

PRESENTED BY  
The GREATER VICTORIA CYCLING COALITION  
and BIKE TO WORK SOCIETY



Discovery  
RIDES

MAY - AUGUST 2020

GREATER VICTORIA  
CYCLING  
COALITION

GREATER VICTORIA  
BIKE  WORK  
SOCIETY

<https://gvcc.bc.ca/theme-rides>



# About this

May - August 2020

Discovery  
RIDES

## Welcome Discovery Riders!

Welcome to the Fernwood Discovery Ride! This ride will take you through some of Fernwood's old heritage and local gems on a route that is accessible for families with young children or new riders.

This Discovery Ride will be released on June 19th. Until June 30th, you are invited to explore the 'points of interest' outlined in each ride package and send us a photo, story, or video telling us about your experience, or something you discovered, on your Discovery Ride. **Submissions can be sent to us by filling out the short 'experience reflection form' on the GVCC website under 'themed rides', or via Facebook and Instagram by tagging us at @biketoworkvic or #yyjbike!** With every submission, you will be entered into a draw for a chance to win a gift card for take-out food from a local restaurant or bike shop.

### How do I win a prize?

Along your ride, take note of the things you see at each 'point of interest' and create a story with the photos, video, or drawings you create from your ride. Prizes will be granted to those who submit content that tell us about their experience or something they discovered on their ride in a creative and thoughtful way. Entries will be randomly selected. **Prizes will awarded and available for pick up at the restaurant/bike shop on June 30th.**

### What to bring:

You will need a bicycle, helmet, water bottle, snack, sunglasses, a camera of some kind, and Google maps downloaded on your cellphone. These Discovery Rides are organized like self-guided tours: the routes are downloaded on your phone that highlight points of interest along a route. Each ride is designed to get you exploring new places while physical-distancing; taking between 1-6 hours to complete. Enjoy the adventure! \*Remember to allow space for others to pass on trails and roads when necessary to maintain 2m physical-distancing.

### Why ride right now?

Studies have shown that cycling helps to reduce stress, boost the immune system, and stay physically active. Cycling is also a great way to get to know your neighbourhood and city during this time of physical-distancing.



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*Activities are designed with adult supervision in mind. Before undertaking any outdoor activities, please be sure to follow the latest COVID-19 Provincial Support and Information.*



# Fernwood

## Points of Interest

Explore the 'points of interest' outlined in each ride package and send us a photo, story, or video telling us about your experience or something you discovered on your Discovery Ride.

**Photos, videos, drawings, and other media can be sent to us by filling out the short 'experience reflection form' on the GVCC website under 'themed rides', or via Facebook and Instagram by tagging us at @biketoworkvic or #yyjbike!**

### 1. Background:

JK's Bicycleitis is a local bicycle shop located along Bay Street just before the intersection at Shelbourne Street. They have been fixing and selling bikes in Victoria since 1990 and are a full service shop capable of repairing most makes and models of bicycles. This bike shop specializes in selling used, affordable bikes and offer metal, tire, tube recycling drop off donations.



**item:** Ride by this bike shop and tell us what bike part is featured in this shop's blue sign hanging above the storefront windows.

# Fernwood

## Points of Interest

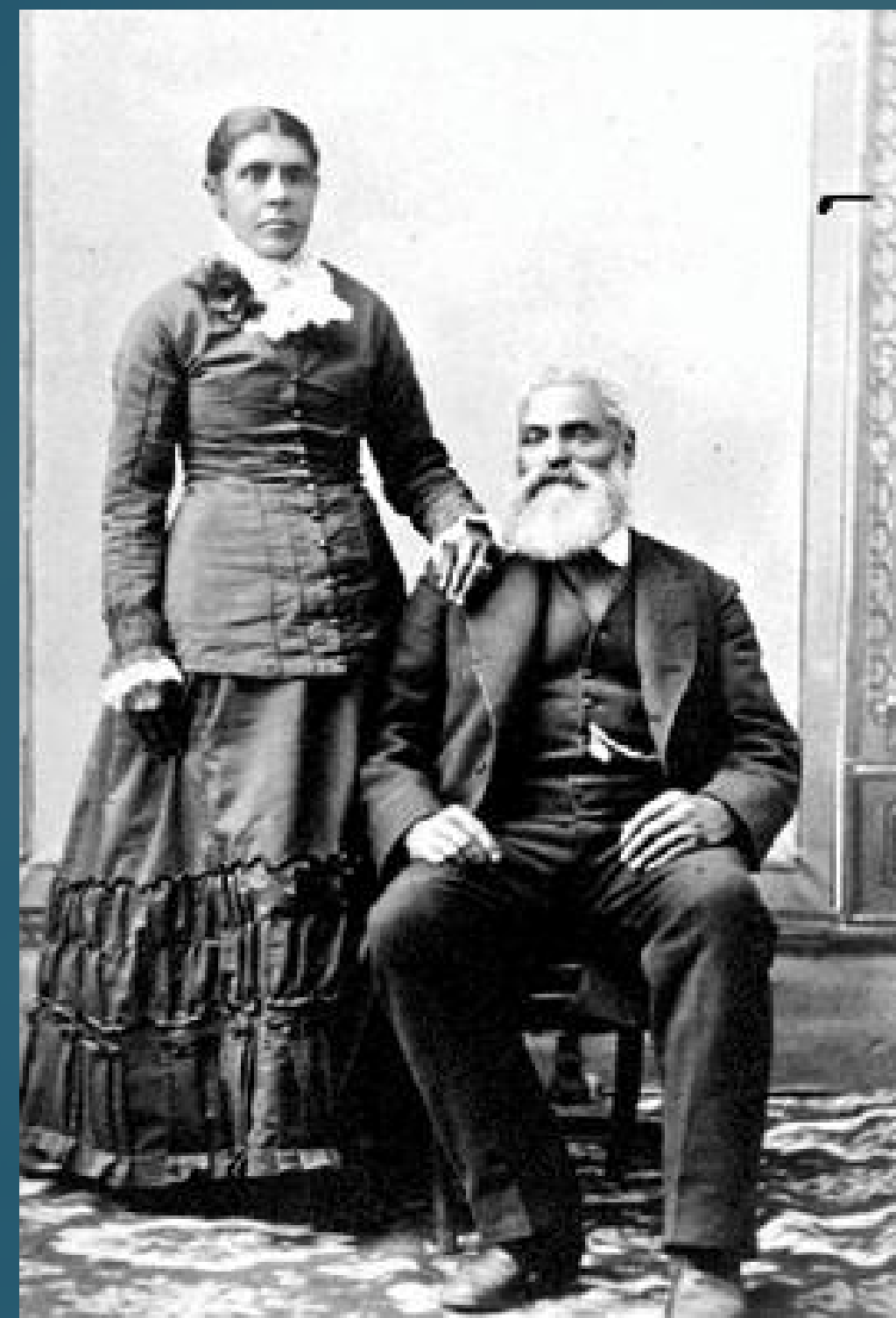
### 2. **Background:**

Alexander Park located on Bay Street between Fernwood Road and Oregon Avenue is a small green space and a popular place for young children and local neighbourhood dogs to play and socialize off-leash. This park was upgraded with new play equipment in 2014. There has also been recent discussion around the possibility of daylighting the long lost creek that flows under this park and through Fernwood, Hillside Quadra, and Burnside Gorge neighbourhoods.

As well, the origin of the naming for this park could not be found. However, this park could have been named after Charles and Nancy Alexander, who were two of the first Black pioneers to come to B.C. in 1858 and helped build the City of Victoria through carpentry and farming.



*Photo (left) from City of Victoria website, Fernwood Parks page.*



*Photo (right) from the Victoria News article "Black History Month: The Alexander family was among the first Black pioneers in B.C." by Nicole Crescenzi on Feb. 1 2019. Photo of Charles and Nancy Alexander, who were some of the first Black pioneers to come to B.C. in 1858. Together they had 12 children, and helped build Victoria through carpentry and farming (BCBlackHistory.ca)*

### **Action item:**

Ride over to this park and enjoy watching the neighbourhood dogs playing and socializing in the off-leash dog area here. What are some features you notice that make this park special?

# Fernwood

## Points of Interest

- 3. Background:** Fernwood has a legendary murder of crows that live in many groves of Chestnut trees and fruit trees around the neighbourhood. Rumour has it that many of these crows congregate in the hundreds around Walnut Street from time to time.



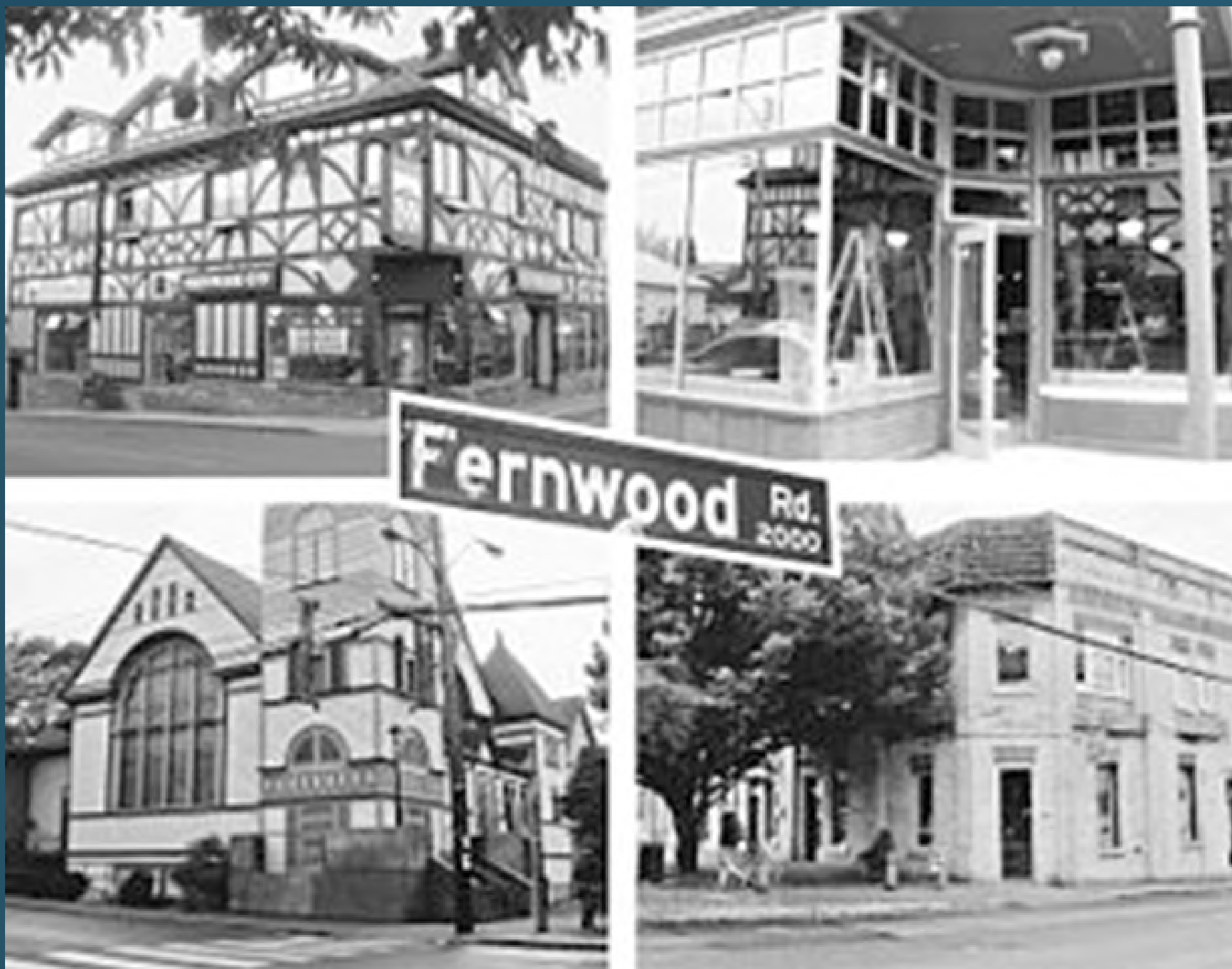
*Photo of acrylic painting "From the Mean Streets of Fernwood" by Cory Scott. Painting description by Cory Scott: A look at the developing neighbourhood of Fernwood, from its Victorian heritage houses to the modern highrises on the fringes of downtown, and the murders of crows that have called this neighbourhood home through all those generations.*

**Action item:** Ride over to Walnut Street and see if you can spot a couple of crows in mid-caw-conversation.

# Fernwood

## Points of Interest

- 4. Background:** The Cornerstone Building, now known as Little June café, “was established by four friends who are proud to work and live in this diverse community. More than 110 years have passed since the Parfitt brothers first built the heritage building.”



*Photo of Fernwood Square's four corners from the Village Vibe Newspaper in 2006.*

**Action item** Ride over to this Fernwood Road square and see if you can find any evidence of the approximate year one of these buildings was built. Enjoy the colourful sights, sounds, and smells in this little neighbourhood corner!

# Fernwood

## Points of Interest

5. **Background:** Across from the Fernwood Inn, there is an old cherry tree draped in paper wishes like ripe fruit, catching your eye as you walk by. This tree holds the wishes of the Fernwood Neighbourhood and shares them with our community.



*Photos of Fernwood Wishing Tree and Fernwood Inn by John Holland.*

### Action item

Take a peek at some of these wishes on the wishing tree and find one that resonates with you and pulls on your heart strings. Feel free to add one of your own if you wish!

# Fernwood

## Points of Interest

- 6. Background:** Victoria High School is the oldest public high school west of Winnipeg and north of San Francisco. It opened on August 7, 1876, to a class of twelve girls and twenty-two boys. The first Victoria High School was a log building with two classrooms, located on the grounds of Central Junior Secondary. The old photo below was taken in the Victoria High School Dance Group in 1916 during WW1. One famous woman in this photo is Victoria Chung (back row far right), who was born in Victoria and became one of the first women in B.C. to train as a physician at the University of Toronto. In 1923, the year the Chinese Exclusion Act was passed, she went to work in China where she lived for the rest of her life. She ended up specializing in tropical diseases and moved to Kongmoon in Southern China to take charge of a missionary hospital there. After the revolution in 1949, rather than joining the Communist Party she remained a committed Christian. Despite this, the Chinese government named Chung a “model worker” in the 1950s and later presented her with an award as a “National Hero of Culture.”



*Photo (left) by John Holland of Victoria High School.*

*Photo (right) from the Victoria High School website, Lucas Family at Victoria High School. Story of Victoria Chung's life from Victoria's China town website.*



**Action item:** Ride over to this old school. What colour is the front door of this building? What features do you notice about this school, this place?



# Fernwood

## Points of Interest

- 7. Background:** The Fernwood Community Centre is a civic building operated by Fernwood NRG under an agreement with the City of Victoria. Fernwood NRG has operated the building continuously since 1980, when it opened. The Fernwood Community Centre was built with funds from the Neighbourhood Improvement Program in 1979-80.



*Photo from the Fernwood NRG website.*

**Action item:** There are many different programs that operate out of this building. Ride over to this building and check out the bulletin board by the front entrance. Tell us which two programs most interested you!

# Fernwood

## Points of Interest

- 8. Background:**
- Introduced as a way to help slow traffic, curb signature tagging, and create a warm, friendly, and beautiful public environment, The Fernwood Pole Painting Project began in May 2011 by Emily Grav and Beth Threlfall. Since then, over a 100 telephone poles have been painted in the neighbourhood. These painted poles have floral designs, heart-felt messages, geometric shapes, beloved Dr. Seuss characters, ocean scenes, furry animal friends, and so much more!



*Photo by John Holland of Dr. Seuss Painted Telephone Pole on Chambers Street.*

**Action item:** Explore the many painted telephone poles around Fernwood. Find your favourite painted telephone pole and take a photo!

# Fernwood

## Points of Interest

9. **Background:** “Spring Ridge Commons is Canada’s oldest public food fest and Victoria’s largest public permaculture garden or community multi-layer food forest. It is located on a ½ acre city lot in Fernwood, owned by Victoria School District 61, and situated at the corner of Chambers and Gladstone Avenue. Spring Ridge Commons is an example of what is possible when you transform an under-utilized, marginal spaces (a barren gravel lot) into a productive space both in terms of yields such as food and medicines, and in terms of social yields such as experiences of beauty, nature, and solitude (Victoria and Region Community Green Map).”



*Photo of Spring Ridge Commons by John Holland.*

**Action item:** Ride over to the Spring Ridge Commons and explore the many plants growing here. What plant species can you see? Hint: Check out the many little signs that indicate the name of the species growing there.

# Fernwood

## Points of Interest

### 10. Background:

The story of Fernwood and North Park's favourite neighbourhood ice cream shop begins with the owner's personal stories of determination, creativity, and a deep love of ice cream. Before the owner of Cold Comfort Ice cream decided she wanted to open an ice creamery in the neighbourhood of her late teens/early 20's, she had explored many other career paths including "cooking apprenticeship, working in a library, camp cooking in gold mines in the artic, caregiving for the elderly, and booking bands in Europe." Today, this successful ice cream shop makes a high-density, high-quality ice cream and ice cream sandwiches with gluten-free and dairy-free options, as well as organic ingredients such as local fruits, herbs, eggs, and other items.



Photo of Cold Comfort Ice Cream's New Can Canteen by/from Cold Comfort Ice Cream's Instagram Page.

**Action item:** Ride over to this little ice cream shop and check out what wild and delicious flavours are being offered today. The flavours change frequently!  
*Bonus question:* What sporting activity is the person on the icecream logo doing?

Congratulations! You have completed the Fernwood Discovery Ride. Thank you for taking part. We hope you enjoyed your bike through Fernwood while learning a thing or two about local history history.