



## Join Us for the First Annual Children's Christmas Festival

Date: Thursday, November 19, 2009

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – Looking for something fun to do with the kids downtown before the Island Farms Santa Light Parade this Saturday? Celebrate the spirit of the season and bring the family to the first annual *Children's Christmas Festival* in Spirit Square, across from Victoria City Hall.

The public and media are invited to this free festive event which will include carolers dressed in 19<sup>th</sup> Century attire, magic by Paul Kilshaw, a children's sing-a-long with the Kennedy Brothers, and favourite Christmas songs performed by the Beacon Hill Brass Quartet on stage. The Four Seasons Musical Theatre will perform excerpts from a musical based on the classic Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale, *The Steadfast Tin Soldier*.

What: Spirit of the Season in the Square: Children's Christmas Festival  
When: Saturday, November 21, 2009, from 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
Where: Spirit Square, across from Victoria City Hall (in Centennial Square)

Families can warm up with a cup of hot chocolate under heated tents while children make holiday decorations and have their faces painted. Vancouver artist, Harold Sawatzky, will demonstrate the art of ice sculpture, and a variety of treats such as popcorn, ice cream and coffee will be available for purchase from vendors in Spirit Square. Santa and his helpers will make a special visit by horse drawn carriage.

Dress for the weather as the festival will take place rain or shine. Admission is free. Please help support your community and bring a non-perishable food item for the Mustard Seed Food Bank.

The *Children's Christmas Festival* is the first of three family-friendly events that will bring Spirit Square to life this holiday season. The *Christmas Tree Light-up*, sponsored by the Downtown Victoria Business Association, will include magic, a dramatic fire and light show, and the annual light-up of the giant sequoia tree on Friday, November 27, 2009 from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.; and *A Global Christmas Celebration* will feature traditional carols, dance, and delicious foods from around the world on Saturday, December 12, 2009 from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

For more information, visit: [www.victoria.ca](http://www.victoria.ca) and click on *What's New?*

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### For More Information:

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