Media Advisory

Restoration of Beacon Hill Park Story Pole

Date: Monday, June 27, 2011 For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – The Beacon Hill Park Story Pole is showing its age and is due for re-painting. The City of Victoria is working in partnership with First Nations artists Jonathan Livingston and Calvin Hunt to clean and re-paint the pole. With preparations for painting now complete, the artists are in the process of re-painting the story pole to restore its features. The work is taking place on scaffolding and is expected to be completed in the next two weeks.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY
The media are invited to learn more from Jonathan Livingston and Calvin Hunt at the Beacon Hill Park Story Pole, and to take images of the work from a City boom truck.

What: Restoration of Beacon Hill Park Story Pole
When: Tuesday, June 28, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Where: Beacon Hill Park, off Dallas Road on Circle Drive

Parking is available on Dallas Road or on Circle Drive in Beacon Hill Park.

The Beacon Hill Park Story Pole turns 55 this year. Carved in cedar by a team led by Mungo Martin, Kwakiutl tribal chief and renowned carver, the story pole was erected on July 2, 1956. More than 38 metres in height, it stands majestically overlooking the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

Over the years, the Beacon Hill Park Story Pole has been regularly cleaned, painted and inspected. In 2000, due to decay, the story pole was lowered for restoration by Coast Salish artist Master Seaman Vern Point and a team of volunteers. After being repaired, re-carved and re-painted, it was resurrected a year later.

The average life span of a West Coast story pole is 50 years. Tradition sees old story poles return to the earth at the end of their natural lives, so that the stories can continue for future generations. Within the next 10 years, the Beacon Hill Park Story Pole will be ready to share its rich history and stories with the earth.

For More Information:
David Speed
Assistant Director, Parks Division
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department
250.361.0601

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