



Victoria's Fireworks Bylaw a Benefit to Public Safety

Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2008

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — With Halloween this Friday, the public is reminded that the City of Victoria Fireworks Bylaw prohibits the sale, possession or discharge of fireworks. The bylaw was introduced last year to reduce the risk of injuries and property damage caused by fireworks in Victoria. In the past, irresponsible use of fireworks has resulted in property damage, injuries, pet stress, and an increase in nuisance calls to both Fire and Police departments.

The bylaw was very effective in its first year, eliminating all nuisance fireworks calls. There were no reports of property damage or injury due to improper use.

The Fireworks Bylaw includes firecrackers, fireballs, Roman Candles, sky rockets, squibs, torpedoes, and any other explosive designated as a firework by regulation. Victoria Police enforce the bylaw and failure to comply will result in seizures and fines. Penalties are applied per incident with a minimum penalty of \$200 and a maximum of \$10,000.

Exceptions to the bylaw are available through an application for a special fireworks permit, and applications must be accompanied by proof of \$5 million liability insurance and a Fireworks Supervisor Certificate. For a copy of the Fireworks Bylaw visit: www.victoria.ca/common/pdfs/bylaw07-070.pdf

Victoria's densely populated neighbourhoods and invaluable urban forest are not conducive to neighbourhood fireworks displays as the risk of injury and property damage is much greater than in rural areas.

The City of Victoria wishes Victoria residents a safe and happy Halloween.

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For More Information:

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