



City to Pilot New Plantings in Victoria's Hanging Baskets

Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2010

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — It's that time of year when City Parks staff are hard at work assembling 100 hanging flower baskets a day in time to be hung on downtown lampposts starting Monday, June 7, 2010. Close to 1,600 hanging baskets are made each year by a six-person crew, using plants that are grown at the Beacon Hill Park nursery.

This year, the City is trying something new. In addition to its traditional sun baskets, three different planting combinations will be piloted to determine which can best withstand warmer temperatures and bloom into October.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:

Media are invited to visit the Beacon Hill Park greenhouses tomorrow morning to see how Victoria's trademark hanging baskets are made. Media are asked to check in at the Beacon Hill Park Maintenance Yard office upon arrival.

What: MEDIA OPPORTUNITY – Assembly of Victoria's Hanging Baskets and Trial Plantings
When: Thursday, May 13, 2010, from 10 a.m. – noon
Where: Parks Office in Beacon Hill Park (located at the end of Nursery Road)

The trial sun baskets will look similar to Victoria's traditional sun baskets. Their performance will be evaluated throughout the growing season, with the winning combination becoming Victoria's new sun basket in 2011.

Nine different varieties of plants will continue to be used in Victoria's sun baskets, with a total of 25 plants featured in each. Once the baskets are made, they remain in the greenhouses for one week before being moved outside. When fully grown, the baskets can weigh over 20 kilograms (approximately 45 pounds). Shade baskets, which feature Impatiens and Rhodochiton as a trailing plant, are placed in locations where sun baskets would never have reached their full potential.

The placement of flower baskets on Victoria lampposts every June has signaled the start of summer for more than 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.

— 30 —

For More Information:

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