession for the past year.

“Al has worked closely with Gord for over a decade,” Morrison said. “As operations manager, Al’s responsibilities have included employee development, infrastructure procurement, contract management, and project

management of the region-wide, digital network upgrade that was completed in 2020. His technical knowledge, his tactical approach and his familiarity with the more than 50 user groups on the CREST network ensure a smooth leadership transition in October.”

Prior to Horth’s departure, he and Marston will work with the board to update the organization’s strategic plan, charting the course for the next five years.

At the helm since 2006, Horth leaves behind a high-performing organization focused on providing resilient, reliable emergency communications services for the first responder and public service communities across the Capital Region. He credits the success of CREST to the small group of professionals who make up the CREST team.

“If you hire good people, and you build a culture around shared values and a common purpose, you generally get good results,” he said.

Metchosin Road upgrades reduces Royal Bay traffic to one lane until October

Drivers navigating Metchosin Road through Royal Bay should expect delays for the next four months, as work begins to upgrade a stretch of road.

Starting June 9 until Oct. 1, the developer of the Beachlands neighbourhood will be constructing road upgrade works on Metchosin Road, which will include curb, sidewalk, centre median, street lighting and paving.

Work will take place along the east side of the road from south of the Latoria Boulevard intersection to north of the Ryder Hesjedal Way intersection.

During construction – Monday to Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. – traffic will be reduced to a single lane, with alternating traffic. Traffic control signage and personnel will be on-site.

Two-way traffic will be reopened after construction hours.

The City of Colwood has asked drivers to reduce speeds and follow directions and the posted signage. If possible, avoid the area if you can by using an alternate route, said the city in a news release.

Access to all properties in the area will be maintained throughout construction, and emergency vehicle access will be maintained at all times.



City of Langford

Notice of Proposed Rezoning Bylaw

NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to Section 467(2) of the *Local Government Act*, the Council of the City of Langford will consider first, second, and third readings of Bylaw No. 2229, being a Bylaw to amend Zoning Bylaw No. 300 for the City of Langford, at a **SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING to be held in the CITY OF LANGFORD COUNCIL CHAMBERS, Third Floor, 877 Goldstream Avenue, Langford, BC, on June 25, 2025, at 7:00 pm.**

The purpose of Bylaw No. 2229 is to amend Zoning Bylaw No. 300 by deleting Section 6 of Appendix J – General Design Guidelines for Langford City Centre.

Every parcel of land within the City Centre Development Permit Area is affected by Bylaw No. 2229.

**Teleconference # 1-855-703-8985 (Canada Toll Free) OR
1-778-907-2071 (long distance charges may apply)
Meeting ID # 850 1163 1608 – Zoom.us or Zoom app on your mobile device**

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Please contact the Community Planning and Climate Change Department at 250.478.7882 with any questions on this Bylaw.

Marie Watmough
Corporate Officer

NOTICE OF AMENDING BYLAW

Colwood Land Use Bylaw No. 151, 1989, Amendment No. 220
(MR1 – 3145 Metchosin Rd), Bylaw No. 2054, 2025

MEETING:	Regular Meeting of Council
DATE and TIME:	Monday, June 23, 2025, 6:30pm
PLACE:	Council Chambers, 3300 Wishart Road, Colwood BC

NOTICE IS GIVEN that Council of the City of Colwood will consider First, Second and Third Reading on Monday, June 23, 2025, at 6:30pm in relation to the proposed “Colwood Land Use Bylaw No. 151, 1989, Amendment No. 220 (MR1 – 3145 Metchosin Rd), Bylaw No. 2054, 2025”.

PURPOSE: This application proposes a rezoning from R1 to a new Metchosin Road 1 (MR1) Zone to enable a 23-unit townhouse development.

SUBJECT PROPERTY: This Bylaw applies to the lands legally described as “LOT C PLAN VIP20174 SECTION 68 ESQUIMALT (3145 METCHOSIN RD).”

INSPECTION OF MATERIALS: Copies of the proposed bylaw and related materials can be viewed at <https://www.colwood.ca/news>.

We want to hear from you!

WRITE TO US

The deadline for written submissions is 12:00 pm on the day of the meeting and must include your name and civic address.

- Email corporateservices@colwood.ca
- Mail/Drop-off: City of Colwood, 3300 Wishart Road, Colwood, BC V9C 1R1

SPEAK TO COUNCIL

In Person: The public is welcome to provide comments in person during the public participation portion of the meeting.

Electronically: To pre-register to speak please contact corporateservices@colwood.ca up until noon on the day of the meeting.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Contact Planning at (250) 294-8153 or planning@colwood.ca.

