Assembly of Victoria’s Hanging Baskets Underway

Date: Friday, May 13, 2011

VICTORIA, BC — City Parks staff are hard at work assembling 100 hanging flower baskets a day in time to be hung on downtown lampposts starting Monday, June 6, 2011. Approximately, 1,500 hanging baskets will be made this year by a six-person crew, using plants that are grown at the Beacon Hill Park nursery.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY:
Due to a cool summer last year, the City will be piloting new plantings again this summer in its traditional sun baskets, to see which best withstand warmer temperatures and bloom into October. Media are invited to visit the Beacon Hill Park greenhouses on Monday morning to see how Victoria’s trademark hanging baskets are made. Please check in at the Beacon Hill Park Maintenance Yard office upon arrival.

What: PHOTO OPPORTUNITY – Assembly of Victoria’s Hanging Baskets and Trial Plantings
When: Monday, May 16, 2011, from 10 a.m. – noon
Where: Parks Maintenance Office, Beacon Hill Park (located at the end of Nursery Road)

The trial sun baskets will use three different planting combinations which will look similar to Victoria’s traditional sun baskets. Some of these trial plants will include Bidens, Calibrachoa, Verbena, and Gaura. Their performance will be evaluated throughout the growing season.

Nine different varieties of plants will continue to be used in Victoria’s sun baskets, with a total of 25 plants featured in each. Once the baskets are made, they remain in the greenhouses for one week before being moved outside. When fully grown, the baskets can weigh over 20 kilograms (approximately 45 pounds). Shade baskets feature Impatiens and Rhodochiton as a trailing plant.

The placement of flower baskets on Victoria lampposts every June has signalled the start of summer for more than 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, visit: www.victoria.ca and click on What’s New?

For More Information:
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