



Residential Leaf Pick-Up Service Begins Monday

Date: Friday, November 7, 2008

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Starting Monday, the City of Victoria's residential leaf pick-up service begins in select neighbourhoods. The *2008/2009 Residential Leaf and Branch Pick-Up* brochure was mailed to Victoria homes in October and highlights when collection will occur in each neighbourhood and when residents must have leaf piles on the boulevard.

Victoria's annual residential leaf pick-up service runs from November through early January. Traffic patterns, school zones, road conditions, noise levels, areas prone to flooding and the types of trees on each street are taken into consideration when designing the schedule.

Residents in North Park, Downtown Harris Green, and Fairfield neighbourhoods should place their loose leaves on the boulevard by Monday morning next week. Leaf piles should be close to the street curb, and be visible and accessible from the street. To avoid flooding and slipping hazards, leaves should not be placed in gutters, on sidewalks, or in the street. Leaves in bags, containers or boxes will be left behind.

The residential leaf pick-up schedule allows for one pick-up per household and trucks only make one pass down a street. If a return trip is required, a fee of \$40 will be charged per household's request. Victoria residents can also drop off their leaf and garden waste for free, year-round at the City of Victoria Public Works Yard at 417 Garbally Road on Saturdays, from 7 a.m. – 2 p.m. Residents must show proof of residency in the form of a valid BC driver's licence. Leaves are not accepted at the Beacon Hill Park Maintenance Yard. Homeowners can also use their leaves to make leaf mulch and to feed backyard composters.

Each year, the City of Victoria collects approximately 4,200 cubic metres of leaves from over 40,000 trees – enough to cover a Canadian football field a half metre deep. Starting in mid-October, leaves are collected from parks, sports fields, medians, parking lots, tennis courts and streets, and crews ensure intersections and sidewalks remain clear for pedestrians. The leaves are transported to the Beacon Hill Park Maintenance Yard where they are composted for future use in City parks and display gardens.

The *City of Victoria 2008/2009 Leaf and Branch Pick-Up* brochure is available at Victoria City Hall, the Beacon Hill Park Maintenance Yard, Victoria public libraries, local garden clubs and community and seniors centres. Residential branch pick-up service begins in March. For more information and a copy of the brochure, visit: www.victoria.ca and click on *What's New?*

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