



Residential Leaf Pick-up Begins Next Monday

Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2010

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — The City of Victoria's Residential Leaf Pick-up service begins next Monday and ends in early January. Residents who live in single family homes, townhomes and duplexes are encouraged to look up their neighbourhood collection date in the *2010/2011 Residential Leaf Pick-up Schedule* that was mailed in October.

Victoria residents have the option of placing their leaves in tied, 100% biodegradable bags or in loose leaf piles at the curb. Scheduled neighbourhood leaf collection allows for one pick-up per household and trucks only make one pass down a street. If a return trip is required, a fee of \$40 will be charged per household's request.

Placing leaves in biodegradable bags helps prevent leaves from clogging storm drains which can cause flooding during heavy rains. It also helps reduce emissions caused by leaf blowers and other powered equipment used in leaf collection. Leaves and 100% biodegradable bags can be composted at the Beacon Hill Park Maintenance Yard for future use in City gardens.

Currently, the City of Victoria does not sell clear, 100% biodegradable bags. Look for bags that meet the US standard ASTM D6400 or the European standard EN 13432. Such bags are available at local retailers where home and garden supplies are sold.

Until Friday, November 26, 2010, Victoria residents can contact the City's Parks Division at 250.361.0600 to have their bagged leaves picked up at the curb within three to five working days at no additional charge.

There is no limit to the number of leaf piles or bagged leaves that can be set out. Leaf piles and leaves in biodegradable bags should be placed close to the curb and be visible and accessible from the street. To avoid flooding and slipping hazards, leaves and bags are not to be placed on sidewalks, in gutters or in the street.

Victoria residents can also drop off their leaf and garden waste for free, year-round at the City of Victoria Public Works Yard at 417 Garbally Road on Saturdays, from 7 a.m. – 2 p.m. Residents must show proof of residency in the form of a valid BC driver's licence. Leaves are not accepted at the Beacon Hill Park Maintenance Yard. Residents can also use their leaves to make leaf mulch and to feed backyard composters.

The *2010/2011 Residential Leaf Pick-up Schedule* is available at City Hall, the Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre, the Beacon Hill Park Maintenance Yard, local community centres and libraries, and on the City of Victoria website at: www.victoria.ca/leafpickup.

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For More Information:

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