



“The Orcas” Arrive in Victoria’s Inner Harbour Today

Date: Thursday, May 20, 2010

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – A mother and baby orca - in the form of a three-dimensional horticultural display - will make Victoria’s Inner Harbour their home this summer. The impressive four-metre tall and six-metre long garden display consisting of a mother and baby orca riding a wave, will arrive by crane today at the lower walkway between Ship Point and the Regent Hotel.

The media are invited to join Mayor Dean Fortin and Downtown Victoria Business Association (DVBA) Chair Scott Hoadley at an official gathering tomorrow to celebrate the arrival of “The Orcas” in the Capital City.

What: Official Celebration: “The Orcas” Arrive in Victoria’s Inner Harbour
When: Friday, May 21, 2010 at 11:30 a.m.
Where: Lower Walkway between Ship Point and the Regent Hotel (close to the hotel)

“The Orcas” is a unique display designed to enhance Victoria’s downtown, attracting residents and visitors to this area of the Inner Harbour. In 2009, the City and the DVBA collaborated to develop a three-dimensional (3-D) garden bed, inspired by similar garden structures in Burnaby and Old Montreal’s *Mosaiculture Garden*.

Constructed out of galvanized steel, the display’s frame supports 5.5 cubic metres of soil mixed with sand. The 3-D garden bed contains 11,000 plants consisting of a variety of *Alternanthera* and *Santolina*, annuals that are known for their colourful foliage. The planting of the frame took place in February at the Beacon Hill Park nursery. The display will require regular pruning, and watering will often be timed with the City’s daily watering of its trademark hanging baskets.

“The Orcas” is a partnership between the City of Victoria, the DVBA and participating businesses. The Regent Hotel is providing “The Orcas” with a place to “live”, and Hyack Air is contributing to the cost of the installation.

A temporary seasonal installation, the display will be transported in the fall to the Beacon Hill Park nursery to winter in a greenhouse. Next spring, it may return to the same location, or be placed somewhere new.

“The Orcas” is the first horticultural display of this magnitude on Vancouver Island.

- 30 -

For More Information:

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

Ken Kelly
General Manager
Downtown Victoria Business Association
250.386.2239