



DIALOGUE

April 13, 2006



END PARKING WOES!

You can now pick up the City of Victoria's Parking Smart Card at more downtown locations. Smart Cards are now available at the Bay Centre (Customer Service Centre), New Balance (1205 Government Street), and FrontRunners (1200 Vancouver Street).

The DVBA and the City of Victoria are working together to make more parking cards available at more locations... an even dozen, in fact. If you're interested in becoming a vendor, please contact Victor Van den Boomen at 361-0330.

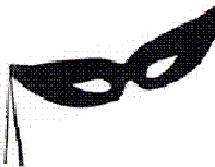
The Smart Card has spelled the end to the hassle of carrying change for over 10,000 satisfied users already. This rechargeable card is useable at over 1900 on-street meters about the core. No more worrying about tickets or timing – just put ninety full minutes onto the meter, safe in the knowledge that once you're done, you can refund the excess back onto your card!

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MYSTERIOUS MEAL

Are you open to trying a new and creative way of dining out? Check out the Phantom Dinner at Harbour Towers & Suites, 345 Quebec Street, at 6 PM, on April 27th. Enjoy some wine and hors d'oeuvres at a reception where the various menus will be read, then be matched to restaurants, and go to their 'surprise' restaurant for a one-of-a-kind dining experience. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to CFAX 1070 Santa's Anonymous Christmas Charity. Contact the BC Restaurant and Foodservices Association (BCRFA) at 386-6368 to register.



HEAT UP THE CITY!

Jazz is back in Victoria's downtown! The Victoria Hot Jazz Jubilee will take place from April 20th to 23rd, with downtown venues hosting many of the shows. Before the event, there will be a pre-festival kickoff at Hermann's Jazz Club on April 19th at 8 pm. Hermann's Jazz Club is also one of the five downtown festival hosts, along with the Fairmont Empress, Harbour Towers Hotels & Suites, Central Bar & Grill, and the Bedford Regency. The festival has been produced by VILMPS – the Van Isle Live Music Preservation Society. Visit their website at www.victoria-hot-jazz.com to order your festival pass, good for admission to all shows and venues – over 20 performing acts in three days!

CRUISIN'

The tourist season is almost upon us. On April 29th, the very first of this year's the cruise ships will arrive in Victoria! The *Norwegian Wind*, from San Francisco, will be stopping at 1 PM for several hours of sightseeing in Victoria. After the *Norwegian Wind* first makes port, we begin our yearly deluge of visitors, with at least one ship a day for the next several months. A complete listing of incoming ships, and their passenger capacities, can be found at: www.victoriaharbour.org under the heading Cruise: Cruise Ship Schedule.

REARRANGE & CHANGE

Like a massive game of musical chairs, many of our downtown businesses are relocating or expanding this month – and some new ones are opening downtown! The **Tall Girl Shop**, once located at 707 Yates Street, has now moved to 1209 Douglas Street – allowing **The Patch** to expand its significant presence on the south side of Yates. The former **Victoria Travel Shop** (now a part of Vision 2000 Travel Group) has merged with **Blaney's Travel** and can now be found at 711A Broughton Street. **Ali Baba Pizza** is moving from its Blanshard Street location to 775 Fort Street.

The **Pitman Community College**, which has been delivering business and secretarial training since 1898, has relocated its Victoria campus to 707 Johnson Street. The **Bay Centre** is also welcoming a new addition to their ranks: **Quicksilver**. This store will carry Roxy and Quicksilver brands as well as other clothing choices popular with youth – it will open on April 13th.

LOOKING FOR LEADERS

Leadership Victoria has announced the deadline for applications for the upcoming year's program – submissions must be in by May 17th, 2006. This organization is led by community volunteers and is intended to build leaders who are prepared to take an active role in shaping the future of Victoria. Through a three-day retreat in September, and several single-day training sessions, participants learn to appreciate their current capacity for leadership and how to become a successful director in the future. Application forms and further information are available on their website at www.leadershipvictoria.ca.



FIREFIGHTERS NEEDED

The DVBA has its first three volunteers for our two firefighting teams, at the Firefighter's Corporate Challenge, on Friday May 12th, but we still need up to seven more! Visit our website at www.downtownvictoria.ca for more details, under Events & Activities. Who amongst you feels up to the challenge? Call the DVBA at 386 – 2238 if you're interested – it will be a fun and exciting day!