



## **Media Release**

### **DVBA announces top five My Downtown Photo Contest winners**

#### **Grand Prize of one year Downtown parking pass and four My Downtown Sprees awarded**

**Victoria, BC, July 23, 2010-** After receiving over 100 My Downtown photo and story submissions and with over 10,000 online votes cast, today the Downtown Victoria Business Association announced the Grand Prize winner and the four My Downtown Spree winners from the My Downtown photo contest that was launched this spring to celebrate what residents love most about the unique experiences only available Downtown Victoria.

With over \$6,500 worth of Downtown prizes available including the coveted Grand Prize of free Downtown Robbins parking for a year, the competition was fierce.

Rajinder Nirwan, a UVic chemistry researcher working on finding an immunobiosensor for AIDS, is the Grand Prize winner garnering over 3,400 online votes for his image and story entitled "The Majestic Legislature." Nirwan was presented with his parking pass today that is valid for a full year at the Robbins' Downtown parking lot of his choice.

Nirwan is a budding and entrepreneurial photographer who loves capturing images that reflect the real beauty of what the eye can see. "My interest in photography is forever growing," said Nirwan. "I started last year when I bought my first camera and was really taken by HDR photography. This is the type I used in the picture that I submitted. It is the closest thing to a real-life image that you can get as it makes the picture look extremely realistic."

The winners of the four My Downtown Sprees were as follows:

- "Exploring"- Heather Johnston- My Downtown Market Square
- "Looking Over the Centre Stage of Victoria"- Sandeep More- My Downtown Culinary Prize
- "Giant Metallic Library Sculpture"- Susan Saskun- My Downtown Design District Prize
- "Little Europe Chic in the City"- Kristina Haugen- My Downtown Makeover Prize

"We're delighted by the large number of entries and the excitement that this contest generated," said Scott Hoadley, Chair of the DVBA. "It's clear that Victorians are passionate about their Downtown, and that they enjoy the rich diversity of experiences that can only be experienced here. From the many festivals and events, to appealing streetscapes and beautiful architecture, to the uniqueness of each neighbourhood within the Downtown, to the very best shopping, restaurants and cafes- there are many reasons why downtown is Victoria's favourite place to live, work and play."

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### **About the DVBA**

The Mission of the Downtown Victoria Business Association is to be a proactive champion for Victoria's downtown business community, promoting sustainable economic vitality through direct action and advocacy. [www.downtownvictoria.ca](http://www.downtownvictoria.ca)

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### **Background Prize Details:**

#### **Free Downtown Robbins Parking for a Year: Donated by Robbins Parking**

### **My Downtown Sprees**

#### **The My Downtown Market Square Shopping Spree includes:**

- Bespoke - Queen size duvet cover and pillow shams (value \$700)
- Adore Jewellery - Silver bracelet (value \$128)
- Beadworld - \$30 gift certificate and beading kit (value \$50)
- Didi's Boutique - \$50 gift certificate
- Dig This - \$50 gift certificate
- Muffet & Louisa - \$50 gift certificate
- Oscar & Libby's - \$50 gift certificate
- Suasion - \$50 gift certificate
- WannaWafel - \$50 gift certificate

#### **The My Downtown Culinary Shopping Spree includes:**

- Veneto at Hotel Rialto - Cocktail Experience with Solomon for 10 people, for two hours with cocktail instructions, drink samples, and appies – (value: \$400)
- Silk Road Tea - Tea Tasting for 15 (value \$300)
- Chef Heidi Fink - Chinatown Culinary Tour for Two (value \$100)
- Rogers' Chocolates - 3lb Empress Collection (value \$75)

- The Fort Street Cafe - \$45 gift certificate
- Don Mee's - \$40 gift certificate
- PiCNiC - \$20 Gift certificate

**The My Downtown Makeover Shopping Spree includes:**

- Inn at Laurel Point - Deluxe Package — overnight stay in an Erickson Wing Studio Suite with breakfast for two at Aura (value \$500)
- Silk Road Tea - 2 Green tea facials and organic skincare package (value \$250)
- Base Lounge - 2 unlimited monthly passes (value \$200)
- The Bay Centre - \$200 shop! card® can be redeemed at over 90 stores at The Bay Centre
- Fish Hair Salon - Haircut (value \$65)

**The My Downtown Design District Shopping Spree includes:**

- PR Interior Design – Design consultation (value: \$300)
- Sowobo (value \$200)
- 601 Herald (value \$200)
- Ocean River Sports (value \$120)
- Capital Iron ( value \$100)
- Canoe Club (value \$50)
- Miriors (value \$50)
- Josephine's Home Embellishments (value \$50)
- Swans Boutique Art Hotel (value \$50)
- Vixen Hair Design (value \$50)