



Celebrate the Season at Crystal Garden Open House

Date: Wednesday, December 10, 2008

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Mayor Dean Fortin cordially invites everyone to attend the Grand Opening and Public Open House of the Victoria Conference Centre at Crystal Garden.

The Open House will be a festive family event, with holiday refreshments, Christmas carollers and a visit from Santa Claus himself. Bring your camera for a photo with the big guy... Santa, that is! The event will also feature the Chris Millington Quartet, and stories from Crystal Garden past.

What: Crystal Garden Grand Opening and Public Open House

When: Sunday, December 14, 2008
Speeches and ribbon cutting at 1 p.m.
Open House from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Santa arrives at 2:30 p.m.

Where: Crystal Garden, 713 Douglas Street

Originally opened as a salt water swimming pool and tea room in 1925, the Crystal Garden has undergone many transformations over its life, and is a landmark heritage building in downtown Victoria. In 2007, the City of Victoria won the bid to convert the historic building into an expansion space for the Victoria Conference Centre (VCC). The renovated Crystal Garden space will allow the VCC to attract larger conferences that bypassed Victoria in the past, and will double annual economic impact to \$78 million per year. The addition of the Crystal Garden space makes the VCC the second largest conference facility in British Columbia.

This iconic building is a landmark for thousands of Victorians who have come through the doors over the past 80 years, and will be enjoyed again by thousands of locals and visitors from around the world in the years to come.

The City of Victoria is committed to providing public access to the building through a variety of community events that will allow residents to enjoy the historic building, with the Open House as the first of those opportunities.

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