



## Crystal Garden Rehabilitation Wins Heritage Award

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – The City of Victoria, in partnership with the Provincial Capital Commission and Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts has been recognized by Heritage BC with an Award of Honour for the rehabilitation of the historic Crystal Garden building.

In 2008 the City of Victoria completed a \$6.8 million transformation of the Crystal Garden, a former 1925 salt water swimming pool built by the Canadian Pacific Railway, into a first class conference and banquet facility for the Victoria Conference Centre.

Rehabilitation work included the installation of new heating, ventilating and air conditioning equipment, a new loading dock and food service facilities to accommodate catered sit-down dinners for up to 1,000 people. The facility is also used for trade shows, presentations, conferences, etc. It was retrofitted with new wireless technology to integrate it with the existing infrastructure of the Conference Centre.

Subtle references to the building's history in the current facility include a glazed wall and lighting showing a portion of the former stepped seating area beside the original swimming pool and a mock high diving platform with mannequins in period swimming costume. The carpeting for the floor was specially selected with lines simulating the swimming lanes of the pool.

The combined efforts and contributions from the Provincial Capital Commission, the Province of British Columbia and the City of Victoria in rehabilitating and revitalizing one of Victoria's most significant heritage buildings are an outstanding example of a collaborative endeavor which will guarantee the continued enjoyment of the Crystal Garden for future generations.

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 continue providing public access through a variety of community events that will allow residents to enjoy the historic building.

— 30 —

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