



## Annual Release of Lady Bugs on Downtown Street Trees

Date: Monday, May 17, 2010

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Lady bugs are a beneficial insect that eat pests such as aphids, beetle larvae and spider mites that feed on Victoria gardens. Each year, the City of Victoria releases approximately 100,000 lady bugs to help protect downtown street trees from aphids.

### PHOTO OPPORTUNITY:

What: Annual Release of Lady Bugs on Downtown Street Trees  
When: Tuesday, May 18, 2010 between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.  
Where: Government Street between Belleville Street and Pandora Avenue

Since 1994, City Parks has released lady bugs and other beneficial insects to reduce pesticide use on public lands. In February 2008, the City of Victoria became the first municipality in the Capital Region to adopt a bylaw to regulate the use of pesticides on public and private property.

Victoria residents can attract lady bugs to their yard by planting umbrella-shaped flowers that are high in nectar and pollen such as cosmos, geraniums and coreopsis, as well as herbs such as cilantro, dill and fennel. Lady bugs can also be purchased for residential use at some local nurseries.

To learn more on how to recognize and encourage beneficial insects to your garden, visit [www.victoria.ca](http://www.victoria.ca) and click on *What's New?*

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### For More Information:

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