



City Hosts Annual New Year's Day Levee

Date: Monday, December 29, 2008

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC —The public is invited to attend the City of Victoria's annual New Year's Day Levee at City Hall, hosted by Mayor Dean Fortin and members of Council.

A Levee is a time-honoured tradition that provides an opportunity for citizens and municipal government representatives to exchange greetings and welcome in the New Year.

What: City of Victoria New Year's Day Levee

When: Thursday, January 1, 2009, from 9 a.m to 10:30 a.m.

Where: City Hall Antechamber, 1 Centennial Square

Coffee and treats will be provided. Free parking will be available at all City-owned parkades and parking meters on New Year's Day.

The word "levee" is derived from the French verb "lever" which means to rise. During the rule of King Louis XIV (1643-1715), aristocrats would meet with guests in the morning shortly after getting up. By the 18th century, Great Britain and Ireland had made the Levee a formal Court reception for men, hosted by the Sovereign or his/her representative just before or after noon.

In Canada, fur traders made it a tradition to pay their respects to the Master of the Fort or government representative on the first day of the year. Today, the Levee is a New Year's Day social event, hosted by the Governor General of Canada, Lieutenant-Governors, military establishments, municipalities and other institutions.

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For More Information:

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