

# The Acorn

Issue #8 - Wednesday, February 12th, 2025

## Crystal Pool Replacement Project

By Rocio de la Rosa



<https://npna.ca/news/crystal-pool-referendum-know-before-you-vote/>

This weekend, Victoria residents were given the option to vote in the Crystal Pool Replacement project referendum. This referendum determined if the City would be allowed to borrow up to \$168.9 million dollars to replace the swimming pool. As well, the referendum allowed residents to choose between two locations if the pool were built; Central Park North or Central Park South.

The Crystal Pool Replacement Project by the City of Victoria will be built with a necessary loan of up to \$168.9 million dollars, which will come from resident's taxes. These tax increases will be phased in over four to five years, and the estimated tax increase will reach 7.54% for the most expensive option in the Central Park South location. The debt will be paid off over twenty years following the construction. The current facility is located on Quadra St. and many of its systems are at or are near end-of-life, and

require large investments to keep running. As well, the facility has accessibility barriers that prevent equitable use and it is one of the City's largest greenhouse gas emitters. The new pool and recreation centre will include a 50 m pool, leisure pool, two hot tubs, sauna and steam room, large fitness studio, and multi-purpose rooms.

Although many students at Oak Bay were not eligible to vote in the referendum on February 8th, it is important to look into what is happening in our community so that we can play an active role in how our city functions and what our communities will look like in the future.

## Book Review: Fairy Tale by Stephen King

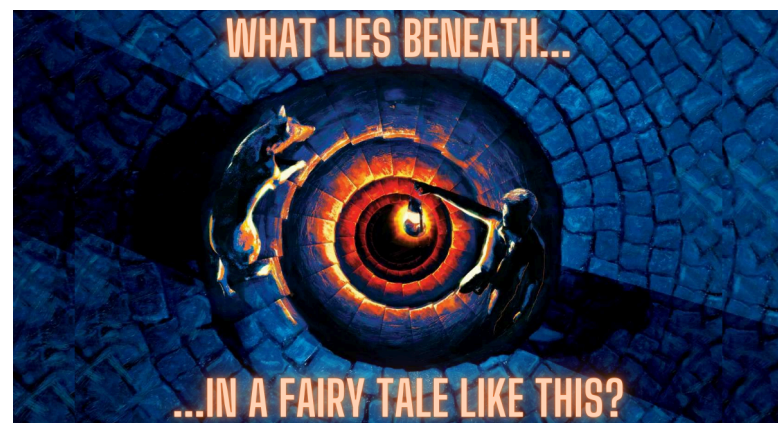
By: Maya Ney-Nichols

Stephen King's Fairy Tale is an exciting mix of fantasy and adventure with a little bit of horror. The story follows a teenage boy who discovers a secret world filled with magic, danger, and mystery. While King is famous for writing horror novels, Fairy Tale is more of a fantasy story, though it still has some disturbing moments.

One of my favorite parts of Fairy Tale is the protagonist, Charlie. He is brave and determined, making it easy to cheer for him as he faces tough challenges. Sometimes I find his goal irrational, but I still view his journey as an act of courage. King also does a great job creating a magical world that feels real. His detailed writing helps readers picture every scene and feel like they are

right there in the story. The novel contains a good mix of action, horror and mystery. King's writing is interesting, and there are lots of twists and turns that keep the reader hooked from the beginning till end. The story explores big ideas like courage, friendship, and the fight between good and evil.

Overall, *Fairy Tale* is a fun and exciting book that will appeal to both fantasy fans and those new to Stephen King. It takes classic fairy tale ideas and gives them a darker, more modern twist. Even though it is a long book, it stays interesting the whole way through. If you like stories with adventure, fantasy, and horror, this is a great book to read and I highly recommend it!



<https://booktrib.com/2022/09/16/stephen-king-fairy-tale/>

## Cultural Corner:

### Black History Month

By Wren Mister-Mercer

Black History Month is celebrated throughout the whole month of February in the United States and Canada, while the United Kingdom, Ireland, and the Netherlands celebrate it in October. It is an annual monthly observance dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the contributions, struggles, and achievements of Black individuals throughout history all over the world.

The origins of Black History Month trace back to historian Carter G. Woodson, who, in 1926, established Negro History Week to highlight Black excellence and combat historical erasure. Over time, this week-long observance expanded into a month-long celebration, officially recognized in the U.S. in 1976.

The four main colours used in Black History Month are red, representing blood, yellow symbolizing justice, green representing lush greenery, and black being resilience. These colours are also featured in many African countries' flags such as Ethiopia, Congo, Ghana, and Mozambique. The colors are also used in the Rastafari movement, holding similar values.

This month also serves as a time to honor pioneers such as Harriet Tubman, who led enslaved people to freedom via the Underground Railroad, as well as Martin Luther King Jr., who played a pivotal role in the African-American Civil Rights Movement. It also acknowledges the influence of Black artists, writers, scientists, and activists who have shaped our society in so many significant ways.

Beyond the observance, Black History Month is a call to action—encouraging education on racial justice, systemic inequality, and Black culture.

While Black History Month is crucial, Black history itself is not confined to a single month—it is an integral part of global history that should be acknowledged year-round. By celebrating Black history, we foster inclusivity, understanding, and appreciation for the diverse contributions that have shaped the world we live in today.





<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/article/martin-luther-king-jr>

## The Origins of Valentine's Day

By Ava Navaee

Valentine's Day is a very old celebration, with many different origins and factors that contributed to the holiday that we know and love today. Lupercalia was a celebration in ancient Rome. It was observed February 13-15 on behalf of Pan and Juno, pagan gods of love and marriage. This celebration is a possible origin of Valentine's Day. The name St. Valentine comes from Christian influence. St. Valentine, was a priest in Rome during the reign of Emperor Claudius II in the 3rd century. According to legend, Claudius banned marriages for young soldiers, believing that single men were better warriors. Valentine went against this and secretly married couples. When he was discovered, Valentine was arrested and eventually executed on February 14th, around 269 AD.

Over time as Christianity spread, February 14th became associated with honoring St. Valentine. During the Middle Ages, people began to associate the day with love. By the 14th and 15th centuries, Valentine's Day started to become more and more associated with love, especially in England and France.

It became common for people to exchange valentines (poems, notes, gifts), and this tradition continued to grow in popularity over the centuries. Now Valentine's Day has become much more commercialized due to the mass production of greeting cards, gifts, and chocolates to be sold for the special day. Valentine's Day has a very long history with lots of contributing factors and it's very interesting that, although it has evolved, it is still celebrated every year.



<https://saintjosephstacoma.org/st-valentine-priest-and-martyr/>

## Upcoming Movies

By Sophia Schlag

Whether you're a certified cinephile or a casual watcher, you are bound to be excited for at least a few of these films coming out this year!

### Paddington in Peru

Arriving February 14th in the US and Canada

This much-beloved bear is back, and going international! When Paddington receives a strange letter from his aunt back in Peru, he and his family decide to travel to Paddington's homeland. Shenanigans and mystery ensue.

## **The Legend of Ochi**

Arriving April 25th

This fantasy movie is bound to be an artistic classic, meant to reflect the classic 80s movies like *E.T.* and *The Neverending Story*, following an iconic journey of a brave girl and an unusual creature. My uncle, Evan Prosofsky, is the cinematographer!

## **Wake Up Dead Man**

Arriving in 2025

Finally, a 3rd Knives Out installment! The film is slated to come out this year, with an exciting cast including Josh Brolin, Mila Kunis and Andrew Scott. There is little information about the plot or release date, but I'm getting excited already.

## **Wicked: For Good**

Arriving November 21

The second part of this adaptation of the stage musical will focus on the events following Dorothy's arrival in Oz, and how Glinda and Elphaba adopt their personas as Glinda the Good and the Wicked Witch of the West. Get ready for an avalanche of pink and green, again!



<https://variety.com/2024/film/news/wicked-2-title-for-good-1236250920/>

## **Superman**

Arriving July 11th

This new film follows the iconic superhero, starring David Corenswet, as he has to reconcile his old life with his new one on earth.

## **Avatar 3: Fire and Ash**

Arriving December 19

An action-packed film will be finishing off this year, after years and years of delays, following the events of the first 2 Avatar films. Filmed simultaneously with the first sequel, this installment will focus on the "Ash-people", who while being Na'vi, will be the antagonists in this movie.

## **Valentine's Jokes**

"How do you put a flower in the friend zone?" "You tell it, 'You're my best bud.'"

"Why shouldn't you trust a pastry chef on Valentine's Day?" "Because they'll dessert you."

"How did the squirrel get his valentine's attention?" "He acted like a nut."

"How do you keep a jewelry store safe on Valentine's Day?" "You lock it."

"The date on this milk is February 14. Wait, even the milk has a Valentine's date?"

"What did the paper clip say to the magnet?" "I find you very attractive."

"What did the scientist say to their valentine?" "I think of you periodically."

# Valentine's Day

T	O	O	V	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	H
L	C	U	P	I	D	L	I	A	T	D	O	R	A
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M	W	O	D	D	L	S	F	N	S	O	C	S	L
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M	D	T	A	I	G	N	P	W	N	A	O	P	O
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CANDY  
 GIFT  
 HEARTS  
 CARDS  
 SWEETHEART  
 COUPLE  
 CRUSH  
 CUPID  
 SOULMATE  
 ADMIRATION  
 CHOCOLATE  
 LOVE

