

# The News

## Victoria's gardens grow in Nanoose

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When Victoria's Crystal Gardens closed just over two years ago developers for the ill fated tourist attraction had planned to destroy its collection of tropical plants - many of them rare and impressive in both size and beauty.

Their loss is Oceanside's gain, at least for now.

Nearly all of the estimated 4,000 plants are now crammed into every available nook and cranny at Pacific Shores Resort and Spa in Nanoose Bay until they can be safely housed in a 5,000 square foot atrium planned for Aviawest's Parkside development in Victoria.

Andrew Pearson, a principal developer for Aviawest stepped in with an offer to save the plants.

"When we decided to save them, we had to dig them all out and spend a lot of money to store them," says Pearson. "I'm a plant lover and anyone who comes to Pacific Shores can see that."

The last few truckloads of the botanical beauties have recently arrived. They're being stored in a greenhouse hastily erected in anticipation of the approaching cooler weather.

"None of them would survive being outside. There was a slight frost about a week ago and we were all getting worried," says Michele Keddy the resort's head groundskeeper.

Keddy says many of the plants arrived some time ago from Cedar, south of Nanaimo, where they were being stored in a greenhouse at a cost of about \$4,000 a month.

More recent additions, many quite fragile, came from the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific in Saanich, which was storing them for Crystal Garden's successor, the BC Experience, until expense and delays forced reconsideration.

Keddy says maintenance of the plants has proven daunting for her and her staff.

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