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Downtown Dialogue

May 20 2010

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Orcas Spotted in Inner Harbour

Tourists and downtown employees are already flocking to a new Inner Harbour landmark, a creative three-dimensional horticultural display depicting a mother and baby orca. The impressive four-metre tall and seven-metre long display is another example of a great partnership between the City of Victoria and the DVBA, supported by the Regent Hotel, which has provided the site and Hyack Air, which is contributing to the cost of the installation.

Entitled "Surfacing", the piece is the work of Vancouver-based iron sculptor, Sandra Bilowich and the City of Victoria Parks employees who have lovingly planted the piece with 11,000 plants. It is located on Orca Plaza, immediately south of the Victoria Regent Hotel, and adjacent to Hyack Air and The Lido.

Join Our Mailing List!

Johnson Street Parkade

Due to further repairs and upgrades to the Johnson Street Parkade, there will be a 4-day full closure, from Tuesday, May 25th to Friday, May 28th, except for Reserved Stalls on the ground floor. Please direct your customers and clients to the Centennial Parkade, 645 Fisgard; View Street



Retail COP

Retail COP is Canada's only online crime prevention initiative. It utilizes the experiences of Police, Retailers, and Loss Prevention Officers. This program facilitates the sharing of intelligence in a timely manner to recognize and catch Victoria's most prolific property crime targets.

Access is easy at www.retailcop.ca and it is sponsored by the Downtown Victoria Business Association, so there is no fee. If you have any further questions, please contact Cst. Mike Russell (site administrator for Retail COP) at

mike.russell@vicpd.ca or send a message through www.retailcop.ca.

An introductory seminar will be held at the DVBA offices, 20 Centennial Square, on June 8th at 10 am. Please RSVP to Cst. Mike Russell at mike.russell@vicpd.ca.

Victoria To Host First Ideas Conference

IdeaWave organizers are looking for a few good ideas! A group of ideas specialists are launching Victoria's first conference that celebrates the power of ideas. The conference will bring together over 300 critical thinkers from Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland, and

Parkade, 743 View Street;
Bastion Square Parkade, 575
Yates, or other nearby
parkades or lots.

Improved Bike Parking

If you are planning to improve the bicycle parking around your business, the City of Victoria does offer a 50% cost share program to assist with the installation. If you wish further information or to participate in this program, please contact Bill Stelp at bstelp@victoria.ca or 250-361-0392..

List YOUR Events!

If you are planning a downtown event, we'd like to hear about it! If you want absolutely FREE promotion of your downtown event via our "Happening Downtown" page, just send the details to [Allison Gair](mailto:Allison.Gair).

Unfortunately we are unable to promote simple sales, but are open to receiving all other types of events & happenings. Space in our newsletter is limited, and if we are unable to include your event we will list it on our website events section.

Seattle to discuss, debate, and celebrate ideas of every scale and genre. IdeaWave features 50 ten-minute talks over two days and organizers are still accepting ideas for presentation. Ideas may be large or small. They can be business ideas, project ideas, or just fun ideas. While there isn't a restriction on subject matter, it must be the presenter's original idea. Send presentation info to submissions@ideawave.ca. Ideawave takes place July 10 and 11 at the Ambrosia Conference and Event Centre. The conference is also open for registrations and an early bird rate of \$150 for both days is available until May 31. Conference information and details on the speakers and topics are posted at www.ideawave.ca.

Downtown Core Area Plan

This morning, City of Victoria's Governance and Priorities Committee approved a recommendation for City Staff to begin a comprehensive public engagement process focused on seeking feedback on the DRAFT Downtown Core Area Plan. The public engagement process will occur over the next several months and will employ a range of public engagement tools for receiving feedback including but not limited to stakeholder group meetings, community forums, online and print surveys. The intent is to use the feedback and work with project stakeholders to further refine the Draft Plan in order to bring forward a Proposed Downtown Core Area Plan to council later in the year for their consideration and approval. You may view the plan by clicking here: http://www.victoria.ca/cityhall/departments_plnpln_downtown-core.shtml Any comments or questions can be emailed to downtownplan@victoria.ca.

Service Canada Centre for Youth

The Victoria Service Canada Centre for Youth (SCCY) is open to the public. The office is ready to assist businesses and young workers with their summer employment needs. The Centres provide young people with job postings, interview advice, resume building, and job search strategies and employers with a place to post job openings. This year, employers interested in using their services and youth looking for summer employment can visit the Victoria SCCY between 8:30 am - 4 pm at 595 Pandora Ave., call 250-220-3123, fax 250-363-8146, or email BC-YT-SCCY-VICTORIA@servicecanada.gc.ca. Job postings are available online at www.jobbank.gc.ca, under "Student/Youth Job Search". For more information on Service Canada services for youth, call 1-800-O-CANADA or visit www.servicecanada.gc.ca.

Nominations: Order of British Columbia 2010

The British Columbia Honours and Awards Secretariat is accepting nominations until June 10th for the province's highest honour, the Order of British Columbia. This honour is open to any resident of BC (or former long-term resident) who has demonstrated outstanding achievement, excellence, or distinction in any field of endeavour benefiting the people of the Province or elsewhere. Fields include community leadership, business, labour, industry, volunteer service, professions and other occupations, research, culture, arts, sports, and others. If you know someone who deserves this high honour, visit www.protocol.gov.bc.ca and follow the link for the Order of British Columbia.

2010 Versadex Conference

This upcoming September, the many Police Departments of Vancouver Island will be hosting the 2010 Versadex Conference, which will be held at the Victoria Conference Centre. The theme of this year's conference is "Maximizing Connections" and it will showcase how Versadex supports police agencies to work in a multi-jurisdictional environment to share and manage information over a large geographic area in real time. If anyone is interested in donating door prizes for the conference, please contact Darlene Perry at 250-995-7408 or vi5001@vicpd.ca.

Victoria Express 20th Season

This summer marks the 20th season that Victoria Express has been connecting the North Olympic Peninsula with Victoria. As part of their celebration of this milestone, they are offering a promotional campaign which includes the participation of some tourism-based downtown Victoria businesses. They are currently under-represented amongst the restaurant and retail businesses around the Inner Harbour, and any businesses who would still like to participate are advised to contact Charlie Comstock at charlie@victoriaexpress.com; all special passes, discounts, and coupons offered for promotional purposes will be awarded to their passengers during one of the 500+ sailings they'll make this summer. This alerts their passengers to your services throughout the summer, and your advertising message will be displayed on their website and in other promotional material. There are no fees or obligations.

Have News for the Downtown Dialogue?

We're always on the lookout for new happenings downtown - email the details to info@downtownvictoria.ca. Thanks!

www.downtownvictoria.ca

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