



## Public to Have Rare View of Historic Clock Tower

Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2009

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – Residents can enjoy a rare birds' eye view of the Capital City from City Hall's historic clock tower on Canada Day.

The City of Victoria is opening up the clock tower as part of the "Open the Doors to History" program, put on by the Downtown Victoria Business Association. Guided tours of the tower will run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, July 1.

City Hall, a designated national heritage site, was built in several stages. The first portion of City Hall was erected in 1877 on the northwest corner of Douglas and Pandora Streets. In 1880, the fire hall was added on the Pandora Street side. The Douglas Street, or north wing, addition and clock tower were added in 1890. The clock tower first chimed at noon on May 5, 1891.

In 2007 the City of Victoria received an Award of Merit from the Hallmark Society for the restoration of the tower. The City's Engineering and Heritage staff restored the clock tower to its authentic 1890s appearance, complete with facsimile decorative features that decayed and disappeared over the last 116 years. The 105 foot clock tower serves as a significant heritage landmark in the Old Town District.

Queues to view the clock tower will start at the Douglas Street entrance to City Hall, and participants are reminded that there are three flights of stairs to climb.

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**For More Information:**

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