

Capital Bike Presents:

Downtown Victoria Discovery Ride

Go By Bike Week 



About this

May 31 - June 6 2021

Discovery
RIDES

Welcome Discovery Riders!

Planning on logging those kms during Go By Bike Week but not sure where to go? We've got you covered!

Without our usual Celebration Stations to visit, Capital Bike has restarted our popular Neighbourhood Rides program with a few special rides released during Go By Bike Week 2021. To complete this Ride, visit the points below, taking pictures at your favourite stops/points of interest, then share them on social media with the hashtag "#GoByBikeWeek2021" to be entered to win prizes. Otherwise, you can send in photo submissions to james@biketowork.ca.

Log This Ride!

Log rides at www.GoByBikeBC.ca ! It's easy! You can even link your Strava account to make tracking kms even easier.

How the rides work:

For each Discovery Ride and Scavenger Hunt we provide both an information sheet including clues and points of interest, as well as a custom Google Map to help make finding the route easier. Find this ride's google map here:

<https://goo.gl/maps/ynLLVfYgf6sVxV9C8>

This Ride Sponsored By:



Please follow the COVID-19 Provincial Health Officer guidelines and protocols, as well as any local municipal guidelines in your community, while participating in Go By Bike activities.

Victoria

Points of Interest

Take a ride through the bike ways of the City of Victoria, beginning and ending up in Fernwood, with stops throughout Downtown, James Bay, and Beacon Hill Park.

- 1. Background:**

Our ride in begins just outside of downtown in Fernwood, at Canada's oldest public food forest, and Victoria's largest public permaculture garden. Once a barren ½-acre gravel lot, Spring Ridge Commons is now an important community space, providing a natural area within the vibrant streets of Fernwood.



Action item

If you haven't already, use this opportunity to peruse the commons and see what plants you can spot. Check the signs around the commons for help identifying plants.

Points of Interest

- 2. Background:**
- Heading downtown, we'll pass by the studio of a painter who is largely unknown now, yet was extremely popular during his two-year residence in Victoria. Grafton Tyler Brown was born in 1841 to free black parents who had left the south for the free state of Pennsylvania in the north. Brown eventually made his way to Victoria in 1882 and set up his painting studio at the Occidental Hotel, on the corner of Wharf and Johnson Streets. The first black painter to depict the Pacific Northwest, Brown painted the Gorge, Mt. Baker, Victoria Harbour, as well as locals visited throughout his BC travels. Interestingly listed in the Victoria census as "white" due to his lighter skin, Grafton Tyler Brown was afforded access to high Victorian society that would not have been possible had he been considered black. Today, many of his works are held at the Royal BC Museum.



Image of Painting by Grafton Tyler Brown from April 25th, 1883 of the Gorge, Portage Inlet, Victoria, B.C.

Action item

Take a stop at the old location of Brown's studio at Wharf and Johnson.

Victoria

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3. **Background:**
- This clue is both an excuse to cycle by the beautiful water as you head into James Bay and a stop by one of Bike Skills program partners. The Pedaler offers bike rentals and themed bike tours around Greater Victoria. The beautiful white building that is now home to the Pedaler was built in the 1870s, and was home to Supreme Court Justices and soap manufacturing tycoons in years past.



Action item

Take a photo by the waterfront heading into James Bay. Stop in at The Pedaler during Go By Bike Week to receive your Bike Shop sticker for the Sticker Challenge, and get a free bike check!

Points of Interest

4.

Background:

Cycle through James Bay to the Ogden Point Breakwater. A popular spot in Victoria, the breakwater was built in 1917 to take advantage of increased marine traffic after the opening of the Panama Canal three years prior. The 2,500 ft Breakwater consists of 10,000 granite blocks stacked in 9 layers.



Action item:

Step into the Ogden Point Sundial and use your shadow to check the time!

Points of Interest

5. **Background:**
The upscale family home of famous painter Emily Carr, who was born in 1871, is found in James Bay. Carr spent her childhood here before leaving for artistic training in Paris, London, and San Francisco, before returning to the neighbourhood in 1913.



Image of painting by Emily Carr, of Skedans from 1912. Oil on canvas, 89.5 x 148 cm.

Action item: Read the plaque outside the Emily Carr House.

Points of Interest

6.

Background:

Evidence of pre-contact indigenous life is abundant throughout Beacon Hill park, called Meegan in Lekwungen. This includes indigenous burial sites, defensive sites and villages along the bluffs, as well as modern reminders such as the world's largest free standing totem pole, originally created by a team led by Kwakwaka'wakw chief Mungo Martin in 1956. The totem pole was repeatedly refurbished over the next 50 years. It was feared that wood rot had doomed the totem pole in 2000, though it was resurrected through the work of expert Coast Salish artists and community volunteers a year later.



Burial site in Beacon Hill Park, or Meegan in Lekwungen. (Stephanie Cram/CBC)

Action item:

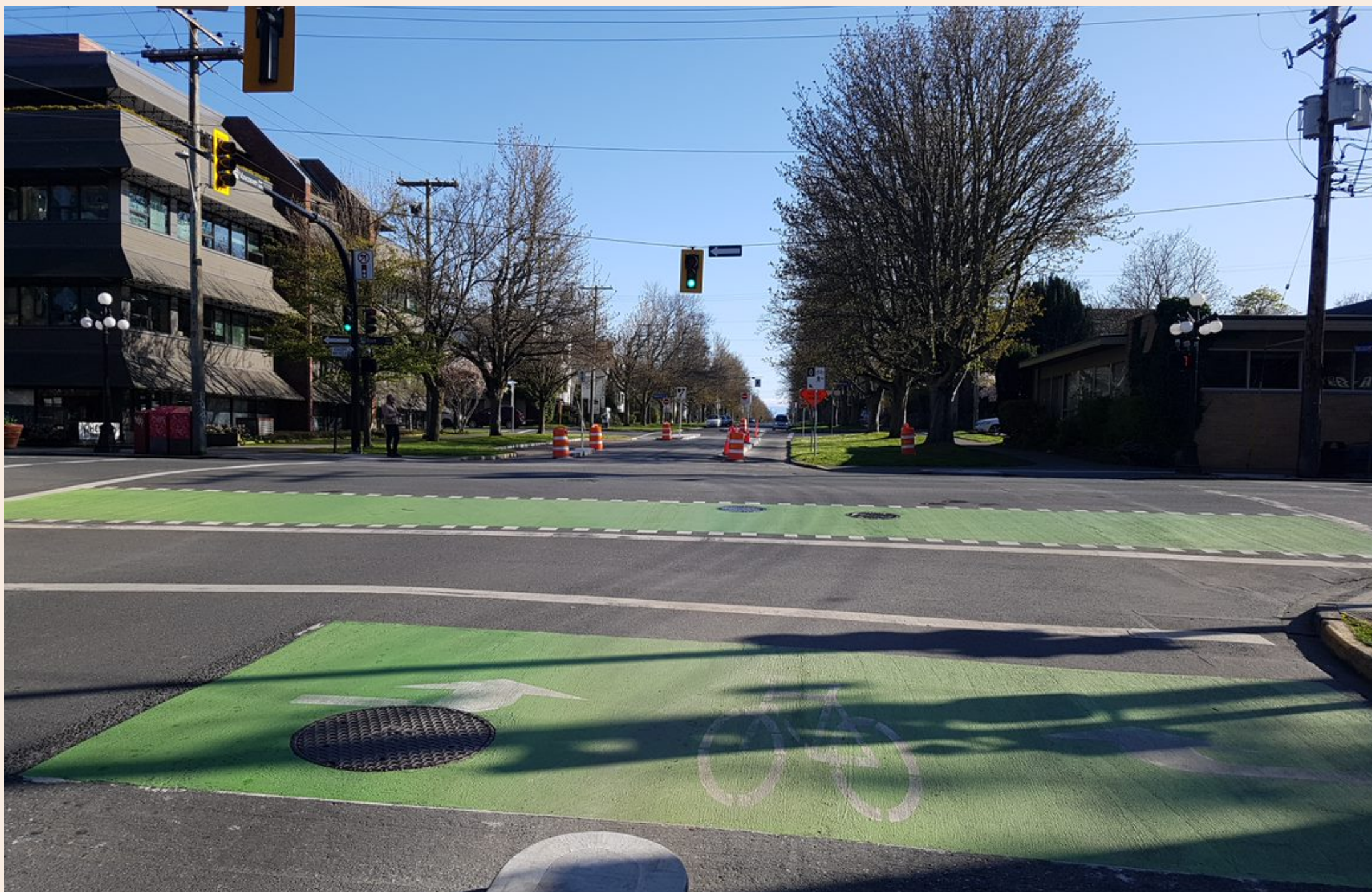
Take a photo at your favourite spot in Meegan, which means "a place to warm your belly" in Lekwungen.

Points of Interest

7.

Background:

From Beacon Hill Park, you can find your way to the newly improved Vancouver Street bikeway, which includes a variety of infrastructure and traffic calming measures like protected bike lanes, speed bumps, diversions for cars, etc. As you ride up Vancouver Street, take note of the many ways this road has been updated to make it safer for cyclists.



Action item:

Pull over when safe to do so during your ride and get a photo of your favourite spot along Vancouver Street. This could be something like the bike flower stand between Caledonia and N. Park, a new piece of infrastructure, or anything else you spot.

Victoria

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8. Background:

Return to downtown at Government Street to see an example of expanded pedestrian friendly streets, implemented after the COVID-19 pandemic. Next to this slow car street is Trounce Alley, named for Victoria pioneer Thomas Trounce, and described by the New York Times as a “tiny Euro-chic pedestrian passage” and “diverse micro hub where Old World businesses coexist alongside hip new shops and restaurants.” The charming pathway features a popular tapas bar and supposedly 125 year-old gaslights.



Photo by Stuart Isett for the New York Times.

Action Item: Take a photo in front of historic Trounce Alley. Do the lights look like 125-year-old gaslights to you? Or have they been replaced?

Victoria

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Background:

Though now it hosts everything from community theatre to rock shows, the McPherson Playhouse was originally operated as a stop on the North American vaudeville circuit. Vaudeville was hugely popular in the 1920s and 30s and involved a variety of acts such as burlesque, comedy, and song and dance.



Looking towards the Johnson Street Bridge from the McPherson Playhouse. Photo by John Holland.

Action Item: Snap a photo by the playhouse. What performance would you like most to see once it is safe to do so?

Victoria

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10.

Background:

Returning to Fernwood along the Pandora protected bike lane, make your way to Fernwood Square. End your ride at the wishing tree and take a peek at the often funny, occasionally heartfelt wishes people have draped on the tree.



Congratulations! You have now come to the end of your Discovery Ride. We hope you enjoyed your ride through Victoria and learned a fun fact or two about the local area. Don't forget to log your bike ride on GoByBikeBC.ca and submit photos using either #GoByBikeWeek2021 on social media or emailing to james@bikektowork.ca

Funding for these updated Neighbourhood Rides was provided in-part by the City of Victoria's Strategic Plan Grant.

