



Victoria Grows Bananas

Date: Friday, February 5, 2010

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — A bunch of Beacon Hill Park gardeners were surprised to find bananas growing in the City of Victoria nursery this week. For the first time in the City's 15 years of planting ornamental banana plants, an a-peel-ing hand of bananas has appeared.

City gardeners believe a combination of the age of the Abyssinian Banana (five - seven years old), the long warm summer of 2009, and wintering in the greenhouse are to credit for the plant native to Africa bearing fruit.

INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY:

Who: City of Victoria gardeners
Where: Beacon Hill Park Nursery (Meet at the Parks office at the end of Nursery Road)
When: Friday, February 5, 2010 between 10 a.m. and Noon

Often termed the "Banana Belt of Canada", Victoria is also known as the City of Gardens. City gardeners plant about 12 banana plants of different varieties each year. Grown primarily for their dramatic foliage, the Abyssinian Banana (*Ensete ventricosum*) is ornamental and the fruit is not edible.

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For More Information:

Katie Josephson
Director of Corporate Communications
Office: 250.361.0210
Cellular: 250.217.8343