

# First six months of year brings a filming frenzy to Victoria

Jane Skrypnik  
News Staff

Victoria saw a huge uptick in filming activity in the first half of 2021, something Vancouver Island South Film and Media Commission film commissioner Kathleen Gilbert said is likely the result of pandemic circumstances.

So far this year, the City of Victoria has issued 93 filming permits, compared to 95 in all of 2020, 85 in 2019 and 76 in 2018. It's a

large increase, but sadly it may be a bit of a one-off situation, Gilbert said.

Because the filming industry was put on hold for several months at the start of the pandemic, there has been a backlog of productions working to get their shooting done across the Capital Regional District.

And, Gilbert said, the Island has become fairly well known as a location with few COVID-19 cases. She thinks actors may have pushed to film in safer locations closer to home.

There are only three productions being shot in the CRD this month – The Last Will and Testament of Charles Abernathy, Rescued by Ruby and Rise and Shine Benedict Stone – and little lined up over the summer, but Gilbert said they will have a healthy fall and winter season.

They're also working to nail down a deal Gilbert couldn't provide details on, but said would be the size of the Netflix show Maid.

Convincing productions to shoot here can be tricky. Sometimes, Gilbert said, they'll be

provided with an extensive shot list and they have to go location hunting to try and find enough local spots to fit the bill. Weather, having enough crew members and providing high quality hotels can also make or break a deal.

For instance, if a production is looking to film a show set in the summer during the winter, the commission needs to prove that they will have sunny skies, no snow and residential areas with no deciduous trees that would give away the season.



The Victoria Academy of Ballet offers free introductory classes on Saturday, July 10, to celebrate its new home in Quadra Village. (Courtesy Victoria Academy of Ballet)

## Ballet academy steps into new digs

Dancers fill a new two-storey building in Quadra Village as the Victoria Academy of Ballet officially moved in on May 31.

The building features three large studios with 20-foot ceilings, sprung dance floors, a student lounge and kitchenette, a large warm-up area and universal washrooms. The main level is accessible through automatic doors.

"This new purpose-built facility is the culmination of years of hard work and planning, as we look to provide our recreational and professional students with the finest dance facili-

ty in Victoria," said artistic director Bleiddyn del Villar Bellis.

To celebrate, the academy offers free introductory class-

es on Saturday, July 10. For information and registration visit [victoriaacademyofballet.ca/summer-series-free-classes](http://victoriaacademyofballet.ca/summer-series-free-classes).



Dr. Poon

## Vision Matters

Healthy Eyes.  
Doctor Delivered.

### The best fit for safety glasses

If you wear safety glasses at work, you should get the best possible fit to protect you from hazards as well as to insure that you see as sharply as possible. Your eye doctor will first give you a thorough vision examination, checking for sources of eye irritation and other vision related problems. He or she will also check your visual acuity, eye coordination, and muscle function.

In recommending the beset safety glasses for your needs, your eye doctor will want to know the type of work you do. What level of eye protection is required for your particular occupation? Does your work require that you view object at far and near?

Depending on your age you may need safety glasses that correct for vision both close up and in the distance. The position of the tasks you perform must also be considered. If your close up work is above eye level, for example, there are even glasses that have the bifocals on top so that you can work above your head with comfort.

Ensure your safety glasses and all your eyewear are meeting your needs as well as possible. See your Optometrist for regular eye examinations.

**DR JOHN POON**  
PURELY OPTOMETRY  
1964 FORT ST #105  
VICTORIA  
(250) 590-7499



## CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**TAKE NOTICE THAT A PUBLIC HEARING** will be held on Monday, July 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Esquimalt Municipal Hall, 1229 Esquimalt Road, Esquimalt, BC, V9A 3P1 to allow the public to make representations to the Municipal Council respecting matters contained in the following:

Covenant CA6919940 was registered in 2018 as part of the rezoning of the Lands. The new registered owner of the property has not proposed zoning amendments but has proposed Covenant Modifications for the purpose of facilitating the revised development proposal for a 6-storey purpose built rental. The proposed building is no longer prefabricated nor a passive house; instead, it will be constructed to BC Energy Step Code 4. Moreover, the applicant has proposed 6 affordable housing units in addition to the 10 special needs housing units.

### Site Location:



### Description of Land:

669 Constance Avenue [PID 030-431-026, Lot 1, Suburban Lots 43 and 44, Esquimalt District, Plan EPP76107]

**AND FURTHERMORE, TAKE NOTICE** that copies of the proposed covenant modification, relevant background documents, and other information related to this application may be reviewed from June 29, 2021 until July 12, 2021:


- online, by visiting the municipal website at [www.esquimalt.ca/PublicHearing](http://www.esquimalt.ca/PublicHearing); or
- upon request, at Municipal Hall, 1229 Esquimalt Road, Esquimalt, BC, V9A 3P1, by booking an appointment either by emailing Alex Tang, Planner at [alex.tang@esquimalt.ca](mailto:alex.tang@esquimalt.ca) or contacting Development Services staff via phone at 250-414-7103.

Pursuant to Ministerial Order 192, the public will not have physical access to the Municipal Hall; however, the Public Hearing will be streamed on the following link:  
<https://esquimalt.ca.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>.

Affected persons may address Council by written submission before noon on July 12, 2021 to 1229 Esquimalt Road, Esquimalt, BC, V9A 3P1, by email to [corporate.services@esquimalt.ca](mailto:corporate.services@esquimalt.ca), or by telephone to respond to comments during the electronic input portion of the Public Hearing by texting or calling 250-883-6426. To arrange to participate electronically by means of inclusion on the speakers' list, please call 250-414-7135 before 4:30pm on July 12, 2021 to speak with the Corporate Officer.

If the Ministerial Order and Public Health Order are revised after the publication of this notice in such a manner that a limited number of members of the public may be allowed into the Council Chamber, notification will be published on the Township's official website (<https://www.esquimalt.ca>) along with details about the number of people who will be allowed into the Council Chambers and the methodology for determining who will be allowed into the Council Chambers.

ANJA NURVO  
INTERIM CORPORATE OFFICER

  
**CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT**  
1229 Esquimalt Road  
Esquimalt, B.C. V9A 3P1  
250-414-7100

**NOTICE OF MEETINGS**

**Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup>**  
Regular Council  
7:00 p.m.,  
Council Chambers

For further information,  
please call 250-414-7135  
or our website @  
[www.esquimalt.ca/council](http://www.esquimalt.ca/council)