



Christmas to Come Early for Pinewood Avenue Residents

Date: Tuesday, December 21, 2010

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Christmas is coming early for Victoria residents who live on Pinewood Avenue. The City of Victoria is working with the neighbourhood to replace 26 street trees that were in poor health. The remaining 5 - 6 trees will be planted at an informal gathering of the neighbourhood tomorrow morning.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY:

Mayor Dean Fortin will assist City Parks crews plant the remaining trees on Pinewood Avenue and chat with residents who have participated in the planning of this street re-greening project with City Parks staff. Pinewood Avenue resident Michael Bloomfield and Brian Fisher of BC Hydro will join the Mayor in the planting of the last tree.

What: Pinewood Avenue Street Tree Planting
Where: Pinewood Avenue (between Wildwood Avenue and St. Charles Street)
When: Wednesday, December 22, 2010 from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

This past summer, City Parks staff met with Pinewood Avenue residents onsite to discuss the ailing trees, which included Ash and Hawthorne species. It was decided that all but one tree on the block would be removed and replaced with a more diverse selection of trees.

Parks staff provided the residents with a suitable selection of tree species from which to choose for the neighbourhood's streetscape. The north side of Pinewood Avenue will be planted with Scarlett Oak, Sunburst Locust and Sycamore Maple. The south side will be planted with Paperbark Maple, Magnolia Wada, and Eastern Redbud. All are deciduous trees. The south side will have lower growing trees to accommodate overhead utility wires.

In recent years, BC Hydro has partnered with the City of Victoria to help purchase more than 1,000 trees to replace those that have been removed from city streets and parks in the interest of public safety. This year, BC Hydro provided \$25,000 for the purchase of new trees in Victoria, including those that will make Pinewood Avenue their new home for Christmas.

Victoria's street tree program is assisted by a five-year, \$400,000 funding agreement with BC Hydro that the City matches from its urban forest capital fund. In its second year, the agreement enables specially trained City arborists to prune street trees that grow under utility wires. This allows all required tree work to be done at one time, creating efficiencies and reducing costs and increasing proactive regular maintenance, inspections and assessments of Victoria's 20,000 aging street trees for overall health and safety.

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For More Information:

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