



Victoria Gears up for an Exciting Canada Day

Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2009

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC —Victoria's Canada Day festivities include a spectacular line-up of events, including children's entertainment, world music, Juno-nominated performers, and a fireworks extravaganza thanks to the generous contributions of over 35 local organizations.

"We're grateful to the community for demonstrating their collective pride in being Canadian by stepping up to the plate to help make these celebrations possible," said Councillor Charlayne Thornton-Joe. "This solid level of support demonstrates how our community comes together, reinforcing the unity Canada Day represents."

The City of Victoria is pleased to welcome Coast Capital Savings as a returning presenting sponsor for the Canada Day celebrations offering a variety of evening entertainment, culminating in the much anticipated celebratory fireworks. Their support will also enable a *New Canadian Celebration*, which will include a special presentation to the new Canadians who will have been sworn in earlier in the day at Government House, followed by an "all Canadian" tribute from the Esquimalt and Songhees First Nations singers and dancers, and a musical tribute from the students of L'école Victor-Brodeur de Victoria. The New Canadian Celebration is scheduled to occur on the Legislative Main Stage at 3 p.m.

"Capital Savings is proud to once again partner with the City as the presenting sponsor for Canada Day's Celebration Victoria 2009," said Debi Dempsey, Manager of Community Relations for Coast Capital Savings. "We are also thrilled to once again be sponsoring the New Canadian Celebration," Dempsey adds. "It's this diversity that makes our country unique. Canada Day provides us with an opportunity to celebrate the common bond we all share, strengthen our communities, and help us understand the significance of being a Canadian citizen."

Canada Day festivities will kick-off on Wednesday, July 1, 2009 at 10 a.m. with a variety of family activities in the downtown core organized by the Downtown Victoria Business Association including streetside entertainment, historical walking tours, free entry into some historic downtown buildings, and complimentary trolley tours downtown. Other activities include the Magic of Canada, where magicians will perform on stage in Centennial Square, the Chalk One up for Canada, which will invite children to draw a picture on the sidewalk on Yates Street between Blanshard and Douglas streets, and the creation of a Living Flag, consisting of 1,200 people gathering on the Legislature lawns starting at 11:30.

The much anticipated evening program, presented by the City of Victoria and Coast Capital Savings, will begin at 6 p.m. with music performed by Uminari Taiko Ensemble, followed by Ali Milner, Pacifika and some bone jangling 'blackgrass' from Elliott Brood.

The day offers programming and activities for children, families and young and old alike. A children's activity area on the Legislature grounds will be open from 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., featuring games, face painting, giveaways and an opportunity to get autographs from the Victoria Seals baseball players.

Canada Day celebrations will culminate in a brilliant fireworks display timed to music, lighting up the skies of Victoria's Inner Harbour. For those who are unable to attend in person, but would like to have the opportunity to be part of the celebration, a simulcast of the fireworks will be broadcast live on KOOL FM at 10:30 p.m.

For more information, visit: www.victoria.ca/canadaday

Complete listing of events on following pages.

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For More Information:

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BACKGROUND

IT'S A GREAT DAY TO CELEBRATE BEING CANADIAN Join us Downtown – Canada Day

Victoria's annual celebration of our beloved nation with over thousands of members of the Capital Region - representative of all ages, cultures and ethnic backgrounds - in attendance. A true reflection of our national heritage and identity.

Canada Day gives us the opportunity to share with the greater community our sense of pride and patriotism. It is a day to celebrate our diversity, and to reflect on what it means to each of us to be Canadian, and to call Canada "home".

CANADA DAY ACTIVITIES

- 10:00 a.m. **HMCS Nanaimo Open House**
Ship Point
- 10:45 a.m. **Harbour Ferry Ballet**
- 10:30 a.m. **Historical Walking Tours ***
- 11:00 a.m. **Open the Doors to History ***
- 11:00 a.m. **Street Side Entertainment ***
- 11:00 a.m. **Horse-Drawn Trolleys ***
- 11:00 a.m. **Provincial Heritage Fair Public Exhibition**
Crystal Gardens
- 12:00 noon **The Magic of Canada Day**
Market Square
- 12:00 noon **Chalk One Up for Canada**
Yates Street between Blanshard and Douglas streets
- 2:00 p.m. **Living Flag**
Legislative Grounds

* For further details log onto to www.downtownvictoria.ca

CELEBRATION VICTORIA 2008 Lawns of the Legislative Assembly

- 3:00 p.m. **Coast Capital Savings New Canadian Celebration**
Legislative Grounds

Join us for a special welcome to our new Canadians with a presentation from the Esquimalt and Songhees First Nations singers and dancers and a musical tribute from the students from L'école Victor-Brodeur de Victoria.

5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. **Kids Activity Area**
Face Painting – Balloon Sculptures – Music
Clowns – Stiltwalkers – Games – Giveaways
Child Identification Cards by London Drugs
Autograph signing by the Victoria Seals Pro Baseball Players

6:00 p.m. **Main Stage Programming Begins**
Emcee: Todd Butler

6:00 Uminari Taiko Ensemble (*Japanese drumming ensemble*)

6:55 Ali Milner (*Lyrical jazz-pop*)

7:50 Pacifika (*Global Groove*)

9:05 Elliott Brood (*Bone jangling "blackgrass"*)

10:30 p.m. **Canada Day Fireworks**
With a live simulcast on KOOL FM

Note: Food vendors will be onsite from 5:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

For more information on evening events, visit: www.victoria.ca/canadaday