



City's Trademark Hanging Baskets Signify Summer

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – The annual roll out of Victoria's trademark hanging baskets is a sure sign summer is just around the corner. Starting Monday, three City crews will begin installing approximately 1,600 hanging baskets on downtown lampposts, featuring flowers that were grown at the Beacon Hill Park nursery.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY:

What: Installation of 1,600 Trademark Hanging Baskets
When: Monday, June 7 to Wednesday, June 9, 2010 between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
Where: Downtown streets including Douglas, Wharf, Belleville, Fort, Government, View, Yates, Pandora, Broad, Courtney, Broughton and Burdett

Nine different varieties of plants are used to make the traditional Victoria sun basket, and a total of 25 plants are included in each. Similar in appearance to the traditional sun basket, three different planting combinations will be piloted this year to determine which can best withstand warmer temperatures and bloom into October. The winning combination will become Victoria's new sun basket in 2011.

Shade baskets containing Impatiens and Rhodochiton as a trailing plant are used under large street trees, where sun baskets would never reach their full potential.

When fully grown, the baskets can weigh over 20 kilograms (approximately 45 pounds). Modified City watering trucks minimize noise and lighting impacts on downtown residents when crews conduct late night waterings from 11 p.m. – 7 a.m. every summer night.

Victoria's hanging baskets remain on lampposts until mid to late September. After removal, the hardware is dismantled for reuse and the plant material is composted in the Beacon Hill Park Maintenance Yard.

The placement of hanging baskets on Victoria lampposts every June has signaled the start of summer for over 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.

For more information on Victoria's hanging baskets or to learn how to make your own, visit: www.victoria.ca and click on *What's New?*

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For More Information:

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