



## City Experiences Most Wind Damage Since Big Storm of 2006

Date: Friday, Apr 2, 2010

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — With several downed power lines and trees across Victoria, Friday was extremely busy for City fire, parks and engineering crews.

About 40 trees came down in Victoria, with James Bay and Fairfield neighbourhoods being affected the most. However, a large birch was uprooted and fell on a car in the 2800 block of Quadra Street.

“A reminder to walkers, especially in heavily treed areas, that trees may have broken branches hanging from them, so be aware when out for a stroll,” noted City spokesperson Katie Josephson. “Winds are expected again overnight so if you haven’t already done so, be sure to tie down or enclose patio furniture, garbage cans, and outside children’s toys.”

Crews have cleared the last remaining trees affecting public access or safety today and expect more clean-up Saturday with high winds expected again overnight. All streets blocked earlier by fallen trees are now open and downed traffic signals and street signs have been repaired.

Fire crews have been dispatched throughout the day to man downed power lines until BC Hydro crews could arrive. As well, firefighters used power saws to remove downed trees and branches from roadways and sidewalks when safe to do so.

The last major wind storm in occurred in 2006 resulting in much more damage than seen today.

Over the past three years, the City has been inventorying trees in each neighbourhood and placing priority on pruning those species or specific trees that would pose a risk in high winds. In addition, in July 2009, Victoria was the first municipality in BC to join forces with BC Hydro to increase proactive regular maintenance, inspections and assessments of the City’s 20,000 street trees for overall health and safety. The program is made possible by a five-year, \$400,000 funding agreement with BC Hydro that the City matches from its urban forest capital fund.

— 30 —

### For More Information:

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