

# Volunteer scouts will pick cherry-blossom highlights

To help bloom-fanciers get the most of this spring's cherry blossoms, Vancouver Parks and Recreation has deputized 50 scouts to update the best times and places to behold this year's crop.

The scouts, armed with history, biology, culture and horticulture from arbourists on the 20 to 30 different types of cherry trees, will monitor the 16,000 pale pink powder puffs that will soon be popping up around Vancouver. (There are an additional 20,000 trees throughout the Lower Mainland.)

The volunteers will update the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival website with bloom blogs and pictures during the festival from March 22 through to mid-April, said Tom Li, the volunteer in charge of the blossom scouts.

One volunteer, Joseph Lin, a retired pediatrician from Taiwan who has lived near blossom-rich Queen Elizabeth Park for 13 years, said he looks forward to



**A couple enjoys the sunshine and cherry blossoms in full bloom on Vancouver's West 22nd Avenue near Arbutus Street in March 2005.** LES BAZSO FILE — THE PROVINCE

the springtime ritual.

"It's always an opportunity to appreciate the change of seasons in Vancouver," said Lin, who also organizes nature walks

in Mandarin to help other newcomers learn about the West Coast. "This is a good way to know your community," he said.

— **Staff Reporter**