“Orcas” Return to Downtown Victoria

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VICTORIA, BC – A mother and baby orca, in the form of a three-dimensional horticultural display, will make Victoria their home again this summer. The impressive four-metre tall and six-metre long garden display consisting of a mother and baby orca riding a wave, will arrive by crane tomorrow at the southeast corner of Humboldt and Government Streets.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

What: Orca Plant Display Installation Downtown
When: Thursday, May 26, 2011, from 11 a.m. to noon
Where: Southeast corner of Humboldt and Government Streets

Constructed out of galvanized steel, the display’s frame supports 5.5 cubic metres of soil mixed with sand. The garden display contains 11,000 plants consisting of a variety of Alternanthera and Santolina, annuals that are known for their colourful foliage. The re-planting of the frame took place in February at the Beacon Hill Park nursery.

Last year, the City of Victoria and the Downtown Victoria Business Association collaborated to introduce “The Orcas,” inspired by similar garden structures in Burnaby and Old Montreal’s Mosaiculture Garden. The unique garden display is designed to enhance Victoria’s downtown and can change location each spring. The City and the DVBA worked closely to determine its new location.

A temporary, seasonal installation, the display will be transported in the fall to the Beacon Hill Park nursery to winter in a greenhouse. It is the first horticultural display of this magnitude on Vancouver Island.

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