



Community Re-planting of *Small Steps Edible Garden*

Date: Thursday, June 3, 2010

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Media are invited to attend a community re-planting of the *Small Steps Edible Garden* tomorrow afternoon at City Hall. This edible, perennial demonstration garden will soon be home again to close to 30 Mediterranean and Portuguese plants. The *Small Steps Edible Garden* promotes urban gardens, food security and regional agriculture.

What: Community re-planting of edible demonstration garden
When: Friday, June 4, 2010, from noon to 1 p.m.
Where: Victoria City Hall, Pandora Avenue Entrance

Designed by Geoff Johnson, a local expert in sustainable land use design, the edible garden will feature figs, blueberries and a variety of herbs which will require little water and maintenance.

The event will feature live music by Jennifer Louise Taylor, a mobile demonstration greenhouse, organic lemonade and the unveiling of a garden plaque. This year, the City of Victoria has partnered with the LifeCycles Project Society, whose volunteers will help maintain and harvest the garden as part of their ongoing work to increase urban agriculture in the region.

This will be the second community planting of the demonstration garden. Initially planted last May, the plants were harvested and wintered at the Beacon Hill Park nursery to accommodate repairs to City Hall.

Urban gardening provides communities with a direct link to food production, empowers residents to produce fresh, local fruits and vegetables for their families and friends, promotes nutrition, and helps decrease our carbon footprint by reducing the fossil fuels used in the transportation of goods.

The City of Victoria supports the concept of urban agriculture as a valuable community resource and is working with the community to encourage urban agriculture where possible. Urban agriculture is a broad term that encompasses a wide range of activities involving the production, processing, marketing and distribution of food in urban areas.

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