



Roll Out of City's Hanging Baskets Signifies Summer

Date: Friday, June 5, 2009

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – A sure sign summer is just around the corner is the roll out of Victoria's trademark hanging baskets. Starting Monday, two City crews will begin installing over 1,600 hanging baskets on downtown lampposts, featuring flowers that were grown at the Beacon Hill Park nursery.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY:

What: Installation of 1,600 Trademark Hanging Baskets
When: Monday, June 8, 2009 – Wednesday, June 10, 2009 between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
Where: Downtown streets including Douglas, Fort, Government, View, Yates, Pandora, Broad, Wharf, Belleville, Courtney, Broughton and Burdett

Nine different varieties of plants are used to make the traditional Victoria sun basket, and a total of 25 plants are included in each. When fully grown, the baskets can weigh over 20 kilograms (approximately 45 pounds). Modified City watering trucks minimize noise and lighting impacts on downtown residents when crews conduct late night waterings from 11 p.m. – 7 a.m. every summer night.

Baskets under large street trees are a different variety, known as shade baskets. Nursery staff use Impatiens and Rhodochiton as a trailing plant, and trials continue as new Impatiens varieties become available.

Victoria's hanging baskets remain on lampposts until mid-September. After removal, the hardware is dismantled for reuse and the plant material is composted in the Beacon Hill Park Maintenance Yard.

The placement of hanging baskets on Victoria lampposts every June has signaled the start of summer for over 70 years. First introduced to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the City's incorporation in 1937, Victoria's hanging baskets are a trademark, recognized around the world.

For more information on Victoria's hanging baskets or to learn how to make your own, visit: www.victoria.ca and click on *What's New?*

- 30 -

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