



Annual Maintenance of Victoria's Underground Infrastructure to Begin Next Week

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Starting next Wednesday, the City of Victoria will begin annual maintenance of its underground infrastructure, consisting of the lining of existing sanitary sewer and storm drain pipes using trenchless technology. This innovative method of rehabilitating aging pipes eliminates the need for traditional open cut excavation, resulting in reduced green house gas emissions during construction, minimal disruption to the public, and cost savings.

Crews will access an existing sanitary sewer or storm drain pipe at manholes to push through a sock-like material with felt on one side and soft plastic on the other. Once inserted, one end of the sock will be sealed and high-pressure steam will be applied to expand and cure the sock to fit the existing pipe. A robot device will cut out holes at service connections and a remote-controlled camera will be used to check for any defects. At times, the lining process may result in a mild, non-toxic, fibreglass-like odour, which will dissipate within a couple of hours.

Over the next six weeks, lining will occur on select streets in the following neighbourhoods: Downtown Victoria, Victoria West, Fernwood/Jubilee, Burnside/Gorge, Quadra, Oaklands, James Bay, Fairfield and Rockland. Residents and businesses in these areas will be notified by mail of upcoming work on their street or lane.

The work will result in alternating lane closures and emergency services and BC Transit will be notified. Lining is weather dependent and requires a dry day. In the event of rain, lining will occur on the next available dry day.

Victoria's underground infrastructure is one of the oldest in Western Canada, with the majority of its clay pipes installed between 1908 – 1914. Trenchless technology can extend the life expectancy of aging pipes by up to 50 years.

— 30 —

For More Information:

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